Primroses Winter 1981, Vol. 39, No. 1

American Primrose Society Quarterly Winter Issue 1981 Vol. 39, No. 1

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ISSN 0003-0619

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On the cover

P. marginata, a native of the Alps, brightens garden rockery in early spring. This shrubby member of the auricula section features lavender flowers and serrated leaves neatly outlined with meal.

Notice to members

Preparation of winter quarterly was begun in good time, but extreme difficulties in verifying and preparing the membership list for publication caused long delays and scheduling problems. The editors remind APS members that this is a voluntary position, equal in its time demands to the horrifying work of the seed exchange chairman; but we do regret any inconveniences caused by belated printing and distribution.

President's message

This is a new year. I am not one to make New Year's resolutions only to be broken later. I am a gardener and plant grower with emphasis on primula. Like other APS members, once smitten with primula fever we never give up.

A new year offers a new beginning, new dreams and new hope for the season ahead. We will all remember this winter of 1980-1981. Here in the Pacific Northwest it was the mildest in a long time, and for the rest of the country it was the coldest in a long time. We hope the snow cover proves enough to protect our precious plants — primroses and others.

No matter what our past losses, disappointments and failures were, as gardeners we plan and look forward to spring and a super year for 1981.

I hope that this season many more of you will get involved in seed production and collection. There is a big demand and little or no supply of seed by separate color. It is no big deal for one person to pollinate a few blooms of your favorite primula, either self it or cross it with another of the same color, label the cross, save the seed, then share it with the APS seed exchange.

It doesn't have to be a large amount of seed. If enough members hand pollinate just one plant and share the seed, it will make a tremendous contribution to the world of primroses. Of course, you are not limited to one cross. You can make any kind of cross you desire, but label and keep a record of what you did. Open pollinated mixed seed is a drug on the market.

If any of you are planning to see primula plants in nature, do not forget your camera. Take an extra shot for our slide collection or have your best ones duplicated. Send them to our slide director. We especially need slides of primulas in their native habitat, close up of plant and flower and general habitat pictures with description of area, elevation and specific conditions.

Many primula areas are accessible in the United States, Europe, Asia, Japan and Alaska with air travel, improved roads, ski lifts and helicopter service. With proper advance planning and permits you can bring back both plants and seed.

For the year of 1981 I wish you the best. I look forward with enthusiasm and anticipation for the best year ever for primroses and the American Primrose Society.

Herb Dickson



Peter Klein's juliana jack-in-the-green

Garden brighteners

by Herb Dickson

You can brighten your life with a riot of spring color. Just plant some primula species and hybrids.

Many primroses are hardy perennials. They are easy to grow and come in a wide range of sizes, types and colors. With proper selection of types and some attention to their cultural preferences you can have plants in peak bloom from early spring to early or mid-summer.

Season starters

Primula juliae and its hybrids, known as julianas, start the bloom season. This species is extremely hardy. It goes semi-dormant in the winter and spreads by a creeping rootstalk.

P. juliae has magenta flowers on single stems when the heart-shaped leaves are still small. The julianas have many forms and colors, and their blooming season varies according to the other parents of their pedigree.

The oldest and most widely distributed named juliae hybrid is Wanda, a vigorous — almost indestructible — plant producing blankets of purple flowers. Other old named forms include Kay, a blue; Dorothy, cream; Snow Maiden, a pure white; and Springtime, light pink.

Early spring colors

Some more recent varieties include Marguerite, bright yellow (stalk form with flowers in umbels like the polyanthus); Buttercup, a light yellow cushion form; Royal Velvet, dark velvety red stalk form; and Jay-Jay, a deep red cushion form with jack-in-the-green flowers (the calyx develops into small leaves that surround each flower to make a little nosegay).

Recently a strain of mini-juliana seed has come on the market. Seed and plants are



The Clarkes' white P. rosea

generally available. These come in the most gorgeous array of colors imaginable — glowing reds, pinks, purples and yellows and soft pastel shades and tints in fantastic color combinations.

