



Primroses

THE QUARTERLY OF THE AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

WINTER 2008 | VOL. 66 | No. 1



Primroses

*The Quarterly of the
American Primrose Society*

Volume 66 No 1

Winter 2008

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 of the genus *Primula* in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about *Primula*.

Contents

President's Message by Lee Nelson.....	3
A Fortune of Plants by Joan N. Fraser.....	5
Candelabra Primula by Michael Plumb.....	9
and Chart.....	10
2008 National Show Program.....	12
Benching Schedule.....	13
Trophies and Rules.....	14
Registration Form.....	15
Pins and Thrums.....	16
Matt Mattus' Growing with Plants.....	17
Doretta Klaber's <i>Primroses in Spring</i>	23
Cloud Hill Revisited by Susan E. Schnare.....	25
Castle Hill Oxlips by Alan Lawrence.....	28
Collecting and Keeping the old Quarterlies by Linda Bailey.....	30
Chapter News.....	32
Minutes.....	35
Directors of the Society Ballot.....	37
Officers of the Chapters and New Members.....	39

Credits: Photos and text reproduced with permission by Doretta Klaber

Front Cover: *P. bulleyana* from Hatley Park at Royal Roads University, Victoria, BC. Photo: Jane Guild
Back Cover: American Primrose Society National Show 2008 in Victoria BC Canada - see inside for details, schedule and registration form.

OFFICERS

Lee Nelson, President
8 Peer Street
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 648-5995
fax 648-8397
hort@frontiernet.net
primulee@hotmail.com

Judith Sellers, Vice President
2297 County Highway 18
South New Berlin, NY 13843-3158
jsellers@frontiernet.net

Michael Plumb, Secretary
9341 Kingsley Crescent
Richmond, BC V7A 4V6
(604) 241-0498
mp-9341-rp@uniserve.com

Jon Kawaguchi, Treasurer
3524 Bowman Court
Alameda, CA 94502
(510) 331-3337
mogeura@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Through 2009

Rodney Barker
49 Woodcliff Road
Newton Highlands, MA 02461
rodney@justice.com

Julia Haldorson, Membership
P.O. Box 210913
Auke Bay, AK 99821
julia-haldorson@ak.net

Through 2008

Marianne I. Kuchel
1815 Blood Brook Road
Fairlee, VT 05045
(802) 333-4835
roland.k.kuchel@valley.net

Mary Jo Burns
4169 Westwood Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907) 248-2827
burns2@gci.net

Through 2007

Linda Bailey
1720 Highway 20 East
Coleville, WA 99114
(509) 684-8936
lbailey@plix.com

Primroses

Editor
Jane Guild
3080 Michelson Road
Sooke BC V0S 1N0 Canada
editor@americanprimrosesociety.org

Editorial Committee
Maedythe Martin
Judith Sellers
Michael Plumb
Alan Lawrence
Susan Gray

Editorial Deadlines
Winter issue - October 15
Spring issue - January 15
Summer issue - April 15
Autumn issue - July 15

©American Primrose Society 2007
Primroses (ISSN 0162-6671) is published by the American Primrose, *Primula* and *Auricula* Society. All material printed in the quarterly, except as noted, is copyright by APS. No part may be reproduced without the permission of APS. Manuscripts for publication are invited, though there is no payment. Send articles, preferably in Microsoft Word, directly to the editor.

Photographs are credited and used only with the permission of the photographer. Photos submitted to the editor are preferred in 300 dpi digital format but other images can be accepted. Any material used that has previously appeared elsewhere is properly credited and used with the permission of the original publisher and/or creator.

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to *Primroses*, seed exchange privileges, password to the member's only section of the APS web site (the Pictorial Dictionary is here) and use of the slide library.

Dues for individual or household membership, domestic and Canada are:
\$25 per calendar year
\$70 for three years
Overseas rates are:
\$32 per calendar year
\$90 for three years.
Membership renewals are due November 15 and are delinquent January 1.
Submit payment to the treasurer.

Advertising rates per issue:
Full page: \$100
Half page: \$50
1/4 page: \$25
1/8 page: \$12.50
Contact the treasurer for details.

President's Message

LEE NELSON

Hello Everyone,

Winter has finally arrived here in New York. We saw our first snow last week - just a light covering so far, but I'm sure there is much more to follow. The way time flies, it won't be long before primrose season is upon us. I'm already thinking spring. That sounds like the eternal optimist I know, but I'm known as a positive thinker.

Now that I can't get out in the garden, I'm still able to get my primrose fix. Earlier this year I took advantage of the generous offer from our Quarterly Librarian, Cherri Fluck, to fill orders for a complete set of the old Q's to members for the low price of \$25.00. What a bargain! These old quarterlies contain a fantastic treasure trove of information. Not only have I gained a better understanding of the history of our society, but have been able to read articles written by some of the leading experts on the genus *Primula*. A few issues that duplicated what I already had were passed on to a friend who is now entranced with our favorite flower. She'll become a new member I'm sure.

Another thing I'd like to remind you of is that as a member you have access to the society's slide/CD library. E-mail Mary Malloy (scmgirl77@aol.com) for details.

Two other reminders: Don't forget to check the website americanprimrosesociety.org around mid-December for the seedex list. For a written copy, you must send your request to Jacques Mommens P.O. Box 67 Millwood, NY 10546-0067 USA. Jacques and Judy have been busy obtaining special seeds so you won't want to miss participating in our seed exchange. And lastly, annual membership dues should be sent to Jon by January 31.

I'm hearing great things from the west coast (Victoria) and their exciting plans for the National Show. I'm thrilled about the opportunity to meet all the new folks who are so far just names. They will soon have faces to go with their names.

Mark your calendars for April 24th – 27th and join us in beautiful Victoria, Canada for the APS National Show 2008. See details inside this issue.

Michael and Rhondda, and their committee are putting together a great program, and what a great city to stage it in.

