

Primroses

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Primroses

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American Primrose Society
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The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in *Primula* together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden the genus *Primula* in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about *Primula*.

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2002 'Best in Show' Ian Plenderleith

Back Cover Photo: 2002 National Show, Vancouver

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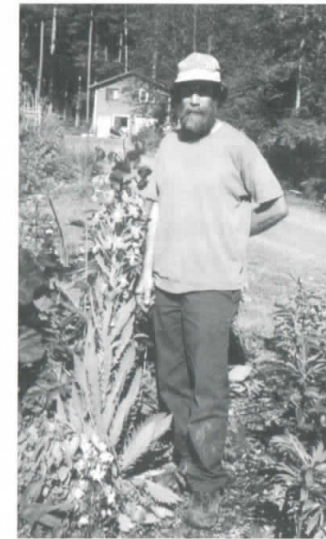
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Presidents Message

Greetings folks, it's summertime in Alaska; the salmon are jumping, the slugs are slithering and the weeds are growing! Luckily the primroses are flowering to help remind us why we're here though the season is still several weeks late. Not to brag or anything but I even have a few *P. reidii*



blooming from over wintered plants in the ground!

I was busy this past spring with visits to the Primrose Shows in the Pacific Northwest, hopefully there will be a Show in the Northeast one of these years also. In April my wife and I were joined by Mary Irwin and Elaine Malloy as we visited gardens and nurseries, the Tacoma Show, and the National Show in Vancouver, BC. Candy Strickland deserves thanks for putting on another fine Show and the whole British Columbia Group did a great job in hosting their first National Show; hopefully not their last! The mini seminars were quite educational and John Gibson brought that uniquely English flair to the proceedings. New Board members Phyllis Petrovich and Mary Kordes were elected. We thank Ruby Chong and Roger Eichman for their service to the APS!

The Juneau Chapter then followed up with their Show in early May, presenting to attendees of the Southeast Alaska Garden Conference a wonderful selection of *Primulas*, especially considering how slow the season was progressing. Thanks to Pamela Finney and her crew for their efforts.

2002 APS National Show by Linda Bailey

The National Show was held at the Van Dusen Botanical Gardens in Vancouver, BC, Canada, on April 20 and 21, 2002. These gardens consist of 55 acres in the middle of the city. The APS show was staged in the Cedar Room in Floral Hall. It was hosted by the British Columbia Primula Group and attracted many viewers despite the fact it was given a "back seat" location, as there were other groups (fuchsia, geranium, and chrysanthemum) having displays in the larger rooms of the building on Saturday.

Greeting visitors at the entrance to the Cedar Room were floor displays. The Welcome/Introduction to Primroses by Roxanne Muth was a really lovely gardener's exhibit showing many varieties in the Vernales section and some Europeans also. All specimens were blooming in clay pots pleasantly arranged - tucked in and amongst moss, baskets, antique hand tools, and memorabilia. Several treasured books were displayed as well. Unfortunately, Rowland Biffen's book on Auricula disappeared shortly after the show opened. That was devastating, not only to Roxanne, but everyone involved with the show. Ralph Roberts of Delta, BC, sat by his table of water color prints and note cards of Primroses, Cyclamen, Iris and Violas. This artist paints brilliant 'larger than life' acaulis and gold laced polyanthus and other flowers in his studio and turns them into beautiful prints for framing, note cards of all sizes, and little refrigerator magnets. He begins

a painting with the flower first of all to ensure fresh brilliant color; then works down to the foliage. He said it takes 6 - 8 hours to complete a painting - plus 36 years' experience!

The BC Primula Group had a sales table holding a wonderful assortment of note cards, gift enclosures, napkins, etc. decorated with our favorite flowers. Some items were imported from Europe. The American Sakurasoh Society sent a Board display that offered membership in this group specializing in *P. sieboldii*, with several gorgeous photos and a raffle giving a 1 year membership or a *sieboldii* plant to the winner. BC Group member Stan Cryan won the raffle for the Sakurasoh Membership. Jean Hauserman, Jack Stanley and Doug Smith each won a *P. sieboldii* plant which Ruby Chong donated for the raffle. There was a Board display of incredible photos of Primula created by Pam Eveleigh, of Calgary, Alberta. She invited growers to send their photos of species for incorporation into the photo gallery at her web site Primula World (www.primulaworld.com) to complete her comprehensive list of the genus with photographs.

The Cedar Room was filled to the brim with 11 tables on which 15 exhibitors benched 216 pots of Primula and Primulaceae to make a fairly well rounded display of the many species and colorful hybrids in the genus. Due to Spring's very late arrival, no blooming plants appeared in the section Proliferae (Candelabra); and just one *P. kewensis* sat alone in the Greenhouse/non hardy Division. However, the number and

variety of species made up for the lack of entries in other classes. Species of note were in Division IV, Class 5 - All other Asiatics, and Class 6 - All North American species. Included were Primula: *sonchifolia*, *bella*, *yargongensis*, *nivales*, *yuparensis*, *moupinensis*, and *laurentiana*. Two stunning exhibits of Juliana Hybrid 'Butterball' stole the show. Maedythe said it was a highlight for her as she thought it was lost. 'Butterball' was raised by Susan Watson who helped produce the APS Pictorial Dictionary and died in Vancouver in the 1990s. Maedythe was thrilled that Ian Gillam, the Show steward, has had it going all this time. Another delight was having a Show Auricula Self named at this time. Phyllis Plenderleith grew it from John

Kerridge's seed some 4 or 5 years ago. It deserved a trophy. The Show Chairman related, "in order to win it, the plant must be named." Phyllis decided on 'Kerridge's Sunshine.' It is this editions cover photo.

Judging decisions were made by John Gibson from Yorkshire, England; Dorothy Springer from Washington, USA; and Bodil Leamy, British Columbia, Canada. Three junior judges (and APS Officers) came from Alaska - Ed Buyarski (President), Cheri Fluck (Vice President) and Robert Tonkin (Secretary). Rhondda Plumb and Jane Mitchell of the B.C. Group clerked for the judges.

Trophies were awarded at the banquet and those winners are listed separately. Blue ribbons were also



Dorothy Springer, Bodil Leamy, Ian Plenderleith, Cheri Fluck, John Gibson, Maedythe Martin, Rhondda Plumb, and Ed Buyarski. (Robert Tonkin photo)

awarded to Ruby Chong, Frank Dorsey, Daphne Guernsey, Rex Murfitt, and Yvonne Rorison.

Four mini symposiums were held, two each day. Lots of questions got answers. See related article for details.

The banquet was held at the hotel where many of the out-of-towners stayed. President Ed Buyarski welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and entering. A special Thank You went to Maedythe, Ruby and the B.C. Primula Group's for their hard work in putting together a great show. Judges were introduced and awards were presented. Several announcements were made, but only one is still timely - a reminder for those who have grown plants from the China Expedition to enter the APS photo contest.

John Gibson, a florist and grower of primulas and auricula in England, was the Saturday Night banquet speaker. He gave an interesting talk and slide show about plants grown and shown in the United Kingdom. He told of *P. vulgaris*, once prolific in the wild growing in ditches and shady places on the Irish Coast. Many choice slides of species and named primula were shown and their history given. He mentioned that "Linda Pope" has been around for 100 years and that "Dawn Ansel" has been successfully micro propagated. A question was raised about show standards for Border auricula. "There are none", John said. He went on to say Show auricula standards in the UK differ a bit from North America, in that the plant exhibits one truss only and a minimum of 5 pips on it must be open,

7 to 9 are okay. John has seen up to 15 open pips on one truss. The British are bending a little. Lately, the Midlands and West Sections of NAPS has opened a multi-truss class, but for Gold Laced Polyanthus only. A tip he gave to exhibitors - remove wilted or soiled pips AND unopened buds when showing flowers. Leaving a space or two in the umbel is quite all right! John also shared his knowledge about growing *P. allionii* - in sunny sand benches, giving the pots quarter turns weekly (Sundays for him); and emphasized that overhead watering is deadly to the species - "[they] can't stand wet on top."

Plant sales were brisk all weekend. Because of the "other" groups having plants sales on Saturday, a crowd of gardeners deluged the portico of Floral Hall. Sale plants were raised by B.C. Primula members and April Boettger (A Plethora of Primula). The variety of primulas offered was very interesting and appealing to everyone. For the record, sale plants were priced by the grower, the grower received 80% and the host club 20% to help pay for its meeting room rental. The sales table also offered pretty T shirts decorated with primula; a fund raiser for the Tacoma Chapter.