Don't know when to quit

These new julianas cover themselves with so many blossoms in the spring that foliage is almost hidden. The plants have only one fault. They don't know when to quit blooming. This lack of dormancy makes them subject to winter damage in severe weather.

Spring companion to the julianas is P. rosea, which sends up stalks of hot pink flowers when the leaves are starting to unfold. Later the leaves grow to six to eight inches and the flower stalk elongates to 10 to 14 inches to produce seed above the foliage.

Mound of pink

A solid mound of light pink flowers is the feature of a hybrid, P. Peter Klein. Klein's hybrid between P. rosea and almost flat, pale pink, less hardy P. clarkei captured the hardiness of P. rosea and added hybrid vigor to plant and flower. The desirable plant is in short supply, but it is available.

The true primrose, P. vulgaris, offers its display of pale yellow acaulis flowers in the early spring. Myriads of modern acaulis (one flower per stem with many stems growing from the plant's center) hybrids come in any color one can imagine. Plants featuring double blossoms have been developed, but some lost the natural hardiness of their parent species.

Rosetta Jones of Kent, Wash., is successfully breeding hardiness back into



Jim Menzies' prize-winning deep red cowichan polyanthus

these gorgeous new double acaulis lines. She produces a very limited amount of seed of the hardy doubles. All 1980 crop is gone, but she hopes 1981 will be a good seed year.

Polys start long display

As the acaulis reach their peak, the popular polyanthus primroses start their long display.

The polyanthus is a hybrid group that has been developed over several centuries from P. veris, P. elatior and their subspecies in Europe and Asia Minor. The breeding program is still in a vigorous state.

These are desirable plants. I can remember the thrill of the true blue polyanthus and how a mass planting disappeared within three days from a Tacoma park.

The Pacific strain of polyanthus and the new mini-julianas are also seen as a

greenhouse crop sold in small pots as house plants in midwinter and very early spring. Their cheerful colors are irresistible in supermarkets and garden stores, buttheir survival rate is low if they are planted out at that time of year.

Getting unusual colors

Unusual polyanthus colors are resulting from the use of the Cowichan strain in a breeding program. The Cowichan polyanthus was discovered in a garden near Lake Cowichan on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, some 40 years ago or more. It was a deep solid red with no yellow eye in the flower and reddish foliage. No one knows the plant's background.

These hybrids feature a special glow in the colors, and the small eye—or complete lack of eye color—increases the total color effect of the plants.

Time for auriculas

As the polyanthus reach their peak, species and hybrids in the auricula section start their bloom. Many small plants in this group make excellent rock garden plants.

Auriculas are extremely cold hardy. They can be grown in pots exposed to sub-zero weather without harm.

Garden auriculas used to produce flowers with dull and uninteresting colors, except for the yellows. Selective breeding programs have given them many bright beautiful colors.

The same thing happened to the old double garden auricula. These now have new attractive colors with fully double flowers on stout, stiff stems that hold the flowers in a tight umbel that look right up at you.

Grow for foliage also

P. marginata in the auricula section (and

Vigorous, large-blooming garden auricula

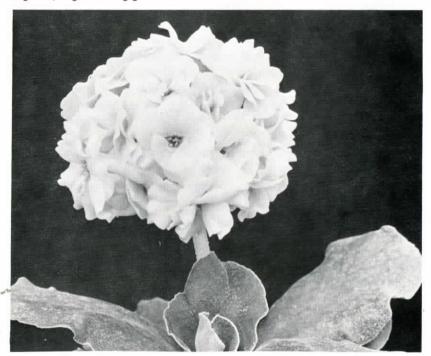
its hybrids) bloom early— sometimes with the julianas. These are always in shades of lavender. Even if they never flower, they are worth growing for their beautiful foliage of deeply serrated leaves with a white line of farina on all edges.