US members don't forget, if you fly into Canada you now need a passport. Check to see that yours is current and if not, now is the time to renew or apply for a new one. If you're driving, the new regulations state that you don't need a passport if you show both your driver's license and a birth certificate. Regarding taking plants for the show, Michael and I will check into this and let everyone know the details. You will need a phytosanitary certificate.

If any of the chapters are putting out a local newsletter, I would be delighted if you'd share a copy with me.

Thank you, and I hope to see you all in Victoria.

Lee

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

NORTHERN SECTION

Please consider joining the National Auricula and Primula Society - Northern Section. Overseas memberships are some of the best ways to learn more about your favorite plants. Benefits include publications and more. Write: Mr. K. Leeming, 3 Daisybank Drive, Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 4JR
Overseas membership £7.50 (\$10.00 US)
Please make checks payable to NAPS.
www.auriculas.org.uk

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society

Midland & West Section



A Fortune of Plants

JOAN N. FRASER

Robert Fortune was the first professional plant collector to go to China. His first trip, in 1843, was a triumph. The timing was right; there was an excellent sponsor for an expedition, new collecting techniques promised better results with the specimens, and Fortune had the expertise and discipline to make it a success.

China's plants and gardens were mentioned in Marco Polo's tale of his travels (1298), but for the next five centuries they were mostly an exotic rumor. China did not welcome foreigners, and those who went were subject to strict internal controls preventing them from exploring inland. Early in the 1800's diplomats and travelers had "botanized" locally, notably in Canton and Macao. Much changed when the Opium War ended and the Treaty of Nanking was signed in 1842. Now foreigners not only had access to four new treaty ports, including Shanghai, but also they were permitted inland travel of up to 40 or 50 miles.

This prospect enthralled John Reeves, a Canton retiree who lived in London and was a member of the Royal Horticultural Society. The lure of exploring the previously forbidden country was so enticing that he persuaded the Society to set up a "Chinese Committee" with

the intent of finding a qualified collector to send there as soon as possible. They offered a salary of 100 pounds per annum, clear of all deductions, and an expense allowance of 500 pounds.

Collecting expeditions to far-flung areas of the world were frequently disappointing because the specimens and seeds did not survive the long journey back to England. But in 1829, Dr. Nathaniel Ward made the serendipitous discovery that plants would thrive if they were kept under glass in a tightly sealed jar. The herbarium, or "Wardian Case", is described as "one of the most important botanic/economic discoveries of the Victorian age"¹ and it was so celebrated that the period is described in some botanical circles as



"the Wardian Age".

Ultimately the success of the trip depended on the man chosen for the job. Robert Fortune was a professional gardener. Born in 1812 at Kelloe in Berwickshire, he went to a parish school before apprenticing as a gardener. In 1839 he was hired by the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh under the noted gardener William McNabb. Three years later, in 1842, he was hired as superintendent of the Hothouse Department at the Horticultural

Society's garden at Chiswick. When it came time to hire for the collector's job, Fortune had the advantage of being known to the Society. He applied for and got the position.

The Scot showed his canniness during discussions about outfitting the expedition. Polite but firm, he won over the Chinese Committee's objections to firearms. "I think Mr. Reeves is perfectly right in the majority of cases- that a stick is the best defense – but we must not forget that China has been the seat of war for some time past, and that many of the inhabitants will bear the English no good-will. Besides, I may have an opportunity, some time, to get a little into the country, and a stick will scarcely frighten an armed Chinaman."² (His foresight was justified when he was able to drive off, with the help of his double barreled fowling piece, three attacks by pirates.) All in all, the kit for the journey into an unknown land included "a spade and trowels, a life preserver, a fowling piece and pistols, a Chinese dictionary, and long and detailed instructions."³

The instructions included the statements as to the purpose of the journey. "The general objects of your mission are, 1st, to collect seeds and plants of an ornamental or useful kind, not already cultivated in Great Britain, and 2nd, to obtain information upon Chinese gardening and agriculture together

2 Cox, p. 77.

3 Michael Tyler-Whittle, *The plant hunters*, New York, PAG Publications, 1988, p 186.

with the nature of the climate and its apparent influence on vegetation."⁴ It seems likely that the instructions were part of earlier discussions, but Fortune received the written ones only three days before his departure on the *Emu* in February 1843.

Among other things, he was to keep a detailed journal, even on the outward journey, when he was to observe changes to the plants and seeds that had been provided for him to use as presents. His contract provided a fussy list of the plants the Society wanted him to collect, as well detailed information on the way they should be packed and shipped. Specimens were to be sent back in Wardian cases, and, furthermore, he was to "take care to impress upon the minds of the Captains the indispensable necessity of the glazed boxes being kept in the light, on the poop if possible, or on the deck, or failing that, in the Main Mizen-top."⁵ Apparently Fortune was the first to make extensive use of Wardian cases.

In other respects, the Society, knowing little about the country, gave him a free hand. "The Society cannot foresee what it may be possible for you to accomplish during your residence in China; which according to their present views they wish to limit to one year, and they therefore leave you to act upon your own judgment as to

4 Cox, p 78. The instructions in full are listed on pp 77 – 83.

5 E.H.M. Cox, *Plant-hunting in China*, London, Collins, 1945, p. 78

the details connected with entering the country or forming collections.... The Council do not feel able to determine what ports you should visit, or in what directions you should conduct your researches, the relations between China and England being too uncertain...."⁶

After a four month voyage the ship reached China. The first sight of "bare and unproductive hills" was disappointing. Fortune did not explore far inland, but he did hire local help. He spent a good deal of time in Chusan and Shanghai, and, being a practical man, he found many plants in gardens. "He had a real flair for collecting, and, above all, had perfect judgment about the necessary requirements for a good garden plant. This is noticeable throughout all his many years in the East. It may be said that, when no one had been there previously to skim the cream off the milk, the separation of one from the other was a simple matter. But Fortune introduced very few mediocre plants; his average was distinctly high....one of the first of his finds to reach England was *Anemone japonica* (now called *A.elegans*)...he at once dispatched roots and by 1844 it was in flower at Chiswick".⁷