Overall, the show was a lovely one of many primula forms and colors as well as some seldom seen species. The National Show itself, displays, mini symposium, and plant sale tables kept activity humming. It was well attended and many good comments were heard. Kudos to the B.C. Primula Group for a job very well done!

Mini Symposiums a Hit at the National Show

Four seminars were scheduled during the show in Vancouver. They were most interesting and well attended. The first symposium on Saturday morning was given by Andree Connell. She lives on Galliano Island, BC. Her specialty and topic was Hardy Cyclamen. Seventeen of 21 species were discussed. Hardy species have been grouped into those that withstand temperatures down to -4 F and to +7 F. Andree mentioned that *C. coum* grows on alpine slopes at high elevations, but does better shaded by cedar at lower elevations. Cyclamen need drainage; she provides pumice and grit. Seed takes awhile to germinate. Wash/soak (even fresh) seed for 12 to 24 hours in a solution of 2 cups warm water and 1 drop of dishwashing liquid. Sow in a gritty soil mix ½" apart. Keep in the dark for a month or more until germination. More can mean up to 18 months! Andree showed good slides borrowed from the Alpine Group of B.C. She commented on various leaf shapes and pattern/color variegation in the genus; the pictures showed these specific comparisons very well.

The next one covered Primula Species of North America, given by Jay Lunn of Hillsboro, Oregon. Jay and Ann have trekked across the West in search of indigenous species, photographing them in their natural habitat. Jay described some growing conditions as "scab land." It was amazing to see small delicate plants surviving in rather harsh climates, fighting for turf space with a host of

grass and other native flora, even fauna - mountain sheep! They searched and found *P. cusickiana* in Oregon. That one grew in Idaho as well, also *P. alcalina*. Utah revealed *P. domensis*, *P. maguirei*, and *P. specuicola*. Then it was on to Colorado, where *P. angustifolia*, *P. incana*, and *P. egaliksensis* were tracked down and photographed. The Great Basin of Nevada was home to *P. nevadensis*, *P. parryi*, and *P. capillaris*. Taking the road south into New Mexico, the Lunns found *P. ellisiae* and *P. rusbyi*. Making the circle back home, in California they photographed *P. suffrutescens* and *P. cuneifolia* ssp. *cuneifolia*. Jay explained that his two carousels of slides were taken on several trips. He included slides of other natives such as *Castelleja*, *Viola*, *Lewisia*, *Draba*, *Penstemon*, *Erigeron*, *Fritillaria*, and other rock garden and alpine plants too numerous to mention. I admired the Lunns' fortitude, knowledge and photographic ability to travel so far into the wilderness to capture native primula treasures on film.

Striped Auriculas Old and New, was Maedythe Martin's topic. She spoke of their beginnings in the 1700s, rise and fall in popularity throughout history, and showed a bunch of slides, comparing the old varieties with some of her new hybridizing efforts. One slide showed striped herbarium specimens from Oxford, England. Though I am not a striped auricula fancier, I enjoyed learning about their history and development. What I found most interesting were slides of "Twelve Months of Flowers," botanical paintings

of mixed bouquets arranged in vases painted and published in England hundreds of years ago. I bought the set of prints from Winterthur. At the bottom of each are numbers and names. Upon a closer look (with a lens) one can find a number on a petalled flower. Below the picture is a listing of the names of the flowers in the arrangement. One month shows striped auriculas. Maedythe explained that these prints were the "original catalog." Furber, the nurseryman who commissioned the paintings, sent the prints to customers whereby the recipients could order plants by number!

The fourth and final symposium was given by John Gibson. It was actually a hands on/open question workshop on judging primulas at a show. John went through many divisions telling why or why not a plant scored. Many questions were posed and answers were freely given. To be a show judge, one must forget his prejudices and preferences and be objective. Be careful and gentle with criticism - one must have a strong back and weak head - an exhibitor who has grown his pride and joy for 12 months can be devastated in a heartbeat with a sharp remark. A judge must read the schedule and remember it. Every plant must be looked at thoroughly for uniformity, color, freshness and cleanliness. Pots should not be considered when judging (*UK rules. Ed.*), but a clean pot and one proportionate to a plant's size never hurts; in fact it will show it off. If an entry does not meet the "must haves" according to schedule, then the plant is



Ruby Chong working the plant sales.

out of the competition. John mentioned some *P. marginatas* did not score points because the "carrot" was visible and offered a quick remedy. Standards for Show Auriculas were discussed - required number of open pips, one truss per plant (which can be staked if necessary) and that the exhibitor may pin down other trusses if there are any. He also gave timely tips for exhibitors regarding grooming using tweezers, little brushes that come in makeup kits; topdressings - chips for alpines, moss for asiatics, none for florist plants. John recommended digging and potting *P. sieboldii* well before its flower stalks appear to avoid damage showing up on the exhibition table. The most important tip for exhibitors - be sure your plant is classed and benched correctly. Judges do not select the class or move it to its proper one. A prize worthy specimen will not win a ribbon if placed in the wrong class!

2002 National Show Judges

John Gibson from Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England, judged the Europeans and Show Auricula Divisions. Horticulture has been a life long interest. As a young boy in Scotland he lived near Dr. J. McQueen Cowan, a renowned botanist at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, who became John's mentor. When he saw John's garden, Dr. Cowan invited John to come help him with his and learn more about the science. John's first specific interest was dahlias, and he grew seven hundred! Then he met Derek Telford who introduced him to auriculas and the primula world. Finding that the season is shorter and the work a lot less, John drifted our way and became a "florist," growing the old florists' flowers - Gold Laced Polyanthus, auriculas and striped tulips, to high standards. He has been growing and showing them since 1976, and judging for about 15 years. In the late 1970s he began at local shows, judging everything from flowers to vegetables (even Easter bonnets). Not only is he judging nowadays but also speaking to garden societies and local groups with diverse interests, spreading the interest in/addiction to primulas.

Bodil Leamy judged the Species and Primulaceae Divisions. Bodil remembers the fragrance of auriculas from her childhood in Denmark. After immigrating to British Columbia, in the mid 1920s she started mixing rocks and primulas together - and also discovered Herb Dickson, Grace Conboy, and

Florence Bellis, with whom she corresponded in the 1960s. After being widowed, Bodil began working at the University of British Columbia's botanical garden - the E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden in Vancouver. There she became an expert on many flora. Bodil has since retired from her position, but the knowledge, love and appreciation of the genus Primulaceae lives on, and very strongly.

Dorothy Springer from Tacoma, Washington, judged the Vernales and Decorative Foliage Division. Dorothy has been growing primroses since she was a small child, when her mother got her started. She joined the APS in 1961 and became a judge in the early 70's. Dorothy has been a Regional Editor of *Primroses* and the National Editor for five years. She says she has been a Director of the Society so many terms she can't truly remember the number of years. She has also served as National APS Secretary. Dorothy's focus has been collecting juliae's and their hybrids. She developed the APS Juliae Register and continues to focus on their history and cultivation.



Tony James receiving the Novice Sweepstakes award from Maedythe Martin

National Show Trophy/Award Winners:

- Ivanel Ageel/ Best Hybrid Juliae – Ian Gillam for 'Butterball' hybridized by Susan Watson
- Rae Berry/ Best Species – Ed Buyarski for *P. sonchifolia*
- John Haddock/ Best Alpine Auricula Seedling – April Boettger for a Herb Dickson seedling
- Frank Michaud/ Best Named Show Auricula – Phyllis Plenderleith for 'Kerridge's Sunshine' named at this show
- Mary Zach/ Best Show Self – Phyllis Plenderleith for 'Kerridge's Sunshine'
- John Shuman/ Best Show Alpine – Ian Plenderleith for 'Argus'
- Ellen Page Haydon/ Best Double Auricula – Maedythe Martin for a pink seedling
- John Kerridge/ Most Species in Bloom – April Boettger
- John Kerridge Memorial/ Best Cowichan – Tony James for a dark red.
- Novice Sweepstakes – Tony James
- Show Chairman's Award for Most Points Earned By One Exhibitor – April Boettger
- Dorothy Dickson Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to the American Primrose Society – Candy Strickland



Welcome & Introduction to Primroses Table at the 2002 APS National Show



Candy Strickland receiving the Dorothy Dickson Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to the American Primrose Society at the 2002 Tacoma Primrose Show in Puyallup.



