
The
AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
Bulletin



ANGEL CHEEKS (C.G. KLEHM, 1970) 2005 GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT AND 2006 PEONY OF THE YEAR

September 2005 – Number 335

Time Travel to the Year 2005
Share a Peony with a Friend
Intersectional Peony Grafting



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.

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All interested persons are invited to join the APS 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 types of membership are listed on the application on page 201. A subscription to *The APS Bulletin* is included with all memberships.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DEADLINES

COPY & ADVERTISING

March issue – January 15

June issue – April 15

September issue – July 15

December issue – October 15

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www.americanpeonysociety.org

The American Peony Society Bulletin®

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER & DECEMBER

APS Organization & Administration

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**OUR
FUTURE
LIES
CHIEFLY
IN OUR
OWN HANDS.**

– Paul Robeson

APS Organization & Administration

BACK ISSUES

Single issues from December 2003–present of *The APS Bulletin* are available from the Editor, postpaid.

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REGISTRATION & NOMENCLATURE

APS acts as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for peonies. Contact: Reiner Jakubowski, APS Registrar–624 Pineridge Road, Waterloo, ON N2L 5J9 Canada or registration@americanpeonysociety.org. The fee is \$5.00 for each registration. Send check/money order payable to APS. A form and information is available on the website.

SEED DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Harvey Buchite–813 Elm Street, Anoka, MN 55303-2823 USA or gardener@ricecreekgardens.com. Available seeds in the March issue

TREASURER

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

WEBSITE

www.americanpeonysociety.org;
Peter Waltz, Webmaster.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

To be announced.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON PAGE 150

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Dale Baum
Leila Bradfield
Joseph Glocka
Vernon Kidd
Floyd Kimball
Kit Klehm
Roy Klehm

PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR, IF YOU HAVE COLOR PEONY SLIDES (WITH CULTIVAR NAMES) THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO APS.

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.

WILLIAM D. COUNTRYMAN

William D. Countryman passed away on Saturday, June 11, 2005 at the age of 84. Bill was born August 30, 1920 in DeKalb, Illinois. His wife, Anne, four sons and one granddaughter survive him. Bill is also survived by his sister, Mary Lou Humphrey of Lawrence, Kansas, who is also an APS member. She gave Bill his first peony as a birthday gift in 1991.

Bill received an A.B. degree from Olivet in 1941 and an M.S. degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1950. He served on the faculty of Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont from 1948 through 1974, becoming a Full Professor in 1961 and served as Chair of the Biology Department from 1961 to 1969. In 1974, he left Norwich University to pursue a second career in environmental consulting. He founded Wm. D. Countryman Environmental Assessment and Planning, which he ran until his death.

For Bill, raising peonies was a retirement hobby that developed way beyond his expectations. Countryman Peony Farm on Winch Hill in Northfield, Vermont attracts peony aficionados from all over the world. With wife, Anne, and son, Chris, he developed perhaps the most extensive collection of named peony cultivars anywhere in the world. Their collection expanded into a commercial nursery during recent years and it is expected that family members will continue it.

Bill served on the APS Board of Directors from 1998 until his death and was elected Vice President in 2004. "Bill was a kind and helpful colleague. He had telephone conversations, probably long ones, with just about anyone who is a commercial peony grower," said Don Hollingsworth. Bill's guidance was not limited to commercial growers as he assisted with *The APS Bulletin* and contributed to several standing committees.

We shall miss Bill's dedication to the American Peony Society and the honor of his friendship. The 2005 APS Exhibition was dedicated to him as a tribute to the inspirational role he played in APS and the "peony world," in general.

The only irreplaceable capital an organization possesses

PETER “CHRIS” LANING

Peter “Chris” Laning passed away Sunday, July 24, 2005 at the age of 87. Chris was born February 15, 1918 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he remained a lifelong resident. He is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Lois, two sons, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

During WWII Chris served in the US Army Air Corps. For over 20 years, he owned and operated Countertops by Laning, retiring in 1981.

Chris was a member of the American Peony Society for over 35 years, serving on the Board of Directors from 1972-2000. He was President 1984-1986, but he may be most well known by peony enthusiasts as the Editor (with Lois) of *Hybridist's Newsletter*, which became known as *Paeonia*. Chris administered the APS Seed Distribution Program from its inception in 1976 until 1985, from 1988-1993 and again in 1994 until 1999 with Kent Crossley.

Chris began growing peonies from seed in 1966 and in 1971 started his own hybridizing program. Originations of Chris Laning include the herbaceous hybrids SUNNY BOY (1985), SUNNY GIRL (1985), CRIMSON CLASSIC (1993), LOIS' CHOICE (1993), KRISTIN JOY (2000) and PROMENADE (1990), which was registered by Allan Rogers; the tree peonies STALWART ROSE (1996), LOIS ELAINE LANING (1995) and OLD ROSE DANDY (1993); and, the Itohs DARK EYES (1996) and GLORIA JEAN (2000). As well, there are many registrations by other growers who raised their peonies from seeds provided by Chris from his garden. Peter Waltz estimates that Chris was growing about 12,000 seedlings in 2000. And so, it is expected that his hybridizing program will influence peony breeding for many years to come.

It has been said that perhaps no one has ever exceeded Chris' kind and generous sponsorship of peony breeding and growing. “Red” Paauwe may have said it best for many APS members, “Thanks for the generosity, patience and advice that went with the peony seeds that you gave me.”

is the knowledge and ability of its people. – Andrew Carnegie

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all who helped make the APS 2005 Convention in Maine a success, especially Elizabeth Babb and Maine Audubon Environmental Center at Gilsland Farm. Even though the date of the convention was deliberately set later than usual, the warm weather needed to open the onsite peonies was even later, so outdoors most of us saw many, many buds and no blooms.

At the Saturday evening business meeting following dinner, members voted to approve new bylaws for the society. The newer bylaws are more flexible concerning the exact number of board members, and its structure encourages more board member involvement through the establishment of committees. A list of committees and committee members is found elsewhere (page 150) in this issue of *The Bulletin*. Membership on committees is not limited to board members. Anyone interested in being involved in a committee should contact Claudia Schroer who can then forward your interest to the appropriate committee.

The keynote speaker after dinner on Saturday night was Martin Page, a botanist, photographer and author of several books on peonies. His most recent book, *The Gardener's Peony*, had just been released, and was available in the gift shop of the Audubon Center. Several of us were wondering to ourselves if Martin might be interested in being on the board, but it was John Elsley who actually asked him and received an affirmative response. Martin is probably the first overseas board member of the APS. We will benefit from his experience with species peonies. In return, we may be able to help him with information for his next publication that will contain pictures and descriptions of 1,000 peonies.

May all your peonies grow in wisdom and stature.



Peter Waltz
Director & President, American Peony Society

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Some years ago, we borrowed slides from Greta Kessenich to use in giving a presentation to a garden club. There were several hundred excellent slides in the grouping and we returned them, with no problem.

I would like to know if anyone knows where these slides are, now? We asked several members at this year's Exhibition in Maine, but no one knew what happened to them.

After the program (at this year's convention) about identification of species and varieties, I believe these slides would be very useful for identification, as well as for educational purposes for presentations like we gave. I hope someone can locate them.

Sincerely,
Gay Uhde
Sandy Hook, Connecticut

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Claudia:

Nice Bulletin (June 2005—Issue No. 334)! Noticed the attribution of Linda Hall Library on the back cover. It is not a part of University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC). It is a privately endowed institution of international acclaim for its science and technology collections. Nevertheless, its presence is very important to students and faculty at UMKC and it does provide inter-library loan services to all universities and businesses, including international services.

There is a great story behind its origin and the marvelous history-of-science collection, many acquired after the WWII devastation of European institutions. The last I knew they held two copies of the Stern monograph on peonies published by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Regards,
Don Hollingsworth
Maryville, Missouri

[Editor's note: Thanks Don for setting me straight. Although I've visited the library and the arboretum, I had just taken it for granted that it was part of UMKC because of its location.]

Some additional information from their website: Linda Hall Library is an independent public library of science, engineering and technology located on a 14-acre arboretum in Kansas City, Missouri. The public may use the collection on site without cost. Companies, academic institutions and individuals throughout the world use the Library extensively. The Library was established by the wills of Herbert and Linda Hall and opened in 1946. Educational, instructional and grounds tours are available daily.]

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your opinion matters

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, June 18, 2005

Submitted by: Claudia Schroer, Editor and Director

President Peter Waltz called the meeting to order following the clambake and a welcome from Bill Shane, the Cumberland Town Manager followed by Kevin Carley, Director of the Maine Audubon Society who offered APS his best wishes for a good show at the Audubon Center.

President Waltz then acknowledged the loss of Director Bill Countryman and recognized his contributions to the Society and to peonies in general. The attendance of this occasion by Bill's widow, Anne Countryman, and two of their sons was also recognized. Bill and Anne's son, Christopher, had stayed in Vermont to greet visitors at Countryman Peony Farm.

A report from Director and Editor, Claudia Schroer indicating current levels of APS membership worldwide, printing and postage expense analysis of The APS Bulletins and income statements from funds collected by the Editor was distributed.

The new bylaws mailed with the March 2005 issue of The APS Bulletin in the form of a motion by Claudia Schroer, was seconded by Harvey Buchite and adopted without dissent.

Seven nominations for the six open seats on the Board of Directors were made. Martin Page, Ben Gowen and Jack Nordick were new nominees. Directors whose terms were expiring that were seeking re-election included Harvey Buchite, Linette Sorrentino, Tim Stanek and Peter Waltz.

At this point Vernon Kidd resigned from the Board of Directors citing personal commitments. Mr. Kidd was thanked for his many years of service and designated a Director Emeritus.

All of the seven candidates nominated were then elected by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned. APS

Treasurer's Report — June 30, 2005
 Sandra Hader, CPA — Kansas City, Missouri

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Cash and Equivalents	\$ <u>131,412.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u><u>131,412.00</u></u>
 LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Fund Balance	
Unrestricted	\$ <u>131,412.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ <u><u>131,412.00</u></u>

Greta Kessenich Memorial Fund Donors

AK Garden Interiors — Anchorage, Alaska
 Blue Rag Gardens — Etlan, Virginia
 Marie Betz — Sun Prairie, Wisconsin
 Ronald Chinnock — Virginia Beach, Virginia
 Margaret Dexter — East Lyme, Connecticut
 Marion Dibble — Golden Valley, Minnesota
 Joseph Glocka — West Allis, Wisconsin
 Jovon Horton — Bluefield, West Virginia
 Steven Johnson — Shorewood, Minnesota
 Roy Klehm — South Barrington, Illinois
 Donna Linsley — Pittsford, New York
 Lori Palella — Elgin, Illinois
 Walker Sloan — Lexington, Kentucky
 Judith Wilmarth — Anchorage, Alaska

Seed Distribution Program Report

Harvey Buchite, SDP Chairman — Anoka, Minnesota

All seed requests were fulfilled on May 9, 2005. There were 35 requests for approximately 200 packets of seed. See the breakdown by APS Regional Districts below. Everyone received a bonus packet or two.