One of his favorite introductions was *Weigela rosea*, and other plants sent from this first expedition included *Lonicera fragrantissima*, *Jasminum nudiflorum*, *Dicentra spectabilis*, *Platycodon grandiflora*, *Forsythia viridissima*, *Chamaerops*

6 Cox, p 79.

7 Cox, pp 84 and 85

fortunei, *Ilex cornuta*, and *Cryptomeria japonica*. He also sent back several varieties of tree peonies and of *Rhododendron (Azalea) obtusan*, as well as the parent plants for pompom chrysanthemums. He returned to England in 1845, his last specimens stowed in eighteen Wardian cases on the poop deck of the ship. In recognition of his accomplishment he was made curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

But the routine of this work paled in comparison to the adventures of life in China. By 1848 he was off again; this time working for the East India Company, which employed him for the difficult work of collecting Chinese tea for growing in the highlands of India. "Nothing speaks more highly for Fortune's skill as a traveler and intensity of purpose than his collection of tea plants and seeds....He traveled as a native from a distant province."⁸

His first shipment to Calcutta was a disappointment because few seeds germinated; the next shipment worked because he sowed the seeds in Wardian cases. In 1851 he completed the work and sailed to Calcutta with 2000 tea plants and 17,000 germinated seedlings.

His "success as a tea smuggler" ⁹ prompted the Company to hire him again, from 1853 to 1856, for a similar expedition. On both these expeditions he also found garden plants; on the first he discovered *Cypress funebris*

8 Cox p 88. According to Tyler-Whittle, p 188, he used "smoked spectacles, a trap umbrella and a hat not unlike the tarboosh of a Turk."

9 Tyler-Whittle, p 190.

and *Berberis (Mahonia) bealei*, and on the second, *Primulus triboia* and *Rhododendron fortunei*.

His fourth trip was for the United States Patent Office, in 1858, to collect plants and study Chinese horticulture.

His final trip was a private one in 1860-61. For the first time he went to Japan, newly open to foreigners. Conditions were similar to those for his first trip to China – travel was restricted, but he was able to collect many plants from private gardens, nurseries, inns and temples. Among other plants he found new varieties of chrysanthemums. He reintroduced *Deutzia scabra flore pleno*, and fragrant osmanthus, named after him *O. fortunei*. But he considered his greatest find to be *Primula japonica*, which he described as “Queen of the Primroses.”

Fortune wrote four books: *Three years wanderings in the northern provinces of China*, 1847; *A journey to the tea countries of China*, 1852; *A resident among the Chinese*, 1857; *Yedo and Peking*, 1863, and articles for *Gardeners' chronicle* and the *Journal of the RHS*. After his return to England he retired to a farm in Berwickshire.

“Above all he had a marvelous eye for a plant, and his technique in packing and shipping his introductions was beyond all praise. There is no man in the history of plant introduction who has lost fewer plants. There have been greater plant collectors, but no plant introducer has excelled Robert Fortune.”¹⁰

Edelweiss Perennials

New and old alpine intros from Switzerland & Europe:

- Cyclamen coum selections
- Cyclamen hederifolium silver leaved
- Dodecatheon p. 'Red Wings'
- Primula allionii 'Blood Flake'
- Primula 'Feuerkoenig'
- Primula marginata 'Amethyst'
from original breeders stock
- companion plants like:
 - Edelweiss
 - Gentianas

Well established plants in 3 1/2" pots

Free Catalog

29800 S. Barlow Rd.
Canby, OR 97013
balts@canby.com

Mail Order

Shipping in
the US only

Open by appointment • 503-263-4680

www.edelweissperennials.com

SEED EXCHANGE LIST

Will be available online
very soon - check it at
americanprimrosesociety.com

If you prefer a hard copy,
write to:

Jacques Mommens
P.O. Box 67
Millwood, NY
10546 USA

jmommens@westnet.com

Candelabra Primula

(Sub-genus Aleuritia, section Proliferae)

MICHAEL PLUMB

The candelabra primroses are very colorful garden plants, and, in Michael and Rhondda's opinion, often dismissed or overlooked. For one of the B.C. Primula Group meetings last year we decided to talk about this group, and Michael and Rhondda put together a chart, listing some of the attributes of each plant. Here are their notes, and the chart, for your reference and enjoyment. Jane Guild, the editor, took pictures of a number of the candelabra primroses at Royal Roads University which show their handsome flowers in great profusion.

- General distribution – E. Nepal through Sikkim, Bhutan, S.E. Tibet, Assam, N. Burma to N.E. Yunnan and E. Sichuan; also in Java, Sumatra, Japan, and Taiwan.
- The majority of this section are concentrated in the border region of Yunnan-Burma-Assam-Tibet, a zone of high monsoon rainfall and deep snow. Thirteen of 23 species are in the region of the Salween, Mekong and Yangtze rivers.
- Only *P. prolifera* and the Aleuritia species *P. magellanica* occur in the southern hemisphere.
- Pax called them Proliferae in 1889, but Balfour later named them Candelabra because he thought Pax was disorganized, but we now refer to them as Proliferae, because out of 14 species Pax got 10 right; however, most of the Proliferae are still sold as “candelabra” primula.
- It is thought that the Proliferae represent the most primitive primula. Most primula can be shown to derive from Proliferae
- Many of these primula are among the easiest to grow, soundly perennial, and fully hardy. They must never be allowed to dry out. Heat, drought, or dry, deep shade will kill them. They need acidic soil to thrive. They grow well with rhododendrons and other acid-loving shrubs or in bog and water gardens.
- Most will self-sow easily. Most are herbaceous and form almost inconspicuous buds at the soil level in winter.
- They Benefit from a nutritious top dressing of mulch in winter.
- Seeds have only a short period of viability.