Candy Strickland and Thea Oakley at the 2002 Tacoma Primrose Show

"I wish to thank the American Primrose Society for awarding me the Bronze Award, the Dorothy Dickson award for service to the Society. I would like to accept this award for myself and the total membership of the Tacoma Chapter. This award was established in 1983 by Herb Dickson in honor of his wife, Dorothy Dickson. We/the Tacoma Chapter, had the distinct pleasure of knowing and loving Herb and Dorothy. They were an important part of our chapter until their deaths. I would not have been able to do anything for the Society had it not been for the continual help from all the membership. Together we have upheld the beliefs and aims of the Society. We all thank the APS."

Candy Strickland

Tacoma Chapter Show Report

by Candy Strickland

Well, the show is over, and a fine show it was. We benched 183 items, we sold many plants, I won my first-ever blue ribbon, and a best of section as well. We had 12 exhibitors. If it were not for the many plants that Thea Oakley provides, and now with much help from Dr. Roger Eichman, it would be impossible to have the beautiful variety of plants we have to display to the public.

This year we did something unprecedented—something I have never known to be done before. We pleased some of our exhibitors with “merit awards”. In any local show, the judging is always something which is very critical. Unlike the rules for judging other flower shows, where plants are awarded only a single blue ribbon per section, Primrose judging is done on a merit basis. Each plant is judged on its own. If there were six plants in one section, and each was of blue ribbon quality, each would receive a blue ribbon, not just one of them. The Primrose Society has a point system by which each plant is judged. Dr. Eichman feels so strongly that this is a fair system and should be followed so that we encourage more prospective displayers, not discouraging them from entering their special beauties in our show, that he and Thea rejudged some of the sections of our show and he took his blue ribbons and awarded “merit” awards to those plants which had not

previously been accurately judged. Because Thea and Roger grow a large variety of primroses they naturally receive many blue ribbons but each contributor should have just as good a chance to be a winner also. We encourage fair treatment and will continue to follow the Primrose judging rules in the future.

The more things change, the more they stay the same! Our show area was changed this year, but we still had a wonderful show. We were moved into what is known as the Centennial Tent. A huge blue and white tent which housed the Rhododendron show, the Orchids, the Bonsai, Hill and Dale Flower show, and several large floor displays. We were well placed except that it was hard on the plants to be housed for four days. They seemed to hold up quite well. The show started at 3 pm on Thursday and ran until 7 pm on Sunday. Judging was done Thursday.

Our next year’s show will be April 10 thru 13, 2003. Winners in our show were our usual winners and some new exhibitors. We encourage others to take part in our shows and to feel free to enter their plants.



Dr. Roger Eichman discussing Primroses



Tacoma Chapter 2002 Show Winners and Plants

Kathy Ford , a new exhibitor	Best in Julie Best Hose in Hose
Cy Happy	Best Acaulis Best Double Vernaes
Rosetta Jones	Best Seedling (chosen from all seedlings) Best in Hybridizing
Roger Eichman	Best Acaulis Polyanthus Best Jack in the Green
Thea Oakley	Best Gold Lace Best Asian species Best in Primrose section Best in General section Best in Shrub section Best in Minature Gardens Best Plant in Show Sweepstakes

**Alpine Garden Club of
B.C. Spring Show
April 13 – 14, 2002
Vancouver, British Columbia**

Where do you start when you arrive at a Primula show? The Vernales are so fresh and pretty, you can see a few exotic species that must be examined in detail, the *P. allionii* shine to catch your attention and the show auriculas, like the aristocrats they are, demand homage.

The schedule for primrose classes at the Alpine Garden Club of B.C. starts with the Exhibition plants, the show auriculas, alpine auriculas and the gold-laced polyanthus. Let's start there. The weather in Vancouver was still cool. In fact it snowed on the North Shore Mountains the afternoon everyone was to come and pick up their plants at the end of the show. A bit early for show auriculas. There was one purple self, a very red/purple, almost like a bishop's vestment. Maedythe Martin is getting this color in her striped auricula breeding program. There are grey-edged fancies with this purple ground color that are striking, but alas, none in this show.

There was one fancy seedling on the show bench, a grey-edge of pretty good form, with a dark maroon body. The two stripes were also maroon, with a grey edge – more like a show that was trying to stripe than a true bi-colored stripe. But they are all exotic and fun to see.

One gold-laced polyanthus, a seedling by Maedythe Martin had nice lacing on

a dark ground, though rather more silver than gold on the mature flowers. This won the trophy for best gold-laced polyanthus. The gold-laced polyanthus trophy for this club is The John Kerridge Memorial Trophy, and it is a fine memento of John. Another GLP entered by Phyllis Plenderleith had very nice lacing – a more traditional gold. The exhibition flowers are a challenge, hard to get, hard to grow to a good standard, but such a treat to see.

One of the garden auriculas presented was a pretty blue, in the Fambridge strain created by long-time APS member Thea Foster some years ago now. APS member Phyllis Plenderleith has it going still, thank goodness. Thea's blue gardens often had some *P. marginata* or *P. x pubescens* blood in them, as she was always aiming for a more intense blue.

I was visiting a new friend for the first time recently, who lives in the Gulf Islands here, and I arrived to find her garden filled with auriculas. She had grown them from seed 10 or 12 years ago, and brought them with her to this garden. I asked where the seed came from, and it was from the AGCBC seed exchange. There were some blues that looked very like the Fambridge Strain, and 10 years ago some of Thea Foster's seed was probably in the seed exchange. It was a real pleasure to see such a display of garden auriculas. Thea would have loved it.

The season was just right for the *P. marginatas* and the class was pleasantly full. 'Agee' was in good form, the leaves covered in meal. Ian Plenderleith has a very fine dwarf form where the pin-eyed

flowers tend toward the pink side of violet. This plant stays very small. 'Herb Dickson' was entered by two different members of the society. The blue color stands out among the more demure lavenders and pale blues. The first prize winner was a pot of 'Dwarf Form' from England that Maedythe Martin was able to obtain on one of her trips there. 'Linda Pope' was elegant as always, though it was early in this cool season for her to be making a bow.

The European class had a number of *P. allionii* or *P. allionii* crosses. The winner in the class was 'Broadwell Milkmaid' a true *P. allionii*. This plant originates with Joe Elliott in England at his nursery, Broadwell, and is a regular prizewinner, both here and in England at the shows, as it covers itself in milky-white flowers. Two different entries of 'Clarence Elliott', a *P. allionii* cross, literally glowed. It, too, is very floriferous, this time a lovely lavender pink flower with wavy edges. The flower stalks stay low, giving the effect of a cushion of blossoms. It also was raised by Joe Elliot, from some seed from 'White Linda Pope'. Another *P. allionii* cross, 'Airemist' was smothered in blossoms, the white fairly glistening.

In the plants of *P. x pubescens* entered, the eye-catcher was a huge pot of 'Faldonside'. This is another old one, a chance seedling raised by Mr. William Boyd of Scotland. My favorite book on the older pubescens is *Primulas in the Garden* by K.C. Corsar, and he tells us Mr. Boyd was a famous saxifrage man, introducing some of the finest varieties. Mr. Boyd feels the red *P. x pubescens*

need a bit more care than the rest of the group, and recommends a fairly rich scree mix. I take this to mean very good drainage, but a slightly richer mix than normal. It is Mary Robinson (*Primulas, the Complete Guide*) that gives us the sure-fire way to identify it – it has "large distinct leaves that tend to look yellowish and slightly unhealthy." She also suggests a bit more feeding.

A number of other named *P. x pubescens* were benched: 'Freedom' (four entries, each lovelier than the next), 'Pat Barwick' (an odd buff color that you either like or don't – I do), Mars, (deeper red/magenta with a white eye, very low grower) and a deep rich purple-magenta, 'Babs' (from England). I do like these small plants – they seem to me to be so cheerful. They do well in pots, and you can gather a small collection with a bit of searching. They take up not too much space, and require little care most of the year. Don't over-water, repot annually, and enjoy their fresh little faces each spring. Be sure they have a half-inch top-dressing of chips or grit, as this helps keep the moisture away from their "neck" and reduces the likelihood of rotting off.

Far too early a season for most of the Asiatics, but two pots of *P. denticulata*, benched by Ruby Chong, held up the flag for this group very well. One, a deep red/purple contrasted nicely with the other, a glistening white.