APS REGIONAL DISTRICTS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
# OF REQUESTS	3	2	2	2	1	15	0	4	6

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

Please address all contributions to Claudia Schroer, Editor—APS, 713 White Oak Lane, Gladstone, MO 64116-4607. Checks or money orders payable to APS; MasterCard or Visa: phone (816) 459-9386. For memorial donations, list name and address of survivor who is to receive acknowledgement card.

Donation made to APS In memory of WILLIAM D. COUNTRYMAN NORTHFIELD, VERMONT

Heartland Peony Society — Kansas City, Missouri



Membership & The APS Bulletin Report — June 30, 2005 Submitted by: Claudia Schroer, Editor

Membership Statistics by Country, Expiration & Progress

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION	#	COUNTRY	#	COUNTRY	#	MEMBERSHIP #	DATE
2005	309	Australia	6	Netherlands	8	367	5/2/04
2006	173	Austria	2	New Zealand	7	418	7/5/04
2007	74	Belgium	5	Norway	1	556	8/6/04
2008	8	Canada	46	Poland	1	604	10/25/04
2009	30	China	3	Spain	1	636	12/13/04
2010	2	Denmark	2	Sweden	4	640	12/19/04
2011	1	France	2	Switzerland	3	702	1/5/04
2012	1	Germany	14	UK - England	2	679	2/4/05
Life	89	Italy	6	UK - Scotland	1	606	3/17/05
Total members 6/30/05	689	Japan	2	USA	572	614	4/1/05
		Latvia	1			629	4/30/05
						646	6/1/05

THE APS BULLETIN — PRINTING & POSTAGE EXPENSE — PER MEMBERSHIP

	Sep-04	Dec-04	Mar-05	Jun-05	Printing	Total	Current
	# 331	# 332	#333	#334	Total	Expenses	Annual Dues
Bulletin	\$3.35	\$2.94	\$5.00	\$3.05	\$14.34		
Envelope	\$0.16	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.68		
Yearbook	\$1.63				\$1.63		
Bylaws	\$0.18				\$0.18		
Exhibition Schedule	\$0.29				\$0.29		
					\$17.12		
					Postage		
					Total		
US Bulk	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.46	\$0.21	\$1.17	\$18.29	\$15.00
Canada	\$1.60	\$1.35	\$3.10	\$1.60	\$7.65	\$24.77	\$20.00
Europe	\$4.00	\$3.20	\$5.34	\$3.98	\$16.52	\$33.64	\$25.00
Pacific Rim	\$4.40	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$4.40	\$17.30	\$34.42	\$30.00

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Sunday, June 19, 2005

Submitted by: Kent Crossley, Director & Recording Secretary

The Board of Directors (BOD) of the American Peony Society met at 8:00 a.m. in a conference room at the Gilsland Farm Maine Audubon Environmental Center in Falmouth, Maine.

In attendance: Carol Adelman, Elizabeth Babb, Harvey Buchite, Kent Crossley, John Elsley, Ben Gowen, Don Hollingsworth, Reiner Jakubowski, Claudia Schroer, Donald Smith, Linette Sorrentino, Dana Tretheway and Peter Waltz. Others present at the meeting included the Sandi Hader, Treasurer and guests Laverne Dunsmore and Jim Adelman. An additional guest, Gay Uhde, joined the group at 9:30 a.m.

President Peter Waltz started the meeting by acknowledging the death of our Vice President, Bill Countryman, and welcomed new board member, Ben Gowen. After some discussion, it was also agreed that Steve Johnson would no longer serve as a Board Member. President Waltz also noted the resignation of Vernon Kidd and his designation of Director Emeritus at the General Membership Meeting.

The BOD then authorized a payment to Martin Page for his travel and other expenses (\$1,353.49) to be our guest speaker at the Banquet and participate in Convention activities.

The Editor's report followed and was detailed in various reports prepared by Claudia Schroer. She noted that the society has 646 members as of June 1, 2005. We discussed options for membership drives and discussed the amount of dues increases that might be appropriate.

We discussed the costs of printing and postage, noting that we need to decide when we will print a new Membership Roster and talked about the costs of The Bulletins and the options of additional color. We also discussed a new flyer that could be used to attract new members.

Ben Gowen commented that some plant societies, such as the American Iris Society (AIS), are organized by region and collect fees that are, in part, sent to the national society. Don Hollingsworth commented that this approach requires the national society, in turn, offer services, such as liability insurance, to the regional groups. Ben Gowen, with the help of Linette Sorrentino, offered to investigate how this could work for APS and report to the BOD.

We discussed the need for a new Handbook of the Peony. Reiner Jakubowski observed that the present publication is a hodgepodge of articles collected from a variety of sources. To be useful a new edition needs to be written with a clear purpose in mind.

Peter noted that there were two issues mentioned in Claudia's report that need action: a decision about a potential increase in dues; and, a decision about offering a two-tiered fee for registration of a new cultivar. It was agreed that both of these issues would be discussed and resolved by e-mail.

E-mail addresses for the LOD in attendance were collected.

Don Hollingsworth asked about the number of Bulletins that are printed for each issue and the numbers of extra copies. Peter Waltz suggested that 20-50 would be appropriate. Claudia pointed out that at the present time 276 membership subscriptions will expire at the end of 2005 and that it is difficult to predict the number of non-renewals (which obviously impacts the numbers of excess *Bulletins*), Claudia pointed out that currently we have a higher renewal rate when compared with other societies, but that number is based on data from less than two years. It was agreed by the BOD that the number of extra copies should be approximately 100, but that this number may have to be adjusted. Claudia mentioned that two issues a year were done with inside color pages. We discussed the cost and options for color printing. No decision was made. Harvey Buchite suggested that we consider using themes for issues.

4. The Treasurer's report followed. Revenue was \$17,146 for 2004

vs. \$20,555 in the prior year. The major reason for the decline was a reduction in interest received. The BOD expressed gratitude for the \$10,000 bequest from Greta Kessenich's estate. The Treasurer distributed information about interest rate expectations. The BOD agreed to continue our policy of conservative investment. Peter Waltz expressed appreciation to Sandra Hader for serving as our Treasurer. A motion of appreciation was made by John Elsley and seconded by Ben Gowen.

5. We discussed the options for publication of a new listing of registered cultivars. Reiner Jakubowski distributed a handout and noted the new list was planned for 2006 but the format and layout was undecided. He has collected listings and information from a number of sources for this. A number of related issues were discussed. John Elsley noted the confusion and problems with foreign (notably Chinese) names. There are also issues about how the Japanese and Chinese names are transliterated. Individuals skilled in these languages will best do this.

6. We next discussed options for the 2006 Convention. We talked about Mansfield, Ohio, and sites in Wisconsin, Oregon and Indiana. It was noted there is a new Midwest Peony Society in Indiana. Board members agreed that moving the convention site was a helpful way to broaden knowledge and interest in the peony. Heartland Peony Society (greater Kansas City) has inquired about hosting the 2007 Convention and Linette Sorrentino mentioned that the Minnesota Peony Society would like to host in 2008.

Don Hollingsworth recommended a committee be formed to plan for the 2006 convention. The group will consist of Claudia Schroer, Carol Adelman, Ben Gowen, Harvey Buchite and Linette Sorrentino. It was suggested this group also work on plans for the next several years. Don Hollingsworth recommended that the committee also consider modifications to our traditional meeting [e.g. increased numbers of tours with less emphasis on cutflower displays.]

7. Attention was next turned to nomenclature issues. The

intersectional hybrids continue to need clarity in their classification. Don Hollingsworth, Reiner Jakubowski, Jack Nordick, Peter Waltz, Don Smith and Martin Page will work on these issues. The importance of this area was duly noted since the APS acts as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for peonies, and it will determine how this is handled worldwide.

8. A new version of the Society logo (designed by Jean Oberg of Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery) for the development of the new APS "official" seal. It was unanimously accepted on a motion made by Don Hollingsworth and seconded by Dana Tretheway.

9. We next discussed APS' website. Peter Waltz noted that he is willing to make changes. We talked about creating a searchable list of cultivars. Don Smith noted he had recently been at a meeting of the International Peony Society in Germany and that attendees had indicated they saw the site as an important resource. Peter Waltz, Dana Tretheway, Don Smith and Reiner Jakubowski will form a committee to make further improvements on the website. Guest, Gay Uhde suggested having information about heritage and public peony gardens on the website. We also talked about weblogs, message boards and a place for commonly asked questions and a way to provide feedback to the Society.

10. Peter Waltz, using information sent to him by Steve Johnson, described the memorial for Greta Kessenich. A drawing of a commemorative stone marker that will cost \$922.00 was shown to the BOD. The cost will be covered by donations. The stone will be placed at the new arboretum being developed near Rosemount, Minnesota. Donors will be acknowledged in a future issue of The Bulletin.

11. We talked about the need to update the Introduction to Peonies. The herbaceous, as well as the tree peony version, are out of date (and, probably out of stock). Don Smith, Don Hollingsworth and Harvey Buchite will work on the tree peony version; it was thought that intersectional hybrids should be added to this booklet. Kent Crossley agreed to draft an update of

the herbaceous peonies version. Both of these booklets were thought to need photographs and cultural instructions. We discussed the merit of having this information on the website as well as in print. We talked about having some of these features on a future part of the site only accessible to members.

12. Criteria for the 2005 Gold Medal and 2006 Peony of the Year were reviewed—reasonable price, widely available variety and a strong, proven grower. We talked about DOUGLAS BRAND, ANGEL CHEEKS, and BARTZELLA; Carol Adelman nominated ANGEL CHEEKS, seconded by Harvey Buchite. The vote was unanimous.

13. Don Hollingsworth noted the seedling committee was not active. He also pointed out that we needed to be more proactive about our awards with the Gold Medal under consideration for two–three years before the selection is made. It was recommended that an Awards Committee be established. This group could review and revise our exhibition classes and develop awards for seedlings. Peter Waltz and Don Hollingsworth agreed to work on this committee. Harvey Buchite asked about development of a standard show schedule and noted the Court of Honor process was confusing and not well explained in the Society’s materials. Harvey was added to this committee and was asked to help with perceived roadblocks to showing peonies, among those who have previously exhibited.

14. Harvey Buchite was nominated by Claudia Schroer to fill the uncompleted term of Bill Countryman’s Vice Presidency. Ben Gowen seconded the motion and Harvey was elected on unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. APS

Thank you to Jean Oberg and Klehm’s Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery for the development of the new APS “official” seal, as shown on the front cover.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: ANNUAL REPORTS FOR PUBLICATIONS AND THE AUCTION WERE UNAVAILABLE FOR PRINTING IN THIS ISSUE.]

