

MAR 10 2005

The
AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
Bulletin



VALENTINE [Hollingsworth, 2004]

March 2005 – Number 333
Creating New Peonies
Chinese Tree Peony Festival
Weeds, Peonies & Herbicides

APS 2005 Popularity Poll

- ❁ Name your top ten (10) favorite peonies as seen in your garden and/or other gardens, within your regional district, in 2005. Regional Districts are outlined on the back inside cover.
- ❁ Please categorize each of the peonies as (H)erbaceous, (T)ree or (I)toh/Intersectional—registered peonies only.
- ❁ All levels of memberships, except Commercial, are for 1 or 2 persons at the same address. Ballots may be cast using the same criteria. Commercial members are entitled to one ballot.
- ❁ Be sure to include your name and postal mailing address on all ballots.
- ❁ All ballots must be received by August 1, 2005. No ballots before bloom season, please.
- ❁ Send your ballots by e-mail: cjschroer@kc.rr.com; or: American Peony Society—Popularity Poll, 713 White Oak Lane, Gladstone, MO 64116-4607 USA.
- ❁ Votes will be tallied overall and by the nine (9) APS districts listed opposite.
- ❁ Results will be reported in the September 2005 issue of *The APS Bulletin*.
- ❁ If your bloom season is at a time not covered by this poll, please write a short synopsis of your bloom season for the Opinions & Observations section.

The American Peony Society Bulletin

March 2005 – No. 333

Creating New Peonies 28
Don Hollingsworth

Chinese Tree Peony Festival 40
James Waddick

Weeds, Peonies and Herbicides 50
Jack Nordick

COLUMNS

President's Message—
Peter Waltz 7
An Intersectional Point of
View—Donald Smith 25

DEPARTMENTS

Administrative 4
New Cultivar Registraton 14
Seed Distribution Program 18
Local & Regional News 22
APS Publications 67
Editor's Bulletin Board 68
Membership Application 69

SOCIETY NEWS

APS Heads for Maine 9
Event Schedule 12
Open Gardens 66

OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS

A New & Rare Perennial
Species—Irmtraud Rieck 57
Gardening Life—
Steve Johnson 58
Issue 332 Comments—
Bill Seidl 61

SECURITY CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH CONSTANT CHANGE,
THROUGH DISCARDING OLD IDEAS THAT HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USEFUL-
NESS AND ADAPTING OTHERS TO CURRENT FACTS.— *William O. Douglas*

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER & DECEMBER

Administrative

Officers

Peter Waltz — President

Bill Countryman — Vice President

Sandra Hader, CPA — Treasurer

Board of Directors

TERMS EXPIRING 2005

Harvey Buchite, 11506 Highway 65, Blaine, MN 55434-3814

William Countryman, 818 Winch Hill Rd, Northfield, VT 05663-6141

Hans Hansen, 15605 Snake Trail, Waseca, MN 56093-4715

Linette Sorrentino, 10255 Jersey Avenue, Chaska, MN 55318-9215

Tim Stanek, 23329 Ellington Avenue, Glenwood, IA 51534-5093

Peter Waltz, 84 Brentwood Road, Exeter, NH 03833-4510

TERMS EXPIRING 2006

Carol Adelman, 5690 Brooklake Road NE, Salem, OR 97305-9660

Elizabeth Babb, PO Box 848, Yarmouth, ME 04096-0848

John Elsley, 520 Bryte St, Greenwood, SC 29649-3110

Vernon Kidd, 500 W 43rd St, PH-A, New York, NY 10036-4327

Scott Reath, N 195 County Rd 577, Vulcan, MI 49892-8402

Claudia Schroer, 713 White Oak Lane, Gladstone, MO 64116-4607

TERMS EXPIRING 2007

Kent Crossley, 1245 Delaware Ave, St Paul, MN 55118-1909

Don Hollingsworth, 28747 290th St, Maryville, MO 64468-8302

Reiner Jakubowski, 624 Pineridge Rd, Waterloo, ON N2L 5J9 Canada

Steve Johnson, 5845 Howards Point Rd, Shorewood, MN 55331-8383

Donald Smith, 46 Exeter St, West Newton, MA 02465-2621

Dana Tretheway, 9646 E 28th St, Tulsa, OK 74129-7005

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Dale Baum, Leila Bradfield, Joseph Glocka, Floyd Kimball, Kit Klehm, Roy Klehm and Peter (Chris) Laning.

Administrative

MEMBERSHIP & THE APS BULLETIN

All interested persons are invited to join the American Peony Society and participate in the organization's activities. Dues are paid for January 1–December 31 of any year. Dues received before November 1 receive all four issues of *The APS Bulletin* for the current year (while supplies last). Dues received after November 1 are recorded for the following year, unless otherwise specified. Annual Individual(s) dues are \$15.00 for US residents; Canadian residents \$20.00; Europe \$25.00; Pacific Rim \$40.00. Individual(s) memberships are for 1 or 2 persons at the same address, receiving one copy of *The APS Bulletin*. Other terms and commercial memberships are listed on the application on page 49. A subscription to *The APS Bulletin* is included with all levels of membership.

CONTACT INFORMATION

All correspondence for the American Peony Society and *The APS Bulletin* may be directed to: Claudia Schroer, Editor – American Peony Society, 713 White Oak Lane, Gladstone, MO 64116-4607. Office phone (816) 459-9386; Fax (816) 459-7430. E-mail to: cjschroer@kc.rr.com.

2005 DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN COPY & ADVERTISING

March issue – January 15 (release date, February 25)

June issue – April 15 (release date, May 25)

September issue – July 15 (release date, August 25)

December issue – October 15 (release date, November 25)

※ ※ ※

The American Peony Society (APS) is a nonprofit horticultural organization, incorporated as a membership corporation under the laws of the State of Missouri. APS is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes, and especially to promote, encourage and foster the development and improvement of the genus *Paeonia* and public interest therein. These purposes are expressly limited so that APS qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future Internal Revenue law. Donors may not deduct contributions to APS.

APS publishes paid advertisements as a service to its members, but cannot be responsible for the quality of merchandise or services from these advertisers.

Administrative

PUBLICATION SALES

Tim Stanek—23329 Ellington Ave, Glenwood, IA 51534-5093. E-mail: Tjstanek@aol.com.

REGISTRATION & NOMENCLATURE

Reiner Jakubowski—624 Pineridge Road, Waterloo, ON N2L 5J9 Canada or registration@americanpeonysociety.org. The fee is \$5.00 for each registration. Check or money order payable to APS. A form and information is available on the APS website.

SEED DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Harvey Buchite—11506 Highway 54, Blaine, MN 55434-3814.

TREASURER

Sandra Hader, CPA—8534 North Britt Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64154-1953.

WEBSITE

www.americanpeonysociety.org

2005 CONVENTION

June 17, 18 and 19 in the Portland, Maine areas. Elizabeth Babb, Chairman—PO Box 848, Yarmouth, ME 04096-0848; ebabb@bbpeony.com; (866) 607-3669.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

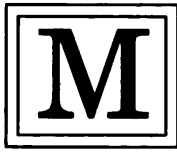
ALL ADS PREPAID	BASIC, EACH (BLACK AND WHITE)	FOUR BASIC ADS, FOUR CONSECUTIVE ISSUES	FOUR-COLOR RATE, EACH (ADD TO BASIC RATE) *
¼ PAGE	\$20.00	\$72.00	\$25.00
½ PAGE	\$30.00	\$108.00	\$50.00
FULL PAGE	\$40.00	\$144.00	\$100.00

* COLOR ADVERTISING MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL ISSUES—CONTACT THE EDITOR.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

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

President's Message



Most directors are also members of one or more subcommittees and subcommittee work continues through the winter. Some works in progress include revised by-laws, preparations for the Peony Convention in Maine, revision of the peony cultivar registration form and preparation for the next publication of named peony cultivars. This last project, being a special interest of mine as well as that of Reiner Jakubowski, deserves some further discussion. The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature recommends publication of such names, even if it is just the new names, at intervals of no greater than ten years. The last such publication of peony names (by the APS, the presently recognized registration authority) was in 1996. Although this comment is a little premature, I must commend Reiner in advance for the prodigious effort that he has already given to the project, collecting not just the newly registered plants of the last ten years, but named peonies dating back to about 1800. The difficult goal of this effort is to list in some logical way *all known named peonies*, including all names in the Roman alphabet, transliterations of names in other alphabets and identical names used more than once. The collection will attempt to include every peony name, regardless of whether or not the plant is known to be extant. Ideally, the publication will be useful, logical and complete; it should make future naming of peonies easier, with no inadvertent duplication of names and no names that could be confused with a pre-existing name. If these ambitious goals are met, the lists, which are in digital format, will be more easily searched for names and more easily transferred from one generation to the next than the paper lists of the past.

Elizabeth Babb has been working diligently on the next Peony Convention, the first to be held east of Ohio in many years, this time at Gilsland Farm Audubon Center, Falmouth, Maine. (To see more information about this location online search on Maine Audubon/Centers/Gilsland Farm.) As an added bonus, fields at the center were once part of a commercial peony enterprise, long abandoned, then overgrown. Nevertheless, many peonies man-

aged to survive the grass and encroaching woods. With volunteer effort, woody plants have been removed from these former fields and many of the peonies now bloom. Most are probably named *lactiflora* cultivars of the 1930s and 1940s. Although I have not seen these plants yet myself, I look forward to walking slowly through the fields, trying to identify or compare the flowers there to plants available today. Many should be blooming at the time of the convention on June 17, 18 and 19, 2005.

Be moderate in all things except peonies,



Peter Waltz
Director & President, American Peony Society

Editor's Note: As bloom season approaches, please put a reminder on your calendar to track bloom dates and send the information to www.bloomdate.paeonia.com. Michael Denny reports a record number of observations that were submitted for 2004. (See *The APS Bulletin*, June 2004 - No. 330, pgs 67-68.)

The process is simple. Pick plants that are mature, healthy and growing in relatively full sun. Be sure that you know the identity of the cultivar. Record the name and calendar date when the plant has its first bloom. At the end of your bloom season, send your observations to mdenny@attglobal.net or by mail: Michael Denny, 1893 Concession Road 7, RR #1, Enniskillen, Ontario, L0B 1J0 Canada. ☞

APS Heads for Maine

Elizabeth Babb, Director & Convention Chairperson — Yarmouth, Maine

Imagine! The American Peony Society will be holding its next annual meeting on the East Coast! Over 50 years ago, in 1947, Boston was officially host to the APS. This year, it will be Portland's turn. The other Portland, that is: Portland, Maine, just north of Boston, Massachusetts. Dates? June 17–19. You will find all the details on the Specimen Rules enclosure with this Bulletin.

Typically, our APS annual meeting and cut peony show follows a regular pattern. The "heavyweight" peony growers travel to bring their blooms and the show and annual meeting are largely attended by the people living close enough to drive conveniently, generally the "locals". Hence, APS's show location has tended to be placed near a participating grower or an existing peony society and not many activities other than the dinner and the show itself have been planned. Our current APS membership distribution correlates with past locations of APS shows.

So, how can we encourage a wider participation in the APS? Peonies flourish in many other areas besides the Midwest. And there are peony lovers all across the US. But the average gardener today may be less aware of peonies for their home gardens than our grandparents were. This year's peony show could be an eye-opener to many in the Northeast. Florists have typically moved away from peonies as a standard cut flower and those who have peonies in their yards may know only the peonies their grandparents grew—and the few *lactifloras* that might show up in little cardboard boxes in a super-chain store. In the Northeast, our ancestors likely grew the old *officinalis* peonies for their herbal qualities. Local nurseries, if they sell peonies at all, carry mostly the old French-bred *lactifloras* (yes, they are beautiful) as potted plants in the spring.

This 2005 show in Maine will provide a prime opportunity for APS members to give non-APS members in the Northeast a taste of what is really "out there" in the way of peonies. And it will present a challenge to many of those we rely on to bring peonies to our cut peony show!

For those who have practice storing peonies to open later at the show (see *The APS Bulletin*, March 2004 – No. 329, pgs 29-34) for a

good article by Don Hollingsworth), their new challenge may be to actually get their peonies to the show. One of our members, Carol Adelman, has some successful experience in this area. Look for her article elsewhere in this issue. She has shown many gorgeous winners that were shipped thousands of miles from Portland, Oregon, to our Midwest shows in recent years.

So what are we East Coast people doing to prepare for this show? First, we in Maine offer to help exhibitors by providing professional cooler space free of charge to anyone who ships their peonies in advance of travel. We can meet your shipment and follow your instructions for how you want your peonies stored. (See our contact information below.) The Specimen Rules included with this mailing tell how to contact the local Portland hotel to make reservations directly. The Exhibition location is about seven miles from the hotel, in the Falmouth suburb. If you plan to arrive on Friday for setup, let us know and we can offer a van to carry your flowers to the show. On Saturday and Sunday there will be regular scheduled van service to the show and dinner locations.

For attendees who just want to meet peony friends and see the cut peony display (and enjoy our New England clambake and annual meeting), we have something new to offer. To show our enthusiasm and to invite members everywhere to travel to the show, local Maine groups are planning three special garden tours that illustrate a variety of ways to inter-plant peonies and other perennials. We invite you to take a weekend vacation or schedule your own vacation in Maine or Massachusetts and add one of our tours to your schedule!

The Peony Society of Maine will be hosting a tour coming down from Bangor, Maine to Portland for the show and dinner (and the annual meeting). Arrive Friday night at the Bangor airport and depart from the same airport, either Sunday or Monday—you will be hosted royally. Freeport is where the North Tour folks will be staying—in an elegant Bed and Breakfast just a short walk from that famous all night shopping district. And B & B on the east coast is something else! You should try it! Four suites with Jacuzzi's will be allocated in a drawing on the way down from Bangor.