Growing in the same season — and after — come the easy landscape primroses.

P. sieboldii from Japan is a hardy woodland plant that goes dormant when it gets hot and dry. Provide plenty of moisture before and during flowering, and remove weeds once before flowering. Then forget them until next year same time.

Stately candelabras

The tall candelabra primroses from Asia have many species in the wild; but they cross breed so completely when they are grown close to each other that true species





Skupens' lavender P. denticulata

seed is hard to get. Interbreeding only tends to improve their color range and garden quality.

Candelabras, denticulata and the belled primulas of the Sikkimense section are known as bog plants, but their water must be fresh and moving. They will grow nicely under ordinary garden conditions if they are given plenty of water, but they are best grown as streamside plants.

P. denticulata sends up round balls of closely packed small flowers in all shades from white through lavender to red. Be careful not to douse this plant with cold hose water if it wilts or flags on a hot day. Wait until evening or you will kill it sudden and certain.

Closing the season

The bell flowered P. sikkemensis, alpicola and florindae close the season with their sweet-scented pendant bells in shades of yellow through red atop tall straight stems. These are also streamside

plants that will prosper in almost any garden with ample moisture and partial shade.

Primulas grow so easily from seed that this is the best way to get a supply of plants. If you live where there is a reliable snow cover for winter, you can grow a great variety of primula even if air temperature drops to 60 degrees below zero— just as long as winter isn't interrupted with a false spring.

If there isn't enough snow, using some form of deep mulch that does not pack down is best. Winter sun on unprotected frozen plants is nothing short of murder.

Of course, I have left out many beautiful and desirable species because of their exacting cultural requirements. But these are the easy and cheerful ones to brighten your early spring gardens.

Herb Dickson, APS president, recently prepared an article for "Horticulture" magazine. He has shared his first draft with members of the society. The Dicksons grow their plants and dispense information from Chehalis Rare Plant Nursery at Chehalis, Wash.



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Notes from the Midwest

by Ralph Benedict

We had a very wet spring and summer last year, even though just south the rest of the corn belt was very dry. This was fortunate for us because I spent part of the summer in the hospital. I am in fine shape now, but there is lots of work to get caught up on.

We have zero and below weather and 13 inches of snow on Jan. 10, so the primroses are covered well. We had a low of -18 degrees so the peach buds will be damaged.

The seed list came yesterday. It is the best in years. We are fortunate for the fine work of the seed chairman and those who help.



About six years ago we started crossing our best jack-in-the-greens with best hose-in-hose—both with double recessive genes. The past summer results of these crosses were far better than we had hoped for.

This picture was taken by a fellow APS member, Clarence Owens. It shows some pips with calyx only (with corolla removed) and some with flowers intact. Some had four colors in the calyx, all tipped with green. These plants are nice because they prolong and blooming period. The calyx remains colorful after the corolla shrivels.

This is a note of thanks to Alice Hills Baylor.

Last summer we had the most beautiful japonica double seedling bloom. Every bloom was a perfect double — just what we were hoping for. This was the best one of six double seedlings produced from 18 plants from double parents.

Just as the seeds were forming on the lower whorls, the plants started to rot at the crown. Weather was in the high 80s and low 90s with daily rain. I lost the plant; however, I cut off the stem, placed it in a jar of water, set it in the shade on the back porch.

It continued to develop. The seed ripened okay. I now have three flats of seedlings from this.

Mrs. Baylor brought this method up on one of her articles. It worked very well for me.

Policies and plans for the national show were discussed at the January meeting of APS officers and board members.

A letter from Jim Menzies prompted the following opinions, according to secretary Ann Lunn:

- The number of entries per class that an exhibitor may count toward the sweepstakes trophy should not be limited.
- 2. Individual chapters have the right to decide if they want to include an unjudged exhibit table.
- 3. Dorothy Dickson will set up a refresher course for judges in the spring and will organize a judging school next year. No test will be given with the refresher course, and any member is welcome to attend.