APS STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards & Exhibition Schedule

Harvey Buchite
Don Hollingsworth
Peter Waltz

Regional Districts

Ben Gowen
Linette Sorrentino

Website

Reiner Jakubowski
Don R. Smith
Dana Tretheway
Peter Waltz

Registration & nomenclature

Don Hollingsworth
Reiner Jakubowski
Jack Nordick
Martin Page
Don R. Smith
Peter Waltz

Future Convention Sites & planning

Carol Adelman
Harvey Buchite
Ben Gowen
Claudia Schroer
Linette Sorrentino

New Publications

Handbook of the Peony

Harvey Buchite
Kent Crossley
Don Hollingsworth
Reiner Jakubowski

Introduction to Peonies – Herbaceous

Kent Crossley

Introduction to Peonies – Tree & Intersectional

Harvey Buchite
Don Hollingsworth
Don R. Smith

Registered Cultivars – 1996-2006

Reiner Jakubowski
Peter Waltz

The theme
for the
December
2005
issue of
**The
APS
Bulletin**
will be
tree
peonies.

Deadline
for all
submissions
is
October 15th.

**We are always
complaining that our
days are few, and
acting as though
there would be
no end of them.
– Seneca**

REGISTRATION & NOMENCLATURE REPORT

Reiner Jakubowski, Registrar — Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Over the past year, covering the period from June 2004 to June 2005, there were 47 new peony registrations published by the Society. The class of peonies described in our show schedule as the Itoh/Intersectional peonies accounted for 17 registrations. Tree peonies, herbaceous hybrids, and lactifloras accounted for 14, 12, and 4 registrations respectively.

The fee continues to be \$5.00 per peony registered and thus generated \$235.00, while expenses consisted of less than \$10.00 to cover postage for administrative purposes. Not included as an expense here, but very real, is the cost of printing registration descriptions in the *Bulletin*. This is especially significant if color images are desired. The use of color in the *Bulletin* is at the discretion of the Editor, with preference given to illustrations accompanying submitted articles. Color photos for registration purposes will likely become an option paid for by the registrant if they desire it.

We have yet to find a proper name for the Itoh/Intersectional peonies for nomenclature purposes. Whereas the term "intersectional" describes the cross as being between two different sections within the genus, it is not exclusive to this particular cross and therefore does not define it. Hybrids between the two herbaceous sections now exist and these too are intersectional in the strictest sense of the word. This, coupled with the fact that "Section" is a term used in botanical taxonomy, means that there is a need for a new term (or terms) along with proper definitions so that everyone knows exactly what cultivars qualify for inclusion in the Group.

Work is underway towards compiling the data needed for publication of the 2006 Registration update volume covering registrations from 1996 to 2006. There were approximately 740 new registrations in this period. We also hope to overhaul the historic listings published in the past as "Originators of Peonies and their Productions". This represents a huge undertaking but the effort is worthwhile and long overdue based on comments made to me by several members. APS

**Thank you to Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm
and Nursery for the photo of ANGEL CHEEKS
on this issue's front cover.**

2005 Exhibition Awards

BEST OF SHOW — GRAND CHAMPION
GARDEN TREASURE
ADELMAN PEONY GARDENS

BEST LACTIFLORA GROUP — DOUBLE WHITE
BROTHER CHUCK
KLEHM'S SONG SPARROW FARM

BEST LACTIFLORA GROUP — DOUBLE PINK
PILLOW TALK
KLEHM'S SONG SPARROW FARM

BEST LACTIFLORA GROUP — DOUBLE, RED
FELIX CROUSSE
ADELMAN PEONY GARDENS

BEST LACTIFLORA GROUP — BOMB, ANY COLOR
RASPBERRY SUNDAE
ADELMAN PEONY GARDENS

BEST LACTIFLORA GROUP — SEMI-DOUBLE, ANY COLOR
MISS AMERICA
BILL UHDE — SANDY HOOK, CONNECTICUT

BEST LACTIFLORA GROUP — JAPANESE, ANY COLOR
GARDEN LACE
ADELMAN PEONY GARDENS

BEST HERBACEOUS HYBRID GROUP — DOUBLE
RASPBERRY CHARM
ADELMAN PEONY GARDENS

BEST HERBACEOUS HYBRID GROUP — SEMI-DOUBLE
CORAL CHARM
ADELMAN PEONY GARDENS
and **LEMON CHIFFON**
ELIZABETH BABB — YARMOUTH, MAINE

BEST HERBACEOUS HYBRID GROUP — SINGLE
BRIGHTNESS
ADELMAN PEONY GARDENS

BEST ITOH HYBRID GROUP — YELLOW
GARDEN TREASURE
ADELMAN PEONY GARDENS

[Editor's Note: Additional 2005 Exhibition results to be announced.]

NO PEONIES? NO PROBLEM!

Elizabeth Babb, APS Director — Yarmouth, Maine

2005 APS CONVENTION REVIEW

Peony gardens at Gilsland Farm were showing little color, due to an unusually cold and rainy spring. But peonies on display at the Maine Audubon Environmental Center at Gilsland Farm were in full bloom Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, when growers from all over the country and Canada provided cuts of their best peonies to the annual American Peony Society convention.

By tradition, the Convention has typically been held in the Midwest or in Canada, where established growers and local groups help to put on the show. In many ways this year's events help to point the way for future APS activities promoting peony growing in all parts of the US. This is the first time the annual meeting has been held in New England in more than 50 years, when it was held in Boston in 1947.

Helping to add dimension to the Exhibition were several displayers living nearby. Don Smith, a hybridizer and APS Director from Massachusetts, was one of these displayers. He points out that with the new members on the Board situated in different areas of the US (and now Britain, with the addition of Dr. Martin Page to the Board), the APS is able to move the show around to various parts of the peony-growing community.

When I agreed to organize this year's events, it seemed only natural to hold the Exhibition in Maine and at Gilsland Farm. David Moulton, a Portland lawyer, grew and sold root divisions of peony cultivars from the 1920s to the 1940s. He is noted for providing each Portland High School graduate with a red peony to wear on graduation day, and there are still visitors to Gilsland Farm who can remember receiving their peony. David Moulton's peonies are still thriving at Gilsland Farm.

Sixteen new APS members from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New Brunswick, Canada were enrolled at the Exhibition. Steve

Johnson, APS Past President, donated a division of LEMON CHIFFON to be awarded to the new APS member whose name was drawn at the clambake. Karen Hyatt, from Massachusetts, won the root to be delivered this fall.

Anne Countryman, along with two of her sons, attended the convention from Vermont, where the late Bill Countryman planted his peony farm in Northfield. Sadly, Bill passed away shortly before the convention. He was very much missed at this year's events.

Perhaps the favorite part of our APS get-together was the New England-style clambake Saturday night, featuring lobster, clam chowder, shellfish and corn on the cob, all done just outside in a mammoth cooker. There were 84 diners, including APS members from across the country and visitors from local communities.

Dana Tretheway, Exhibition Chairman, handled the details of the show, arranging the tables in the exhibition hall, setting out class cards, and generally providing help to would-be exhibitors. Assisting him were two local people, Albert Nickerson and Selden Rose, plus several APS members with exhibition experience. Volunteers from the Peony Society of Maine were available to place ribbons and record winners after the judging was completed.

There were many local people involved in putting on the show. Thanks go to Ken Liberty, President of the Peony Society of Maine, for organizing a crew to build the Court of Honor structure and for making the 120-mile trip from Bangor to erect it on Friday. Thanks also to George and Rosemarie Patterson for designing and building the structure, and to Mike Smith and Bob Burgess for helping to put it up at Maine Audubon. For the registration and information table, thanks to Lori Agan, a Maine Audubon volunteer, who organized a crew to provide services during all public hours of the show.

Ken's direction was especially appreciated, since he was slated to serve a New England breakfast to North Tour participants early Saturday morning at his historic home in Bangor. The ten

participants arrived at the Bangor airport, ready to take the tour bus south via Fieldstone Gardens in Vassalboro to Freeport. There, they stayed in a bed and breakfast house near LL Bean and a wide variety of factory outlet stores. The group arrived at the Exhibition that afternoon and attended the clambake in the evening. I'm told they left Freeport on Monday morning very good friends, glad they had come on the trip.

Another garden tour on Sunday was co-sponsored by Maine Audubon Society and BB Peony Gardens. It began with an early look at the exhibition hall and continued with a tour of the Moulton farm, where Margi Huber, director of tours at Maine Audubon, told the history of the farm. She then accompanied the tour group to Pineland Gardens in New Gloucester. Here the group toured a public garden, built several years ago, from a bequest by Margaret Noyes, a local business owner, featuring peonies as a basic part of the garden structure. Albert Nickerson gave an overview of the gardens and the other Pineland projects.

The bus with Maine Audubon participants followed behind the North Tour bus as they traveled to Earheart Gardens in Harpswell, Maine. APS President, Peter Waltz took over from Margi Huber to welcome tour members and invite them to join APS. We took a look at the over 160-year-old Bowdoin College pine grove. After seeing the iris and peony gardens at Harpswell (including a lot of little peony seedlings, compliments of the APS seed program), the groups met at Estes Lobster House for lunch.

So, this year's meeting seems to have been a great success. New members, new community participation in peony events, new friendships formed, great food, a beautiful show (when locally it appeared there would be none)—and the experience of putting on an Exhibition so that members will have the experience to more fully participate in their local peony shows in future years. Thanks to all who helped to make this possible, especially to those growers who took the time to store peonies and groom them out for this show. "No peonies? No problem!" when APS members work together to make an exhibition like this possible. Thank you, all! **APS**

Popularity Poll

Claudia Schroer

As of July 31, 2005, 142 members had cast ballots. The results:

1. Garden Treasure
(Hollingsworth, 1984)
Itoh/Intersectional
2. Hephestos
(Daphnis, 1977)
Hybrid Tree
3. Many Happy Returns
(Hollingsworth, 1986)
Herbaceous Hybrid
4. Red Charm
(Glasscock, 1944)
Herbaceous Hybrid
5. Mahogany
(Glasscock, 1937)
Herbaceous Hybrid
6. Cherry Ruffles
(Hollingsworth, 1996)
Herbaceous Hybrid
7. Coral Charm
(Wissing, 1964)
Herbaceous Hybrid
8. Coral Sunset
(Wissing, 1965)
Herbaceous Hybrid
9. Red Grace
(Glasscock-Klehm, 1980)
Herbaceous Hybrid
10. Athena
(Saunders, 1949)
Herbaceous Hybrid

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the American Peony Society for inviting me to speak at their 2005 Convention in Maine. It was good to have an opportunity to meet the Society's members and to see how a peony show should be organized. Unfortunately the pressure of work meant that I could only stay for a few days, but I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and only wish that I lived in New England!

I am particularly proud to have been elected as a Director of the APS and will do my best to promote the society, within the limitations of living on the opposite side of the Atlantic! Timber Press has commissioned me to write *The Encyclopaedia of Peonies*, which they hope to publish in 2009. This will include approximately 1,000 photographs and I would welcome any suggestions for the peonies that should be included in the book.

Peonies are less popular in the United Kingdom, but my visit has inspired me to promote them more vigorously here. British gardeners don't know what they are missing!

Thank you again for your hospitality and warm welcome.

With kind regards,
Martin Page

2005 LOCAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

HEARTLAND PEONY SOCIETY (Greater Kansas City)

www.peonies.org

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

September 30—Annual Potluck Dinner and Auction.