In the class for Cortusoides, there were two entries of *P. moupinensis*. A discussion ensued: which was the real form? They were a bit different; one had smaller leaves and paler flowers than the

usual flushed with pink. In the end, we decided they were both the same species, but had different growing conditions.

Have you seen this *Petiolaes* yet? It has been known since 1886 (Richards, *Primula*, p. 163) but has recently been seen in collections and on the show bench due to Ron McBeath collecting it in 1987 in China. It was collected again in a different expedition in 1991. Now it is generally available. I first saw it at Roger Eichman's new garden, and I know it is available from some nurseries. Despite being classed with the *Petiolaes*, which are difficult to grow ("temperamental in cultivations" says Richards) this one seems to tolerate general *Primula* garden care. Having said this, I almost lost it. The reason I didn't is that the plant sends out runners, like a strawberry plant, at the end of each is another little *P. moupinensis* plant. A mature plant with its little umbrella of runners is pretty cute. I just pinned down the little rosette that was left and it sprouted roots and carried on. But it does seem to do best in shade and needs to never dry out. By the way, if you are tempted to try other and perhaps more difficult members of this section, it is worth getting out Richards and re-reading the section on cultivation of *Petiolaes*. (p. 149) There is a great deal of useful information here.

One large pink *P. kisoana* was benched in the *Cortusoides* class, and one *P. x kewensis* showed off its bright yellow flowers. It is borderline hardy, but if you have some cover, it flowers early and is a welcome harbinger of

spring. The original plant occurred in 1899 at Kew in England, which you might guess from the name.

Plants from the *Oreophlomis* Section included two spectacular entries. Not only one, but two pots of *P. clarkei* appeared. This little charmer is elusive. Now you have it, now you don't. Even Richards says, "It is undoubtedly difficult." It is of a creeping nature, and comes from Kashmir. It needs well drained but rich soil in the shade. Likes cool roots. Richards says, "Grows rapidly initially, but seems to run out of nutrients and requires frequent division and propagation if it is to be maintained. Very shallow rooted, and will not tolerate drying out." So – well done, the two growers who brought it to flowering for the show.

Another beauty in this class was a 10-inch pot of *P. rosea*. It comes from the Himalayas and grows in alpine pastures of a boggy nature, by melting snow. So you know what that means – lots of water in the spring, and don't let it dry out. This particular variety had very small leaves and very large flowers. It may just have been grown well, and at the peak of perfection for the show, but it may also be a hybrid, 'Peter Klein' or 'Kleinii' as it is sometimes called. This is actually a cross with *P. clarkei*. Whatever it was, it was a joy to behold.

The *Vernales* classes, now of course called Section *Primula*, had all the favorites of spring: *P. vulgaris*, *P. elatior* and *P. veris*. The wild English primrose was a particularly fresh yellow, and there was a nice white form, with rather dark red stems. But it was the *P. elatior*

subsp. meyeri that was the showstopper, to my mind. A violet wonder of an oxslip! Each petal seems marked down the center with a line or a fold, and there is a notch at the center of each petal. An undefined yellow eye sets off the violet nicely. Richards also likes this little plant. He says it comes from "Pontus of north-eastern Turkey, and the entire Caucasus range, always in the mountains." From what I can understand this plant was known as *P. amoena* when listed in 1808. The purple form is now *P. elatior subsp. meyeri*. There are three or four subspecies of *P. elatior*, and he says all three, including "the superb purple *subsp. meyeri* are amongst the most distinguished of all primulas, and should be grown more often." Maybe there will be seed in the APS seed exchange this year.

In the doubles class there were two yellow doubles, 'Sunshine Susie' covered in cheerful yellow flowers, and a golden yellow double auricula seedling grown by Maedythe Martin from seed from Peter Ward in England, via the APS seed exchange. This seed certainly delivered what was promised, for there were many double seedlings in the batch. Peter Ward is a gifted hybridizer.

'City of Bellingham', one of the Julianas, or *P. juliae* hybrids, is a soft lavender color, and probably came from April Boettger's nursery, A Plethora of *Primula*. Her catalog informs us that Ross Willingham found it in Bellingham, Washington, about 40 years ago. It has sometimes been distributed, she says, as 'Lilac Wanda'. 'Jay-Jay' is

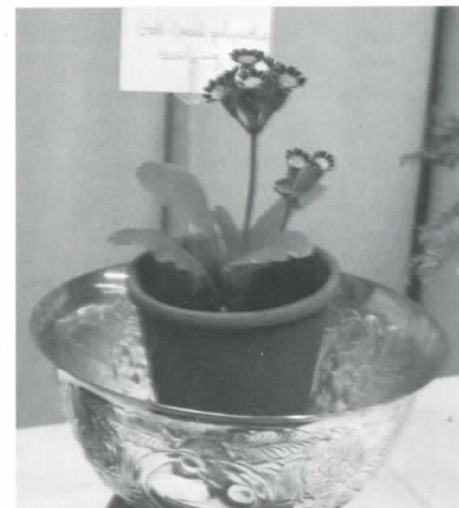
such a good garden plant, and here it was again, by two different growers. There was a slight difference in the color of the flowers, probably due to different conditions where grown.

The standout in the polyanthus was 'Chartreuse', grown from Barnhaven seed. The flowers are certainly bigger than most polyanthus, and the soft shade of cream with the green eye sure makes you look again. A number of other classic yellow polyanthus, and a 'Garryard Guinivere' rounded out the display.

In the anomalous primroses there were a couple of Jack-in-the-Green polyanthus, grown from seed from the seed exchange, and again coming true to form. The donor was Torben Skov from Denmark – thanks, Torben.

There... we've been around all the tables twice, and had a very satisfying eyeful of all the gorgeous *Primula* in the show for 2002. Come back next year.

Reported by Maedythe Martin



Trophy winning GLP, AGCBC Show, M. Martin photo

The American Primrose Society ARGS China 2000 Expedition Primula Photo Contest



The Quarterly will conduct a photo contest of those primrose plants resulting from the seed returned by the Alaska Rock Garden Societies 2000 China Expedition. Photos may be submitted through October 31st 2002, the last day seed can be donated for the 2003 seed exchange. Photos will be published in the Winter 2003 issue in January of 2003.

APS Gift Certificates will be awarded: first place will be \$75, 2nd place \$50, 3rd place \$25. Five honorable mentions will receive their seeds for the year at no cost.

The contest is open to A.P.S. members only. Any China seed PRIMULA plant is eligible for consideration. Prizes will include First place, Second place, Third place, and five honorable mentions. Photos may be submitted in print, slide, or electronic file format. All photos or slides will be returned to sender if accompanied by a self-addressed return envelope. If an entry is submitted by electronic means it must be at least 300 dpi, 5 by 3.5 inches for wide orientation and 2.25 by 3.3 inches for tall orientation, or 1600 X 1200. Electronic photos may be larger than these dimensions, but NOT smaller, and MUST be at least 300 dpi. The TIFF file format would be appreciated by the Editor, but not mandatory. Please ensure each photo is properly labeled. Each photo must be accompanied by the name of the A.P.S. member grower, the photographer, the location it was grown, the A.R.G.S. or A.P.S. 2000 seed list reference number, and the date the photo was taken. Mail photos to Robert Tonkin, APS Editor, 3155 Pioneer Ave., Juneau, AK 99801, or email primroses@gei.net. Please feel free to email or write the Editor with any questions regarding the entry requirements or photo file format requirements prior to submitting an entry. We will publish as many photos as we have room for in the Winter 2003 issue, so start taking those pictures!



Best Hybrid Juliae 'Butterball' grown by Ian Gillam



Center Showbench 2002 APS National Show, Vancouver, B.C. Canada



John Gibson at the Judging Symposium



'Argus' grown by Ian Plenderleith



'Best Species' *P. sonchifolia* Ed Buyarski



P. bella grown by April Boettger



'Best Cowichan' grown by Tony James



'Best Double Auricula' grown by Maedythe Martin



VIRAGS 'Best in Show' primrose grown by Katherine Jones



Fancy auricula grown by Maedythe M.



Striped auricula grown by Maedythe M.



'Wharfedale Gem' grown by Maedythe M.