For those preferring a southerly route, you may fly into Boston's Logan Airport on Friday afternoon or evening and pick up the tour coming up from Boston. Same kind of deal—peony garden tours and an oceanside hotel in Old Orchard Beach with a great pool (in case

ocean water is too cold for swimming in mid-June). And, you may return to Boston's airport on either Sunday or Monday.

Saturday will be a full day. At one of the North Tour stops (acres of beautifully landscaped gardens where the owner's peonies are integrated with many other perennials to provide a constant sequence of bloom), the owner is arranging to provide a gourmet lunch, with live music! I tell you, people are really excited about the APS's coming to the Northeast.

On Sunday, come visit the cut peony show again, if you like. Then join a local tour starting in the morning at Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farms. This is where the old Moulton collection of French *lactifloras* still bloom after more than 50 years. The 70-acre farm included some seven acres of peonies originally, though a few of those acres have grown up into woods. After a stop in New Gloucester at the Pineland Perennial Garden (about four years old, with peonies featured in nearly every display group), we will head out to the rocky Maine coast for a special lunch and a visit to what is primarily an iris garden that has inter-planted a lot of peonies. You are likely to see brand new irises, still being developed for future sale to the public. And Roger Luce's yellow tree peony—not quite like any other yellow peony you've ever seen.

Or take the Nova Scotia Prince cruises along the coast to the north. Or rent a car and try driving up one of the old state highways into northern Maine. You'll see some beautiful scenery! Or explore the world-renowned museums in Boston. If you are interested, we'll help you all we can to suggest a really memorable time during June in the Northeast. Just contact me at (866) 607-3669 (toll free) and I'll have the appropriate person contact you with details. Or write to me: Elizabeth Babb, P.O. Box 848, Yarmouth, ME 04096. E-mail: ebabb@netzero.net.

The Maine coast is a very popular tourist area in the summertime. North and South Tour hotel rooms are reserved for tour participants. Tours are limited to 50 participants each. APS members are being notified first. Then local peony clubs and Bangor and Boston garden club members will be given a chance to join in. Please call as soon as possible! Support the growing awareness of peonies radiating out from their traditional heartland in the US Midwest.☺

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE ENCLOSED.

American Peony Society Convention

Event Schedule for June 17, 18 & 19, 2005

Maine Audubon Environmental Center — Falmouth, Maine

Friday, June 17

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Center available to prepare exhibits. Vases, prep space and water service supplied.

Saturday, June 18

7:00 am

Room open to set up and enter exhibits.

11:30 am

Room closes for judging of entries.

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Exhibit opens to the public.

5:00 – 6:15 pm

Shuttles available from Center to BB Peony Gardens for Clambake.

6:30 pm

Clambake

8:00 pm

Program, business meeting, auction of donated items. Shuttles to Center and hotels.

Sunday, June 19

7:30 am

Board of Directors meeting, Maine Audubon Environmental Center.

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Exhibition open to the public.

* See the enclosed schedule for driving directions to all locations.

EXHIBIT

- Exhibition Location – Maine Audubon Environmental Center, Route 1, Falmouth, Maine.

HOTEL

- Comfort Inn, Maine Mall Rd, Portland —(207) 775-0409, 30 rooms @ \$69 until May 17, then as available. Free airport/bus/train shuttle; APS shuttle to Maine Audubon.

American Peony Society Convention

Event Schedule for June 17, 18 & 19, 2005

Maine Audubon Environmental Center — Falmouth, Maine

- North and South Tour participants will be given hotel information by tour guides before check-in and will be in beachfront or shopping district hotels related to their tours.

BANQUET

- New England Clambake. Held at BB Peony Gardens, corner of Tuttle Road and Rte 1 at 14 Tuttle Road, Cumberland Foreside. Food served beginning 6:30 pm.
- Tour participants will receive bus transportation to the dinner. A minivan will also shuttle between Maine Audubon and the Gardens beginning about 5:00 pm.

MEETINGS

- Following the meal, APS will hold its Annual Meeting. Non-members may sit in, but may not vote.
- There will not be an afternoon presentation. Local tours will take their place.
- An invited speaker will present a topic during the Annual Meeting.

SIGN-UP

- If you wish to join the North or South peony garden tour, contact E. Babb at (866) 607-3669 (toll free) for information.
- If you plan to stay only in Portland, contact Comfort Inn directly to make reservations: (207) 775-0409. Comfort Inn provides free shuttle from airport, bus and train stations. A minivan will operate between the hotels and Maine Audubon, June 18-19.
- For separate banquet sign-up, contact E. Babb at (866) 607-3669. Tickets are \$35 each, which covers meal, gratuities and miscellaneous program expense. * Select Maine Lobster, BBQ Chicken or Vegetarian Option.

Send reservations and payment to: Elizabeth Babb, PO Box 848, Yarmouth, ME 04096-0848 USA. Make payment by check or money order (payable to Elizabeth Babb). Late reservations may be paid at the Convention, on space available basis, only.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Babb, (866) 607-3669 (toll free, allow minimum 6 rings) or ebabb@bbpeony.com.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING DRIVING DIRECTIONS,
ARE DETAILED IN THE ENCLOSED SCHEDULE.**

New Cultivar Registration

Reiner Jakubowski, Director & Registrar — Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

JOKER (Landis / Allan Rogers, Wilsonville, OR, October, 2004). Herbaceous hybrid. Seedling number unknown, parentage unknown. Full double flowers, 1-3 per stem. Opens dark pink, matures to white centre with pink picotee edge. Blooms early-mid season. No fragrance. Height to 32 inches, with very strong stems. Plant received from Henry Landis (Willowdale, ON, Canada) with the name 'Joker', and said to be one of the Bockstoce seedlings obtained by Landis shortly after the death of W. S. Bockstoce (Pittsburgh, PA) in 1963. Photo on file.

AL'S CHOICE (R. Anderson / Allan Rogers, Wilsonville, OR, October, 2004). Seedling number unknown. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' (seed parent) x tree peony 'Golden Era' (pollen parent). Single to semi-double flowers, yellow with irregular red streaking. Green carpels (3-5) topped by white stigmas. Has pollen but fertility not determined. Height to 38 inches with spreading habit. Strong grower which reaches mature size at three years. Selected by Allan Rogers as a seedling from the seedling bed of Roger Anderson. Photo on file.

GOLDEN EXTRA (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004). Seedling # IC-95-16. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x unregistered home-grown, advanced generation, yellow double lutea hybrid tree peony, Smith's TP-88-01. First bloomed 2001. Large flowers are a clear golden yellow with no flares. The flower center has an attractive ring of stamens surrounding 4-5 light green carpels with yellow stigmas. Flowers are displayed on upright stems just above the attractive foliage making this an excellent landscape variety. Semi-double to double flowers (20-30 petals), of 6-8 inch size. Plant height to 31 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2-3 per stem. Photo on file.

BERRY GARCIA (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004). Seedling # IC-95-26. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Reath's A-198. First bloomed 2001. Flowers are a soft cream flushed and edged in pink with large bright burgundy flares that are often hidden by the central petals. The attractive center contains a sparse, loose ring of stamens and 4-5 green carpels with dark red stigmas surrounded by a cream colored sheath. Semi-double to double flowers, 6 inches in size, are displayed in good abundance on upright stems just above the foliage. Blooms late season. Plant height to 28 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2-3 per stem. Photo on file.

CANDY CANE (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004). Seedling # IC-95-23. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Golden Era. First bloomed 2001. Flowers are a creamy yellow, lightly flushed pink, with large prominent bright red flares. Many petals have one to several deep lavender pink streaks that add charm and give each flower a unique character of its own. The attractive center contains a sparse, loose ring of stamens and generally 4 green carpels with dark red stigmas surrounded by a cream colored sheath. Semi-double to double flowers are 6 inches in size. Plant height to 26 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: Average 3 per stem Photo on file.

RED EYED SUSIE (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004). Seedling # IC-95-42R. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Reath's A-198. First bloomed 2002. Flowers are a clear, bright, deep yellow with large prominent dark red flares. Center contains a dense ring of stamens and 4 carpels that are light green with red stigmas. Semi-double flowers (generally 24-30 petals) of 6-8 inch size. Plant height to 28 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2-3 per stem. Photo on file.

PINK PASSION (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004). Seedling # IC-94-14. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Golden Era. First bloomed 2000. Flowers are a beautiful deep glowing pink with no flares. The attractive center contains a tight, neat ring of stamens and 4-5 very pale green carpels with cream stigmas that are enclosed by a cream colored sheath. Single flowers to 5 inches in size. Plant height to 28 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2-3 per stem. Flowers are abundantly displayed on upright stems just above the attractive foliage. Photo on file.

ROCKET'S RED GLARE (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004) Seedling # IC 95-34. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Golden Era. First bloomed 2002. Large single flowers are a clear, very bright yellow with large dark crimson flares that are extremely prominent. An attractive center contains 5 pale green carpels capped with dark red stigmas enclosed in a cream colored sheath, all surrounded by a loose ring of stamens. Single flowers 6-7 inches in size. Plant height to 30 inches Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: Generally two per stem. Photo on file.

HALEIGH'S COMET (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004) Seedling # IC 95-37R. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Golden Era. First bloomed 2002. Flowers are a clear, translucent, pale

yellow with light red flares. An attractive center contains 4-5 pale green carpels capped with yellow stigmas enclosed in a cream colored sheath, surrounded by a loose ring of stamens. Semi-double flower form, size up to 8 inches. Plant height to 28 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2-3 per stem. Named for daughter, Haleigh. Photo on file.

PINK DOUBLE DANDY (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004) Seedling # IC 95-39. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Golden Era. First bloomed 2002. The flowers are a lovely shade of lavender pink that is much darker towards the center. Center contains a sparse ring of stamens with pink filaments and 4-5 light green carpels that are tipped with yellow stigmas. Semi-double to double flowers are 6 inches in size. Plant height to 22 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2-3 per stem. Extremely floriferous with long period of bloom. Photo on file.

WHITE KNIGHT (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004) Seedling # IC 95-41R. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Reath's A-198. First bloomed 2002. The elegant flowers open light yellow delicately flushed and suffused with pale pink but fade to a soft, blush or near white. Light pink flares highlight the flower center. Center contains a narrow ring of stamens and 3-4 light green carpels that are tipped with cream stigmas. Semi-double to double flowers are 6 inches in size. Plant height to 26 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2-3 per stem. Very floriferous. Photo on file.

GOLDSMITH (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004) Seedling # IC 94-10. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Golden Era. First bloomed 2001. Flowers are lightly flushed pink when first open, but soon become a clear, bright yellow with big, prominent, bright red flares that give the flowers a beautiful, fiery central glow. An attractive center contains a sparse, loose ring of stamens and 5 to 6 green carpels with dark red stigmas that are surrounded by a yellow/cream colored sheath. Semi-double to double flowers are 6 inches in size. Plant height 24-26 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: usually 2 per stem. Photo on file.

BERRY BERRY FINE (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004) Seedling # IC 95-30R. Parentage: Lactiflora 'Martha W.' x tree peony Golden Era. First bloomed 2001. Single to semi-double flowers are deep lavender pink highlighted with darker pink streaks and veining and large dark plum colored basal flares. An attractive center con-

tains a very sparse ring of stamens and generally 5 light green carpels with dark pink stigmas surrounded by a pink sheath. Plant height to 30 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2 per stem. Photo on file.

SAIL AWAY (Donald Smith, West Newton, MA, October 2004) Seedling # IC 92-03. Parentage: *Lactiflora* 'Martha W.' x tree peony Golden Era. First bloomed 2000. The elegant single flowers open light yellow, delicately flushed and suffused with pale pink, but fade to a soft, creamy, pale yellow or ivory. Light pink flares highlight the flower center. Center contains a narrow ring of stamens and 3-4 light green carpels that are tipped with yellow stigmas. Flowers single, 6-7 inches in size. Plant height to 30 inches. Mild but pleasant fragrance. Buds: 2-3 per stem. Photo on file.

MARIA GRAZIA (Gian Lupo Osti, Italy, November, 2004). Tree peony: *Suffruticosa*. Parentage: *P. ostii*, open pollinated. First bloomed 2001. Semi-double flowers, shell pink (RHS 37C) fading to white on the edges, 2-3 per stem. Carpels 3-4, green, with near white stigmas (RHS 157D). Well developed disc. Pollen and seeds. Upright growth to 6 ½ feet (2m). Similar to the species, but flowers are larger and pale pink. Named for Maria Grazia, wife of Gian Lupo Osti. Photo on file.

ARABELLA (Gian Lupo Osti, Italy, November, 2004). Tree peony: *Suffruticosa*. Parentage: *P. rockii*, open pollinated. First bloomed 2001. Semi-double flowers, light purple (RHS 75A) ruffled petals with dark maroon-purple (RHS 187A) flares. Carpels 3-4, hairy, grey-green with near white (RHS 157D) stigmas. Well developed disc. Pollen and seeds. Upright growth to 5-6 feet (1.5-1.8m). Named for Italian born, internationally acclaimed landscape designer, Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd. Photo on file.

ANTIQUE IVORY (Dana Borglum, Geneva, NY, January, 2005) Herbaceous hybrid. Seedling number DB-01. Parentage unknown, raised from Laning's tetraploid hybrid seed. First bloomed 2001. Double, ivory colored blooms with pink blush shading and slight spicy fragrance. Normally one bud per stem. Stamens, pollen, and seeds. Height 24-28 inches, large blooms benefit from mechanical support. Vigorous and reliable bloomer (15-18 blooms at third year of flowering). Blooms early-mid season. Photo on file.

Contact the Registrar: Reiner Jakubowski—624 Pineridge Rd, Waterloo, ON N2L 5J9 Canada or registration@americanpeonysociety.org.