October 1—Peony Day Program and Plant Sale.

Additional information is available on our website and newsletter.

MIDWEST PEONY SOCIETY

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

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

September 25—Business Meeting and Auction. We are anticipating over 200 attendees for this pitch-in dinner and auction (both silent and auctioneer). We will also be presenting the plans for the Tree Peony Garden at Yew Dell Gardens. This will be a major project for the society and we look forward to its completion in 2007.

November 7, 2005; 6:30pm—Presentation by Don Smith to the Perennials Plus gardening group on new and exciting peonies and how to grow and plan a peony garden. Over 75 attendees are expected for this function.

MINNESOTA PEONY SOCIETY

www.geocities.com/mps_peony

Harvey Buchite (763) 754-8090

September 24, 2005; 1:00 pm—Fall Meeting and Auction at the Bachman's Garden Center, 6010 Lyndale Ave S., Minneapolis, MN (612) 861-7600. Members are invited to bring peony roots to donate to the sale. A photo is greatly appreciated. Non-members are invited to attend also.

PRAIRIE PEONY SOCIETY (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA)

Brian Porter BPorter@agr.gov.sk.ca

PPS hosted the Canadian Peony Show in Regina, June 25-26. We were very pleased with the show—the largest to date in Regina, with about 305 blooms plus six floral art exhibits. Our expectations were exceeded and resulted in a last-minute search for additional containers. The entries were mainly herbaceous hybrid and lactiflora peonies, but did include a few tree peonies and one intersectional hybrid. Entries were received from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and included some from Algonquin College, Ottawa ON, Indian Head Research Farm, Indian Head SK, and the Devonian Botanical Garden, University of Alberta.

Two educational lectures were held, and given by the President and Vice-President of the Canadian Peony Society. The awards ceremony included Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour, Dr. Lynda Haverstock. At the end of the show, flowers were given to the public in return for a silver donation.

Upcoming events include a peony root and perennial sale on September 22 and an educational lecture on November 10. *APS*

New Cultivar Registration

Reiner Jakubowski, Registrar — Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Correction: Due to the variable nature of the English language, the peony TIME TRAVELER (Saunders-Waltz, 2005) published in Bulletin 234, page 81, was incorrectly spelled. The cultivar name was submitted with one "L" only, as shown here. *APS*

ATTENTION: SEEDSAVERS!

The *APS* Seed Program would be delighted to have more seeds donated in order to fill 2006 seed requests. Any seeds are welcome, especially those of named tree peonies, which are the ones we run out of first. Seeds can be sent as soon as ripe (seed coat will be dark brown to black in color). Please label each one with as much information as possible, such as, the name of seed parent, flower color and flower form. In some cases where a plant is not named information such as "advance hybrid seed from a tall pink semi-double" is valuable information. Please send seed in paper envelopes with padding or small boxes to protect them in shipment. If the seed is slightly moist when harvested, it should be dried prior to packing, especially if plastic bags are used for packaging the seed. The quantity of seed can be as few as five or as many as 100+.

send seeds to:

Harvey Buchite

APS Seed Distribution Program

813 Elm Street

Anoka, MN 55303-2823

FORMING A LOCAL OR REGIONAL PEONY SOCIETY

1) Find like-minded peony devotees in your area. Some groups have started with less than ten people.

Talk to people in your book club, neighborhood, garden club, exercise group, church, place of employment and local horticultural programs.

2) Set a place and time for your first meeting.

Decide on the name of your organization, elect officers and set dues. You may need to set the dues at a higher level to develop "seed" funds (such as \$20.00). When you have more members and ways to raise funds, the dues could be lowered.

3) Business matters.

In the US you'll need bylaws, an Employer Identification Number (even if you don't have employees) Certificate of Incorporation, checking account and IRS Package 1023 (application form and instructions), if you want to operate as a nonprofit. Merely stating that the group is nonprofit or not-for-profit won't achieve the same results. In most situations you can also apply for a certificate from your state to be exempt from collecting and paying sales tax. You'll need this (in most states) when you have plant sales and other fund-raising activities.

- Once you're established, paperwork is not a one-time thing. Some fees, reports and returns are required annually.
- This may seem too complicated for those of us who would like things "sweet and simple," but it's really not that difficult and the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks.
- There's no need to muddle through. Maybe you have an accountant, attorney or experienced businessperson within your group that can help. There's a lot of information available on the Internet or contact APS—we'll do our best to help.

4) You'll need a budget and a list of educational projects.

Some ideas for educational and service projects could include: establish display garden, public tours and seminars, slide shows for garden clubs.

5) Plant sales—a good source of income and a way to finance your educational projects.

If you're not ready for a sale try an exchange or root swap.

6) Promote and grow your organization.

Work within your initial group to get the word out. Places that can help

you get the word out. Post fliers at the grocery store, garden centers and workplace bulletin boards; buy a small ad in local "shopper-type" newspapers; send a letter to all APS members in your area.

- Make every effort to promote your group in a professional way. Use "spell check" and publishing software for written communication. Develop a membership brochure.
- Use nametags, door prizes and "mixer" activities (such as coffee and dessert) to encourage interaction at your meetings.

7) *Keep your organization going.*

Stay in touch with your members. Newsletters, e-mail broadcasts, postcards for coming events, website.

8) *Now that you're established, some advice from those who've been through it.*

- Be open, to new members and new ideas.
- Delegate—don't make it look so difficult or complicated that no one wants to take over.
- Stick to your bylaws.

This article has been compiled by the Editor from various sources and is not meant as specific instructions, but rather as a guideline to help you get started. Good luck! APS

OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS & OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS & OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS & OBSERVATIONS

TOP TEN

Dale Baum — Anderson, Indiana

My top ten list:

1. MAHOGANY (H), intense unusual color, great in garden or cut.
2. YELLOW DREAM (I), great garden plant.
3. RED CHARM (H), Intense color, great flower form.
4. CLAIR DE LUNE (H), early flowering, great garden plant.
5. CORAL SUPREME (H), vigorous, great cut flower.
6. CYTHEREA (H), unusual color, beautiful flower form.
7. HIGHLIGHT (H), very dark color, holds petals tightly when cut.
8. NICK SHAYLOR (H), beautiful flower form.
9. MYRTLE GENTRY (H), best fragrance, pretty too.
10. STARDUST (H), outstanding for garden and landscape use.

OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS & OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS & OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS & OBSERVATIONS

2005 Bloom Season Favorites

Henry Chotkowski — Fayetteville, Arkansas

I think it was a good idea that Popularity Poll respondents were asked to wait until peony season was over to send their ballots. Comparing pre-blooming favorites with what did well this year offered more than a few differences. Here's my list of favorite peonies (heavily slanted to this year's best performers) for 2005.

- EARLY GLOW like cut glass when backlit, nice buff color.
- CORAL SUNSET, always, every year, the best.
- BLAZE, great bush shape, great foliage/bloom combination.
- DIANA PARKS, truest red to my eye, lovely in afternoon high shade.
- MOTHER'S CHOICE, the most beautiful rose-like blossoms.
- MARY JO LEGARE, the best show in the garden this year, 5th year plant tall and full.
- LAVON, exceptional color with a deeper pink center. How'd I miss this before?
- CALVIN BIGGER, Myron's last introduction, very large, very full, fragrant, ivory double.
- DOUGLAS BRAND, disbudded bush produced extra large show-stoppers.
- WHITE FROST, excellent habit when disbudded, citrus fragrance, great dark green foliage. *APS*

Rave Review for Lovely Rose

Lyn Holiday — Overland Park, Kansas

I am nutty about LOVELY ROSE and for good reason. Beautiful color and form—plus, it holds up well in rain. A few years ago Heartland Peony Society had a bus trip to Topeka. We went to Bigger's Peony Farm at the end of a rainy day. Only one row of peonies was upright and that was LOVELY ROSE. I purchased it for my own garden and it is a terrific (and gorgeous) plant. It is in general commerce, is not new, is easy to find and underused. *APS*

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QUESTION:

I have a very large pink peony that use to bloom with a lot of large flowers. Some years back it started having one flower. finally moved it and replanted it in a different location. That didn't help. It had only one flower again this year. It has a lot of green foliage and a lot of small buds, but only one develops into a flower—the rest of the buds shrink.

I don't know what else to do. I would appreciate some help. I got your address from an article in the 6/12/05 *Chicago Tribune*.

Fred Carnevali — Chicago, Illinois

ANSWER:

Such a complete failure in development of the flower buds suggests a plant that is in a state of serious decline. Decline results from failure of a plant to store sufficient food in a growing season to fully support growth and flowering the following spring. My first thought is that something must be changing progressively for the worse where your peony is located, possibly during multiple seasons. Decline most often results from reduced availability of moisture, light and soil nutrients, as by trees or large shrubs nearby. A multi-year drought cycle, as happened recently in the Midwest, in absence of adequate irrigation, will aggravate the problems of root competition. If the problem is in fact encroachment by shallow rooting trees and shrub roots and when these dominant plants are to remain, then the best bet may be to take up the peony plant, divide it and replant elsewhere. However, if competition is not an obvious explanation for the decline, it might be worthwhile to give increased cultivation for a couple of seasons—supplemental fertilizers, compost and weekly irrigation when it is not raining—to see if the plant can be brought to acceptable performance.

At maturity peonies have a large root run, many of them more than four feet in diameter and extending more than 18 inches deep when in a well aerated soil. Prepare the soil widely and well. They want good fertility, well fortified with both organic matter and mineral nutrients. Most kinds do best with the soil near neutral in acidity. In heavier soils raised beds are generally advantageous.

To make the best use of their growing season they need soil moisture so long as the leaves remain green, either from rainfall or supplemental irrigation. Once weekly thorough irrigation is needed when there is not an inch of rain per week.

For additional information obtain a copy of *Handbook of the Peony*.
Don Hollingsworth — Maryville, Missouri

Book Review

Harvey Buchite, Vice-President & Director — Anoka, Minnesota

**THE GARDENER'S PEONY
HERBACEOUS AND TREE PEONIES
BY MARTIN PAGE**

What a treat it is to read a peony book that is full of well-researched information, not just a light brush of the subject that leaves you hungry for more details. The generous supply of excellent photos enhances the reading experience too. If you are wondering about what species peonies are like you'll love the in depth coverage on each one and the balanced treatment of the current research and thoughts on their relationships to one another.

For the peony grower looking for information to help select peonies for their garden you'll be thrilled with the descriptions of all the types of peonies, from species, herbaceous, hybrids, Chinese tree, Japanese tree and the new intersectional hybrids. Clearly written and with enough detail to distinguish one pink double peony from another you'll also find the season of bloom, height and whether they are fragrant or good cut flower varieties.

This book that is so easy to read shows its scholarly research clearly in the chapters on morphology, taxonomy and the species. I think you will hardly need to find room on your bookshelf for *The Gardener's Peony*, as you will want it close at hand for reading whenever you have a spare moment.

