

Peonies can be divided in fall

Peonies are a favorite perennial of gardeners because of their beauty and low maintenance. In Kansas, peonies provide a beautiful display of flowers each spring just in time for Memorial Day.

Though peonies can be left in place indefinitely, many gardeners wish to increase their plantings and use a process known as division to accomplish this.

Fall is the traditional time to divide these plants. The first step in division is to dig out the entire plant.

Shake and wash off as much soil as possible so that the pink buds or "eyes" are visible.

Peony roots are very tough, and a sharp knife is needed to cut the roots into separate pieces. Make sure each division has 3 to 4 buds. Make sure the



dana belshe

• ag notebook

location chosen for planting receives at least a half day of full sun, the more sun, the better. Space the plants so that there is at least 2 feet between dwarf types and 4 feet between the standard types.

Follow the same rules for planting these divisions as you do for new plants. Make sure the pink buds are about one inch below the surface of the soil.

If they are set more than two inches

deep, flowering may be delayed or completely prevented. As you set the plants, firm soil often as you add it around the plant. If the soil is not firmed, it can settle

and pull the plant down with it.

It is often a good idea to add a mulch to the new planting to protect it from heaving. The alternate freezing and thawing that commonly occurs during Kansas winters can "heave" weakly rooted plants out of the ground.

Add a mulch of straw, leaves, compost or other material after the soil freezes. Remember, it is not the cold that harms these plants but the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil.

Science Olympiads fifth at meet

The Goodland High School Science Olympiads entered an ecology meet for the first time Wednesday, earning praise from an official of the event, and their club sponsor, for winning fifth place.

Mike Rader, event coordinator for the Kansas regional Eco-Meet at Lake Wilson State Park near Junction, was impressed with the team's results.

"You and the kids should be really proud with your scoring," he wrote to technology teacher Dennis Friedrichs, "especially since it was your first meet."

The contest included activities such as a wildlife scavenger hunt, testing the students' knowledge of ornithology, including identifying birds and the sounds they make, and putting together a presentation about different types of Kansas plants and animals.

The Goodland team finished fifth

out of 24 teams.

"The kids did an outstanding job for their first meet," Friedrichs said.

The Olympiads don't usually enter any competitions until spring, the teacher said, but the ecology meet was a perfect opportunity to get the kids involved.

Rebecca Gattshall, Megan Leonard, Alyssa Mason and Brandon VanVleet studied Kansas wildlife and the competition's "pull-out" subject, ornithology, to prepare for the meet.

Not only did the team get a score, each team member was graded as well. Gattshall finished 10th out of 92 students. Leonard came in 12th, Mason 18th and VanVleet 42nd.

In the wildlife knowledge portion of the meet, the students took a 100-question test loosely based on a college-level zoology exam. Live animals, mounted birds and skin samples were

on display during the test, Friedrichs said. His students finished 11th in that event.

In the scavenger hunt, the kids had to find different types of grasses, weeds and other plant life, along with insects and smaller animals.

The weather wasn't pleasant, the teacher said, with low temperatures and light rain, but the Goodland students finished 13th.

Goodland's strongest event was its presentation of Kansas wildlife, where the team won first place.

They had to pick four animals and plants and describe the creatures' environment, appearance, food sources, life cycles and other items of interest.

The meet is sponsored by the Kansas Wildlife Foundation, and is designed to teach young people to appreciate their environment.

Committee seeks nominations for conservation awards

The Sherman County Conservation Awards Committee, which annually recognizes farmers who conserve natural resources, is seeking nominations for this year's program.

The Kansas Bankers Association agricultural committee is sponsoring the program this year. The purpose is to stimulate interest in conservation of farm resources by recognizing farmers and landowners who conserve.

The committee is taking nomina-

tions for the soil conservation award and the windbreak award.

Items the committee will consider for the soil award are use of land according to its capabilities, completeness of farm plan applied, balance of farm enterprise, quality of conservation work done and maintenance of practices and special practices unique to the farming operation.

Requirements for the windbreak award include a minimum of 3-years-

old and providing significant protection from damaging winds for residential areas, livestock or fields. Items to be considered are windbreak design, management, location, density and length.

Anyone can submit a nomination. They can be sent to the Sherman County Extension Office in the county courthouse or the Natural Conservation Service Office on 10th and Center by Oct. 15.