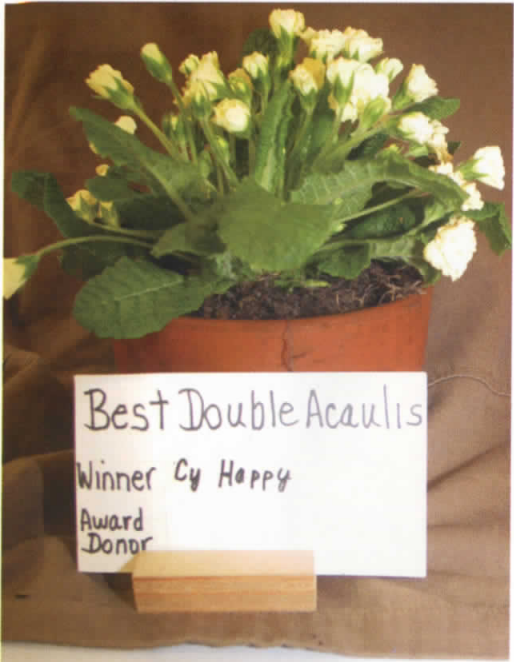
P. elatior meyerii Rhonnda & Mike Plumb



Dwarf P. marginata grown by Maedythe Martin



'Best Hose in Hose' Tacoma Show grown by Kathy Ford



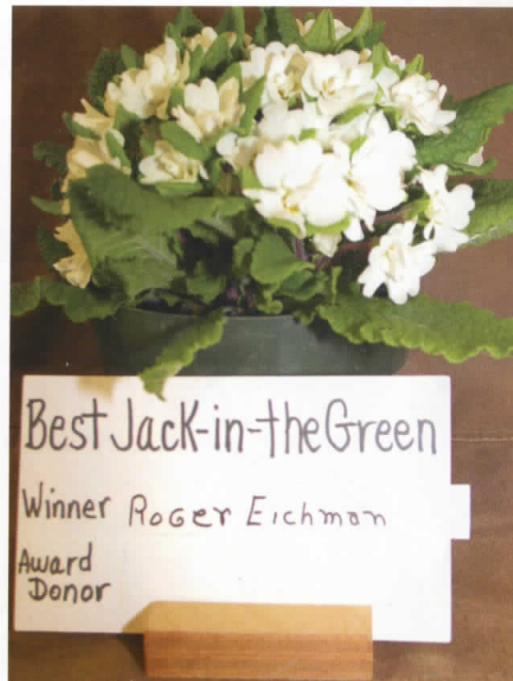
Best Double Acaulis Tacoma Show



Best Auricula Seedling Tacoma Show



Best Gold Laced Tacoma Show



Best Jack in the Green Tacoma Show



'Devon James' grown by Marie Skonberg



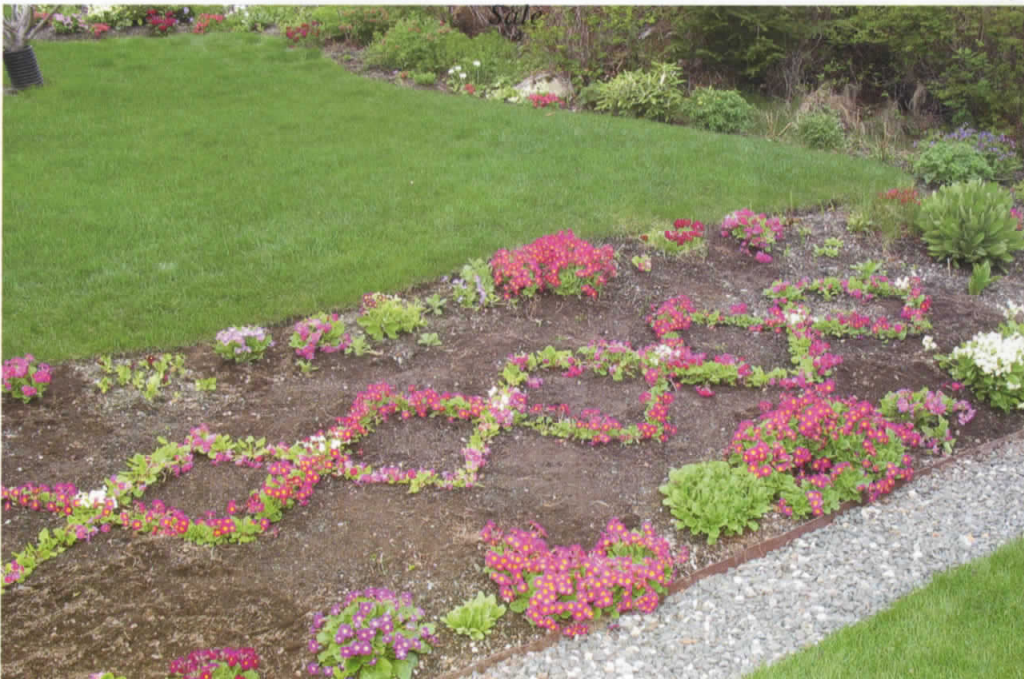
'Best Denticulata' grown by Cheri Fluck



'Best in Show' and 'Best Polyanthus' Juneau 2002 Show grown by Cheri Fluck



Julia, Pam, Ed and Cheri selling plants and recruiting new members, Juneau Plant



Juliae Garden, Paul Dick, Juneau

Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society Spring Show

The Europeans

Over the last four years members of the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society have had the opportunity to obtain some *P. marginata* species and hybrids from April Boettger who runs the nursery A Plethora of Primula. This effort has paid off, for the class for Saxatile or European primroses this year was awash in shades of violet, lilac, blue and purple.

One of the new, very blue *P. marginatas* from Herb Dickson's breeding program is named after the man himself and was present in full flower. Other named forms were 'Agee' raised a number of years ago by Ivanel Agee in Washington State and 'Allan Jones' another good recent blue, differing from 'Herb Dickson' in its pin eye ('Herb Dickson' is thrum.) Victoria has a lot of unnamed *P. marginatas* around, though probably they are named forms and the names have been lost. Nurseryman Ed Lohbrunner sold them for many years at his nursery here, and being long-lived plants, they continue to grow and flower, despite the lack of a name.

In the paler violet color-range, there was a small form from England called 'Dwarf Form' which has made a nice full pot. The *P. marginata* with the architectural leaves called 'Drake's Form' but which we now know is not, stood out in toothed, mealed splendor.

It even added a flower as icing on the cake. The flower is rather large, and a red-violet, very pin eyed.

In the group of *P. allionii* presented there was the icy white 'Airemist' and a very floriferous 'Clarence Elliot'. The petal structure of these plants, when seen in good light, contains a minute crystalline structure which catches the light and lets them shine in a way no other Primula flower, however colorful, shines. We also learned from the British Primula judge, John Gibson, who was visiting here after the show, that one does not need to remove the leaves of *P. allionii* when repotting, as he is of the opinion that these add to the substance of the plant, and help to create the mound on which the flowers are displayed, when the plant gains size over the years.

The tiny Europeans, the *P.x pubescens* plants, included a spectacularly large pot of a very dark red-flowered, typically low-growing beauty. Could this be 'The General'? In the rock gardening classic, *Primulas in the Garden* by K. C. Corsar (London, 1948) there is a list of these *P.x pubescens* — the older ones. A useful reference. We think 'The Cardinal' is around, too. When April was setting up her nursery she visited primrose growers in the Pacific Northwest to get pieces of whatever they had, and one brick colored one named "From Larry Bailey" sure seems to match Corsars' description of 'The Cardinal'. Another good source for information on these small ones is the chapter called "The Smaller Hybrids" in Mary Robinson's *Primulas, the Complete Guide*. (1990).

A large pot of the *P. allionii* cross 'Beatrice Wooster' shone out in pink splendor. This was obviously an old plant, for it had attained an admirable size. This cultivar is a cross between *P. allionii* and 'Linda Pope', says Mary Robinson. The cross was made by Ken Wooster in 1947 and obviously named after some lady in his life. Like all of these prized plants, they need good drainage, and a top dressing of up to an inch of grit.

'Freedom' appeared in a number of sizes, and such a pretty plant it is. The flowers are a clear light mauve-purple, pin-eyed and almost flat. This is another *P. x pubescens* plant as is 'Wharfedale Gem' — a clear pink with a white starry eye. It is a treat to see all these small treasures.

The season was a bit early for the show here in Victoria this year, but there were two pots of *P. denticulata*. The drumstick primrose comes from the Himalayan Mountains, and likes lots of water in spring, but I am starting to think it likes less water in winter. It would be under snow cover in its native mountains, so probably doesn't want to stand in water in the winter here in our lower elevations.