**PUBLISHED 2005
TIMBER PRESS — PORTLAND, OREGON
7 X 10 INCHES, HARDCOVER
267 PAGES, 200 COLOR PHOTOS**

Time Travel to the Year 2005

Peter Waltz, Director & President — Exeter, New Hampshire

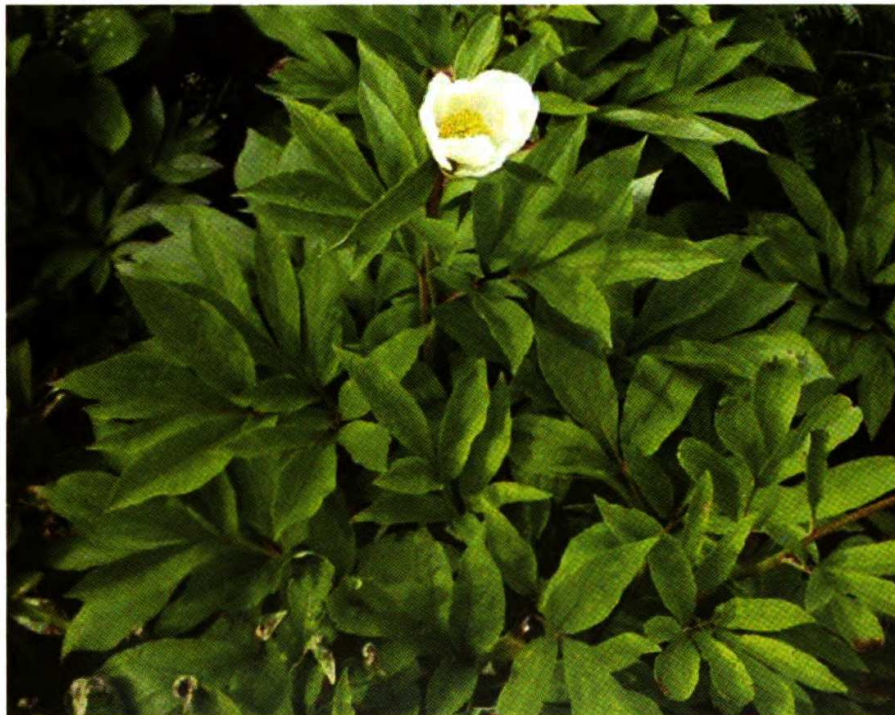
This article is yet another tribute to Professor Arthur Percy Saunders (1869–1953), whose early work with species peonies can continue to shape the future of peony breeding. In order to make more of the Saunders gene combinations (as found in these hybrids) available, here are two more of his plants that somehow managed to survive to the present, although never distributed in his lifetime. Both are beautiful garden plants, with a wildflower-like quality.

The first of these is registered as HONORED GUEST and is the result of a cross done c.1936, *broteroi* x *mlokosewitschii* (abbreviated here as (BxM)). This cross produced 11 plants. Saunders tended to group very similar progeny into a group, which he referred to as a 'strain' and that was the case with these 11 seedlings. Therefore, although I have multiple plants, I cannot be sure how many of the 11 original genetically-different plants they represent. I believe that the successive history of these plants is as follows. At the death of Saunders, they remained with Silvia Saunders. When Silvia decided that all her father's remaining plants should be distributed to actively breeding growers, they went to Roy Pehrson. When Roy could no longer care for them, they went to Chris Laning; and when Chris was no longer using them in his breeding, they ended up here. Mature size of the plant is about 18-inches tall and the root mass increases relatively rapidly. Flowers open a very pale pink, fading to cream. Ultimately the foliage resembles *mlokosewitschii* much more than *broteroi*, but while expanding, the leaves resemble a combination of the two.

The second plant is registered as TIME TRAVELER and is the result of a cross done c.1931, *emodi* x *mlokosewitschii* (abbreviated here as (ExM)). This cross produced five plants. Again these plants were grouped together without separate identification, so I cannot be sure how many of the original five genetically-different plants are represented. The history is, I believe, the same as above, from Silvia Saunders to Roy Pehrson to Chris Laning to myself. Mature



TIME TRAVELER (A.P. Saunders / Peter Waltz, 2005)



small and of the palest yellow, fading to white. The flowers are upright like *mlokosewitschii* and not nodding like *emodi*. The leaves do not look exactly like either parent, but are beautiful in their own right, being a pale yellow green and divided like *emodi*.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of these plants is that they are still alive today. I say this because many other Saunders plants of similar vintage have all disappeared. As examples of apparently extinct Saunders plants, consider DIANTHA, BELINDA, PLAYMATE, FIREFLAME and SILVER DAWN. Nearly-extinct Saunders plants include GWENDA, REWARD, ECLIPSE and LITTLE DORRIT. From personal observation, the Saunders plants which have not survived well can be described as somewhat lacking in vigor or relatively physiologically weak. Regardless of culture, these roots of these plants almost never attain a large biomass. Contrast this behavior with ARCHANGEL or GARDEN PEACE and you will perhaps realize why ARCHANGEL and GARDEN PEACE *are* still here today. If I were a complete mystic, I could believe that these two newly named Saunders plants were time travelers who chose to be here as honored guests in my garden. I admit only that the names TIME TRAVELER and HONORED GUEST are probably the result of mystic daydreaming.



HONORED GUEST (A. P. Saunders / Peter Waltz, 2005) here & at right

In spite of low population numbers, long time span and benign neglect the plants have persisted. In Chris' garden, both of these groups of plants were crowded and shaded by a tall row of

magnolia virginiana trees. The root space was packed full of magnolia feeder roots and the peonies were shaded part of the day. Nevertheless, they survived. Here in Exeter, not a single division of (BxM) has died in the ten years they have been here. Consequently, it is likely that HONORED



GUEST will survive in ordinary garden culture better than either of the individual species plants in its parentage. TIME TRAVELER is less adaptable and there have always been fewer of these divisions. In order to ensure the continued existence of TIME TRAVELER, its distribution may be limited for some time to serious growers and preservation gardens.

Of the two, HONORED GUEST (BxM) is a better propagator, having some ability to produce adventitious buds on the roots, where TIME TRAVELER (ExM) does not have that ability. By the time I dug these plants, Chris Laning had been growing both types for about 15 years and by his account, not one of any of them ever made a viable seed. The same has been true here. WELCOME GUEST makes many hollow seeds, but TIME TRAVELER usually not even one hollow seed. Nevertheless, both have abundant pollen and for this they are valuable for further work. Early observations of (ExM) pollen used on large tetraploid plants suggest even larger progeny with great vigor. The effect of (BxM) pollen on other plants so far has been more modest.

My goal in introducing these plants is to ensure their continued survival. Saunders was possibly lucky, at least in the case of (ExM), because I have repeated that cross twice and no seed has developed. I have not repeated the (BxM) cross because none of the broteroi plants here have bloomed. It is my hope that there are some serious peony breeders who will acquire and use these plants. APS

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,

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DO TELL



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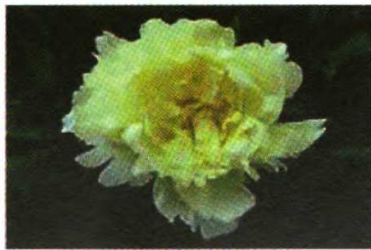
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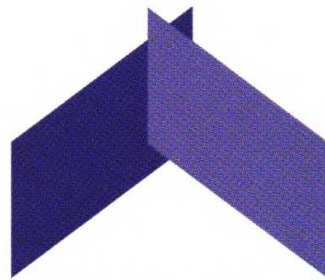


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Prominent basal flares are a common and delightful characteristic of the tree peony group. This characteristic is most beautifully displayed by the species *P. rockii* or any of its various closely related varieties such as ROCK'S VARIETY or JOSEPH ROCK. In recent years, *P. rockii* has been used extensively in China to create a plethora of new and beautiful flared tree peony hybrids known collectively as "Rockii Hybrids". These new hybrids are now available in a wide range of colors, but as a group are characterized by their extra large and very prominent "rockii" flares. Many examples of these new hybrids can be found in the new book *Chinese Flare Mudan* (ISBN 7-5038-3968-6).



AN INTERSECTIONAL POINT OF VIEW

**Don R. Smith, APS Director
West Newton, Massachusetts**

INTERSECTIONAL PEONIES WITH FLARE

Flowers with flares are also a common occurrence in the intersectional hybrids. Overall, nearly 66.7% of my hybrids have flowers with basal flares. In many cases these flares are small and lightly colored and, therefore, barely noticeable (21%). More often (42%), they are medium to large and thus are much more prominent. Rarely, however, do these flares approach the size and prominence of those displayed by ROCK'S VARIETY. As a result, I have long wanted to transfer the "rockii" genes for these flares into the gene pool of the intersectional hybrids. I have tried for many years to accomplish this transfer by using pollen from *P. rockii* and numerous "rockii" hybrids on the lactiflora variety MARTHA W. As with my many attempts using pollen from various suffruticosa varieties on MARTHA W., these efforts have failed to yield any seeds.

In 1999, I decided to try a different approach to introduce “rockii” genes into the intersectional hybrids. Creation of new and improved hybrids often involves finding ways to break down or break through or somehow get around any number of difficult fertility barriers, which frequently stand in the way of significant progress. This new approach was initiated as part of a larger shift in my overall breeding strategy directed towards reducing the amount of lutea influence in my intersectional progeny. To accomplish this goal I began using pollen from a number of registered and unregistered Daphnis advanced generation lutea



This plant has the Seedling Identification Number (SIN) IC-99-17 and the Garden Location Number (GLN) R5P17 and its flowers were greatly admired by numerous visitors at the APS Exhibition this year in Portland, Maine.

hybrids. These were primarily backcross hybrids (BC1) with a 3:1 mix of moutan to lutea chromosomes. In addition to reducing the lutea influence in my intersectional progeny, this approach also provided an opportunity for an indirect or “back door” way of trying to introduce “rockii” genes into the intersectional group. Generally, the 3:1 backcross hybrids are much less fertile than

the more usual advanced generation hybrids (those with a 1:1 chromosome ratio) such as GOLDEN ERA. Nevertheless, some of these hybrids do exhibit useful fertility and over the last five years, numerous seeds were obtained from several of these rare Daphnis hybrids. From these various seeds about a dozen plants have grown and survived. Of the three BC hybrids that produced intersectional progeny, ZEPHYRUS and an unnamed and unregistered hybrid, D-67, were the most effective parents, each producing about a half dozen hybrid plants.

The parentage of ZEPHYRUS is SUIHO-HAKU x F2A. It has excellent semi-double-double flowers with large dark flares. The pedigree of D-67 is F2B x CHONI. Although the flowers of D-67 are completely unremarkable, it was the parentage of this hybrid that was especially intriguing to me. CHONI is a plant grown by Bill Gratwick that can be traced to seed first collected by Joseph Rock from a plant found in the garden at the Choni lamasery (i.e., monastery) in Gansu, China where Rock lived for a year in 1925-26. This plant has been described as having single mauve flowers with large flares. There has always been some uncertainty concerning the identity and origin of this plant, but there is little doubt that it is closely related to ROCK'S VARIETY and may even be the true *P. rockii* species. At a minimum, it is no less than a "rockii" hybrid. Fortunately, the exact details of this plant's origin are unimportant, since one fact is quite clear; CHONI has flowers with "rockii" type flares and thus must carry the genes for the big, beautiful flares that I am trying to transfer to the intersectional group. I had no information concerning the fertility of D-67 or other similar Daphnis hybrids and to my knowledge this plant had never been tried as a parent in the intersectional cross. However, based on my experience with various other Daphnis backcross hybrids, I figured my chances were about 50:50 that its pollen would produce some seed when used on MARTHA W. In the final analysis, I felt this approach gave me the best chance for success and thus I forged ahead with a wheelbarrow full of hope and optimism.