Foundation supports hospital

The Northwest Area Medical Foundation Inc. is lending support to the purchase of a new computer information management system by the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The foundation agreed to pay \$115,000 for the hardware needed for the new computer system at a special meeting with hospital representatives Friday, Sept. 20. The foundation will buy the new IBMAS 400 server and mainframe that will allow for the operation of the new Siemens "Med-Series 4" health information management program through the entire hospital.

The foundation will be leasing the equipment to the hospital over a three-year period in a lease-purchase agreement. The hospital will pay the foundation about \$3,400 per month

at five percent interest, paying \$123,000 back to the foundation over three years.

The foundation will have a net profit of \$8,500, and the hospital will be able to afford the new computer system to replace the present information system that is outdated and incapable of even the most basic integration of functions.

"It should prove to be a win-win situation for both," Larry McCants, hospital board member, said.

The hospital previously received \$245,000 in tax credits from the state and has requested \$100,000 from the county to help pay for the \$1 million computer system.

Hospital Resource Development Director Dale Schields said the \$115,000 is the foundation's largest gift ever made to the hospital. The foundation's support, Schields said,

can be attributed to the benefits the new computer system will provide to both patients and staff.

"The new system will provide the medical, financial, operational and legal data necessary to provide improved medical services to patients, Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly said, "to better manage business operations and uniformly enable the hospital to meet its legal obligations in regard to federal laws."

The information system will also improve productivity by allowing the clinical staff to devote more time to patients and less time to paperwork, provide greater medical accuracy, benefit the hospital financially by providing a uniform charge system and ensure the privacy of health information through electronic medical records.

4-H news

The regular meeting of the Glendale Livewires 4-H Club was held Wednesday, Sept. 16, at the Sherman County 4-H Building.

President Richard Bauman called the meeting to order, and roll call was answered by "my favorite school subject." There were 11 members, two leaders and one guest present.

Kade Sheldon led the club in singing "Row, Row, Row, Your Boat." Secretary Courtney Sheldon read the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were approved.

Treasurer Katherine Craft reported that there was an ending balance of \$857 with no outstanding bills. Reporter Amber Cowan said the minutes were typed and taken to *The Goodland Daily News*.

Council Member Deanna Livengood reported that each club had to pay \$45 for the relish trays used at the Appreciation Barbecue. Leaders Penny Sheldon and Brad Cowan reported that the record books are to be handed in to the club leaders by Sept. 24 and that 4-H week is Oct. 6-12.

In new business, officers were elected. The club's new president is Amber Cowan. Deanna Livengood is the vice president, Holly Kibal the secretary, Courtney Sheldon the treasurer, Cassie Cooper the reporter and Carly McCracken the cheer person.

Amber and Brandon Cowan are council members, Lacie Cowan the recreation leader and Jason Cowan and Kade Sheldon the song leaders.

The meeting was closed by saying the club motto and putting away the chairs.

Three men share Nobel Prize in medicine

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — An American and two Britons won this year's Nobel Prize in medicine today for discoveries about how genes regulate organ growth and a process of programmed cell suicide.

Their findings shed light on the development of many illnesses, including AIDS and strokes.

Britons Sydney Brenner, 75, and John E. Sulston, 60, and American H. Robert Horvitz, 55, shared the prize, worth about \$1 million.

Working with tiny worms, the laureates identified key genes regulating organ development and programmed cell death, a necessary process for pruning excess cells. Many cancer treatment strategies are now aimed at

stimulating the cell-death process to kill cancerous cells.

Brenner, a professor at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, Calif., is also the founder of the Molecular Sciences Institute in Berkeley. He showed that the tiny transparent worm *C. elegans* was useful for studying how cells specialize and organs develop. His work "laid the foundation for this year's prize," the awards committee said.

Brenner also demonstrated that a chemical could produce specific genetic mutations in the worm, allowing different mutations to be linked to specific effects on organ development.

Sulston, of the Sanger Center at England's Cambridge University, dis-

covered that certain cells in the developing worm are destined to die through programmed cell death. He described visible steps in the cell-death process and demonstrated the first mutations of genes that participate in that process, the committee said.

Horvitz, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, identified the first two "death genes" in the worms and showed that humans have a gene similar to one of them, the awards committee said.



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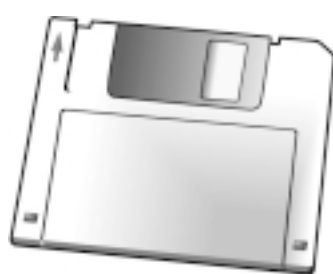
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