The three entries in the Aleuritica section — the Bird's Eye Primroses — each had different leaves, and an examination of the three for comparison was instructive. One was club shaped with very round-toothed margins — is this what is crenate-toothed? Another leaf was spoon shaped in outline, and not as toothed. The third was a long narrow blade shape. I am not skilled in

reading scientific descriptions and translating them into reality, but I'm sure the careful examination of the plant structures would tell us which was *P. farinosa*, *P. frondosa* or *P. darialica*. All have the same cheerful bluey-pink flowers with the yellow eye.

A very beefy *P. kisoana* with large pink flowers won first in the Cortusoides class, accompanied by a more refined white form. It was great to see these entries, as this class is often bereft of entries.

The Vernales

A very spring-like, fresh yellow *P. vulgaris* seemed to catch the eye in the Vernales class. This was presented by Bryan Davies, a new APS member, and was certainly a winner. *P. veris*, the cowslip, was present in a number of color-forms: orange, yellow and red. The little pink, very early spring delight, *P. vulgaris* subsp. *sibthorpii* was there in a couple of forms. One, entered by APS member Tony James, has a distinct white spot at the end of every petal. An old garden strain named 'Springtime' can be found in gardens in Victoria — probably dating from the turn of the century. Nice to think people have been enjoying it for so long. I think it qualifies as "a good doer".

The best Primula in show came from this class. A lovely blue double acaulis, not 'Miss Indigo', as it was a more steely blue, and lacked the silver wire-edged lacing, but very pretty, topped the list. It had been in the owner's collection for some time. As I remember, one of our group grew some Barnhaven doubles about 25 years ago, and this may have

come from that lot. It was in perfect form, nestled in a ruff of leaves — a showstopper.

Other doubles were 'Dawn Ansell', the clear white with a ruff of leaves around each floret, and 'Sue Jervis', that strange pinky-buff color, and the old garden stand-by 'Marie Crousse'. This is believed to be of French origin (says Mary Robinson, my bible in these matters) and won an award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1882, so that is why we can call it old. The magenta double flowers have white splashes and a white wire-edge to many of the petals. A seedling presented was similar, with a clear silver-edge on a more subdued mauve magenta. It's always interesting to grow these plants from seed and see what you get.

In the single garden primroses, Tony James had grown a strain of 'Osterblutte Blue' from seed, to good effect. Blue primroses seem to have a special place in primrose-grower's hearts. They didn't appear until late in the primrose's history, and we are still waiting for a blue Jack-in-the-Green, though I believe Margaret Webster in England has made this break-through.

If you ever get 'McWatt's Cream' — the yellow stalked Juliana from Britain — and 'Lady Greer' — the yellow stalked Juliana that originated in Ireland and is more commonly available, having been in gardens for ages — side-by-side, and look carefully, you can see the minute differences that result in two different names for similar plants. Both are yellow, and both polyanthus type, but if you look carefully you can see

dark stripes down the calyxes of 'McWatt's Cream' that are not there in 'Lady Greer'. A small difference, but it has the effect of deepening the overall appearance of 'McWatt's Cream'.

The Polyanthus class was nicely filled and provided some feasts for the eye. Tony James, who is an inveterate raiser of seeds, had some very nice hose-in-hose polyanthus raised from seed from Plant World, in Britain. The color range was interesting. The classic clear yellow was present, but so were a number of sunset color shades. Jack-in-the-greens displayed their ruffs in a wide range of colors, red/magenta, orange, and yellow. Two very nice 'Garryard Guineveres' crinkled their leaves in dark beauty, just what they are famous for. This year at the show, artist Sarah Gross from California brought a number of prints of her paintings of primroses, and the Garryard one was striking, as she had captured the wonderful dark leaves exactly.

The best polyanthus in show was an interesting dark matt smokey-red, rather low growing and with a compact habit. But the owner had grown it some time ago from seed. You either liked the duskiess, or you didn't. The condition and form could not be faulted.

A large white polyanthus with Garryard blood somewhere in its background had nice dark stems and slightly bronzed foliage, which set off the flowers well. Another darkly glamorous polyanthus had a fine silver edge. The contrast was very satisfactory.

In the gold-laced group, Maedythe Martin had raised a number from seed,

and one was of quite good form. This was a cross from Lawrence Wigley's Beeches Strain, and a rather good dark-ground one grown by a member of the Society. Tony James had some from seed that ranged into the light-colored lacing on a red ground, and one that was almost a brick color with lacing.

Auriculas

The season was too early for a good auricula display, but the winner in the garden auricula class was a healthy upright plant with very large flowers with a pastel silver shading on pale yellow. Maedythe Martin had a small gold-yellow double auricula raised from APS seed exchange seed that originated with Peter Ward in England.

In the three-pan class there was a trio of classics: yellow, hair colored and black. This was entered by Bryan Davies, who joined APS this year as his new infatuation with primroses has overtaken his restraint, and he had to have even more packets of Primula seed to grow. I expect there to be some interesting things coming in future years.

The show auricula class was a bit thin, but what was there was interesting. The winner was a dark self with a good white eye, entered by Bryan Davies. Maedythe Martin had a number of her striped seedlings, mostly in shades of maroon with silver stripes. These show, stripes and fancies are certainly the aristocrats of the auricula world.

The show (85 pots this year) was a great start to the Primula season, and everyone had a great time looking at the early spring treasures. *Maedythe M.*

2002 Juneau Show

The Juneau Chapter of APS held its 2002 Juneau Primrose Show in conjunction with the biennial Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Conference held in early May. Close to 100 plants were benched by over 10 local members. Several hundred gardeners viewed the wide variety of Primula during the two days of the show.

We were fortunate to have Marie Skonberg from Alaska and Dorothy Springer from Washington to serve as our Senior Judges. With this show, several Juneau members now qualify as senior judges. They are Cheri Fluck, Ed Buyarski, and Robert Tonkin. Thea Oakley came from Washington for the conference and we sold most of the books on primula she brought, along with a good quantity of our 60th Anniversary Editions. We also sold t-shirts from the Eichmans in Washington, and hand-crafted primula mugs made here in Juneau. Several new members were added to the APS membership list.

In addition to the new John O'Brien Denticulata trophy, the Juneau Chapter purchased artwork for present and future Division winners in the Species, Vernales and Best of Show categories. Cheri Fluck won 'Best in Show' with a beautiful white polyanthus. Ed Buyarski was awarded 'Best Species' with his benching of *P. sonchifolia*. Marie Skonberg took "Best Juliae" with her own hybridized 'Devon James'. Cheri also won the new John O'Brien Best Denticulata in Show Trophy as well as

Sweepstakes. Paul Dick took the Novice Division with a nice showing of 'Caroline's Dorothy'.

Thank You to all the Juneau Chapter members who worked so hard to put on a great show! Our Chapter has now coordinated three Primula shows and looks forward to hosting the 2003 American Primrose Society National Show in Juneau, Alaska next May. Respectfully submitted by Pamela Finney, Juneau Chapter President.

Two New Primula Groups Forming

There are two new Primula Groups looking for members. They hope to have informal meetings discussing and learning Primula culture and varieties and plan to visit gardens to see them growing in local conditions. Here is a terrific opportunity for more of our members to learn about our favorite plants.

If you live anywhere near Anchorage, Alaska you may contact Mary Jo Burns for information about meeting times and locations. Her phone number is (907) 248-2827, or email her at burns2@gci.net.

A new group in the Gig Harbor, Washington area will have an organizational meeting on September 14, 2002 from 2-4 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library.



Juneau Show Bench 2002

APS Judges and Shows

By Dorothy Springer

Who are those people who judge APS shows and how do they judge them? Hopefully this article will help explain the process.

All judges of APS shows and affiliated club shows must be an APS member in good standing and possess a current APS judging certificate. They must attend judging seminars and pass a test before becoming a 'Junior Judge', then judge at least three shows prior to certification as an accredited judge.

Qualifications of a good judge include knowledge, experience, fairness, tact and kindness, courage, honesty and integrity.

NO judge should EVER criticize another judge or panel of judges, especially in public. If there is a request for clarification of a judging decision it must be made after ALL the judging is complete. After the judging is complete the judge may quietly and clearly explain the reasons for any decision.

No show is to EVER be re-judged by another set of judges after judging is completed. Communication between exhibitor and judge should be through the show schedule, which is "The Law of the Show".