Name	Origin	Native growing conditions	Brief Description	Blooming time
<i>P. aurantiaca</i>	West Yunnan	beside streams, alpine pastures	deep red-orange flowers - stems to 30 cm	June to August
<i>P. beesiana</i> (Richards says <i>beesiana</i> is a sub-species of <i>bulleyana</i>)	NW Yunnan, SW Sichuan	moist mountain meadows, damp open forest	flowers rose-carmine with yellow eye and orange tube - stems to 60 cm	June to August
<i>P. bulleyana</i>	NW Yunnan	moist mountain meadows	flowers start crimson, become orange-yellow when mature - stems to 70 cm	June to August
<i>P. x bullesiana</i>	garden hybrid		multi-coloured flowers, yellow to crimson	June to August
<i>P. burmanica</i> (Halda says <i>burmanica</i> is a form of <i>beesiana</i>)	Burma-Yunnan frontier	marshy meadows, wet clearings in conifer forests	purple to crimson flowers with a greenish-orange eye and purple tube - stems to 60 cm	May to June
<i>P. chungensis</i>	Bhutan, Assam, W Sichuan, W Yunnan	marshes, wet ground beside streams in conifer forests	yellow to orange - stems to 80 cm	May to August
<i>P. cockburniana</i>	SW Sichuan	marshy, alpine meadows	dark orange tinged with red - stems to 40 cm	June to August
<i>P. cooperi</i> (?) (only collected once)	Sikkim (India)	sandy stream sides and wet grassy slopes	uniformly yellow flowers, aromatic leaves - stems to 30 cm	June to August
<i>P. helodoxa</i> (Richards says it is a form of <i>prolifera</i>)	NE Burma, NW Yunnan	stream sides, damp alpine meadows	bright golden-yellow, some farina on the scape, evergreen - stems to 100 to 120 cm	June to August
<i>P. japonica</i>	all the main islands of Japan	wet sites along mountain streams	purplish-red flowers - stems to 45 cm 'Postford White' - white with orange eye 'Miller's Crimson' - dark red with dark red eye 'Valley Red' - scarlet with an orange eye	May to August (in cultivation probably the first to flower)
<i>P. mallophylla</i> (never in cultivation)	East and South Sichuan	damp meadows and mountain stream sides	deep yellow flowers - stems to 30 cm	May to August
<i>P. melanodonta</i>	NE Burma, SE Tibet and northern India	muddy alpine slopes and stream sides	bright yellow flowers - stems to 25 cm	June to August
<i>P. miyabeana</i>	Taiwan (Mt. Morrison)	shady mountain woods	purple flowers, farina in calyx is yellow - stems to 60 cm	May to August

Name	Origin	Native growing conditions	Brief Description	Blooming time
<i>P. morsheadiana</i> (Richards has moved this to <i>Sikkimensis</i>)	SE Tibet	grassy, stony, damp slopes	golden-yellow flowers - stems to 24 cm (according to Halda - no record of it in cultivation)	June to August
<i>P. poissonii</i>	SW Sichuan, West Yunnan	boggy, meadows	deep, purple-crimson flowers with a yellow eye, evergreen - stems to 45 cm	June to August
<i>P. polonensis</i>	Assam	stream banks and wet rocks	bright yellow flowers - stems to 35 cm	June to August
<i>P. prenantha</i> (rare in cultivation)	Bhutan, NE Burma, SE Tibet, Assam, Sikkim, East Nepal near Mt. Everest	boggy slopes, wet meadows, moist gravel on cliffs	brilliant chrome-yellow, cup-shaped flowers, probably the smallest primula in this section, evergreen - stems to 15 cm	May
<i>P. prolifera</i>	Bhutan, North Burma, South Yunnan, Assam, Sumatra, Java	stream sides and marshy places	pale to golden-yellow flowers, but also muddy violet, evergreen - stems to 60 cm	May to August
<i>P. pulverulenta</i>	West Sichuan	marshy slopes, stream banks	carmen-red with dark purple eye, white farina on stems - stems to 100 cm	May to August
<i>P. secundiflora</i> (only known hybrids with <i>poissonii</i>)	NW Yunnan, SW Sichuan, SE Tibet	near glaciers on alpine meadows, swampy places on limestone and clay slate, near clumps of rhododendrons	reddish purple or deep red flowers, evergreen, two whorls of pendant flowers, great variability in size depending on origin of parent - low-lying plants much bigger - stems 10 to 90 cm	June to August
<i>P. serratifolia</i>	NE Burma, SE Tibet, Yunnan	high damp mountain meadows (difficult to establish in cultivation)	large, yellow bell-shaped semi-pendant flowers, each petal lobe has a central bar of deep orange, evergreen - stems to 45 cm	June to August
<i>P. smithiana</i> (Richards says it is a form of <i>prolifera</i>)	Bhutan, SE Tibet	wet meadows, stream banks	pale yellow flowers - stems to 60cm	June to July
<i>P. stenodonta</i> (Could be a variety of <i>poissonii</i> or <i>wilsonii</i>)	NE Yunnan	marshy meadows	reddish-violet flowers - stems to 30 cm	June to August
<i>P. wilsonii</i>	Sichuan and Yunnan	damp mountain meadows	red to purple flowers, aromatic leaves - stems to 90 + cm	June to August
<i>P. wilsonii</i> var. <i>anisodora</i>	Sichuan and Yunnan	moist open pastures	deep purple almost black flowers, aromatic leaves - stems to 60cm (Halda)	June to August

American Primrose Society 58th National Show (2008)

Sponsored by the

B.C. Primula Group and the Primrose Group of
VIRAGS

Friday, April 25, 12:00 noon to 5:00pm
and Saturday, April 26, 9:00am to 4:00pm

Cadboro Bay United Church
2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria, B.C. Canada V8X 4M3

Show Entries Accepted
Thursday, April 24 from 4:00pm to 9:00pm
and Friday, April 25 from 8am to 9am.