APS Seed Distribution Program 2005

Harvey Buchite, Director & SDP Chairman — Blaine, Minnesota

Thank you so much to the 11 APS members who collected, cleaned, labeled, packed, shipped and donated more than 164 different kinds of seed to the seed program this year! This years list contains some very exciting seed with a great balance of Chinese and Japanese Tree Peonies, three hybrid tree peony offerings, an excellent selection of peony species including seed from a yellow *P. mlokosewitschii*, a fair number of hybrid seeds and an incredible assortment of *lactiflora* varieties in all flower forms. With respect to seed from named vultivars, be aware that they do not come true from seed and names are given for parentage information only. All seed was collected from garden plants and could have been pollinated by closely related plants. This is important to know since the seedlings will show a certain amount of variation in their “looks” when they bloom for you. Remember that closely related species will cross-pollinate you may see some evidence of hybridization in the seedlings you grow. That’s not all bad as I have some wonderful hybrid plants that were grown from open pollinated species seed. Some will of course match the species description quite well in flower and form if they crossed with the same species or itself. If you want some interesting reading on peony seed starting and hybridization get The Best of 75 Years book from our APS Publications Chairman, Tim Stanek.

NEW FOR 2005 — ORDER EARLY

In order to streamline the assembly of orders this year I will send out all the seed requested in one mailing in May so that I can add extra bonus seed packets to each order. This gives everyone a better chance of receiving their first choices and a few more bonus seed packets to have fun germinating. Please send your requests in early by May 1st for this year’s seed distribution.

PRICE INCREASE FOR PACKING & POSTAGE

To keep the APS Seed Distribution on a break-even track for the postage, envelopes, labels and printing of seed starting instructions the base price for the first three packets is \$5.00. The ac-

tual value of the seed is certainly greater, but due to the generous seed donors we are able to keep costs to a minimum.

HOW TO REQUEST SEED

Members can request up to three different packets of seed for the base charge of \$5.00. We are unable to send a refund if a particular kind is no longer available, therefore we ask you to please include a list of substitutes as some packs are in short supply and we use your list to select a bonus as a thank you for supplying the substitute list.

If you would like more than the three packets of seed you are welcome and encouraged to request additional packets for \$1 per packet for lactifloras, hybrids and species and \$2.00 per pack for tree peony seed. Be sure to include payment with your request and a list of substitutes. Our goal is to get as much fresh seed distributed as possible to interested members.

Please enclose a check or money order with your request for \$5.00 (payable to Harvey Buchite) or more if you are requesting additional packets. The check you send will be used to cover the cost of seed envelopes, padded mailing envelope, printing and postage. Check should be sent to Harvey Buchite—APS Seed Distribution, 813 Elm Street, Anoka, MN 55303-2823 USA.

- ☛ *A return address label saves a lot of envelope addressing and is greatly appreciated. (Thanks to those who sent one last year!)*
- ☛ *Please note: * indicates only one packet available or low seed count. Normal packets contain 5–20 seeds depending on availability and demand.*
- ☛ *Bonus seed will be sent with every order.*

The following seeds are available for distribution in 2005.

LACTIFLORA WHITE & BLUSH

Double: "Bigger Double White", CAROLINA MOON, CREAM DOUBLE, DUCHESSE DE NEMOURS*, DULUTH, LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF, LAURA DESSERT, MME CALOT, LUELLE SHAYLOR, STRAWBERRY RIPPLE, ZUS BRAUN

Semi-double: GREEN LOTUS, LOIS KELSEY, MARIE JACQUIN, MINNIE SHAYLOR, MISS AMERICA.

Japanese: CHEDAR REGAL, FARIBO GOLD, GARDEN LACE, LOTUS QUEEN*.

Single: KRINKLED WHITE, LE JOUR, PICO, SPELLBINDER.

LACTIFLORA PINK

Double: ANGEL CHEEKS*, DAYTON*, DR. ALEXANDER FLEMMING, FAITH FENTON, LAKE OF SILVER, Large Double Pink Not Registered*, LAVON*, MARTHA BULLOCH, MISS ECKHARDT, MONS JULES ELIE, MR. ED, PINK DERBY, Pink Double for Zone 8, PINK LEMONADE*, PINK PEARL, PINK POM POM, PINK WONDER, PRESIDENT TAFT, RASPBERRY SUNDAE, SERENE PASTEL, VIRGINIA MARY, WHOPPER*.

Semi-double: LIEBCHEN.

Japanese: BO PEEP, DO TELL, GAY PAREE, LARGO, KAY TISCHLER, MADAME BUTTERFLY, MR. G.F. HEMERICK, PATRICIA HANRATTY, Westerner F-2, WHITE CAP.

Single: DAWN PINK, FEN YU NU, MISCHIEF, Pink Single fades white, SEA SHELL.

LACTIFLORA RED

Double: BEN FRANKLIN*, BIG BEN, DIXIE*, EDULIS SUPREME*, HIFALUTIN*, INSPECTEUR LAVERGNE, JAYHAWKER, KANSAS, KARL ROSENFELD, LEE*, LOUIS VAN HOUTTE, MARY BRAND, PETER BRAND, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, SPIFFY, VICTOIRE DE LA MARNE.

Semi-double: NICE GAL.

Japanese: CHARM, COMANCHE, MYRON BRANSON, NELLIE SAYLOR*, NIPPON BEAUTY, POM POM, SOSHI, SWORD DANCE, TERRY GRUDEM

Single: FLORENCE BRUSS, MAGENTA GEM, PRESIDENT LINCOLN, TOPEKA GARNET.

MISCELLANEOUS LACTI

Pink Derby F-2, Japanese Type mix, Early Hybrids & Lacti Mix, Lacti Mix.

SPECIES

P. anomala, *P. bakeri*, *P. cambessedesii*, *P. coreacea*, *P. daurica**, *P. emodi**, *P. japonica*, *P. lactiflora* from wild parent white, *P. lactiflora* from wild parent pink, *P. mascula**, *P. mascula* (fuzzy pod), *P. mascula triternata*, *P. mlokosewitschi*, *P. mollis*, *P. obovata* pink, *P. obovata*, *P. officinalis* Ex Mt Baldo, *P. officinalis officinalis*, *P. officinalis villosa**, *P. peregrina*, *P. steveniana**, *P. veitchii*, *P. veitchii woodwardii*, *P. veitchii woodwardii* white flowers, *P. wittmaniana**.

HYBRIDS

Cream Pink Tet, DEAREST, EARLY WINDFLOWER, Early Hybrid Mix, Hybrid Seidl H17, Lanning Pink Tet, Lanning White Tet*, LAURA MAGNUSON*, *P. (mloko x witmaniana) o.p.*, OLD FAITHFUL*, PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL*, PRAIRIE PRINCESS*, ROY PEHRSON'S BEST YELLOW, Saunder's White Quad, Tall Pink Tet L 976, TINKERBELLE, WINE ANGEL.

TREE PEONIES

Chinese Tree Peonies: FENG DAN BAI white, FENG DAN BAI light lavender, FENG DAN BAI, FEN HE, GREY CRANE (HUI HE), HONG BAO SHI, HONG LIAN, Joseph Rock's F-1 hybrids, Mixed Tree Peonies of Chinese and Japanese Types, *P. ostii*, PHOENIX WHITE*, Red TP*, Rockii Hybrids from Peace Garden—China, SHU SHENG PENG MO, XUE LIAN.

Japanese Tree Peonies: HANA KISOI, Mixed Suffruticosa, Purple TP, SAHOHIME, SHICHIFUKUJIN, SHIMA DAIJIN*.

Hybrid Tree Peonies: American Hybrid TP Mix, Daphnis Semi-double Red Hybrid TP* and "Seidlite" which is fertile for intersectional hybrids will have only one seed per pack and only one per request so that five people will have a chance to grow this special seed out.↪

THANK YOU SEED DONORS!

Dana Borglum—Geneva, New York; Harvey Buchite—Anoka, Minnesota; Mary Duvall—Brook Park, Minnesota; Hans Hansen—Waseca, Minnesota; Don Hollingsworth—Maryville, Missouri; Donna Linsley—Pittsford, New York; Margaret McRae—Walla Walla, Washington; Anne Oveson—Wallowa, Oregon; Claudia Schroer—Gladstone, Missouri; Irene Tolemeo—Sonoma, California; Judith Wilmarth—Anchorage, Alaska

2004 Local & Regional Events

CANADIAN PEONY SOCIETY

www.peony.ca

Mary Pratte (613) 746-6070 or gmpratte@sympatico.ca

We have a number of events across the country this year. We hope some of you will be interested in visiting during peony time, which stretches from the end of May well into July, depending on which provinces you will be visiting. For further information, please visit our website, under the events location, or use the contact info above.

- May 21–23 Peony Festival, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden in Vancouver, BC. For more information contact: Alice MacCaulay amacaulay@telus.net.
- June 18–19 Oshawa Valley Botanical Garden Peony Festival, Oshawa, ON—This is the garden of 275 peonies, which the CPS has helped develop with Gilbert plants. Contact: Michael Denny mdenny@attglobal.net.
- June 25-26 CPS National Show, Government House, 4607 Dewdney Ave, Regina, SK—An event not to miss! The Society's main peony exhibition will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. All are enthusiastically invited to participate! Contact: Brian Porter bjporter@accesscomm.ca.
- July 2–3 Peony Exhibition, Les jardins de Métis/ The Redford Gardens, Grand-Métis, QC—Feast your eyes upon a fabulous display of cut peonies, listen to invited guests talk about peonies, all in one of the most beautiful garden settings anywhere. More info on website: www.jardinsmetis.com or patricia.gallant@jardinsmetis.com.
- July 1–5 La semaine de la pivoine, QC (Peony Week)—A week of garden visits and peony talks is being planned by our new Québec Director. Full schedule in May newsletter. Contact: Rock Giguère rock.giguere@sogetel.net.

HEARTLAND PEONY SOCIETY (Greater Kansas City)

www.peonies.org

Leon Pesnell (785) 542-3316 or pesnell@myvine.com

In April we plan to tour The Linda Hall Science Library Tree Peony Garden. HPS donates plants and provides labels for the plantings at the garden under the direction of Scott Reiter. This garden has possibly the largest planting of tree peonies in this area of the country. Many of the tree peonies have been in place for 20–30 years. We will also have a local gardens tour in May.

2004 Local & Regional Events

Other plans include a trip to the Pacific Northwest, leaving Kansas City on May 11 and return on May 16. We will tour public and private gardens in the Portland/Salem Oregon area (with generous cooperation from PNW Peony Society), during tree peony bloom season.

August 13—Tree Peony Grafting Workshop. This workshop has been held twice in the past and we have had a number of requests to repeat the workshop. Reservations are required.

Fall events are planned for September 30 and October 1. On the 30th we will have our members only social event. This includes our Annual Meeting, a potluck feast and auction of rare and interesting peonies. October 1 is the date for our fall program and peony plant sale. Our sale committee is already working on a special selection of all classes of peonies from species to intersectional hybrids.

Officers for 2005 include Leon Pesnell, President; Alana Holste, Vice-President; Joe Schroer, Treasurer and Pat McBee, Secretary. Please see our website for membership information. Full details of all events in our newsletter. ↪

MIDWEST PEONY SOCIETY

<http://home.insightbb.com/~midwestpeonysoc/MIDWESTPEONYSOC.html>

Don Smith (812) 923-8113 or midwestpeonysoc@insightbb.com

The Midwest Peony Society was formed in the fall of 2004. News of the Society has caused a lot of interest and the future looks bright for it's success. Our goal is to keep it simple and exciting while achieving some lofty goals. With the extremely generous donations of several peony growers we already have a beautiful herbaceous display garden at Whitehall Gardens in Louisville, Kentucky. A large world class tree peony garden is planned at Yew Dell Gardens in Crestwood, Kentucky and a combination herbaceous, intersectional and tree peony display and trial garden is being designed for the Gardens of Mt. St. Francis in Floyds Knobs, Indiana.

2005 Programs: several weekend spring garden tours in both private and public gardens; a group tour to the APS Convention in Maine; summer picnic at Yew Dell Gardens, featuring Dr. Paul Cappiello; fall peony sale at the Frank Otte garden; and, a members only fall plant auction and planning meeting.

Please see our website for membership information or write to: Don Smith, 4003 Sylvan Court, Floyds Knobs, Indiana 47119-9669. ↪

DULUTH, MINNESOTA AREA PEONY SOCIETY

Elizabeth Donley (218) 728-4506 or beaupbear@aol.com

Elizabeth, the granddaughter of the late Henry Hartwig (an Oregon peony grower from the early 50s to late 60s), is excited to get the Duluth peony society up and running again. Last summer she donated and planted a peony garden in Duluth's Rose Garden. For her, this project was following in her grandfather's example when he did the same in Bush Park in Salem, Oregon in the early 1960s. She has agreed to tend this garden for the city as long as she is able, then her daughter, Meghan Kimber, will take over. In June they will hold an "open garden" several times a week to talk about the garden and peonies, and also to offer membership in the Society.☞

MINNESOTA PEONY SOCIETY

www.geocities.com/mps_peony

Harvey Buchite (763) 754-8090

- Saturday, February 26—Winter Meeting, 1:00 pm at Bachman's Garden Center (6010 Lyndale Ave South Minneapolis). Donald Smith, will be the guest speaker.
- Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12—Annual Flower Show at Como Park Conservatory (St. Paul).
- Saturday, Sept 24—Fall Meeting and Annual Auction, 1:00 pm at Bachman's Garden Center.☞

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PEONY SOCIETY

www.pnwpeony.org

Carol Adelman (503) 393-6185 or carol@peonyparadise.com

The 2005 PNW Peony Society Annual Meeting and Auction will be held on March 19, 2005 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Holiday Inn, Wilsonville, Oregon (just south of Portland). Registration is \$40 before March 1, \$45 at the door, which includes lunch. There will be a dinner the night before as a social gathering at the hotel restaurant.