All exhibits are judged as is when the judge views it – not as it was an hour before that time or not as it will likely be on another day. Judges are not allowed to move an exhibit on the show bench. Exhibits are judged as facing the judges, hopefully with the best side

forward. All moving or turning of exhibits is done by the show clerks.

There are two main systems of judging flower shows. The Standard Flower Show – where exhibits in each class are judged against each other and where only one First, Second or Third (and sometimes honorable mention) ribbons are awarded in each class. APS shows as late as 1969 were judged this way.

The Merit Show – where all exhibits are judged each on their own merit and where ribbons for First, Second or Third (sometimes honorable mention) are awarded to each exhibit if so merited by the judges. This is the judging method that has been used by the American Primrose Society for well over the past thirty years.

Point scoring is learned by judges and is used to determine awards. 85-100 points makes a 1st place or a blue ribbon. 80-85 points makes a 2nd place or red ribbon. 70-80 points makes a 3rd place or white ribbon. Plants scoring below 80 points may be given an honorable mention at the discretion of the judges. 5 points are taken off for unclean/broken pots.

Point Scoring is the evaluation of an exhibit using a system of scores for each characteristic of the particular specimen being judged. Other definitions used by judges during their work may include: Cultural perfection: exemplified by a superior specimen that reflects the ability of the grower to apply the best technique at production, such as variety selection, soil preparation, watering, fertilizing, disease and insect control.

Condition: the physical state of a specimen at the time of judging. Includes consideration of damage caused by climate conditions, insects, fertilizer deficiency or unsightly appearance of soil or other residues on foliage or flower.

Disqualification of Specimen: should be done by the classification people before benching and judging begins. Any non-conformance to the show schedule should be automatically disqualified.

Distinctive: involves the evaluation of all characteristics of a specimen with emphasis on superiority of color, size, form, stem, foliage and condition of exhibit.

Texture: tissue structure of petals and foliage. Sheen is an important indicator of fineness. Coarseness is often a result of over fertilization.

Substance: the firmness and turgidity of the entire specimen and the uniform thickness of the petals.

Genus: the first name of the two part Latin technical name of a plant which includes both genus and species.

Species: a descriptive term which specifies a particular plant type belonging to a certain genus. Example: *Primula japonica*.

A final note. All classes of the primula vernaes section (now know as the Primula section) are judged 50% on the flower and 50% on the foliage with the exception of show Gold Laced Polyanthus which must meet a separate scale of points.

We who judge our APS shows must continue to maintain the high standards of judging set forth during the earlier

years of our society. Those standards may seem overly strict in today's world, but most judges agree they must be upheld. We must also insist on the highest quality possible in our exhibits.

Bibliography,
'Policies' APS 1975, 76, 80, 81, 82, 85, 87, 88
'General Judging of Primulas' APS
'Judging Symposium' APS
'General Guidelines for Shows and Judges' APS

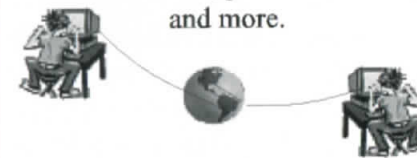
(Dorothy Springer has been judging APS shows in the PNW since the late 1970's. Her bio is printed on page 7. Copies of the above referenced materials are available by request from the APS Secretary.)

Primulas On-Line Official APS website

<http://www.americanprimrosesoc.org>
and

Primula Discussion Group
APS membership not required.

Members from around the world!
Novices to highly experienced.
Email message base, 2 weekly
on-line chats, photo archive
and more.



For more information go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/primulas>
or email:

dbuell@iname.com
terry@mitchell1234.freemove.co.uk

Continued from page 1

In June, Robert Tonkin and I drove from Haines up to Anchorage for the NARGS Annual Meeting. We achieved our goal of finding several species of wild Alaska and Yukon Primulas along the way, though were much less successful in thinning out the local fish populations. You'll have to wait for that article and photos in a future quarterly. Thanks to Pam Eveleigh whose photo display was used to lure people to the APS booth. We were able to sell many of the 60th Edition Quarterlies, gain some new members and send more than a few Primula plants to new homes. I presented a program 'Primulas for Troughs and Rock Gardens' to an appreciative audience.

I'm sure all of you are carefully watching your seed capsules to harvest at the peak of ripeness for our coming Seed Exchange, see the instructions from Jacques Mommens in this issue. He has come up with a method to keep the USDA happy and our gardens safe from undesirable Primula marauders.

Get outside and get gardening!
Ed

From The Editor

After six editions of *Primroses*, I (and others!) thought it time to pen a few lines to our membership.

With membership over 500, our members possess varied ideas of what makes a good copy of *Primroses*. Our membership ranges from the traditional florists; those who breed hybrids of auricula and the GLP, to the casual

weekend gardener, and all levels of skill in between. Having purchased a set of past issues, I have read the past 60 years worth of *Primroses*, many issues much more often than just once. Each time I pick up a back issue I discover something useful that captivates my attention and furthers my knowledge and understanding of primulas. I highly recommend obtaining a set. You will be richly rewarded with practical gardening knowledge, written by gardeners for gardeners, in a common sense style.

When reading through back issues I take time to read the minutes and writings from past editors. I have discovered that editors have always struggled with the task of obtaining good articles and informative content. We all wish to read great articles, but most of us enjoy them more when someone else writes them! It is easy to observe from our written history that the best and most useful articles come from the person holding this issues in their hands, our members.

The American Primrose Society is a Society made up of mostly amateur enthusiasts to share their common knowledge and understanding of this vast genus. *Primroses* is the written record of the experience, advice, and accomplishments of all of us. You, Dear Reader, are the Society. It is your experience, knowledge, and accomplishments that make for great reading by fellow members. You know much more than you think you do about growing Primula in your area. You most likely have the same questions as dozens of fellow members regarding all aspects

of cultivation, collecting, and hybridizing primula.

It is easy to justify the notion that most members feel they should just pay their membership dues and expect that once a quarter they be entertained and informed with forty pages of Primula related text and some nice pictures. However, without those few members who make the effort to share their experience, opinions, advice, and accomplishments, *Primroses* would not evoke that warm feeling of anticipation that moves through you when you look in your mailbox and see the Quarterly envelope; knowing your future holds a few hours of gardening joy. How much did you just enjoy reading Maedythe Martin's outstanding show reports? Not only did you find out who grew what, but you probably learned more about the plants on the bench than walking through the showroom yourself.

Now I know you're sitting there thinking to yourself that you aren't a writer, or a photographer; or you think you may be made to look "uninformed" in a crowd of "experts" with your novice questions and simple observations. Not to worry! I can take your thoughts, ideas, experience, advice and pictures and attempt to work them into articles all the membership would enjoy reading. I should pause here to explain my general practice of editing submitted articles. Normally a submitted article will not be edited, save basic spelling, unless the author requests it.

This is a publication of member enthusiasts, mostly regular dirt gardeners. It is not a technical journal,

although occasionally technical issues are of interest to a significant portion of the membership, and care needs to be taken to ensure accuracy. I will not rewrite a submitted article in any way unless asked to do so. I will then share those edits with the author prior to printing. We will work together to work your content and make an attractive article.

Please give consideration to making a contribution to *Primroses*. We would especially enjoy learning about growing Primula in Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maine, Illinois, and other areas not often heard from. Not only will you save me from twisting the arms of the usual suspects who write articles for us (Thank You Again Maedythe and Linda Bailey!), but I believe by doing so you will come to feel closer to a Society with a very rich history.

Articles may be hand written (so long as I can decipher them), typed, on floppy, zip or CD disk, or in an email. Articles should probably deal with some aspect of Primula. While you may find your roses and trilliums of great merit and joy, those subjects are best left for other venues.

If you think you simply can't write an article please pen a note or email me to let me know what you like and what you don't like about *Primroses*. We are always looking for ways to improve the quality of the publication and would appreciate your contribution in meeting that goal.

Robert Tonkin, Editor

**2001 Seed Report
All Seed Donors and Seed
Requestors
Please Read This Report!!**

Now is the time again to think of the next seed exchange. Judging by the number and size of requests we received last year, this is indeed a very popular service. We fully intend to have it bigger and better this year, and of course we need your generous collaboration.

What was popular in 2001-2002? Difficult to say because there were basically three main groups of primula enthusiasts: those interested ONLY in species, those interested ONLY in auriculas, and the others.