Talks and Workshop:

- April 25, 1:00pm – Alaskan Primula: Ed Buyarski
- April 25, 2:30pm – Primula of the Tibetan Plateau: Pam Eveleigh
- April 26, 10:00am – Creative Approaches to Photographing Flowers: Pam Eveleigh (Bring your digital camera)
- April 26, 11:30am – The Gardens at Royal Roads University

Banquet: Friday April 25 (Chinese Seafood Restaurant)

Garden Tours: Sunday, April 27 (Transportation will be arranged)

Annual general Meeting is scheduled for Saturday afternoon

Show Stewards: Michael and Rhondda Plumb

Tel: 1-604-241-0498

Email: mandrplumb@shaw.ca

Please check the APS website for updates and links to hotels and travel information: www.americanprimrosesociety.org



American Primrose Society 58th National Show

DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

DIVISION I - POLYANTHUS

Section A – Polyanthus
Section B – Jack-in-the-Green
Section C – Poly/Acaulis
Section D – Hose-in-Hose
Section E – Cowichan
Section F – Any other poly

DIVISION II – ACAULIS (vulgaris)

Section A – Hybrids
Section B – Doubles
Section C – Jack-in-the-Green
Section D – Any other

DIVISION III – JULIAE HYBRIDS

Section A – Stalked form
Section B – Cushion form
Section C – Stalked/Cushion
Section D – Any other

DIVISION IV – AURICULAS

Section A – Garden/Border Auricula
Section B – Double Auricula

DIVISION V – EXHIBITION PLANTS

Minimum three open pips, thrums only

Section A – Show Auricula
Class 1 – White Edge
Class 2 – Gray Edge
Class 3 – Green Edge
Class 4 – Self
Class 5 – Fancies and Stripes
Section B – Alpine Auricula
Class 1 – Light Center
Class 2 – Gold Center
Section C – Gold-Laced Polyanthus

DIVISION VI – SPECIES

Minimum two open pips
Section A – Auriculastrum
Class 1 – Marginata
Class 2 – Auricula
Class 3 – Pubescens hybrids
Class 4 – Any other
Section B – Aleuritica (Farinosae)
Section C – Primula (Vernales)
Class 1 – Elatior
Class 2 – Veris
Class 3 – Vulgaris
Class 4 – Any other
Section D – Denticula
Section E – Proliferae (Candelabra)
Class 1 – Japonica
Class 2 – Any other
Section F – Crystallophomis
Class 1 – Chionantha
Class 2 – Any other
Section G – Petiolaris
Section H – Oreophomis

Class 1 – Rosea
Class 2 – Any other
Section I – Cortusoides
Class 1 – Sieboldii
Class 2 – Any other
Section J – Sikkimensis
Section K – Any other

DIVISION VII – SEEDLINGS

A plant grown by the exhibitor from Seed, showing its maiden spring bloom, at least two open pips, not more than three crowns. Maximum of four entries/section/exhibitor.

Section A – Polyanthus
Section B – Acaulis
Section C – Juliae Hybrid
Section D – Aleuritica (Farinosae)
Section E – Garden Auricula
Section F – Alpine Auricula
Section G – Show Auricula
Section H – Denticulata
Section I – Doubles
Section J – Any other

DIVISION VIII – GREENHOUSE

Section A – Malacoides
Section B – Obconica
Section C – Sinensis
Section D – X Kewensis
Section E – Any other

DIVISION IX – ODDITIES AND RARITIES

Plants which are rare by virtue of limited supply or infrequent occurrence such as Jack-a-napes on Horseback or Gallygaskins or other novelties.

DIVISION X – HYBRIDIZING

Must be grown by seed produced by the exhibitor. Limit of three entries per exhibitor.

DIVISION XI – DECORATIVE

Arrangement in which Primula must predominate. Accessories and other flowers and foliage permitted.

DIVISION XII – OTHER GENERA IN PRIMULACEAE

Section A – Androceae
Section B – Cortusa
Section C – Cyclamen, in flower
Section D – Cyclamen, not in flower
Section E – Dodecatheon
Section F – Soldanella
Section G – Any other

DIVISION XIII – GROWERS EXHIBIT

Display of six Primula plants in one container
Class 1 – Six same species
Class 2 – Six related species or hybrida
Class 3 – Six unrelated

DIVISION XIV FOLIAGE PRIMULA

Buds may be showing, but no open pips allowed.

APS National Show Trophies

- Ivanel Agee** for Best Hybrid Julie
Wesley Bottom for Best Hose-in-Hose
Rae Berry for Best Species
Captain Hawkes for Best Exhibition Gold-Laced Polyanthus
Bamford for Best Edged Show Auricula
John Haddock-CF Hill for Best Alpine Auricula Seedling
Frank Michaud for Best Named Show Auricula
Herb Dickson for Best Picotee Auricula
Etha Tate for Best Acaulis
Mary Zach for Best Show Self Auricula
John Shuman for Best Show Alpine Auricula
Ellen Page Hayden for Best Double Auricula
John Kerridge for Most Species in Bloom
John Kerridge Memorial for Best Cowichan
Novice Award for Highest Points
Duane Buell for Best North American Species
Dorothy S. Dickson Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to the APS

Rules for Exhibitors

General:

1. All classes are open to any exhibitor.
2. More than one first, second, or third place ribbon may be awarded in each class as per APS Show Rules.
3. Trophy certificates will be given to all award winners.
4. If any class does not have an exhibit considered worthy of a ribbon, none will be awarded.
5. All plants must have been the property of the exhibitor for at least six months.
6. All decisions of the judges are final.