Featured speakers will be: Paige Woodard, with Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada. Paige organized the April 2004 tour of Peonies in China. Peter Waltz, current APS President, is an engineer and a peony hybridizer. He will speak on his hybridizing experiences.

All peony lovers are invited! For further information contact Carol Adelman (503) 393-6185, carol@peonyparadise.com or Ed Wild at(503) 638-5445, Inde@teleport.com. More info on our website.☞

An Intersectional Point of View

Donald Smith, Director — West Newton, Massachusetts

Ever since their discovery and introduction into the US in the late 1960s, intersectional hybrids have for the most part been treated like herbaceous peonies, probably because they grow primarily from below ground buds like other herbaceous peonies. This herbaceous treatment is especially true with regards to their propagation, where intersectional peonies have been propagated almost exclusively by division. This method has proved to be very effective and has over time produced thousands of intersectional clones that have reached the marketplace. The main drawback to this approach is that production is painfully slow. Typically, it now takes 7–10 years to produce sufficient stock to begin sustained annual sales. Consequently, supplies of most varieties have been insufficient to satisfy rising demand, therefore prices for these hybrids have remained very high. This, in turn, has severely limited the widespread distribution of these wonderful new garden plants.

In most aspects the intersectional hybrids are really more like the tree peony types. This fact, combined with a strong desire to bring new and popular varieties to market more quickly, has resulted in serious consideration of several alternative methods of propagation for the intersectional hybrids. Some of these alternative methods, such as grafting, take full advantage of the woody (tree peony) characteristics of these plants by using the many above-ground buds that appear beginning in late summer. The use of these buds is especially economical since the majority of these buds do not survive the winter in most northern locations. Any plants that can be obtained from these buds, therefore, are a pure bonus. For example, a young plant, which may be too small to divide, can nonetheless easily provide 15–25 stems with one–three buds each and thus yield as many as 15–20 grafted plants without any disruption to the original plant. In addition, propagation by grafting (generally onto herbaceous roots) can be done every year rather than every second or third year as is standard with propagation by division. In fact, each year there are more

and more stems available as young plants continue to grow and mature undisturbed. Propagation by grafting is much faster than by division and is also proving to be just as successful with intersectional hybrids as it has been over the years with tree peonies. This adds an important propagation option for the intersectionals that is not available with other herbaceous peonies.

In addition, there is another method that is quickly becoming established as a viable alternative to the more traditional methods and has already proved especially effective with the intersectional hybrid group. This method is usually referred to as “tissue culture”, but is really a micro-propagation technique more correctly called “bud culture”. This method uses the same buds that might otherwise be used for grafting except here the buds are sterilized and cultured in test tubes. Once a culture has been successfully started, multiplication of tiny plantlets can be extremely rapid. Thus, in a relatively short time, a single bud can yield many thousands of tiny plantlets that are all identical to the original plant (i.e., true clones). After transfer and acclimation to soil, growth of the little plants is remarkably fast and vigorous. A unique advantage of this technique is that buds can be “started” in either early spring or fall with about equal success. Buds started in the fall, however, must first undergo a forced winter dormancy period (i.e., cold storage) before the cultured buds will begin to grow, much the same as with peony seeds germinated indoors.

During the last few years some significant and exciting progress has been made concerning micro-propagation of intersectional hybrids. First, a number of Anderson’s intersectional hybrids have been successfully propagated by bud culture and some of these micro-propagated plants are already available for sale to the public. Beginning in fall 2003 and then again in spring and fall 2004, I cut several hundred stems from nearly two dozen of my best intersectional varieties in order to begin bud culture propagation of my hybrids. To date, these micro-propagation trials have proved very successful and, at present, there are at least three healthy cultures of each variety growing in the laboratory. Most of these cultures are now in the multiplication phase. With con-

tinued success, it is my hope that we can cut several years off of the time it normally takes to bring new intersectional hybrids to market. In addition, the very high production rates achievable through micro-propagation hold the promise to dramatically reduce the price of intersectional hybrids in a few more years when sufficiently large numbers of these plants finally reach the market. This, of course, should be good news for those who love peonies and have wanted to try some of the intersectionals but have thus far been deterred by the rather large investment required to purchase one.

In summary, there are now at least three reliable methods for propagating intersectional hybrids. This flexibility is unique to the intersectionals, giving this group a real advantage over other types of peonies when it comes to propagation. Furthermore, there is no need to choose between these various methods. Many of my hybrids are currently being propagated by all three methods. Two of these methods use (surplus) stems that would otherwise end up in the compost heap since the buds on these stems seldom if ever survive the winters here in New England. Taking these stems in late summer to early fall has no effect on the growth or flowering of the plants. In addition, the buds required to “start” the cultures for micro-propagation need only be collected once, since after the cultures reach the multiplication phase they are essentially self-sustaining and continue to produce tiny new plantlets for several years or more. As a breeder, I am delighted with the progress that has been made in the propagation of intersectional hybrids over the last few years. These advances in propagation should make it much faster and easier for me and other intersectional breeders to get our new hybrids to the marketplace.☞

Questions, suggestions and comments
on this column should be sent to
Don at paeonianews@aol.com.

Think Spring!

Creating New Peonies

Don Hollingsworth, Director — Maryville, Missouri

— IN FAVOR OF AMATEUR EFFORT —

INTRODUCTION

A lively exchange of opinion whether avocational peony growers could expect to achieve much in breeding peonies took place a while back in the peony e-group postings [<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/peony/>]. It was an interesting discussion suggesting much about opportunity and handicaps, the contributions ranging from somewhat negative to quite positive. My own answer to the question dates to a good many years ago and is very positive in favor of “amateur” effort.

There has for long been little significant competition in peony breeding compared to other popular plant subjects. Witness the situation with the Iris, Hemerocallis and Hosta genera, wherein the generations turn quickly, while propagation time is also shorter. Those genera have attracted numerous breeders, creating an annual outpouring of new product. It is not the same with peonies wherein the processes are much slower, especially working among the hybrids and accordingly not so attractive for commercial interests. For these reasons the prospects for important discovery remain largely unexploited. Thus during the past century individuals working on an avocational basis have produced far more innovation in peony cultivars (cvs.) than has the breeding output of full time nursery operations. There are several reasons for this, but perhaps the major barrier is competition for time on the part of decision-makers while peonies are flowering.

Much can be said regarding the opportunity for developing new ornamental value from and among the hybrid peonies. This article is meant to be only a start toward a larger body of discussion in that respect. Fortunately, there a considerable amount of helpful information already published, which will reward thoughtful inquiry—more below on sources. It is highly recommended

that interested persons acquire these references and thoroughly study the sections relevant to peony breeding.

A first consideration in planning matings (crosses) is, “what is it that is hoped for?” The answers are many and the priorities a personal choice, the challenge building in complexity from mere curiosity to serious performance goals—such as increasing the range of flowering time, additional doubled forms in the hybrids and preferred habit for landscape use. In an earlier time the commercial profit motives in peonies were much driven by florist trade priorities—e.g., vigor, easy opening buds, long stems and, especially, continued annual production under severe pruning. Landscape design interests could “make do.” Now the situation is reversed—cutflower producers are finding their new product among the innovations achieved while breeding additional landscape sorts.

Easy care peonies are much needed for the viewed landscape, public or private. These need to stand dependably while in flower without mechanical support, be vigorous and durable, flower abundantly over a longer period and make a season long healthy foliage contribution. Much of the opportunity to fulfill unmet needs lies with the early species and their hybrids. Extended flowering (via sidebuds) and flower form variation is most developed in the commonly grown *Lactifloras*. Merging and re-segregation of the two genetic complements is the readily available avenue for finding wanted additional forms. The gene pool embodied in currently available cultivars is abundant. If you have an interest in getting into the game, then here are some ideas you might find useful.

RECOMMENDATIONS

You may have heard that the interspecies hybrids are sterile. Negative comments of this sort are part of the reason there is not much competition! Do not be deterred on that count. The fact that the hybrids require special effort to achieve progeny is favorable for persons with the interest and the enthusiasm to sustain long-term effort. With A. P. Saunders, famous for his achieve-

FIELD NOTES



3037 "Pot Sdlgs;"
short, cupped white
single.



3050 Seedling H92045-
09; hot pink, multi-
petal single, 7 inches.



3048 Seedling H92045-
06; soft pink
progressive stamen
transformation.



3036 Seedling
Potsblock2-1; two-
stage pink double,
flowering a week
before Lacti's begin.

ments in peony breeding and the original mentor of modern peony breeding, I am inclined to expect most any strain of interspecies peony hybrid may be expected to eventually show at least some fertility. Personal experience suggests deliberate and repeated crossing can do much to improve the results. Thus operator patience and persistence has much to do whether the desired results will materialize. Veteran iris breeder Steve Varner has validated this in achieving a seedling from peony RED CHARM (Glasscock, 1944), long thought to be absolutely sterile [MAJOR STEVE (Varner, 1994) using pollen of SUNNY BOY (Laning, 1985)].

Useful approaches to breeding from hybrid peonies fall naturally into three categories, differing in what might be achieved and somewhat in the quantity of yield to expect. One is inter-crossing species selections, a second is interbreeding among existing hybrids, the third is crossing existing hybrids to a fertile non-hybrid, either back-crossing to one of its ancestors or another non-hybrid form.

F1 Generation Interspecies Hybrids—
This is the starter level of a hybrids "family" or strain. In peony affairs use of the term "hybrid" has long been limited to individuals descended from two or more species. Which of the first generation interspecies hybrids one might undertake will depend initially on what sorts are currently available as parent plants, either in your own collection or of which pollen may be obtained timely from other growers. Choos-

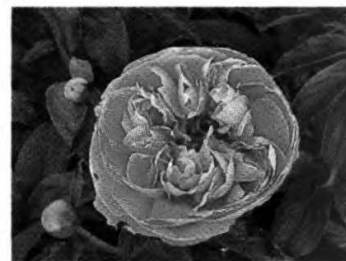
ing additional peony species for your collection can be an interesting study in itself. For me some of the herbaceous species we have tried did not prosper here. Currently there is much interest in species and sources have developed to serve the associated demand. Accordingly there is increased opportunity to explore this avenue.

Expect the first generation hybrid progeny to have extra vigor (called hybrid vigor) and comparatively easy to grow. (Advanced generation hybrids may be found to be much more variable with respect to inherent vigor.) The commercially important progeny already achieved in this category have generally been from crosses in which one parent is a *Lactiflora* Group cultivar. Many examples are pictured in contemporary peony catalogs and at Internet sites of specialty nurseries. These sorts include, for example, most introductions of A. P. Saunders, Bockstoce and Glasscock.

One can get started with as little as a source of species pollen to cross on *Lacti* cultivars already at hand—or cross the same parents the other way. This first generation interspecies cross is the foundation of any multi-generational hybrids breeding project. Fortunately, that generation has been explored extensively and allows us to move forward without additional time investment.

Breeding from Hybrids crossed together—Some may comment, “This is where the real fun starts!” The extent to

FIELD NOTES



3051 Seedling H92045-10; pink, progressive stamen transformation, thick stems.



3040 Seedling H92054-01; warm pink single.



3055 Seedling H92001-1; another hot pink multi-petal single.



GOLDILOCKS (Gilbertson, 1975) after one season growth from replant..

FIELD NOTES



2498 "Gail Whitsett Rocks Seedling"-15, makes a very large flower. Seventeen of these reached maturity and at least 50% are good enough to introduce, with the proviso they are found to propagate efficiently. Seed parent information furnished by Gail is "Rocks," the prevalent JOSEPH ROCK cultivar, as I understand, not the "semi-double" form. Pollen parents are some of the Japanese sorts. Number 15 flower looks very much like the picture furnished by Lupo Osti with one of his recent name registrations. I suspect one could harvest a bunch of highly marketable seed-grown tree peonies repeating these crosses. They would best to be grown for a few years after flowering maturity to screen out those not resistant to late freeze damage of the blooms.

which that is true, of course, depends on where one's interests lie. Progress will be slower here because of the relative infertility of the hybrids. Many of them are triploid; meaning that while they received ten chromosomes from a tetraploid species parent the diploid *Lacti* parent contributed only five. This leads to confusion of chromosome pairing during germ cell formation (egg and sperm) resulting in much lowered percentages containing the necessary precise half set of chromosomes at either the diploid or tetraploid level.

However, when a fertile sperm cell reaches a fertile egg cell the desired result is in sight. While this is not the only cause of hybrids reduced fertility it is prominently so. A key goal here is to obtain improved fertility in advanced generation hybrids.

Here is where diligence in manual pollinating pays off. Assuming a low percentage of both fertile egg and pollen cells, deliberate pollination is going to give the best chance of results. How few seeds can one expect from deliberate crossing of the triploid hybrids? Early on I chose the tetraploid pollinator MOONRISE

(Saunders, 1949) (higher fertility) to use on the Saunders Lobata of Perry Hybrids cvs. of our collection, also a tetraploid second-generation member of the Quads to pollinate the first generation cvs. of that group. On average we obtained about one seed for every ten flowers pollinated. Not all turned into viable plants, but among the progeny are additional, more fertile tetraploids. One of these is ACE OF HEARTS (Hollingsworth, 2002). One can do the same cross with triploids crossed with triploids, expecting lower yields (better if genetically close), but having a wider range of quality in plant, flower and ancestry from which to choose.

We did not obtain additional flower doubling among the progeny of the above-described crosses. That will require more generations, always seeking to use hybrid parents descended from doubled flower forms for the cross. Doubling will almost certainly be achieved, as evidenced among the Early Hybrids by CARNATION BOUQUET (Seidl, 1996) and its seed parent BLUSHING PRINCESS (Saunders/Reath 1991)

Hybrids Crossed to Fertile Non-Hybrids—In some respects this is a “quick-fix.” The approach is relatively productive. When involving as seed parent superior quality, fully fertile cvs., our results have shown that economically worthy progeny may be obtained in the first generation.