As mentioned earlier, D-67 did prove to be reasonably effective as a pollinator and I now have six intersectional hybrids from this rare Daphnis BC hybrid. One of these plants bloomed for

the first time last year and displayed several large single flowers with huge plum colored basal flares that closely resembled those of ROCK'S VARIETY. This year it bloomed for the second time with close to 30 blooms and was a strong contender for both the prettiest flower in my garden as well as the most outstanding plant. The flowers start out very light yellow heavily flushed with deep lavender pink when first open, but quickly fade to creamy white with a broad, pink picotee edge and a bold and beautiful center featuring big, broad (1 ¼-inch long x ¾-inch wide) dark plum flares. This plant has the Seedling Identification Number (SIN) IC-99-17 and the Garden Location Number (GLN) R5P17 and its flowers were greatly admired by numerous visitors at the APS Exhibition this year in Portland, Maine. I am now anxiously waiting for the remainder of these interesting new hybrids to bloom over the next few years. With a little luck, three more of this group should bloom next season. In addition, I believe a few of the ZEPHYRUS progeny will also bloom next year as well. This unique group of intersectional siblings could also produce some very exciting new hybrids. Overall, it looks like 2006 could be another very interesting year for my breeding program.

As an interesting final note, I recently came across photos of F2A and F2B on the website of Walter Good (www.paeonia.ch/portrate/Nasso4e.htm). It has been widely reported over the years that both of the Saunders F2's have flowers that are quite unremarkable, which is to say, they have very ordinary single flowers with little or nothing special to recommend them. Since I have not seen either of these plants or flowers first hand, I will not argue with this overall representation of these plants. However, based on these reports, I was a little surprised by the photo of F2B. It shows a rather pretty bright yellow single with relatively large, prominent, dark red basal flares—not spectacular by any measure, but definitely not unattractive either. Assuming this is an accurate picture of F2B, this would indicate that both parents of D-67 have rather large, impressive flares. This being the case, I am now quite convinced this variety has the potential to produce other unique and exciting new intersectional hybrids. I can hardly wait for the other siblings in this group to bloom. **APS**

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The Silver and the Gold

Reiner Jakubowski — Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

The American Peony Society, by way of awarding medals and certificates, has long recognized exceptional peonies. In this scheme of things the Gold Medal has always been considered the ultimate accolade, but as the Society and the interest in peonies has evolved, so to have the criteria by which these medals were awarded. Beauty is always expected in a plant awarded a society's highest honor but it is no longer the overriding factor that it once was.

Today, the Society's Board of Directors at their annual meeting chooses the Gold Medal peony. The modern criteria emphasize qualities important to most of the peony growing public. The candidate must be readily available. This doesn't mean you're likely to find it at your local garden center, but that it is generally available from specialist peony nurseries. The peony should be a dependable performer, being able to tolerate the vagaries of the weather from year to year and also do well in most areas where peonies can be grown. It should be a good garden performer capable of standing up to the weather without the constant need of mechanical support. Good plant habit and good foliage throughout the growing season, even when not in bloom, are also considerations. The selection should be reasonably priced bearing in mind that what is a reasonable for GARDEN TREASURE would be entirely unreasonable for DO TELL.

In looking back, there seem to be anomalies in the Gold Medal lists as periodically published. Most obvious are the two double winners, MISS AMERICA and NICK SHAYLOR, but also curious is MRS. A.M. BRAND, which was awarded a Gold Medal in 1923, before it had ever been introduced into commerce. A return to original documentation, which in this case consists of show reports and minutes of meetings as published in past Bulletins, reveals that the awards were made to different peonies for different reasons, and it was not until 1948 that we see the awarding of Gold Medals using criteria much the same as the ones we use today. Prior to this date the Seedling Committee had awarded

APS GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS

DATE	CULTIVAR (ORIGINATOR, YEAR)	DATE	CULTIVAR (ORIGINATOR, YEAR)
1923	¹ Mrs. A.M. BRAND (Brand, 1925)	1985	⁶ BURMA RUBY (Glasscock, 1951)
1933	¹ A.B. FRANKLIN (Franklin, 1928)	1986	⁶ CORAL CHARM (Wissing, 1964)
1933	¹ Mrs. J.V. Edlund (Edlund, 1929)	1987	⁶ NORMA VOLZ (Volz, 1962)
1934	¹ HARRY F. LITTLE (Nicholls, 1933)	1988	⁶ PAULA FAY ((Foy, 1968)
1941	² NICK SHAYLOR (Shaylor - Allison, 1931)	1989	⁶ HIGH NOON (Saunders, 1952)
1943	² ELSA SASS (Sass H.P., 1930)	1990	⁶ SEA SHELL (H.P. Sass, 1937)
1946	³ GOLDEN GLOW (Glasscock, 1935)	1991	⁶ WHITE CAP (Winchell, 1956)
1946	⁴ HANSINA BRAND (Brand, A.M., 1925)	1992	⁶ AMERICA (Rudolph, 1976)
1948	⁶ MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (Franklin, 1933)	1993	NONE AWARDED
1949	¹ DORIS COOPER (Cooper, 1946)	1994	⁶ MOTHER'S CHOICE (Glasscock, 1950)
1956	⁵ MISS AMERICA (Mann - van Steen, 1936)	1994	⁶ PILLOW TALK (Klehm, 1968)
1956	⁵ RED CHARM (Glasscock, 1944)	1994	⁶ SHINTENSHI
1957	⁶ KANSAS (Bigger, 1940)	1995	⁶ SPARKLING STAR (Bigger, 1953)
1959	⁶ MOONSTONE (Murawska, 1943)	1996	⁶ GARDEN TREASURE (Hollingsworth, 1984)
1969	⁶ NICK SHAYLOR (Shaylor - Allison, 1931)	1997	⁶ OLD FAITHFUL (Glasscock - Falk, 1964)
1969	¹ Name/Number not given. (Cousins)	1998	⁶ MYRA MACRAE (Tischler, 1967)
1973	⁶ AGE OF GOLD (Saunders, 1948)	1999	⁶ LUDOVICA (Saunders, 1941)
1974	⁶ WALTER MAINS (Mains, 1957)	2000	⁶ PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL (R. Klehmn, 1981)
1975	⁶ BU-TE (Wassenburg, 1954)	2001	⁶ EARLY SCOUT (Auten, 1952)
1980	⁶ CYTHEREA (Saunders, 1953)	2002	⁶ ETCHED SALMON (Cousins, 1981)
1981	⁶ BOWL OF CREAM (Klehm, 1963)	2003	⁶ CORAL SUNSET (Wissing, 1965)
1982	⁶ WESTERNER (Bigger, 1942)	2004	⁶ DO TELI (Auten, 1946)
1983	⁶ CHINESE DRAGON (Saunders, 1950)	2005	⁶ ANGEL CHEEKS (C.G. Klehm, 1970)
1984	⁶ DOLORODELL (Lins, 1942)		

¹ Best new seedling.

² New variety.

³ "Awarded to Lyman D. Glasscock for his excellent work with hybrids, as typified by his origination of GOLDEN GLOW."

⁴ "Awarded to HANSINA BRAND for its consistent winning at many shows."

⁵ Voted by Board of Directors primarily for show performance, but also for proven worth.

⁶ Voted by Board of Directors for general excellence.

almost all medals with the recipients being chosen from the show table displays.

The first six Gold Medals (those prior to 1946) were awarded by the Seedling Committee. The Committee judged seedlings and new cultivars entered in the appropriate classes on the show bench. The distinction between seedling and cultivar was that a seedling did not become a cultivar until it had been named, registered, and offered in commerce. This explains how MRS. A.M. BRAND received a Gold Medal in 1923, since its award was for a seedling not yet introduced into commerce. New cultivars were considered to be those peonies, which had been in commerce for a “comparatively short,” but unspecified, time.

There were two Gold Medals awarded in 1946, and neither had garden worthiness as the prime consideration, nor were they new cultivars or seedlings. The medal, considered to have been awarded to GOLDEN GLOW, was actually inscribed “Awarded to Lyman D. Glasscock for his excellent work with hybrids, as typified by his origination of Golden Glow.” Thus Glasscock became one of the first persons to be recognized by the Society for their hybridizing efforts. The second 1946 recipient, HANSINA BRAND, received the medal “for its consistent winning at many shows” and true to form, it had been judged the best bloom once again at the show at Rockford in 1946.

In 1948 the Directors unanimously passed the motion “that the awarding of medals to (cultivated) varieties that have been in commerce for longer than three years be left to the discretion of the Board of Directors, but require unanimous agreement of the directors present at a regular annual meeting.” Their selection of MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT for “outstanding merit and excellence in all sections of the country” makes it the first time the Gold Medal had been awarded using criteria much the same as those applied today. The Directors’ resolve didn’t last a year as in 1949 the Gold Medal was awarded to DORIS COOPER as the best entry in the show’s seedling class.

Two awards were made in 1956. The Directors reported that “As

no recent recognition of any new cultivars had been made by the Society, it was voted to award Gold Medal Certificates to 'Miss America' and 'Red Charm,' both of which have been prominent in shows in recent years and have proven their worth in all sections of the country in which they have grown."

There was no show in 1957. Adverse weather conditions forced cancellation of this part of the Convention, but the AGM and Directors' meetings were held regardless. The Gold Medal Certificate was awarded to KANSAS for "outstanding performance in all sections of the country" and all subsequent medals, to this day, considered garden performance as one of the primary criteria for selection.

As almost always happens, there was one exception to this. In 1969 Lyman Cousins exhibited his new seedlings at the Mansfield, Ohio, show. At this show there was no entry class for un-registered seedlings, but undeterred, the Judges awarded a Gold Medal, a Silver Medal, and a First Class Certificate to three of these seedlings. None of these seedlings were named, and no record exists to tell us under which name they were eventually registered, or if they were ever named and registered at all.

A note here about the 1994 winners, of which there were three. No awards were made in 1993, and to make up for this MOTHER'S CHOICE was elected in 1994 "retroactively." The third 1994 selection was the tree peony SHINTENSHI. It is the only origination from outside of North America to be so honored.

The Gold Medals get all the glory, but Silver Medals were also awarded and all of these were for peonies exhibited in the seedling classes. The very first peony to be awarded any kind of medal was silver to Saunders' No. 362 in 1915. This peony was never named nor introduced. The very last Silver Medal was awarded in 1969 to one of Lyman Cousins' seedlings exhibited in Mansfield that year.