Staging:

1. Entries may be benched on Thursday, April 24 from 4:00pm to 9:00pm and on Friday, April 25 from 8:00am to 9:00am, at which time the hall will close for judging.
2. No one is allowed in the exhibit hall while judging is taking place, except for assigned judges, assistant judges and clerks.
3. An exhibitor may enter any number of plants in all classes.
4. All plants exhibited must be clearly marked with the name of the plant on cards supplied.
5. Each entry must have an entry form, available at the hall, filled in appropriately.
6. Each exhibitor will bring plants in his or her own clean containers, with plants groomed to show standard.
7. Assistance in staging plants will be available at time of benching.
8. Plants incorrectly staged will not be penalized, but may be moved by the Show Steward to the appropriate class on discovery of the mistake.

Show Management:

1. All exhibits are to be handled only by the exhibitor or the Show Steward and assistants. Exhibitors must not handle any other exhibitor's plants. Ask for assistance of the Show Steward.
2. All exhibits will be under the control of the Show Steward and assistants, and shall not be removed until the end of the show without the Show Steward's consent.
3. The show will close at 4:00pm on Saturday, April 26th, and all exhibitors are expected to remove their plants promptly at the end of the show.

Novices:

1. A novice is an exhibitor who has not won in any previous APS show.
2. Any novice must mark their entry form with an "N" in the top right corner of entry form to be eligible for

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS PAGE AND MAIL

American Primrose Society
58th National Show
 Hosted by the B.C. Primula Group
Friday April 25-Sunday April 27, 2008
Cadboro Bay United Church, Victoria, B.C.

REGISTRATION

Please register by mail. Check one of the following options:

- \$75 – show, talks, banquet
 \$100 – show, talks, banquet, garden tour
 \$25 – extra ticket for the banquet

More details will be sent to you with your registration package. Please note that you will need to make your own hotel reservation. Links to information on hotels and travel are available on the APS website:

www.americanprimrosesociety.org

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/PROV: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

OF PEOPLE: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make checks (\$US or Canadian) payable to: **B.C. Primula Group and mail to:**

Michael Plumb
9341 Kingsley Crescent
Richmond, B.C.
V7A 4V6
CANADA

Pins + Thrums noteworthy bits

Primulas for the Damp garden

One dedicated APS supporter, Phyllis Petrovitch, regularly sends in links on the computer to *Primula* information. For more information on the candelabra primula featured in Michael Plumb and Rhondda Porter's chart, have a look at "Plants for the Damp Garden: *Primula*" at www.suite101.com/article.cfm/shade_gardening/70478. Some of the *Primula* from the chart, such as *P. japonica* are discussed and there are more pictures for you to admire. Has anyone ever used this site - please let us know!

Dodecatheon revisited

Jay Lunn writes:

When I read April Boettger's article "Dodecatheon" in the Summer 2007 issue of *Primroses*, I immediately realized that there was a mistake in her chart showing the distribution of *Dodecatheon dentatum* in the wild. She indicated that this species was found in CA and BC. I first encountered it in eastern Washington when I was living in the north-central part of that state. After moving back to Oregon many years ago, I have also seen it at locations here.

When Noel H. Holmgren's article "Redefinition of *Dodecatheon dentatum* (*Primulaceae*) and rationale for use of varietal rank" was published in *Brittonia*, 46(2), 1994, pp. 87-94, it included a map showing the distribution of the various varieties of *D. dentatum*, i.e., *var. ellisiae*, *var. dentatum* and *var. utahense*. He didn't show any of these as occurring in California, but did indicate that they were native to British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

I think of *D. dentatum* as having white flowers as shown in Tanya Hardy's picture on page 17 of the Summer 2007 Quarterly, but that is not true of the *var. utahense*. Holmgren describes it as having pale violet or pink flower lobes. It is a rare variety that occurs only in about a four square mile area in Utah.



P. sieboldii Photo: Matt Mattus

MATT MATTUS'

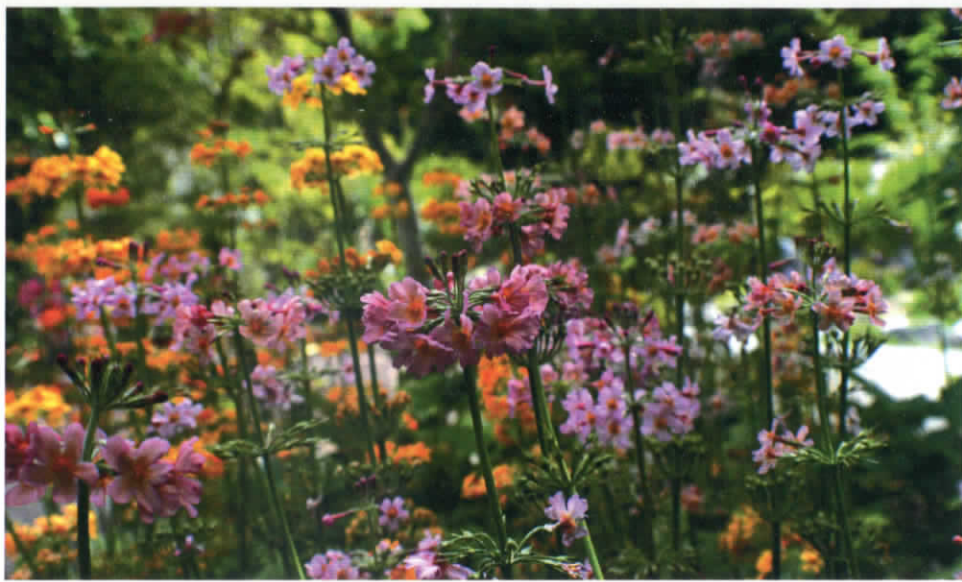
GROWING WITH PLANTS

DISCOVER A NEW WORLD OF UNUSUAL PLANTS TO LEARN AND GROW WITH

<http://exploraculture.blogspot.com/>



P. sieboldii in the garden Photo: Matt Mattus



Photos clockwise from top: *P. bulleyana*, striped *P. bulleyana*, orange *P. bulleyana*, *P. florindae*, *P. bulleyana*, *P. poisonii*