When the hybrid pollen has at least some viability (not always the case), the seed yield will be better and germination rates higher than from hybrid to hybrid crosses. When I used pollen of the multi-petals triploid CYTHEREA (Saunders, 1953) and CARINA (Saunders, 1954) on *Lactiflora* cv., NIPPON GOLD (Auten, 1929) we have obtained the full range of *Lacti* flower forms and bush attributes in plants showing an extra measure of hybrid vigor. A couple of examples are GARDEN LACE (Hollingsworth, 1992) and SANDRA MARIE (Hollingsworth, 1998). One, only, of this general mating strategy appears outwardly to be clearly hybrid in flower and foliage, except that it has one or two sidebuds, an important landscape advantage, extending the flowering period. From hybrid pollinator CLAIR DE LUNE

(White, 1954) we have SUMMER GLOW (Hollingsworth, 1992) and from ECHO (Saunders, 1951) we have SHOWGIRL (Hollingsworth, 1984).

In other examples of this approach, the three species hybrid giving rich yellow flower hues is currently a great source of excitement—the Itoh Hybrids Group, from *Lactiflora* cvs. crossed by pollen of the *Lutea* Hybrid tree peonies, also referred to as “inter-sectional hybrids.” GARDEN TREASURE (Hollingsworth, 1984) with its unusually long period of flower opening is a widely recognized member of this group as is BARTZELLA (Anderson, 1986) with its large, fluffy light yellow flowers. Sidebuds opening in rotation is seen in an important share of this group, contributing to their higher landscape value. We especially note CALLIE’S MEMORY (Anderson, 1999) and CANARY BRILLIANTS (Anderson, 1999) in this respect

Another current example of three-way interspecies hybrids has resulted from using pollen of Saunders’ “Little Reds” Hybrids on *Lacti* cvs. For example, when we used pollens of Saunders’ GOOD CHEER (Saunders, 1942) and another, un-named “Little Red” on NIPPON SPLENDOR (Auten, 1931), BELLEVILLE (H. Wolfe/Hollingsworth, 1998), VALENTINE (Hollingsworth) and others, significant doubling appeared among the progeny. Some of these are the semi-double CHERRY RUFFLES (Hollingsworth, 1996) and the bombs, MANY HAPPY RETURNS (Hollingsworth, 1986)

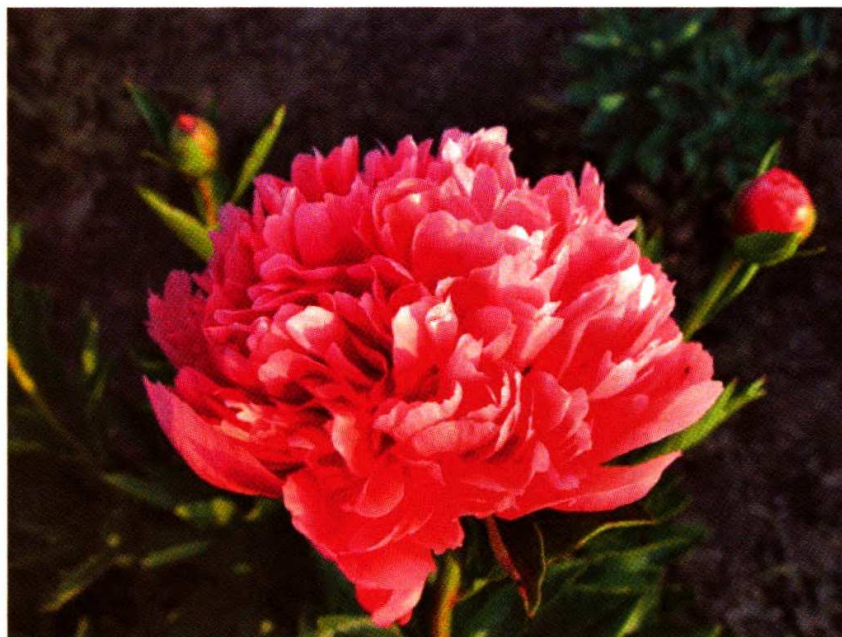


PINK VANGUARD
(Seidl/Hollingsworth, 2005)



BIG BOY
(Pehrson/Hollingsworth 2000)

and LORELEI (Hollingsworth, 1996). While all are presumed triploids (but not counted), they are worthy in their own right, whether or not they become future parents.



LORELEI (Hollingsworth, 1996)

Alternatively, try crossing to the natural species ancestor. One might have valuable results by using the more doubled of the Saunders Lobata of Perry Hybrids, as for example CYTHEREA (Saunders, 1953), to pollinate selections of *Paeonia peregrina*. The goal here is to achieve additional hybrids (tetraploids) of better fertility, while retaining additional factors of “double-ness” in their gene complements.

This discussion focuses on some logical approaches for choosing crosses, as illustrated by previous results. Then there is germination and growing up the seedlings. When one gets results, what will be the selection criteria for screening the seedlings? Germination is well treated in existing publications. Selection criteria are worthy of additional discussion. Meanwhile, I highly recommend the breeding interest sections of three APS publications for your attention: Handbook of the Peony, The American Hybrid Peony and The Best of Seventy-Five Years, all available as described on page 67 in this issue of *The APS Bulletin*.☺



Andrea and Fern Leaf peonies

The Peony Garden

Herbaceous Peonies

Get Your
FREE CATALOG!

www.peonygarden.net
contact@peonygarden.net
(319) 896-1120 (voice mail)

The Peony Garden
P.O. Box 495 • Center Point, IA 52213

Adelman Peony Gardens

info@peonyparadise.com
www.peonyparadise.com

503.393.6185

color catalog on website
free catalog by mail

5690 Brooklake Road NE
Salem, Oregon 97305

Come to Peony Heaven

Join Jim Waddick and
China's foremost experts
for 2 weeks celebrating

Paeonia rockii
and its cultivars



Peonies of China 2005
study-tour April 22 - May 7
www.hillkeep.ca
Don't just daydream; join us!

Cricket Hill Garden



Chinese tree peony, *Luoyang Red*

Although we specialize in a large selection Chinese tree peonies, we also offer Chinese herbaceous peonies as well as our own early blooming, hybrid herbaceous peonies.

Ask for our color catalog or see our website for details, www.treepeony.com

Coming this spring, a definitive new peony book will be available.

Published by Timber Press, written by Martin



Chinese herbaceous peony, *Rare Flower of Frosty Dew*



Chinese herbaceous peony, *Empress Wu's Yellow*

Page, *The Gardener's Peony* will inform and delight every peony lover. **Save \$10** on list price, only **\$29.95**, add \$6.00 for first class shipping.



Cricket Hill Garden

670 Walnut Hill Rd. Thomaston, CT 06787

860-283-1042



GARDEN TREASURE



CHERRY RUFFLES



GARDEN LACE

SUMMER GLOW



SANDRA MARIE



Hollingsworth Nursery
Breeder & Propagator of Fine Peonies
(660) 562-3010
hpeonies@asde.net
www.hollingsworthpeonies.com

SEVALD NURSERY PEONIES

CATALOG \$1.00 (REFUND WITH ORDER)
MAIL ADDRESS: 4937 3RD AVE. S., MPLS., MN 55409
TEL: (EVENINGS OR EARLY MORNINGS) 612-822-3279



DO TELL

DR. CARSTEN BURKHARDT AT SIX FEET TALL, EASILY FITS BENEATH THIS HUGE 100-YEAR-OLD 'ZIBAN MUDAN' IN LUOYANG'S WANG CHENG PARK.
[Photo by Mary Pratte]



ELISABETH RUNDLE, "THE PEONY LADY," PERCHED BENEATH A HUGE SPECIMEN IN BEIJING'S COAL HILL PARK. SHE GAINED THE NEW NAME "THE PEONY EMPRESS" BEFORE RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA.
[Photo by Larry Wick]

Chinese
Tree Peony
Festival

PAIGE WOODWARD HOLDS A SPECIMEN OF *PAEONIA JISHANENSIS* WITH PROF. ZHOU ZHIQUIN IN THE HILLS OF JIYUAN COUNTY. MARY PRATTE LOOKS ON AT RIGHT.
[Photo by Larry Wick]



Chinese Tree Peony Festival

James Waddick — Kansas City, Missouri

Just imagine; 30,000 large tree peonies of 800 different cultivars. Just another day in Heze, Shandong Province in April for dazzled visitors. Each year over a million visitors stream into a few small towns in northeast China to immerse themselves in thousands of tree peonies, China's national flower. This attraction brought a group of peony-loving friends to China in April 2004.



THIS UNNAMED FLOWER IN COAL HILL PARK IS OBVIOUSLY A 'ZIBAN MUDAN' DERIVED FROM *P. ROCKII*.
[Photo by Merle Palmiter]

Paige Woodward of Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery coordinated and organized a 15-day trip starting in Beijing and ending in Shanghai that would highlight the Chinese tree peony festivals and numerous other facets of tree peony study in China. A dozen intrepid travelers left their homes in mid-April to converge in

Beijing. Coordinated airport connections brought the group together: Elizabeth Rundle (“The Peony Lady” from Canberra, Australia), Larry Wick (plant collector from British Columbia, Canada), Merle and Sheila Palmiter (owners of Palmiter Nursery, Avon, New York), Mary Pratte (President, Canadian Peony Society, Ottawa), Lee Gratwick (Linwood Estate, Pavilion, New York), Dr. Marina Kasimova (President, Danish Peony Society, Jyllinge), Bjorn Nilsson and Ruth Rondbjerg (peony aficionados from Virum, Denmark) and tour leaders James Waddick (author from Kansas City, Missouri) and Paige Woodward (Chilliwack, British Columbia). We were met at the airport by our friend Yu Lishan (resident of Beijing and China guide extraordinaire). Also at the airport was my friend Zhao Yutang (co-author with me of Iris of China from Changchun, China). Later we met our other travel companions Carsten Burkhardt (proprietor of the peony web project: www.paeon.de; from Kolkwitz, Germany) and Diana Hume (a Canadian resident of Beijing).

Our first gathering in the lobby of a grand marble and glitz hotel in the Fragrant Hills near the Beijing Botanical Garden led to a nearby opening banquet, a hint at the food extravaganza to follow. Peonies quickly took the focus as we went to the botanical garden for a tour of their high-tech computer controlled conservatory and the low-tech, but extensive peony collections. We met the Director, Zhang Zuoshuang, and many of his staff. A highlight of the entire trip and a unique honor was a specially arranged lecture by Prof. Hong De-Yuan, China’s chief botanist and most respected peony scientist in China. We met his well-known wife and collaborator, the botanist, Prof. Pan Kaiyu and a number of his students.

At the Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Prof. Hong presented an illustrated lecture, “Peonies of the World,” with incredible pictures of plants in the wild along with facts of their biology, distribution and specific morphology. He dazzled us both visually and verbally with a scientific presentation we will long remember. His research findings are being prepared for publication in a Chinese/English illustrated edition.

Prof. Cheng Fangyun of Beijing Forestry University was also there. Prof. Cheng is working on a comprehensive new book on Chinese tree peonies from northwest China, based on selections of *P. rockii* known in China as 'Ziban Mudan.' This is due for publication in Chinese and English with hundreds of color pictures sometime in the next year. We had a chance to review plans for his later trip to see peonies in the US.

We also met briefly with Prof. Zhou Zhiquin who is conducting an active program of peony research at the molecular level under Hong at the Institute of Botany. Zhou very generously interrupted his work to accompany our group for the next few days to a special destination.

There is simply no time or room to detail every event and garden we experienced, but I will touch on just two others in the Beijing area. Like any good tourist we took in a few cultural sights from the Great Wall to the Empress' Summer Palace, but visiting the Forbidden City across from Tiananmen Square at this time of year brought a special reward. This architectural wonder, consists of multiple, large, walled compounds, surrounding ever smaller walled compounds until you enter the most central, most private Emperor's living quarters and private garden. Naturally the focus is on tree peonies and we saw hundreds arranged in many beds, intertwined among the palace's pavilions. Ancient trees and shrubs, formal gardens and gorgeous vistas opened as we strolled the grounds. This gave proof to the high esteem afforded tree peonies in both ancient and modern China.

In contrast to the magnificence of the ultra-private Emperor's garden, near the Forbidden City there is a public garden transformed from the Emperor's defunct "coal bin". In imperial times, a large supply of coal was needed to heat all the rooms of the imperial family, lesser royals, concubines and all those who worked in the Forbidden City complex. When the Emperor was deposed and the coal dispersed, the old "coal hill" was transformed into a large public park with long, winding paths and planted with hundreds of tree peonies. Our group had trouble

staying together in the perfect spring weather as we wandered along the paths and uncountable numbers of peonies in full bloom. Special Penjing (bonsai) tree peony specimens were displayed along the walkways. The park was bustling with local visitors and we all blended into a peony heaven as we clumsily exchanged body-language comments on the beauty of the displays with fellow Chinese devotees.

Beijing was just a jumping off place to the tree peony festivals. There are two small towns that have historically been connected with peony cultivation for many decades: Heze in Shandong Province and further west, Luoyang in Hubei Province. Each year when the tree peonies are at peak bloom, hundreds of thousands of plants attract millions of visitors—this was our destination, as well. We boarded a deluxe train and headed south to the city of Heze for some serious peony observation!

HEZE

Perhaps best known outside of China as the home of tree peonies, Heze in Shandong Province is far outside the regular tourist path. It is about 300 miles south of Beijing and has a relatively small population. It has little claim to fame, but its sandy loess soils have excellent drainage. Tree peonies have been grown there commercially for many years and are regularly sent around China either as dormant plants for garden sale or as potted and forced plants in bloom in spring. Most Chinese tree peonies sold around the world begin life in Heze.