A motion was approved to reinstate any former qualified judge who was eliminated by previous rulings of the society. To judge at a national show, one must have a judging certificate and be a member of APS. Judges are urged to attend refresher courses, but they are not required to do so.

Seed chairman Ross Willingham reported that cost of buying seed from this year's exchange totaled \$750. Seed lists were mailed to 601 members.

Willingham said that since the cost of commercial seed is increasing, he needs members to contribute separate colors of acaulis, polyanthus and candelabras. He also asks members to donate seed from crosses they have made and to include the names of the parent plants.

Slide chairman keeps busy

Slide chairman Dorothy Dickson is keeping the post office busy, but she says her job would be easier if borrowers could give her more information.

"When you order slides, give the date you need them," Mrs. Dickson says. "The slides will be sent by United Parcel Service unless otherwise requested."

If the borrower will tell Dorothy what kind of group the slides will be shown to, she can tailor a program to fit specific needs.

More slides are needed to replace and replenish the programs. Dorothy sent her "thanks" to Fred and Helen Clarke and Jay and Ann Lunn who recently donated slides to the society's collection.

Former Officers Will Stay

Nominating committee chairman Vasco J. (Flip) Fenili has submitted the following slate of officers for the new season:

Herbert Dickson, president; Frank Berthold, vice president; Ann Lunn, recording secretary; G. K. Fenderson, treasurer; Alice Hills Baylor, corresponding secretary; Alice Hills Baylor and Elizabeth Van Sickle as directors.

Other directors who remain in office include Ruth Huston, Loie Benedict, Helen Moehnke and Eileen Trzynka.

What does that word mean?

by Ruth Huston

At the information desk at shows and in talking to garden club members I find that I am asked questions if I use even the commonest words to describe plants and plant parts.

Here is a list of terms the primrose gardener may find useful:

Acute: pointed

Alba: white, flower or leaf

Alpine: area above timberline
Annula: thick ring in throat of a flower

Anther: pollen-bearing part of the stamen

Arachnoid: cobweb like

Attenuate: gradually narrowing to a tip or base

Bullate: puckered or rough Bog: standing shallow water

Bulbous: having a bulb formation

Biennial: living two years

Bract: leaf from which a flower arises

Calcareous: containing lime Campanulate: bell-shaped

Cordate: heart-shaped

Crenate: with rounded teeth

Crenulate: minutely notched

Corolla: extended part of flower

Cuneate: wedge-shaped

Calyx: leaf-like protection of flower bud Cushioned: low mat or pad of foliage

Dentate: toothed

Depressed: turned aside, pressed down,

low

Dimorphic: in two forms (pin-thrum)

Deciduous: falling away, losing its foliage

Dormant: resting, asleep

Deflexed: bent or turned abruptly

downward or backward

Erose: margin irregular as if gnawed

Entire: margins with smooth edges (leaves)

Efarinose: without farina

Fibrous: containing plant fibers as roots Farinose: white or yellow meal on plants

Farina: the meal

Glabrous: smooth, hairless

Globose: shaped like a globe

Glaucous: having white, bluish or gray

Herbaceous: soft, without wood, leaf-like in texture

Inflorescence: flowering part of a plant Involute: edges of young leaves rolled up-

ward, inward to center

Lamina: leaf blade

Lanceolate: lance-shaped

Limb: expandec corolla beyond tube

Linear: long with parallel sides, like grass blade

Loam: garden soil with humus

Lobes: rounded division of leaf or corolla

Lobulate: rounded

Monocarpic: of one form

Ocbordate: reversed heart-shaped

Obovate: egg-shaped but with broader end at apex

Oblanceolate: lanceolate but with broader end at apex

Obtuse: blunt ended

Obicular: circular in outline, rounded Oblong: longer one way than the other Palmate: divisions and veins running