Species?: *P. reidii*, *forbesii*, *sharmae*, *minkwitziae*, *pamirica* and the petiolares. In fact, everything new with the exchange was quickly grabbed, along with standard favorites. Auriculas?: the doubles, the stripes, and the show. The most sought after (of all the entries) was 'double auriculas'. Black self was very popular too.

In the section 'Primula', hose-in-hose, jack-in-the-green and gold laced were the favorites. And then of course people wanted named strains of sieboldii. But nobody wanted *P. japonica magenta*, not one person!

Several people complained that sometimes (too often), there were only 5 seeds in a packet, which means 1 or 2 seedlings! We would have liked to put 10 or more, but we can only distribute what we receive. Either we give more people a small chance to grow the rarities, or we give fewer people a better chance of success. This year we shall try to put at least 10 seeds per packet. So, please, generous donors: be generous!

This year we shall do without a donation form: we do not want paper and paper work, but we want seeds, CLEAN seeds, in good sealed envelopes and properly labeled. By

properly labeled we mean species of course, color (if there are several possible colors). If all you have is a name of a strain or a form, please, add the 'section' to avoid ambiguities and duplications (If we receive seeds of *Primula* 'Spring Wonder', at least we should be told whether it is an auricula, a polyanthus, a juliana, a sieboldii....?)

Where to send seeds and what is the deadline? Ideally we would like to have received the seeds by October 31, 2002. For very late maturing seeds, please send the list before October 31, and then the seeds when they are ready.

Now the most important item!!

Donors from the USA should send seeds to the old address (APS Seed Exchange, P.O. Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546). Canadian and overseas donors should be aware that the USDA has issued seed import regulations and will strictly enforce them. All imported seeds must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. Without a certificate, seeds cannot be imported legally and may be confiscated by U.S. Customs. If you can get the certificate, great, thank you, send the seeds as usual to the APS address. We understand that these regulations impose an extra burden and expense to donors. So...., we shall have several people who will be able to help us solve that difficulty, and obtain the proper certificates.

To potential donors from Canada, the UK, etc who cannot obtain the phyto-certificate, we ask you to write us -or e-mail (mommens@advinc.com) to tell us what they intend to send. We shall then reply giving detailed instructions where and how to send the seeds. (See addresses opposite page. Ed.) Complicated procedures perhaps, but it is for a good cause. Thanks in advance for your seed contributions.

*Jacques Mommens
Seed Exchange Committee
New England Chapter*

Quarterly Librarian Report

The President's Quarterly Set has been completed. Thanks go to Addaline Robinson, Oregon; Candy Strickland, Tacoma; Cy and Rita Happy, Tacoma; Charlotte Allen in memory of Irene Morris, McMinnville; Eileen Trzynka, Hillsboro; Anita Lockhart in memory of Reba Jorgensen; Sequim; Leah Burt, Tom McCrea, N. Wales; Elise Felton, Southwest Harbor, ME; Jill Reid who sent them in memory of her Mother who had recently passed away, Bellevue; Torben and Hanne Skov, Denmark; Jay and Ann Lunn, Hillsboro; Michael Plumb, Vancouver; Maedythe Martin, Victoria; Members of the Vancouver Group. I hope I have not forgotten anyone on the list. I now have some

issues I have been missing at earlier times. Check your set and let me know what is missing that you need. I have 6 sets that are nearly complete 1943-1997 of the original Quarterlies for \$65. If anyone will be looking for some fall & winter reading let me know if you would like one of these sets. Cheri Fluck

APS Book Librarian Report

New books on hand include:

Auriculas for Everyone, Mary Robinson, \$19.95;

Auriculas, Brenda Hyatt, \$19.95;

The Genus Primula, Halda, \$20.00;

Primroses and Polyanthus,

Peter Ward, \$35.00;

Florist's Flowers, Duthie, \$9.00.

**2002 CANADIAN AND FOREIGN
SEED EXCHANGE DONOR COLLECTION POINTS**

Canadian Seed Donors please send seed to:

Ruby Chong

6870 Union St. Burnaby, B.C. V5B 1X5 Canada

All Foreign Seed Donors please send seed to:

Richard Austin

10 Forestside Gardens, Poulner, Ringwood, Hants,
BH24 1SZ, United Kingdom.

APS Board Minutes

The APS Board meeting was held in conjunction with the 2002 National Show at VanDusen Gardens, Vancouver, B.C., April 20, 2002. In attendance were Thea O., Elaine M., Mary I., Cheri F., Ed B., Pam E., Ruby C., Maedythe M., and Robert T. Proxies were held by attending individuals for Julia H., Pam F., Terry M., Judy S., and Roger E.

The issue of whether or not to mail a Winter Quarterly, being the first issue of a new subscription year, to expired members was brought up. Discussion followed. It was voted to red stamp dues reminders on the envelopes of the last issue of each year to all members, followed by a post card reminder mailed near years end to expiring members. No new Winter Quarterly will be sent to expired members.

The 2001-2002 seed exchange report was distributed prior to the meeting. The society cleared \$1100 from the proceeds of the years exchange. It was voted to exempt foreign members from any charges for future years seed exchanges. Canada was not considered foreign.

The need for judging rule revisions and the need for more judges was discussed. No action was taken at this time.

The issue of an audit of the books of the Society was discussed. It was determined that an audit of our books would cost between \$700 and \$1000. It was voted not to do an audit at this time. Several alternatives to a costly audit were discussed and the Board decided it would consider those alternatives as they were proposed.

After discussion the Board voted to award gift certificates for APS use in various amounts as prizes for the 2002 China Seed Photo Contest. First place will be \$75, 2nd place \$50, 3rd place \$25. Five honorable mentions will receive their seeds for the year at no cost.

The Juneau Chapter announced it had voted to host the 2003 National Show should the New England Chapter be asked and decline. The New England Chapter did decline to host the 2003 National Show. It was decided Juneau would host the 2003 National Show unless another Chapter or Group stepped forward to do so, at which time discussion on the issue would reopen.

There was discussion of the Quarterly editing and content. Board members were again reminded of the Editor's need for articles and suggestions for articles. Editing help is welcomed to continue to improve the quality of our Quarterly.

Robert T. made a motion asking National to pay \$150 of the \$300 registration fee for him to travel to and host an APS booth full time at the 2002 North American Rock Garden Conference being held in Anchorage the second week of June. Discussion for and against the motion followed. Robert withdrew the motion prior to a final vote.

President Ed was reminded after the meeting that new Board Members Mary Kordes and Phyllis Petrovich had not been officially welcomed to the Board and would like to do so at this time. The Board wishes to thank both Ruby Chong and Roger Eichman for their service to the Society.

Respectfully, Robert Tonkin

Plant Societies

National Auricula and Primula Society

Invites all auricula and primula lovers to join this old society. Membership includes yearbook.
<http://www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk>

Northern Section

D.G. Hadfield

146 Queens Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 5HY England

Midland and West Section

David Tarver

9 Church St, Belton, Loughborough, Leicestershire, England LE12 9UG

Southern Section

Lawrence E. Wigley

67 Warnham Court Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, England SM5 3ND

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<http://www.nargs.org/index.html>



New Zealand Alpine Garden Society

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Want More Primroses?

Back issues of the A.P.S. quarterly, Primroses, are available from the A.P.S. Quarterly Librarian. Prices depend on the issue date:

1996-2002 \$6.50/copy
1990-1995 \$4/copy
1970-1989 \$2.50/copy
1990 & before \$1.50/copy

For availability or for ordering please contact:

Cheri Fluck
17275 Point Lena Loop Rd.
Juneau, AK 99801-8310
USA
Tel: (907) 789-0595
FAX: (907) 789-2593
cheril@gci.net

Primula Websites of Interest

The following not-for-profit websites are provided as a resource for APS members who share a common interest in Primroses.

American Primrose Society
<http://www.americanprimrosesoc.org/>

National Auricula and Primrose Society
<http://www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk>

PrimulaWorld
<http://www.primulaworld.com>

Primulas Auriculas Alpines & Shows
<http://www.wilkin94.fsnet.co.uk/>

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PS Form 3526, October 1999

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i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15f, times 100)	54.5%	62.7%
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21. Date: *4/12/02*

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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)



American Primrose Society
P.O. Box 210913
Auke Bay, AK 99821



The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in Primula together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and the interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden the genus Primula in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about Primula.

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to the quarterly publication *Primroses*, Seed Exchange privileges, Slide Library, and the opportunity to join a Round Robin. Membership renewals are due November 15th and are delinquent at the first of the year.

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