There is not much to say about the Silver Medal recipients. There were fewer of them and the criteria for awarding them seems to

APS SILVER MEDAL RECIPIENTS

DATE	CULTIVAR (ORIGINATOR, YEAR)
1915	SEEDLING NO. 362 (Saunders)
1923	MYRTLE GENTRY (Brand, 1925)
1934	DIADEM (Franklin, 1931)
1936	MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND (Nicholls, 1935)
1940	RUTH ELIZABETH (Brand, 1936)
1940	DOROTHY J. (Jones, 1938)
1969	NAME/NUMBER NOT GIVEN. (Cousins)

have been much more consistent. It can be pointed out that these awards were made to peonies strictly based on cut flowers presented on the show table at one of the shows and garden performance never entered into it, although the same is true for some of the Gold Medal winners. For garden performance anecdotal accounts in the pages of *The APS Bulletin* suggest that MYRTLE GENTRY is a more consistent garden performer than MRS. A. M. BRAND. I grow MYRTLE GENTRY, and while the bloom is less than perfect in some years it is by far the most fragrant peony I have, assuring its place in my garden.

The tables accompanying this article list every peony that ever received a gold or silver medal. For Gold Medal recipients there is a key explaining the basis for the award, which helps put things into perspective. These are all nice peonies and notable for having won these medals but many of us could come up with a totally different, yet equally as impressive a list. APS

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The American Home Achievement Medal & the Myron D. Bigger Plaque

Reiner Jakubowski — Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Medals awarded to peonies carry with them the mantle of significant achievement. In peonies we hear mostly of the Gold and very seldom are the Silver Medal winners ever mentioned. In any case, few silvers were awarded and one probable reason for this was the existence of the American Home Achievement Medal (AHAM). This medal was offered by the American Home Magazine, beginning in 1928, to various plant societies under conditions stipulated by the magazine. It required the peony to be entered in a show in a class specifically intended for this award. *APS Bulletin* No. 89, 1943, provides us with a typical Class description for the exhibition held that year.

Class No. 78

The BEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED NEW PEONY.

To be eligible for award in this class, the following conditions must be strictly adhered to. A special entry must be made by the exhibitor for the award. At least three blooms in one container must be shown. The AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL in silver will be awarded to the originator, whether amateur or a professional grower, of the most worthy new peony shown, which has not been offered for sale more than three years prior to this exhibition. The award will be made by the standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society only to a new variety of adequate merit, distinction and novelty – one having distinctiveness as compared with existing varieties. It can not be made to an unnamed seedling and the award will not be confirmed unless the name is accepted under the rules of the American Peony Society and the variety has been registered with the Society. The winning entry cannot compete for this medal in any succeeding year.

This description could just as easily apply to the Silver Medal as it had been awarded up to this time and so it is probably no surprise to learn that two Silver Medal winners were also awarded the AHAM the same year (MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND and DOROTHY J.). This is also true for three of the early Gold Medal

AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL AWARDED AT APS EXHIBITIONS			
DATE	CULTIVAR (ORIGINATOR, YEAR)	DATE	CULTIVAR (ORIGINATOR, YEAR)
1928	ARGOSY (Saunders, 1929)	1943	DOLORODELL (Lins, 1942) <i>Gold Medal 1984</i>
1929	CHALLENGER (Saunders, 1929)	1946	DORIS COOPER (Cooper, 1946) <i>Gold Medal 1949</i>
1931	NIPPON PRINCESS (Auten, 1931)	1947	WESTERNER (Bigger, 1942)
1932	OLIVER F. BRAND (Brand, 1928)	1948	ANN COUSINS (Cousins, 1946)
1933	A. B. FRANKLIN (Franklin, 1928) <i>Gold Medal 1933</i>	1951	JACOB STYER (Styer, 1948)
1933	MRS. J. V. EDLUND (Edlund, 1929) <i>Gold Medal 1934</i>	1950	THE MIGHTY MO (G.H. Wild, 1950)
1934	HARRY F. LITTLE (Nicholls, 1933) <i>Gold Medal 1934</i>	1952	MARIE ELIZABETH (Guille, 1950)
1935	ONONDAGO (Little, 1935)	1953	FLORENCE ELLIS (Nicholls, 1948)
1936	MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND (Nicholls, 1935) <i>Silver Medal 1936</i>	1954	CLAIRE DE LUNE (White, 1954)
1937	ROSE VALLEY (Scott, 1925)	1955	FRANCIS MAINS (Mains, 1955)
1938	WESTHILL (Little, 1938)	1956	CHARLES MAINS (Mains, 1956)
1939	SNOW WHITE (Little, 1939)	1958	ROSE MARIE LINS (Lins, 1958)
1940	DOROTHY J. (Jones, 1937) <i>Silver Medal 1940</i>	1959	AMALIA OLSON (Olson, 1959)
1942	KANSAS (Bigger, 1940) <i>Gold Medal 1957</i>	1960	J. W. BIGGER (Bigger, 1960)

winners (A.B. FRANKLIN, MRS. J.V. EDLUND and HARRY F. LITTLE). Essentially the AHAM duplicated the intent of the silver medal, but with well-stated criteria and consequently more consistency in how it was awarded.

AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL AWARDED AT MINNESOTA PEONY & IRIS SOCIETY EXHIBITIONS			
DATE	CULTIVAR (ORIGINATOR, YEAR)	DATE	CULTIVAR (ORIGINATOR, YEAR)
1941	VALENCIA (Lins, 1941)	1952	MARCELLA (Lins, 1952)
1942	KING MIDAS (Lins, 1942)	1953	MAJESTIC ROSE (Franklin, 1953)
1945	VICTORY (Thompson, 1944)	1955	PAUL BUNYAN (Lins, 1955)
1947	BONANZA (Franklin, 1947)	1956	MERCEDES (Lins, 1956)
1948	KING BOREAS (Wilkus, 1948)	1957	MARY M. FISCHER (Fischer, 1957)
1949	MARY L. (Lins, 1949)	1960	JOYCE ELLEN (Moots, 1960)
1950	ALMA HANSEN (Cooper, 1946)		

Both the American Peony Society and the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society were authorized to award the medal, but there were years in which there were no deserving entries and so no medal was awarded. It was last given in 1960, after which the American Home Magazine withdrew it for flower show use.

Myron Bigger responded to the withdrawal of the AHAM by offering the “Myron D. Bigger Plaque” to be awarded to the “Best and Most Distinctive New Peony”. This award was given seven times until discontinued after 1967.

MYRON D. BIGGER PLAQUE — AWARDED AT APS SHOWS	
1961	CLARA LINDGREN (Lindgren, 1961)
1962	NORMA VOLZ (Volz, 1962) <i>Gold Medal 1987</i>
1963	TEENIE WEENIE (Brown, K, 1963)
1964	GAIL TISCHLER (Tischler, 1965)
1965	name not recorded (Tischler)
1966	WILFORD JOHNSON (Franklin/Tischler, 1966)
1967	ELSIE PICKETT (Tischler, 1967)

The accompanying table lists all the AHAM winners, divided as either having been given at an APS or a MP&IS exhibition. The Myron D. Bigger Plaque winners are also listed. Where the Gold or Silver medal was won as well, the medal and year of award is given. This table offers yet another list of good-looking peonies that showed promise on the show table. Some have lived up to that promise and remain popular while others are unfamiliar and would be very difficult to obtain today. **APS**

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Share a Peony With a Friend This Fall

Harvey Buchite, Vice President and Director — Blaine, Minnesota

DIGGING, DIVIDING & PLANTING PEONIES

Those of us who love peonies are in a great position to share our favorite plant with friends easily at a time of the year when most garden work is winding down. Cooling temperatures and shorter days in the fall signal the peony plant to begin next years rooting process.

This is the perfect time to dig, divide and share your plants. Since most peonies live for a long time in one place the plants may be fairly large when you decide to dig your plant and some preparation before hand will pay off in making the experience easier. Take your time to avoid a broken shovel and some sore muscles.

I like to water the soil around the plant I plan to divide a few days ahead of time to make digging easier, especially if the soil is dry. Be sure to give it a deep watering as you will be digging down at least to one shovels depth.

When you are ready to begin digging you can cut the foliage back to about 4 inches or leave some of it on. The reason you may wish to leave some leaves on is to help the root "relax" after digging when the leaves left on pull some moisture from the roots while wilting and make them less brittle during the dividing process.

Start digging about 12 inches away from the plant on one side going to a depth of 12– 14 inches and remove a whole scoop of soil. Don't try prying the plant out yet. Take another shovel full of soil out alongside of the first whole and continue to at least half way around the plant. At this point you should have a crescent shaped whole one-shovel width wide along one side of the plant. Then go to the other side and cut straight down 12–14 inches from the plant until you complete the circle. Next go to the other side and undercut the roots under the plant. Now, you can use the shovel or two shovels if you can find a friend to help you with the project to lift the plant out of the hole. Don't pull on the foliage or you will break off next years growing points (eyes).

Once the plant is out of the hole, wash the soil off of the root ball and move the whole plant into the shade to rest for a few hours or overnight. Letting the root rest allows it to become more rubbery

and easier to divide in the next step.

When you come back to the plant after having let it rest a bit you can remove any foliage you left on the plant. Leave at least 4 inches of stem to make it easier to handle during the dividing stage. I prefer to wiggle the root to see if some divisions will separate easily on their own. If not I start to follow one of the 4 inch stems or in some cases a few stems close together and trace where it connects to a main root before I begin to use a knife or pruning shears to make my first cut. The idea is to get a set of eyes and a good portion of root together to make one planting unit.

The fewer plants you want the larger the divisions can be, but 3-5 eyes per division is normal for a lactiflora type peony. If you are dividing a hybrid like CORAL CHARM you may find many buds clustered at the top of a thin neck and you may get far fewer divisions or may need to leave a greater number of eyes per division.

Once you have divided your clump now is the time to trim back roots to about eight inches in length. Each division would ideally have at least 3 such roots attached to it, but don't worry if they vary in size. The peony is a tough plant and will grow as long as there is an eye and a piece of root. If you find yourself with a pile of roots and no eyes attached to them at the end of the process you should just toss them, as lactiflora peonies need part of the crown to grow again. Some hybrids will make a whole new plant from just a piece of root so they may be worth planting.

Finally if you are sharing the plants and cannot get them to your friend right away keep them in a cool spot with a little peat moss that is barely damp in a plastic bag for a few days. The sooner they get back in the ground the sooner they begin to root.

Prepare a hole for planting in a sunny location and dig down about 12-18 inches. If your soil is very sandy or has a lot of clay now is the time to mix peat moss at a rate of 1 scoop for every three scoops of sand or clay that you will use to refill the hole. You can mix bone meal in with the soil following the recommended rate on the container or use a starter solution of a liquid fertilizer as indicated on the container. DON'T put a handful of fertilizer in the bottom of the hole as you will burn the roots and most likely kill the plant.

Take the root to be planted and try it out in the hole for size. If you

need to dig the hole larger—don't bend or force the root into too small of a hole because the bent roots will often straighten out once they take up water and will push the crown out of the soil. Partially refill the hole so that you can place the root with the eyes one inch below the soil surface when you refill the hole. Carefully tamp the soil down to avoid any air pockets in the soil. Water the plant slowly to be sure the soil is evenly moist.