from a common point

Pedicel: stock of a single flower

Perennial: plant living for many seasons

Pendrant: drooping Petiole: leaf stalk

Pin-eyed: having the pistil showing at the

Pinnate: with leaflets along the sides of midrib

Pinnatifid: divisions not reaching down to mid-vein

Paste: white or yellow meal on some P. auricula blooms

Pubescent: with short soft hairs, downy Raceme: flowers on pedicels of equal

length in spike

Reflexed: bent abruptly downward

Reniform: kidney-shaped

Retuse: with rounded apex with notch

Revolute: young leaves rolled outward toward outside

Rhizome: underground stem with roots, often creeping

Rootstock: like rhizome, but upright

Rosette: leaves arranged evenly around crown

Rufous: reddish-brown or reddish-yellow, usually leaves or hairs

Rugose: with wrinkled or creased surface

Sagittate: arrowhead-shaped

Scape: flowerstock

Serrate: saw-toothed pointed toward apex

Sessile: entirely stemless

Spatulate: spoon or paddle-shaped Spicate: arranged in or resembling spike,

individual flowers sessile

Stolon: stem on or underground rooting at tip

Stoloniferous: bearing stolons

Subcordate: somewhat heart-shaped

Shrubby: with woody elongated rootstocks

Suborbicular: more or less circular

Subrotundate: somewhat rounded in

Superimposed: one above the other on the same stem

Thrum: with cluster of stamen showing at throat

Truncate: base of leaf blade cut off squarely

Tuft: cluster of elongated leaves rising from crown of a plant

Umbel: flat or rounded flower cluster at top of stock

Undulate: margin wavy

Vein: framework of leaves running from the stem

Venation: arrangement of veins

Whorl: circle of flowers around a stem, as in candelabra

Ruth Huston's glossary compiled at her Spring Hill Farm nursery at Gig Harbor, Wash., was amplified and aided by How to Identify Plants by H.D. Harrington and L.W. Durrell, botanists at Colorado State University in 1957 when the book was published.

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Primula duckelmanni

This botanical description translated from the Latin by APS treasurer G. K. Fenderson can be used as an exercise.

Since most of us don't grow this primula and couldn't consider ourselves to be on a first-name basis with it, here's a challenge. Could you use the short glossary as you read this description to produce a mental image of the plant? If a spring storm keeps you from your gardening chores, could you draw it?

Primula duckelmanni was first collected on a sunny slope near Chodscha. Said in a tributary spur of the Andarb Valley east of Doshi in northern Afghanistan. The first gathering of this species was made by R. von Duckelmann at the beginning of April in 1951. The type is indicated by Wendelbo (Flora Iranica, Primulaceae, p. 5 1965) to be deposited in Vienna.

Primula duckelmanni Gilli in Feddes Repert. H.1, Bd.62, p. 22 (1959) is a species with cordate orbicular (pinnatly veined?) leaf blades 2-5 cm. broad and long, deeply divided for one-half to twothirds their breadth into seven lobes. The latter are narrowly obovate, strongly bidentate or once again lobed, and the margins are subobtuse or subacute dentate

The upper leaf surface is green and glabrous or sparingly pilose along the nerves. The lower surface is pallid and more or less villous along the nerves. The petiole is 5-13 cm. long, greatly exceeding the blades, is narrowly winged, villous, becoming glabrescent at maturity.

The scape is 10-15 cm. tall, and much exceeds the foliage. It is sparsely pubescent near the base but is densely so along its upper portions. The few flowered (4-5) umbel is composed of lanceolate acute pilose bracts 3-5 mm. long and of pubescent pedicels 5-10 mm. long which usually much exceed and rarely only equal the bracts.