CANDELABRA AT HATLEY PARK

DISPLAYING THE VAST ARRAY OF COLOR AND FORM FOUND IN THE SPECIES



Photos clockwise from top: ??, *P. wilsonii*, *P. sikimensis*



CANDELABRA AT HATLEY PARK



Photos clockwise from top: *P. bulleyana*, *P. florindae*, *P. florindae*, *P. bulleyana*, John Sheridan (Gardener at Hatley Park), *P. bulleyana*

Photos clockwise from top: *P. bulleyana*, *P. poisonii*, *P. florindae*



Photos: Alan Lawrence

OXLIPS AT CASTLE HILL

“...populations of *P. veris* and *P. vulgaris* overlap, and hybrids between these two species, the false oxlip, *P. x polyantha*, are fairly common...”

~Alan Lawrence

Clockwise from top left: 'My mother's lovely oxlip', *P. vulgaris* hybrid; seedling from oxlip; *P. x polyantha*, *P. veris*, lower left not yet in bloom; a second seedling from oxlip; *P. vulgaris* hybrid; *P. x polyantha*; plant with short peduncle next to *P. x polyantha*; *P. x polyantha*; *P. vulgaris* on Castle Hill, Mere.

See article on page 28

DORETTA KLABER

Doretta Klaber was a great supporter of the American Primrose Society for many years. At one point, she sent a letter to APS telling them they had her permission to reproduce any of the drawings from her book *Primroses and Spring*. You might have noticed that the cover of the APS

PRIMROSES and Spring



Doretta Klaber

WITH OVER 70 LINE DRAWINGS

Doretta Klaber has practiced landscape architecture and lives in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, where she also ran a rock-garden nursery. She continues to raise many plants for her own pleasure, notably her favorites, primroses and gentians. With her garden, one could easily undertake to grow a large collection of the many hardy primroses, and there is an outstanding chapter, too, on the more difficult and rare primroses for specialists. Her delight in these charming plants shows vividly in her drawings, almost all of which she drew from life from plants she grew herself.

Mrs. Klaber is a member of the American Primrose Society, the American Rock Garden Society, the Scottish Rock Garden Club, the English Alpine Garden Society.



Primula vulgaris

Pictorial Dictionary has little primroses marching around the border – those are some of Doretta's drawings.

The cover of her book shows a delightful color painting of primroses from her garden, and, no matter what time of year, brings a welcome breath of spring each time one looks at it. Susan Schnare was privileged to visit her garden and has written about her experience. Hope you enjoy it.

Cloud Hill Revisited

SUSAN E. SCHNARE



All Photos: Susan Schnare



Photos: Susan Schnare, Illustration from Doretta Klaber's *Rock Garden Plants*



Clockwise from top:
Driving up to Cloud Hill in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. What remains of Doretta's shed and cold-frames (bottom) being reclaimed by the earth. Drawing of the cold-frames from Doretta's book *Rock Garden Plants* in their original state. Plaque showing the Cloud Hill title.

Beware!

I warn you! Primroses cast a spell.... Primroses are insidious, they are devastating - growing them becomes a habit, And few things can possibly give you so much pleasure in both anticipation and fulfillment.

The winter has flown by as I wrote this book, happy to be talking and thinking of primroses and spring. Spring is here, you're here, and - thankfully - I'm here.

*Doretta Klaber
Cloud Hill
Quakertown, Pennsylvania
Spring 1966*

So begins *Primroses And Spring*, a welcoming foreword to an engaging book. Whenever I read a garden book that I truly enjoy, I respond to the author on a personal level and wonder where he or she lived, and, most importantly what became of the garden.

These questions flooded my mind on a bright May morning in the early 1990's while driving from my New Hampshire home to visit friends in Alexandria, to

catch a bit of sweet Virginia spring and visit some historic gardens. My mother had voiced a desire to see the Delaware Water Gap and so our first night out was spent in Port Jervis, New York, posed to enter the park in the early morning. Far too soon we emerged on the southern end and meandered south on secondary roads, enjoying the Pennsylvania countryside and deliberately delaying our inevitable return to the interstate highways that would whisk us to our destination in time for dinner. Then I saw a sign pointing out that Quakertown was only a few miles away.

It was still only mid-morning when we drove down the broad but quiet main street of Quakertown. In good researcher fashion, I pulled up in front of a bookshop and went in to ask if the proprietor knew of the local author Doretta Klaber and could tell me where she had lived. He also knew the realtor who had handled the recent sale of the house, and within minutes we had directions and were driving through a sparsely settled area of wooded hills. The owner was about to leave but had waited for us and stayed just long enough to say hello, good-bye, and give us permission to wander around and see what was left of the garden.

Doretta and Henry bought Cloud Hill in 1944 when their two children had grown.

Henry, then 61, needed to be within range of New York and Philadelphia for his architectural work and Doretta, at 57, wanted to start a nursery for rock plants. Doretta told the delightful story of how they found Cloud Hill in *Rock Garden Plants* (1959) and in greater detail on-line in an undated interview called "Flowers that Bloom Among the Rocks" at <http://www.profitfrog.com/profitable-hobbies-articles/rock-garden-nursery.htm>.



Photo: Susan Schnare

The small, charming house with the addition, screened porch, and the dooryard garden that Henry designed a few years after its purchase was, I imagined, just as they had left it nearly twenty years before. Besides some overgrown shrubs, few of her plants remained in the dooryard garden pavements, walls, and terraces, but the rockwork was familiar from the sectional drawings in *Rock Garden Plants*.