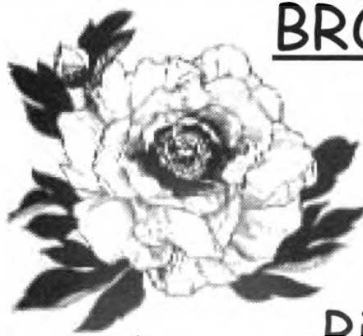
Keep the area watered if it is dry so that the plant can make new roots until the ground freezes. Then cover the area with mulch or straw the first season to prevent the root from heaving out of the ground if there is little snow cover and during freeze and thaw cycles.

Take the mulch off very early in the spring to avoid soggy conditions from the mulch once the snow melts. The new plants are very cold tolerant, more so than soggy wet tolerant of a mulch left on too long in the spring.

Enjoy the pleasures of having shared a plant that will remind the recipient of your friendship for many years to come.

Happy Gardening! APS

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Intersectional Peony Grafting Revisited

Roberto Gamoletti – Lodi, Italy

The propagation of intersectional hybrids remains an interesting subject of discussion. The production of a sufficient number of plants for commercialization from a newly created peony hybrid is a well-known, slow procedure and intersectional hybrids fall in this category. Peony enthusiasts increasingly request intersectional peonies but their scarcity and the consequent high commercial price have limited a broader distribution. The general accepted method of propagation of these peonies has been the division of the root, which can be done every second or third year as a standard procedure.

A new non-traditional method called micro-propagation is becoming available to a wider scale for peony multiplication in recent years. It is based on tissue culture methods and all the new peony hybrids will take advantage of it in the coming years. Intersectional hybrids however have a unique feature because they combine herbaceous and tree peony characters. This latter feature is responsible for the appearance of buds on the herbaceous stems beginning in late summer. This feature combined with a tendency of lignification of the above ground stems has suggested the possibility of grafting them on lactiflora roots. The scions can be obtained every year without disturbing the mother plant and are a real gift because most of them do not survive winter frosts.

This observation led me a few years ago to start this procedure in my garden and observe the results of grafting. The grafting technique is the same used for tree peonies and I prefer the triangular wedge method. I start grafting from the end of September to the end of November because a good development of buds occurs late in the season here in north Italy. I usually use one-bud scions sometimes a two bud or apical segment but as a general rule the first type is suitable for the procedure. Two buds scions have an excessive internodal length and the distal bud always dies in favour of the proximal one, which survives after grafting. The understock is a lactiflora root but I have tried also grafting on intersectional roots

from the same cultivar of the scion. I described my preliminary experience with this procedure in a brief note that appeared in *The APS Bulletin* Issue no. 326, June 2003.

My first attempts of grafting were done in fall 2000 and since then I have repeated propagation of intersectional hybrids with this method regularly each fall using different hybrids. Experience has accumulated but in my hands the overall take rate of the grafts is low to less than 50% (tree peony graft taking rate in my hands is greater than 80% for comparison). In detail I have found that some hybrids (BARTZELLA, LAFAYETTE ESCANDRILLE, Smirnow yellow hybrids) show a greater take rate while other including HILLIARY, CALLIES MEMORY, MORNING LILAC, PASTEL SPLENDOR have a poor outcome and very few scions survive. This difference could be the consequence of a variable proportion of herbaceous/tree peony genes in intersectional hybrids and the higher expression of tree characters might favour the take rate of scions.

I first inspected some grafted plants in 2002 and they were quite similar to tree peony grafts. Early rootlet formation from the scion was also noted and reported. In fall 2004 I further inspected these plants and those which are 3-4 years old show enlargement of the intersectional grafted portion with formation of larger root system from the scion and development of new underground eyes; the grafted intersectional tissue is clearly visible and different from the lactic root which slowly grows (see photos). The amount of new crown and root tissue is anyway rather scarce if compared with the time elapsed from grafting.

I have not found better results by grafting on intersectional own roots (but my experience is limited to few cases), except for the fact that the scion and recipient root are very similar in aspect and in perspective the understock should not be removed. On the contrary a professional grower friend had good results grafting different cultivars on GARDEN TREASURE roots (personal communication).

I think that removal of lactic root is mandatory to stimulate the enlargement of the intersectional portion, which is the desired end result.

To date none of my grafted plants has flourished even if they have been planted in the ground from the beginning and all display only a single above ground stem.

I have not read reports on this propagation method before, to the best of my knowledge. A similar technique is quoted in the book Peonies by Allan Rogers where he describes a method, first reported by Reath in 1979, consisting in the insertion of an eye with a piece of crown tissue attached under a flap cut into a root piece from the same cultivar. It is said that only few growers use this procedure because others have had little success with it.

The grafting procedure discussed herein is quite different in that above ground buds are used and crown plus root formation derives from differentiation of the original grafted bud tissue. The role of the nurse root can be compared to the tissue culture medium in promoting the differentiation of the bud cells into the crown and root system of the new plant.

The grafting was mentioned in the March 2005 issue of *The APS Bulletin* by Donald Smith, among other well-established methods for intersectional peony propagation. I agree when he writes that grafting represents an important propagation option and that this flexibility is unique to the intersectionals.

I think however that further experience should accumulate before grafting of intersectional stems could be used as a standard procedure for large-scale propagation. We should learn more about the modifications of grafted tissues, their differentiation, the fate of the recipient lactiflora root on the long term, the time required to obtain a new plant that is not precarious but has developed own root system.

To date I must say that the procedure works, but it is not as satisfactory as in the tree peony graft in terms of take rate and time required to get a new healthy strong plant. It is speculated that the use of intersectional root from the same cultivar of the grafted scion should partially overcome these problems.

Please see illustrations on back cover. APS

[EDITOR'S NOTE: DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GRAFTING EXPERIENCES? PLEASE RELATE YOUR EXPERIENCES FOR PUBLICATION IN A FUTURE ISSUE.]

I Have a Question About my Membership...

Claudia Schroer, Editor — Gladstone, Missouri

I received a letter from you, requesting my complete (or standardized) mailing address, including Zip+4. Why?

When *The Bulletin* is mailed to US members we use US Postal Service Nonprofit Bulk Mail rates. For this rate we are required to use Zip+4. If we can't obtain the Zip+4 your mailing may be delayed. Most of the time I can take the extra step and look it up on the USPS website, but sometimes they do not have the information for new or rural addresses. If you are unsure of your Zip+4, please contact your local Postmaster. Filling out all information on your membership form (legibly) speeds the process.

I paid my dues in May 2004. Why must I pay again in January 2005?

Currently, dues are paid by the calendar year. When you pay your dues before November 1 of any year, you get all four issues of *The APS Bulletin* for that year—while supplies last. Dues received after November 1 are recorded for the following year, unless otherwise specified.

When I sent my 5-year dues, I listed my name on the membership information form. Can I add my spouse to my current membership?

Yes, just send me a letter or e-mail with the information. Then you are both "legally" members and both can vote, participate in exhibitions and other APS privileges.

When I sent my membership information form, I listed my business name and website, but it was omitted in the membership roster. Why?

You must purchase a commercial membership if you want a commercial listing. There are other benefits when you buy a commercial membership—just contact me if you'd like to know more. Another bit of information I'd like to pass along is that a commercial membership only allows for one person to be listed along with the business name, i.e. only one person has voting privileges, etc.

I checked the box on the membership form to have my contact information omitted from the Membership Roster. Now I'm wondering what the implications are?

First of all APS does not sell or share its membership information with outsiders. I would guess that there might be some commercial members who would use the membership roster to mail their catalogs or price lists.

For myself, I am always happy to receive another peony catalog. I don't always buy from them, but I do enjoy seeing them and do save them for reference. The main reason that our membership roster is distributed is so that "peony people" can contact each other. If you have asked that your info be omitted you also will not hear from local and regional peony organizations that already exist, or are in the process of being formed. Many local and regional peony organizations have root sales in the fall and other benefits that might be of interest to you.

If I haven't answered your question, please let me know. APS

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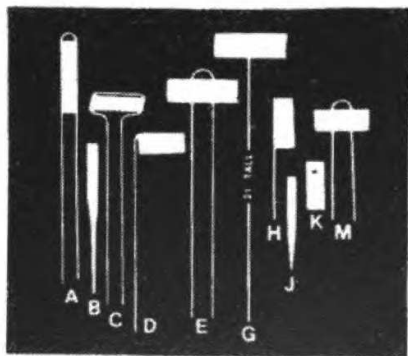
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**THE DECEMBER 2005
ISSUE WILL NOT
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**IF YOUR DUES EXPIRE
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Open Gardens 2006

**This feature will
appear in
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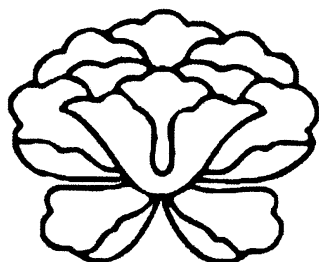
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Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers
(omitted from the June 2005 issue due to space constraints.)

More information on cutflower production is available from the
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Their recommended reading list:

- ASCFG Buyer's Guide
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- Field Grown Cut Flowers: A Practical Guide and Sourcebook
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BULLETIN BOARD

Re: Issue No. 334—There are always some mistakes. This time I must apologize to Bernie Van Essendelft. I omitted his name from the Member Profiles listing in the Table of Contents. Thank you to Brian Baker for letting me know.

I hope you enjoy this issue of The Bulletin. I've tried to include something for everyone. Pulling all these articles together and meeting deadlines is not always an easy task. I'm a morning person, but at times I've had to work into the evening hours, even though it's not always the best time for me. I'm a morning person and when working late it seems that it's easier for me to make mistakes. I call that the time of day "when peonies become ponies."

For the December issue we'll try having a general theme: tree peonies. I hope you'll decide to contribute something—even if it's only a paragraph.

After a beautiful spring, it's been a very hot and humid summer here in Missouri. I'm looking forward to fall and adding a few new peonies to our collection. What are you adding to your garden this year?

Look forward to hearing from you,

Claudia

Claudia Schroer, APS Editor

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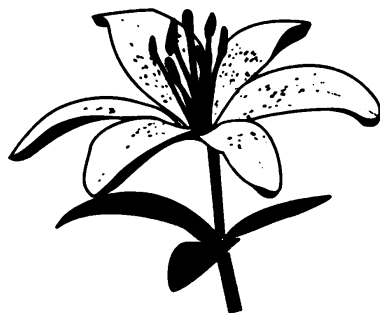
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Intersectional Peony Grafting Revisited

Roberto Gamoletti – Lodi, Italy

**See article
on page 186.**

Photo 1.
Overall appearance of 3-year-old grafted intersectional JULIA ROSE on lacti root.



Photo 2.
Close up of the same plant to show the grafted area and the new roots.



Photo 3.
Overall appearance of 4-year-old grafted BARTZELLA on lacti root to show amount of intersectional crown and root tissue.