The cylindrical pubescent calyx is 5-7 mm. long, 1-2 mm. broad and is divided for one-half to one-third of the calyx tube into linear, erect more or less blunt tipped lobes, which are more or less parallel sided and somewhat overlapping. The corolla is deep red-violet with a cylindrical

tube 13-15 mm. long, 1-2 mm. broad, two or three times as long as the calyx and a flaring limb 12-17 mm, in diameter divided into obcordate notched lobes.

This species is assumed to be endemic to its area of collection and is most nearly allied to P. kaufmanniana from Turkestan. It is to be differentiated from that species, according to its author, by its deeply seven lobed leaves and by the thick pubescence of its upper scape, bracts, pedicels and calyx.

It is further characterized by its linear blunt pointed calvx lobes, which are most noticeably shorter than the calyx tube and which are somewhat overlapping at the margins in contrast to the calyx lobes of P. kaufmanniana. According to Regel, lobes of P. kaufmanniana approximately equal the calyx tube, are lanceolate, acute and show sinuses between themselves. In addition in P. duckelmanni the pedicels are noticably longer than the bracts. In P. kaufmanniana the pedicels, according to Regel, are shorter than the bracts.

Subgenus Auganthus (Link) Wendelbo Section Cortusoides Belfour f. Series Kaufmanniana Fedorov

Reference: P. kaufmanniana Regel in Acta Hort. Petropol, iii, 131 (1874)

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From the mailbox

People at the summer primrose picnic came up with some good hints on growing. Cut worms seemed a universally nasty problem.

On our way home I bought a cheap spotlight which could be carried all over my garden on a lengthy extension cord. Hand picking of cut worms, cabbage worms and slugs made a terrific difference in the population. Of course, it could only be done on a 80 by 140-foot area, like mine. I was too late to prevent my primula cockburniana seedlings from being made into green lace by the cut worms.

Friends laughed at my idea for keeping slugs out of my baby primula flats—but it worked. I hung them up—about 25 flats—from the roof of my plant shelter! It also made more space available, and I think it was cooler up off the ground when that heat wave struck in August. Possibly they needed a bit more watering, but that had to be done regularly anyway.

Thea Foster
Foster's Folly
566 Esquimalt Avenue
West Vancouver, B.C.

I am presently filling the position of librarian for Dartmouth Horticultural Society. To promote the growth of primroses here in Nova Scotia, I've donated my copies of APS quarterly from 1975 to present to the cause.

So what I'm after is this: anyone wishing to donate any issues prior to 1975, please write to me. Thank-you for any assistance you may give.

Happy gardening, Frank Osborne 15 Shawinigan Rd. Dartmouth, N.S. Canada B2W3A1

On the ferry coming home from the study weekend you asked Elizabeth van Sickle and me is we had any suggestions for the quarterly. Here is something I would really like to see: a little space each time the quarterly comes out devoted to the correct pronunciation of primula species. Maybe jsut a few each time, broken down into syllables and emphasis on the main one.

This is so frustrating at times to me, and I'm sure there must be others like me. If we are going to grow these plants and love them so much, we should be able to pronounce their names correctly.

Also I would like to see a few words listed each quarterly giving us help in identifying kinds of plants and leaves so when we see them in articules we will be familiar with them and will be able to identify plants or leaves they describe. I have a list I obtained from Ruth Huston, but I think a little drill on them now and then — the ones that pertain to primula—would be helpful. I hope I'm not the only dummy!

Anita Stevens 300 Dungeness Meadows Sequim, Wash. 98382

Ed. note: This issue includes a glossary. Now who wants to volunteer to do the pronunciation guide?

Thank you (or whoever was responsible) for the summer edition of Primroses. It was the first time that I had read your magazine and this issue was particularly absorbing. It was also something of a disappointment in that I had intended to print Glenny on Gold-Laced Polyanthus in the 1981 edition of the British Northern Section's yearbook. Out of deference to those who are members of both societies, this may now have wait until 1982.