It has also been the scene of extensive peony celebration. There is an annual peony festival that is centered in the public Cao Zhu peony garden and the foremost private nursery, Hundred Flowers Garden (known in Chinese as Bai Hua Gardens), but many nurseries in the surrounding area open their fields, too. We were met in the garden by the manager, Xu Shu Lin and had a private social meeting with Wang Lian Ying. She is President of the China Peony Association and Editor of the well-known book, Chinese Tree Peony. Over tea our group asked questions about peony breeding, pruning, cultivation and forcing, chatting with her and her staff.

We were escorted to a large research building that normally houses studies of seedlings and tissue culture, as well as other details of scientific activity. In bloom season, however, all these works are cleared out to accommodate all the visitors wishing to see tree peony cutflower arrangements. It is hard to approximate the size and splendor of the display—I would guess at least one hundred flower arrangements were present the day of our visit. Of course, all of the arrangements emphasized tree peony blooms and they included traditional table arrangements, wall arrangements, floor arrangements, two- three- and four-part arrangements and huge suspended displays. The size of the arrangements ranged from a modest basketball diameter to over seven feet across and included every color of tree peony flower. The arrangements lined every wall of the room and several viewing stands in the center of the vast space.

Stylistically they ran the gamut from traditional to experimental. One, of carefully matched flowers on a bamboo frame, approximated the double helix of a DNA strand! Another was a hanging sphere of earth's globe. Imagination ran wild with something for everyone. Camera flashes seemed nonstop. We hardly missed the anticipated scientific display for the artistic display we had not expected.

We then toured the gardens. There are estimated to be 40,000 mature plants of almost 1,000 cultivars. These included all the classic Chinese cultivars usually seen on lists around the world as well as the newest hybrids and many rare varieties. We had the opportunity to meet Mr. Sun Jing Yu, the hybridizer of the large double white tree peony JING YU.

We met and were assisted by Lv Shao Jing of the Scapegrass Peony Plantation. Mr. Lv is a great promoter of tree peonies in general. He exuded friendship and his English was very helpful. As we toured the gardens, questions and answers exploded around us—group members went in many different directions. Prof. Zhou explained how characteristics of species, such as the rare *P. qiui* and *P. jishanensis*, could be seen in the foliage of some hybrids. The growers kindly showed us their most trea-

sured plants such as American and French *Lutea* hybrids most of which are very uncommon in China except for those varieties imported from Japan. In one garden we were led down a narrow off-limits path to see GARDEN TREASURE, Don Hollingsworth's Gold Medal winner. Another side trip was to see a patch of *Paeonia tenuifolia*, the fernleaf peony species.

Each of our group had special talents and we soon found that Elizabeth Rundle from Australia was a shopper's shopper as she bee-lined for the numerous peony souvenirs: postcards, playing cards, illustrated guide books and more. Others followed and soon had bags full of treasures.

There was simply not enough time to see all the gardens and all the nurseries, but we departed after a banquet-sized lunch with some of the peony experts we had met—our imaginations filled with tree peony images and dazzled by the displays. Our tour guides were made well aware of our interest in getting traditional and local foods, not tourist food. There are big differences between eating at a tourist restaurant or a fine local restaurant. We dined well that night and began to appreciate the ever-changing cuisines as we went from one part of the country to the other. Hardly a meal passed with less than a dozen courses, with fifteen or twenty not uncommon, and a few topped this. Without giving anyone's gluttony away, we were all soon gobbling up many new local food delights with ease—using chopsticks as if native born; well, almost.

JIYUAN

We took a convoluted northern path to our next destination of Jiyuan City. The next morning we boarded a "well-used" bus aimed toward the Huang Bei Jiao Forest Farm in Jiyuan County. The "Farm" is actually a protected nature preserve rarely open to visitors and even less frequently to outside tourists. Prof. Zhou led us to the location. Zhou's authority and experience in Huang Bei Jiao allowed us entry to this reserve, with the assistance from the preserve's manager, Li Tian Bao.

We drove through the simple dirt and gravel roads, through the

preserve as far as our bus could take us, then a hike brought us into close contacts with wild viburnum, forsythia and lilac until we headed off the road up and down a winding path lined with wild columbines, epimedium and a “garden’s-worth” of diversions. A steep final climb brought us to a small patch of wild plants of *Paeonia jishanensis*. This rare species of tree peony was just finishing bloom. We saw only a single open flower, plus developing carpels and shed petals. The dozen or so plants were nestled on a steep hillside in open shade. This species is exceptional in producing new plants along shallow stolons. Apparently the main reproduction is through adventitious plants forming along spreading stolons, unique among this group of tree peonies. The steep hillside dropped rapidly to a river, heard, but not seen, below. More plants grew further down, but too dangerously situated to allow access and study.

We felt very rewarded to locate this rarity and put it into perspective. The long hike was well worth this visit. Prof. Zhou’s expertise allowed us a relatively easy visit to a plant that would be near impossible for the casual visitor to see in nature. The hike back to the bus was one of tired joy while snoozing and satisfaction were the main concerns on the bus trip back to Kaifeng. The next morning we continued on our quests.

LUOYANG

Further west is the city of Luoyang, the ancient capital city and home to many cultural sights. This is another major stop for the tree peony festival-goer. Our primary visit was to Wang Cheng Park and we were met and accompanied by numerous officials from the park and the Luoyang Gardens Administration. The local television station that was covering the festival activities interviewed most of our group. Tens of thousands of tree peonies in hundreds of varieties and a large collection of herbaceous peonies were on view. Large walkways were crowded with local visitors and many special plantings were seen too. This is one of the prime sights for peonies in China and did not disappoint.

In the past few years the staff has been collecting plants of *Paeonia rockii* hybrids in a special side garden. These hybrids are

referred to as “Ziban Mudan” to differentiate them from the more classic hybrids (or simply “Mudan” in Chinese) of eastern China. The development and cultivation of these “Ziban Mudan” has been in Gansu Province and these varieties are far less known in western gardens. This new garden already had hundreds of mature plants that were purchased and moved from growers in Gansu. We were amazed to see plants near 100 years old and approaching seven feet in height.

Varieties were in a vast range of colors from typical white with deep purple central flares to pinks, reds and purples through full double flowers. The potential for these varieties is exceptional since they originate from the colder harsher climates of north-central China. Few of these have been introduced to the west and these have been given premium places in gardens. Look for even more interest in these hybrids as Prof. Cheng’s book (mentioned earlier) reaches English readers.

XI’AN

Our next stop was meant to concentrate on a cultural diversion, mainly the museums housing the world famous Terracotta Army of the first Emperor Qin. These were totally enthralling even if totally peony free. It was the small side trip that tickled our collective peony consciousness.

We could hardly visit the large imposing ancient capital of Xi’an without a short stop to the Xi’an Botanical Garden. We strolled the wide pathways with well-maintained and varied plants with a stop at their major theme garden of Dutch bulbs. Here were hundreds of thousands of tulips, narcissi, hyacinths and more, arranged in vast plantings around a traditional Dutch windmill turning in the breeze. After viewing a small collection of classic varieties of tree peonies, the staff kindly invited us to tea and a social visit to discuss the management of their collections.

One of our biggest impressions of Xi’an centered on the final evening’s banquet. By this time our group was intent on the wide variety of foods we had already experienced. This dinner was

comprised of more than two-dozen different kinds of Chinese dumplings from a menu of more than two hundred!

BACK TO SHANGHAI & DEPARTURE

Our travels went on further south, west and eventually back to Shanghai for departure to our homes around the globe. Every stop included more tree peonies. Tree peonies are planted in hotel gardens, at entrances to public places and government offices. As one of China's most revered plants, the tree peony is given prominence everywhere they can be grown. As our group of travelers bonded in shared experiences, we sadly said farewell in Shanghai. We all felt as if we shared a unique experience—from the splendor of huge planted gardens to the unique quest for wild *P. jishanensis*. Surprises like Xi'an and later the grandeur of Zhang Jia Jie (Hunan Province) made big impressions.

Although we were privileged to have exceptional local experts, travel to China in general has become easier in recent years. Travel can be easily arranged, but visiting these tree peony festivals is a bit more difficult for an individual traveler. The country is growing and changing at an unprecedented rate, but even today a visitor can experience everything from big cities of Beijing and Shanghai to the quiet calm of smaller botanical gardens and most humble of villages.

This trip was more than a simple visit to Chinese tree peony festivals. I think I am safe in saying that all of the travelers had a true "life event." As the tour came to an end, we collectively realized there was much more to see and learn. Two additional study tours have been developed. The Peonies of China tour for 2005 will focus on the "Ziban Mudan," *P. rockii* cultivars, in their homeland of Gansu Province and surrounding locations. In 2006 we plan to continue our investigations, starting in Gansu then crossing into Sichuan Province and on to Tibet, the heart of tree peony distribution. Further information is available at www.hillkeep.ca. ☺

WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET, WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE. — SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Weeds, Peonies and Herbicides

Jack Nordick — Ortonville, Minnesota

Many gardeners often ask about controlling weeds. I suppose that we are all looking for some magic solution to this pesky problem and are unwilling to accept the fact that there really are only two ways to control weeds: preparation and hard work. Undoubtedly, this is true with all types of gardens and if we watch farmers working in their fields, we will quickly realize that planting and harvesting are only two of several parts of their fieldwork. For example, long before planting time, steps are made to prepare the soil and while the crops are growing in the fields, considerable efforts are made to eliminate competition from weeds.

Gardens are no different and even the smallest flower patch needs the same considerations. Many articles on growing peonies start with the admonition of caring for the soil. Good soil makes a good garden. A major part of having good soil means getting rid of the weeds before anything is planted.

PREPARATIONS BEFORE PLANTING

Preparations should begin as much as a year before planting. If the selected site has previously been a lawn or full of runaway weeds or other vegetation—that needs to be taken care of first. A tri-glycoside herbicide like Round-up® can be used to kill all existing vegetation. Then the ground should be cultivated thoroughly. All roots, rocks and other foreign matter must be removed at that time. The soil can be tested to see if amendments or fertilizer might need to be added. If the site selected has already been successfully used as a garden spot, this part might be skipped, as the soil should be in good shape. In either case, it would be wise to note what kinds of weeds are present. Even if every weed can be eliminated for a time, persistent weeds with deep roots, wind-borne seeds and creepers like quack grass, will rapidly find their way back.

The following spring, a flower or garden crop can be planted on the prepared ground and then watched even more carefully for

weed problems. If the weeds are not managed during this time, there is no reason to believe they will be less of a problem when the peonies are planted.

Some people seem to have the idea that peonies are naturally weed resistant. No doubt they have seen ancient plantings of peonies still blooming on original homestead locations amid tall grass and brush. They forget that these peonies were once established with loving care and are unaware how much better the peony plants could thrive under proper conditions. For sure, a new planting in that kind of environment would stand little chance of survival. Perhaps a leading cause of failure to thrive in new plantings of peonies is lack of sufficient preparation.

The usual time for planting peony divisions is in the fall when the weather begins to cool, often after first frost. At this time, the residue from any summer plants should be removed and the soil cultivated again.

A hole for planting the new division should always be at least twice the size of the division in every direction. This is especially true in hard, compacted or other previously uncultivated soils. The loosened ground then is replaced to set the proper planting depth. This is a last opportunity to check soil condition and to make any adjustments that might be necessary. The soil should be friable, well drained and reasonably fertile. It can be useful to mix a small handful of time-release fertilizer in the soil at the bottom of the hole. Other soil conditioners like sand, bone meal, vermiculite or peat moss, might be added as needed to prepare the soil, but animal manures are not recommended. Peonies thrive in a wide range of soil types and pH levels, but seem especially happy in heavy loam that is pH neutral or slightly alkaline. Some have said that peonies bloom more abundantly with more intense hues in heavy clay-loam soil, but will multiply more rapidly in lighter sandy soils.

I plant with the highest bud just a bit below the surface level, as the new divisions always seem to settle some anyhow. A handful of mulch, like sawdust, straw or shredded newspaper, helps to

Planting peonies in the middle of an established perennial bed can be as bad as planting them in a weed patch.



prevent the ground from heaving in very cold climates (USDA Zones 2–4). I also place a conspicuous garden marker with every division. Failure to do this has led to the decapitation (by hoe) of those plants not so marked when the first weeds began to grow. The markers not only designate the spot where the division was planted, but also help me remember the name of the variety, long after my memory fades.

Weeding needs to be a regular task—weeds may cover a newly planted area in only a week, depending on the weather. If the weather is rainy for a few weeks, making cultivation impossible, the weeds can take advantage of that and may quickly overrun the planted area.

If the area has been well chosen, the weeds should not be so

numerous and not so difficult to manage. Certainly the first year after planting the peonies is the most critical time, since the peony plants will still be small and the weeds will have access to all the light they need. Remember, too, that just one weed allowed to go to seed will start a plague, lasting for years. Once weeds have started to go to seed, they need to be completely removed and burned so that they will not reseed the ground.

In a well-tended garden of mature peony plants, the weeds may not be so numerous because the peonies will crowd them out. Weeding a peony bed, at least once a year, is still important for weed control and also permits the observation of rogue seedlings, which in time can be weeds as bad as any other. This is the primary reason why many gardeners remove the flower heads as soon as they have finished blooming. However, despite even the best of care, some especially pernicious weeds, such as Canadian thistles, quack grass and purslane are still able to thrive.

Planting peonies in the middle of an established perennial bed can be as bad as planting them

in a weed patch. Strong growing perennial flowers like iris, day-lilies or monarda, among many others, have very extensive root systems and will cause heavy competition with newly planted peonies. Established peonies will send roots down several feet and eventually get to a zone below these other shallow-rooted perennials, but when peonies are newly planted, care needs to be taken to keep these other competitors away. On the other hand, even well-established peonies will run into competition from other plants with deep roots, like boxwood hedges, evergreen trees, willows or even large rose bushes. Peonies should be planted well away from those. When planting peonies in a grassy area, such as a cemetery or along a pathway, the grass should be completely killed and the sod removed well before planting the peonies. The grass should always be kept out as much as possible and in no circumstances should the peonies be mowed down along with tall grass or weeds before going dormant in the fall.