The item was particularly apposite in view of the renewed discussion in the Northern Section concerning the presentation of the GLP for exhibition. There was some controversy last year about the minimum number of pips which should be permitted; we eventually agreed to retain the present figure of five. It was also decided to allow multi-stemmed plants to be shown provided that all stems except one were tied down, thus leaving the judges in no doubt as to which truss was the be judged.

Recently there has been a resurgence at our shows of single-crowned plants which, to the eyes of many of us, are aesthetically far more pleasing than the miniature forests to which one had previously been accustomed. The reason given for the continuance of the multi-stemmed plant was that present varieties do not posses sufficient vigour to give a worthwhile truss of bloom when grown on the single crown.

From a reading of Glenny, it would appear that this has always been a problem and that those plants with a marked tendency to offset profusely and consequently to produce an increased number of stems each carrying a small number of pips are not a new phenomenon. It would therefore benefit us to try to breed out this trait and re-select those plants which restrict themselves naturally to a small number of crowns.

My limited experience would suggest that plants of this kind are not at all common but they do occur. Unfortunately, those specimens in my collection which exhibit the best form also tend to split up, while the odd ones which tend towards singularity are below show standard. The first seeds from crosses between the two types are now in the seed trays and the future uncertain. The prospect of a full bench of vigorous, single-stemmed exhibits held out as the ideal by Glenny is most inviting.

It is also reassuring to note that the size of bloom quoted in your article is about the same as that which one often sees today. It would seem to show that either the GLP had declined in vigour by Glenny's day or the artists' illustrations of the best varieties of that period contained a fair dash of artistic license, thus leaving us with an inferiority complex about the size of our present-day blooms. I have a feeling that some of our best varieties and strains would not have been sneezed at by the old growers.

I see from your 'Mailbox' that you have had some discussion about the candelabras. I hope that the article in our 1980 Year Book proved of interest. Should you wish to print it in one of your future editions, please contact the author, Mr. Sinclair of Barnhaven, Brigsteer, Cumbria: as Editor I have no objections.

At a couple of our shows in the past few years, a striking specimen of P. Ellisiae has been exhibited. It is a most graceful thing. Could you recommend a nursery as a possible source of either plants or seeds? Any indications as to treatment and culture would also be gratefully received.

Once more, congratulations on the most attractive magazine. I hope your readers appreciate the effort that goes into producing it. It is not an easy task to compile one per year: the thought of turning out four would not appeal to me. I can only admire your stamina and tenacity in succeeding.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Guest 3 Church Walk, Euxton, Chorley, Lancashire, England PR7 6HL

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Diary of a Primroser

by Cy Happy

This year winter and spring in the mild Puget Sound country are indistinguishable. Some primroses have seldom been without flowers—or slugs. The early bloom on my cross of small eastern oxlip x P. julia is either purple or creamy yellow and right at ground level. Nice to know that the promised yellows are really there. Most other crosses of P. juliae and a species vernales produce nothing but shades of purple.

The last mailing of the quarterly reached the 900 mark, perhaps an all-time record. The mailing chore had become too much for the editors, and a mailing committee has taken on the job. Pat and Frank Ridgeway reworked the mailing list and produced the labels. Flip Fenili and Milt Gaschk counted, sorted, bundled and hauled. There seemed to be fewer copies returned than usual so the job was done well. Please keep us informed of changed addresses and zip codes. Where are you, Gertrude Clark?

Super saturation

We just returned botanically saturated from another fine Northwest Study Weekend, sponsored by the various northwest alpine and rock garden societies. Registrations numbered 298. Not just folks from Oregon, Washington and B.C.—people came from Wisconsin, Colorado, Illinois and many from California.

Sheila Maule from Scotland was a charming featured speaker. Included in her slide talk were Primula reinii alba from Japan, P. tschuktschorum from Alaska, P. aureata resembling fried eggs and thriving in a very coarse leaf mold, ground-hugging P. reptans, skyblue P. bhutanica and shrubby P. forrestii. Nurseries and plant societies (including APS) put on displays in the exhibit hall. If you missed it this year, mark your calendar for late February in Portland, Ore., next year.

Tending to P. cusickiana

Last year Dorothy Tewinkel, Rt. 1, Box 1491, LaGrande, OR 97850, collected seed of P. cusickiana and shared it. I distributed it to several good growers. The seed was pale green because it had to be gathered green in the pod. Mine are swelling in the refrigerator in a little water—as they would be doing in melting snow.

Dorothy had found the plants in bloom on 21 May last year. When she returned 10 days later, after a snowfall, she found the deer and elk had eaten most of the seed pods. She hopes to be more successful this year. For her it is a 164-mile round trip in a 4-wheeled drive vehicle. The Tewinkels are getting to be authorities on the Target Springs area. Now we need someone to do the same for P. maguirei in Logan Canyon of the Wasatch mountains in NE Utah.

Help on the way for soil problems

Phil Pearson and his partner Steve Doonan have a nursery in Issaquah, Wash. They

have had great success with soil mixes and rooting cuttings. Phil has promised an article on potting and garden soil mixes that will be most helpful. I'm hoping to learn the best way of rooting unrooted primula divisions.

For many years APS has been out of touch with botanists in the USSR. At long last we made contact with Dr. Lapin at the main botanic garden in Moscow. The coming years should bring articles for the quarterly and exciting seed for the seed exchange.

For those who have been wanting choice named-variety show and alpine auriculas, try Beth Tait, Primrose Acres, 14015 - 84th Ave. NE, Bothell, WA 98011. She has them and a lot more. Beth lost her husband, Lawrence, last year. We hope the beautiful spring season is helping her recover from the loss.

APS loses two fine growers

Many APS members were saddened by the death of Mavis Pavey of Poulsbo, WA. Ludi Dines, long time officer and supporter of APS passed away last month. Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of these fine growers.

The 2nd Annual Hardy Plant Study Weekend (border perennials) is scheduled for June 20 and 21 at Edmonds Community College north of Seattle. Reservations, \$20, care of Evie Douglas, 11907 Nevers Rd., Snohomish, WA 98390. Phone 568-2829.

Speaking of hardy perennials, White Flower Farm, Rt. 63, Litchfield, CT 06759, offers one of my all-time favorite flowers, Dianthus x Allwoodii Doris, a glorious light salmonpink with darker eye. I have been trying to get this exceptional garden pink for years. White also offers a selection of hardy primroses, polyanthus and P. denticulata.

Where are Salem area members?

Louise Lucas, 392 Holder Lane SE, Salem, OR 97302, would like to bring together the APS members around Salem. She is a longtime grower, has worked with Mrs. Berry and contributed many articles to the quarterly. She has a lot to offer.

Our congratulations (and sympathies) to Pat and Thea Foster, who are the new editors of the Alpine Garden Club of B.C. monthly bulletin. We look with envy on Geoff Williams, the ex-editor. He did his job well.

Interesting hybrid looks good

Jim Menzies has a lot of seedlings, P. juliae x gold laced polyanthus. Many promising flower types are appearing. Most have a stripe down the middle of each petal. Some have a touch of lacing too. The body color runs to dark purple. Size of each pip is mostly the correct dime size, and the flowering habit is generally polyanthus. The plants, when I saw them, seemed to be the tufted type rather than having the desired creeping habit of P. juliae. Hopefully that will reappear in the next generation. There has been considerable discussion about this cross. It looks good.

Last year I took too many double auriculas to the shows. When they returned home, most refused to set seed. The result was a small seed crop. We should have pulled our seed offer in the last issue. I put together small quantities of double seed that had been set aside for my own use and now have enough to fill a few more orders. If you have ordered some and have not received your seed by now, let me know.

Hallmark cards sells polyanthus wrapping paper, nicely done, using most of the poly colors on a green background.

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