SO WHAT CAN BE DONE

IF THE WEEDS GET THE UPPER HAND ANYWAY?

CAN'T WE SOLVE THE PROBLEM WITH MODERN HERBICIDES?

Herbicides are a useful tool, like the others we use and they need to be considered in that way, not as some kind of "magic wand." The misuse of herbicides can cause greater harm than the benefits we might hope to obtain from them.

Herbicides come in different types. Foliar contact herbicides like Round-up® may be the best known. They will kill most of the actively growing plants they touch, but do not move through the soil and usually break down in a week or so. Plants inadvertently sprayed with these herbicides can still be saved if doused generously with water within the first few hours after spraying. These herbicides can drift, especially when sprayed in a mist form under high pressure. The best way for gardeners to use foliar contact herbicides in established flowerbeds or gardens is to use a sponge or paintbrush to apply the chemical directly to the leaves of plants you want to kill and to avoid the rest.

Another large group of sprays include 2-4-D, Banvel® and Stinger®,

with many new ones released every year. In no way would I ever recommend their use in a garden. They are just too volatile to control in small spaces and most garden plants are very sensitive. They also have a long residual effect—and some have residues that can linger in the soil or plant tissue for years. When they do break down they can form or recombine to make unknown chemical compounds. Suffice it to say that the toxin “Agent Orange” is a cousin to these chemicals. Still, these herbicides are often used in lawn sprays, because grasses are mostly resistant to their chemical actions. As such, I have seen their unintended devastation too often. For example, I have seen gardens planted near sprayed fields and golf courses falter. In one instance, my neighbor had his pasture, which is adjacent to my yard, aerially sprayed with Curtail[®], a premix of a couple of these popular chemical sprays. It was late spring and the next day, everything in my yard and garden was sick and so was I. My giant bur oak trees were defoliated—even the box elder trees closest to the area died. Lilac blooms faded and drooped and the poor peonies went into a tailspin. Fortunately, they did not encounter a lethal dose but even so, for the next three years, the growing shoots were weak and grew in the telltale spiral pattern. Apparently the roots had stored some of the toxin, as it does not break down readily and even can build up in the ground to a toxic level over a period of years.

A third group of herbicides is made up of ground sterilizers—total vegetation killers. In an article he wrote for *The APS Bulletin* [No. 207], Roy Klehm mentions using methyl bromide as a soil fumigant before planting peony seeds. This is a short-acting chemical that will sterilize the ground and kill all existing weed seeds. Because it has a short residual life, peony seeds can be planted shortly after using. Some are concerned that this type of chemical will also kill beneficial microbiological life in the soil, but that would seem to be a small price to pay for the huge benefit of weed free soil, especially considering that peony seeds often do not germinate for two or even three years. Triox[®] is another total foliage killer, but one which stays a long time in the soil and also moves laterally through the soil, often moving beyond its intended range. While these products may have a use

around building foundations, under fences or on walkways where no plants of any kind are desired, it would be important to keep the point of application at least ten feet away from any area where peonies or any other desirable plants are growing or will be grown.

There are also a few selective contact sprays, such as Poast[®], which kill only grasses less than six-inches tall. These contact sprays are not fast acting, but most grasses will eventually stop growing, shrink, turn brown and wither away. However, it will also damage lilies, bamboo and other plants of the grass family. It can be unpredictable on a few other broadleaved plants. For example, it is death to monarda.

The last class of herbicides I want to mention are the pre-emergence herbicides. There are many of these that differ in chemical composition, type of action and range of effect, but all prevent seeds from germinating. Even though there are quite a number of such products, many are not available in garden stores. Garden magazines often have advertisements for a variety of these herbicides. Usually one can buy larger quantities of these products from a farm chemical supplier. Preen[®] is one that is readily available, but its effect is limited to a small range of weeds.

These herbicides are all applied to the surface of the ground, either as a wet spray or as a loose granular that can be spread with a hand fertilizer spreader. I have used Gallery[®], which is used as a liquid spray and Snapshot[®], which combines Gallery[®] and Treflan[™] in a granular formula. Neither have done any damage to mature peonies, even when making direct contact with the leaves. I have never used them on small seedlings, not wanting to risk the chance of damage. I have not seen any pre-emergence herbicides specifically labeled for peonies, so it is always best to first test a small area before using any new pre-emergence herbicide in a general application. I recommend that you change the kind of pre-emergence herbicide used from year-to-year, as some weeds are able to build up resistance after some years of constant use.

These herbicides are a real time saver in large gardens and use-

ful in most perennial plantings. They keep any new weeds from germinating and usually will last through an entire growing season. Often, they require rain or some incorporation for activation. If applied before a first cultivation in the spring, they can reduce the need for subsequent weed removal to a minimum effort.

When talking about the vigor and resilience of weeds, my neighbor used to say that they were around before he got on the land and would still be there when he left. While one might admire them for their tenacity, some preparation and watchful effort can ensure that they don't have the chance to spoil our gardens. Taking time for good soil preparation from the beginning will help to produce the best results from the peonies we love so dearly.☞

Editor's note: It is a violation of Federal Law to use the products mentioned in this article in a manner inconsistent with labeling. When using these products read the entire label and use strictly in accordance with precautionary statements and directions.

**APS PUBLICATIONS
AND BACK ISSUES OF
THE APS BULLETIN
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE AT THE
2005 CONVENTION.**

✱ ✱ ✱

**WHAT CAN YOU DONATE TO
THE ANNUAL AUCTION?**

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

A New & Rare Perennial Species from China

Irmtrau Rieck — Friedrichstraße, Germany

P. mairei only recently found its way to Europe. It was delivered by a Chinese plants dealer as *P. veitchii*. Though *P. mairei* was known since its first scientific description in 1915, a living plant did not arrive in Europe before 1998. Astonishingly, *P. mairei* was more than 80 years not in culture since its first description.

The first herbarium specimen of *P. mairei* was collected in 1911 and 1912 by the French Abbé Edouard-Ernest Maire in Yunnan. There Maire was working as a missionary, similar to the better known Père Delavay. In 1915 Augustin A. Hector Léveillé described the plant and named it *P. mairei* to honor the collector.

In the meantime, it seems *P. mairei* is not as rare in the wild as one could assume after such a long time of absence in our gardens. It not only occurs in Yunnan province, from where it was described for the first time, *P. mairei* also is growing in the provinces of Sichuan, Gansu, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Guizhou and Hubei in 1500-2700 m (approx. 4,920-8,860 ft.) altitude. In China this peony is named “*mei li shao yao*.” This means beautiful medicine peony and describes not only its beautiful plant habit but also the use for medicinal purposes. There it blooms in April and May, some sources mention also June, but this might depend on the altitude. The description for the habitat in literature describes summer-green broad-leaved forests.

P. mairei is said to grow one meter (approx. 39 inches) in the wild and has thickly brownish roots that become smaller to the tips. Leaves and stems are totally glabrous. On the upper side the leaves are glossy, on the lower side the leaves are dull green. Stems and nerves are reddish until the flower withers and turn then into green. The leaves are biternate, divided into up to 19 leaflets; some leaflets can be segmented. The leaflets can be about seven cm (approx. 2¾ inches) broad and 17 cm (approx. 6¾ inches) long. The leaf tips are shortly acuminate, the leaf base cuneate. The flower colors vary from a very light pink to deep purple, our plant is a more cardinal red. It is interesting that the carpels vary also, they occur glabrous as well as hairy. Our plant has not reached more than 50 cm (approx. 19 ¾ inches) in our garden.

Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions
In the key of the Flora of China (2001) the authors arrange *P. mairei* near *P. emodi* and *P. lactiflora*. There are certain similarities in the leaves, but *P. mairei* differs from the other two in having only one terminal flower per stem, while *P. lactiflora* and *P. emodi* flower with more blossoms per stem.

We are confident that *P. mairei* is hardy enough to be established in European gardens forever. It is an attractive plant with distinctive and decorative leaves for situations in half shade. Its special value is its early time of flowering. In our garden it bloomed before the former "runner-up," *P. mascula* ssp. *russoi* in the middle of April. It therefore lengthens the peonies season in our garden up to ten weeks, when the Intersectionals are finished in June. We ought to mention that such an early-blooming peony is more endangered to night frosts damage than late-flowering ones. A protected place, therefore, is recommended. First attempts to grow *P. mairei* from seeds have been started. I welcome the opportunity to compare American experiences in growing *P. mairei* with our European ones.

This excerpt printed with permission of the Editor of Gartenpraxis (July 7, 2004), for APS only.

Editor's Note: Irmtrau and Gottlob Rieck have been APS members since 1982—Life members since 1991—gardening in plant hardiness zone 7 on loess in Southern Germany. They started to raise species peonies from seeds in 1976. E-mail: rieckiug@t-online.de.



Gardening Life

Steve Johnson — Shorewood, Minnesota

I am so-o-o-o tired of seeing FESTIVA MAXIMA, FELIX CROUSSE and SARAH BERNHARDT offered and grown around these parts, that I could vomit! They seem to be the only three offered and seemingly, the only three varieties grown. One can't blame the landscape services, because there seems to be little guidance.

Personally and for this part of the world, I find that the shorter growing varieties do wonderfully as landscape plants; WHITE IVORY, IVORY VICTORY, ADDIE TISCHLER work well here and are full doubles. They

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

Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions are all cream/white; "ADDIE" has blush highlights, and so works well in any flowerbed presentation. The need to stake, often an objection heard when the topic of growing peonies is discussed, is not necessary with these shorter varieties. They bloom later here (second-third week of June) and therefore are not as vulnerable to spring storms/high winds that can flatten the earlier blooming varieties.

Lately, I am planting more late-blooming varieties after a spring of rain, winds and disappointment (water-stained blooms, fallen soldiers, wet-heads and only a handful of bouquets this last spring from a couple hundred plants). In this part of the world, the later blooming peonies are simply less vulnerable to the spring weather uncertainties. Thirteen days of rain within a 15-day stretch, while unusual, was a learning experience. In my situation, I can always water if the weather is extremely dry (not likely here in May/early June). Planting to try to avoid the heavy rain season seems like the best bet here.

Amongst the taller growing plants, I really like PRINCESS BRIDE (opens very slowly and with the petal cap (what's the word I am searching for here?) thoroughly protecting the bloom from water damage. In my opinion, it is an excellent landscape plant. The foliage is beautiful dark green, with full leaf coverage to the ground (no empty leaf zone in the lower regions, therefore a balanced plant presentation which may indeed give the stems the ability to withstand winds better than a top-heavy stem).

The color of the bloom is pure white with cream highlights, ideal for a garden bed/landscape presentation (some reds and pinks clash with the color of house siding or other flowers). As it blooms later (about June 12-16 here), it may not be a good plant in more southern states (might the heat of Kansas "blast" open the bloom?). I have several plants of PRINCESS BRIDE and all still look great, despite low temps in the 40s and upper 30s here. Great wedding/florist bloom, also. Stores very well and reliable.

SELECT, PLANT & WATER...

I find that the backyard "gardeners" with money rather than time, seem to outnumber the ones who actually get their hands dirty. Others without the capital or "desire to hire," will buy a boatload of plants and supplies in May, actually plant maybe two-thirds of the plants and end up composting the other third. By mid-July, they have long

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

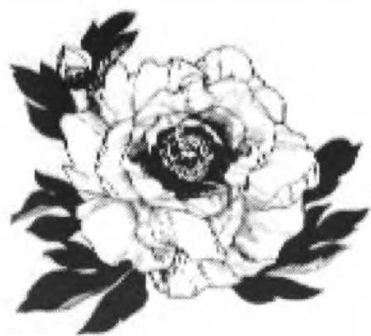
Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions & Observations & Opinions
forgotten gardening but are excited to find a few tomatoes amongst
their weed-choked tomato plants.

Another group of “gardeners” will plant something they are thrilled with, and then totally ignore the plant thereafter (total neglect of water, nutrients, mulch and any other care). Mostly out of surprise and seemingly against the odds, they will later express glee when the plants actually survive and bloom or produce fruit. Compared to some other choices, peonies work fine for this group. I have often heard from those I have given peonies, “Steve, your plants lived and bloomed for me—and I didn’t even do anything to them!” This third group seems prevalent here and is not exclusive of the first two groups (there’s plenty of overlap between the groups in their behaviors).

My opinion is that the need for instant gratification in America today is mostly to blame (they seem to expect instant results or they will quickly and simply lose all interest in maintaining the plantings). How many times have I heard this complaint? “Peonies only bloom once a year!” Why must people want more than what is generously offered by Mother Nature? For goodness sake, celebrate that annual event! Accent the positive! Enjoy the wait for the blooms in spring, relish in the need for patience! The blooms will eventually come...for me, an interesting aspect of the human experience.

I speak from experience, as I have been a member of each group at different points in my “gardening life!” 🌸

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



Brothers Tree Peonies

P.O. Box 1370

Sherwood, Oregon U.S.A. 97140

(503) 625-7548 · Fax (503) 625-1667

treony.com

Richard W. Rogers

Email: rick@treony.com · Website: www.treony.com

Specializing in all grades of Tree Peonies
from around the world

Comments on Issue 332

Bill Seidl — Manitowoc, Wisconsin

I liked very much the Buchite article, and if I were younger I'd try more species and near-species plants.

Also liked the discussion re: Halda's book by Bill Countryman and Don Smith, especially the latter's concern about lactiflora being elevated to a sub generic level.

Concerning the Saunder's article on Rock's peony, when I first received Rock's varieties from Dr. Reath, he said his start came from Stern, which Saunders says is "likely to be a hybrid." (p. 230, Addendum). I do know when it grew in my home garden, with no other tree peonies around, it never set seed.

In Q&A, Dick Sherman refers to older double peonies having strong stems, and newer ones as good cut flowers, but terrible garden plants. I thought it was just the opposite ... with the old French-bred doubles being great cutflowers with weak stems in the garden. Two standouts in my garden for great stem strength are THE FAWN and OLE FAITHFUL, despite bearing heavy double flowers. Flexibility is a factor. Some thick-stemmed cultivars will not flex back after a rain-filled flower goes down—not good. TLC is also a factor. Well-fertilized and watered plants make for softer, weaker stems.☞

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

TOMORROW'S TREASURES

**Gorgeous Tree Peonies
with a Flare**

CALL OR WRITE FOR
A FREE CATALOG

phone/fax: 406-873-2183



& Herbaceous

126 FIFTH AVE NW ♦ CUT BANK, MT 59427

Premium plant offerings include . . .

- Klehm Estate Peonies
- American hybrid Tree Peonies
- Roy Klehm's new Peony hybrids
- Roy Klehm and Brother Charles' Daylilies
- Perennials for sun and shade
- Extensive collection of woody plants
- Large selection of Clematis • Newest Hosta hybrids



Call or e-mail info@songsparrow.com for a copy of our 100 page, full color catalog. Or visit our website which includes additional Sparrow's Nest plants.



*American Peony
Society Member
since 1903*

1-800-553-3715 or www.songsparrow.com

A season of color • Martagon, Asiatic, Trumpet & Oriental



When planning your peony bed . . .
Don't forget the lilies!

North American Lily Society

Visit our website for everything
you'll need to know about our
favorite genus: *lilium*

www.lilies.org

Write for membership information:
Dr. P. Gilman, NALS Exec. Secretary
PO Box 272, Owatonna, MN 55060 USA

**Bannister Garden Center
10001 East Bannister
Kansas City, Missouri 64134**

816.763.4664

WWW.PEONIES.NET

2-GALLON POTTED PEONIES

READY TO PLANT!

OVER 100 VARIETIES!



**10% off any potted peony
when you present this ad
valid 2005 only**

ADVANCED GENERATION HYBRID TREE PEONIES
FROM WORKS OF BILL SEIDL AND OTHERS
ARE ON DISPLAY ONLINE

To view the gorgeous 6th and 7th generation hybrids,
please visit our website:

www.peonygarden.com.au

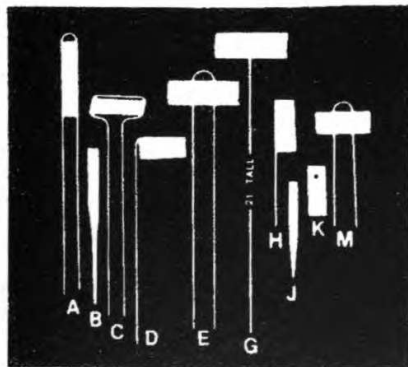
PEONY GARDEN

283 Little Lonsdale St., Melbourne, Australia. 3000

Mobile Phone: (613) 0417 015 520

E-mail: peonygarden@hotmail.com

The Permanent Metal Label



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

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

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

Paw Paw Everlast Label Company

P.O. BOX 93-AP

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN 49079-0093

QUANTITY PRICES AVAILABLE

PRICES INCLUDE PREPAID POSTAGE

Quality Herbaceous Peonies
Grown in rich Iowa soil. Free list of varieties.
— Wholesale Only —
A-1 Nursery
2842 Fremont Avenue
Shenandoah, IA 51601
a1nursery@iamotelephone.com
phone (712) 534-2595; fax (801) 740-3838

Your gardening friends will appreciate gift memberships. Upon request APS will send a complimentary gift card in your name.

Intersectional (Itoh) Peonies

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED PURCHASING FROM NEW ZEALAND?

Quality plants - now from only \$35 US.
(INCLUDING BARTZELLA, CANARY BRILLIANTS, SCARLET HEAVEN, ETC.)
Order now, receive May and get growth before winter!

WE ALSO SELL A WIDE SELECTION OF HERBACEOUS PEONIES.
Send \$3 for our coloured photo brochure & catalog to:

Simmons Paeonies
389 Buchanans Road
RD6, Christchurch, New Zealand

Ph: +64 3 342 1160 — Fax: +64 3 342 1162
p.e.simmons@clear.net.nz; www.peony.net.nz

NICHOLLS GARDENS

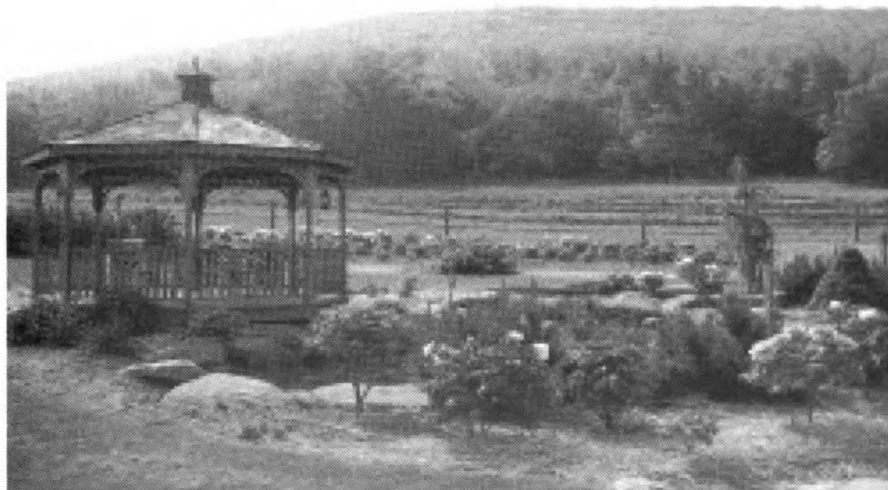


**Fine Peonies
Daylilies, Hosta
Iris & Perennials**

**4724 Angus Drive
Gainesville, VA 20155
www.Nichollsgardens.com Catalog \$2.00**

Please send your observations and opinions to
APS Editor-713 White Oak Lane, Gladstone, MO 64116-4607 or
cjschroer@kc.rr.com.

Tree Peony Garden



Welcome to visit our website at www.treepeonygarden.com Phone: (814) 237-5024
Email: sales@treepeonygarden.com

Open Gardens 2005

Henry Chotkowski
16142 Pin Oak Road
Fayetteville, AR 72704

A commercial garden in a private garden setting—600+ herbaceous and intersectional peonies and 180 tree peonies. Visitors welcome! Tree peonies start as early as the first week of April. Earliest herbaceous peonies start blooming around April 20 and peak herbaceous season is between May 10–May 15. Bloom season is over by May 25. *Annual Mother's Day Party begins at 3:00 pm.

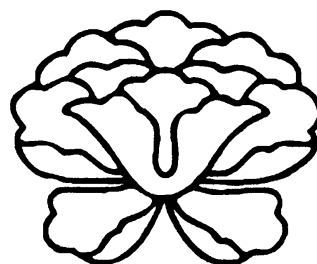
Visitors welcome!
kchotkow@aol.com
tel (479) 587-8920
fax (479) 582-3080

Claudia & Joe Schroer
713 White Oak Lane
Gladstone, MO 64116

Residential garden, in progress. 100+ Tree, Itoh/Intersectional and Herbaceous peonies. Bloom season usually ranges from late April to mid-May. Please call ahead.

(816) 459-9386
cjschroer@kc.rr.com

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIST
YOUR OPEN GARDEN (FREE) IN THE
JUNE ISSUE OF *THE APS BULLETIN*
(MAILED ON OR ABOUT MAY 25TH)
SEND INFORMATION TO THE EDITOR
BEFORE APRIL 15, 2005.**



**BOONE
BRIER**

F A R M

11067 NE Arness Rd
Kingston, Washington
98346

featuring
Herbaceous
& Intersectional
Peonies

tel (360) 297-7431

boonebrier@centurytel.net

COLOR CATALOG ON WEBSITE
www.boonebrierfarm.com

APS Publications

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

- ∅ **THE AMERICAN HYBRID PEONY**—130 herbaceous hybrids and 32 species color photos. All named with biographical data. Kessenich & Hollingsworth. Hardcover, 208 pgs. \$12.50
- ∅ **THE AMERICAN TREE PEONY**—63 color photos and history. Featuring hybridizing efforts of Saunders, Gratwick, Daphnis, Reath, Domoto, Hollingsworth and Anderson. Kessenich, with photos by Klehm & Reath. Softcover, 40 pgs. \$12.50.
- ∅ **THE BEST OF 75 YEARS; 1904–1979**—Culture, history, exhibitions, ratings, nomenclature, propagation techniques— all excerpted from APS Bulletins since 1904. Historical articles by Saunders, Auten, Peyton, Wister and Gayle along with the contemporary writings of Krekler, Wild, Hollingsworth, Lienau, Karrels and many others. Kessenich. Softcover, 232 pgs. \$7.50.
- ∅ **HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY**—Herbaceous and tree peony culture. Peony types, propagation, successful root dividing and grafting, proper planting, how to fertilize, disease control and growing exhibition blooms. Softcover, 100 pgs, 8th Edition. \$5.00 postpaid or \$3.00 each/minimum order of 50.
- ∅ **THE PEONIES**—Every facet of peony culture from history of herbaceous and tree peony culture to modern propagation and hybridizing techniques. Hundreds of recommended varieties. Public and private peony gardens and APS history. John Wister, et al. Hardcover, 225 pgs, 2nd edition. \$11.25.
- ∅ **PEONIES; HISTORY OF PEONIES AND THEIR ORIGINATIONS**—In 3 parts: Variety Checklist, Registered Peonies and Introductions. 5,000 entries. Kessenich, APS Nomenclature Committee, et al. Spiral bound, 161 pgs. \$12.50.
- ∅ **PEONIES 1976–1986**—10-year update, registered peonies and tree peonies. Kessenich & APS Nomenclature Committee. Softcover, 106 pgs. \$5.00.
- ∅ **PEONIES 1986–1996**—10-year update, registered peonies and tree peonies. Kessenich & APS Nomenclature Committee. Softcover, 131 pgs. \$5.00.

All prices are postpaid. Please type or print your order—include name and address. Send check or money order (payable to APS):

TIM STANEK

APS PUBLICATIONS

**23329 ELLINGTON AVENUE
GLENWOOD, IA 51534-5093**

Bulletin Board

As I begin my second year as Editor, I've taken some time to assess my first year and consider improvements for 2005.

2004 was an interesting and evolving experience for me. I do appreciate all the members who have written, faxed, called and e-mailed me with encouragement and advice. It's obvious that you like having all the communication options. And, there have been other changes for the benefit of our members, such as payment of dues via credit card, updating the Society's seal and publishing a membership roster. I think you'll be seeing some other new features as 2005 progresses.

According to last year's correspondence, members' favorite articles were "Have Peonies — Will Travel... to Mansfield" by Don Hollingsworth in the March issue—No. 329 and "Success with Species Peonies" by Harvey Buchite in the December issue—No. 332. Favorite feature was *The Bulletin's* new "easier to read" format. I appreciate all of the feedback and look forward to hearing from you in the future with your comments, ideas, articles, etc.

Another first for me was traveling to Mansfield, Ohio with my husband, Joe, to attend my first APS National Convention. Professor Fangyun Cheng of Beijing on his first trip to the US accompanied us on the ride back to Missouri and spent the rest of the week as our house guest. His daytime activities included visiting local gardens and commercial growers—then dinner and hours of interesting conversation about peonies, Fangyun's travels and life in China. In October, I took advantage of houseguest John Elsley's expertise concerning replacements for 15+-year-old "builder's landscaping." Meeting new (peony) people has been my favorite part of being APS Editor.

I hope you'll have the opportunity to observe as many peonies as possible during this year's bloom season and participate in the Popularity Poll. And, if you're in the Kansas City area, I hope you'll visit my garden.

See you in Maine,



Claudia Schroer, Director & Editor—American Peony Society

American Peony Society

713 White Oak Lane – Gladstone, MO 64116-4607 – USA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All memberships, except Commercial, are for 1 or 2 persons at the same address.

name(s)
address
city
state/region/province
zip+4/postal code
country
e-mail
website
phone
fax

Check this box if you do not want your contact information printed in The APS Membership Roster.

Dues are paid for January 1 – December 31 of any year. US dollars, only.

CIRCLE ONE					
DUES SCHEDULE	1 YEAR	3 YEARS	5 YEARS	LIFE	1 YEAR COMMERCIAL
USA	\$15	\$40	\$65	\$300	\$25
CANADA	\$20	\$55	\$90	\$375	\$30
EUROPE	\$25	\$70	\$115	\$525	\$35
PACIFIC RIM	\$30	\$85	\$140	\$565	\$40

PAYMENT TYPE & AMOUNT	
CHECK	\$
MONEY ORDER	\$
MASTER CARD	\$
VISA	\$

New or Renewal?

(please circle one)

— FOR VISA & MASTERCARD ONLY —

Account No. _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

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

APS Nine Regional Districts

- District 1. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island & Connecticut.
- District 2. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania & Delaware.
- District 3. Maryland, West Virginia, District of Columbia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama & Mississippi.
- District 4. Michigan, Ohio & Indiana.
- District 5. Illinois & Wisconsin.
- District 6. Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Montana & Wyoming.
- District 7. Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana & New Mexico.
- District 8. Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Nevada & Arizona.
- District 9. Canada, Alaska & all other areas not embraced in other districts.



AL'S CHOICE
[R. Anderson/
Allan Rogers,
2004]



WHITE KNIGHT
[Donald Smith,
2004]



PINK PASSION [Donald Smith, 2004]



CANDY CANE [Donald Smith, 2004]

New Cultivar Registration photos (more info beginning on p.14)

✧ ARABELLA [Gian Lupo Osti, 2004] MARIA GRAZIA ✧