The rest of her garden had disappeared back into the woods. I didn't search the hillside for signs of the work accomplished with Mr. Carmody's help in the late '40s. "A knight of the road," [hobo] who appeared just when she most needed him asking for food, his offer to help for the day stretched into three weeks during which time they transformed the rocky slope, terracing the hillside, making walls with the smaller stones, and planting, transplanting and weeding.

Doretta's main criteria for plants was that they must be hardy and we did find some survivors: a little sunshine yellow primrose, a large cushion of saxifrage between a wall and walk in the dooryard garden, and *Epimedium versicolor sulphureum* naturalized in the woods.

The part of the grounds that interested me the most was her work area near the small shed that sheltered the cold frames that she used for propagation, "home-made, and as simple as can be." There stood the shed, faded red in the sun, and there in front of it were the cold frames well into the process of disappearing into the ground. I fancy I saw her homemade soil sifter that was "simply a wooden box with the bottom knocked out and mesh nailed over the opening" and other relics of her nursery operation. The saplings growing over the area attested to twenty years of abandonment and the accumulation of their fallen leaves buried whatever else had been left.

The timeless and personable quality of her writing belied the age of the author. *Primroses And Spring* was published in 1966 when Henry was 83 and Doretta was 79. They spent the last part of their long and seemingly happy lives creating a comfortable home and garden on this once rundown place on a rocky hillside in rural Pennsylvania. Henry died in 1971 at 88 and Doretta in 1974 at the age of 87.

The peace of a quiet country place on a warm, sunny spring day worked its magic on my senses. My visit might have been a reverberation of Doretta's introduction to Cloud Hill some fifty years earlier:

But among all this confusion and mess there seemed to be a sunniness and subtle charm that, although hidden layers deep, showed some indications of being there. It might have been the apple blossoms on the few old trees that were in such dire need of care. It might have been the spring of cool clear water at the top of the slope, or the shadows cast by the funny old barn. Whatever it was - it was there. And, crazy as I knew it to be, I wanted to live here.



Primula veris var. macrocalyx (3/5 natural size)

Photo: Doretta Klaber's Primroses and Spring



North American Rock Garden Society

Yes, I am interested in a seed exchange, discount book service, slide library, field trips, fact-filled Quarterly, garden visits, and plant sales.

Sign me up!

Membership:
USA, Canada: US\$30
Overseas: US\$35

Please contact:
NARGS
PO Box 67
Millwood, NY 10546
Make checks payable to
North American Rock Garden Society

<https://www.nargs.org/info/smembership>.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

SOUTHERN SECTION

The National Auricula & Primula Society - Southern Section was founded in 1876 by and for enthusiasts who raised and exhibited Auriculas, Gold-Laced polyanthus and other primulas.

The Annual subscription is £7.00 (UK) for single or family membership, Overseas £8.00

Members receive an illustrated Year Book and a Newsletter - Offsets, containing interesting articles on growing and raising Primulas together with their history and cultivation.

Applications for membership of the N.A.P.S. Southern Section should be made to:
The Honorary Secretary, Lawrence Wigley,
67 Warnham Court Road, Carshalton Beeches,
Surrey, SM5 3ND.

Castle Hill Oxlips

ALAN LAWRENCE

When my mother was alive, she used to scold me (nicely of course) for using the name "False Oxlip". "There's nothing *false* about them" she would say, "my mother called them oxlips, her mother called them oxlips, and I'll call them oxlips no matter what you say." It's hard to contradict such an argument as it quotes sources dating back to about 1825, but then one day she added, "...and there are two really lovely oxlips on the first terrace going up Castle Hill."

Castle Hill overlooks my home town of Mere, Wilts, from the northwest. The castle was built in 1253 by Richard, Duke of Cornwall, brother of King Henry III. It was built of fairly local limestone on the east end of a low but steep chalk hill, which remains as the adjoining Long Hill to the west of Castle Hill. The castle was abandoned by about 1400, and over the years most of the limestone was purloined for building material. Little evidence remains of the castle today, except for the name, and occasional limestone fragments in the chalk soil.

Castle Hill is ungrazed, and this allows chalk tolerant shrubs, such as hawthorn, ash and blackthorn, to infiltrate its sides, and these are periodically removed to maintain the long grass chalk environment. *Primula vulgaris*, the common primrose, seems to thrive in this environment, the grass

is short in spring for the flowering season, and is long through the summer which presumably provides protection from heat and dessication. Cowslips, *Primula veris*, are less common in the long grass of Castle Hill. The situation is effectively reversed on Long Hill. Cattle, and in the past, sheep, graze the west end of Long Hill, maintaining a short grass environment similar to the nearby chalk downland.

In this short grass *P. veris* predominates. Shrubs are not removed, and particularly on the lower north edges of Long Hill, *P. vulgaris* grows in the shade of these shrubs. The proximity and overlap of these populations provides an ideal situation for hybridization. And then there are the houses...

Over the last 30 years or so, housing development has crept right up to the southern edge of Castle Hill and Long Hill. Within 100 feet of the natural populations of *P. veris* and *P. vulgaris* can be found the ever popular Juliae hybrids and polyanthus in the gardens of these houses, and these may be providing some of the pollen for some of the hybrids, maybe even the "... two really lovely oxlips..." my mother had told me about. These two plants were growing together within 40 feet of a house garden. They were more impressive than the usual false oxlips with which I was familiar. One was primrose yellow; one was

cowslip yellow. Both had a peduncle significantly longer than I would expect, as were the pedicels, giving the plants a much more open appearance. I have a suspicion that these plants were cowslip/polyanthus hybrids as there was a single cowslip nearby, and large yellow polyanthus in a nearby garden. They survived for at least 10 years, and as one was a pin and the other a thrum, I was hoping a hybrid population would result. Sadly this does not seem to be the case. I managed to collect a few unshed seeds from these plants late in November one year but the resulting shortlived plants did not match their mother's glory (but who knows who the father was?)

On the south side of Castle Hill, just beneath the WW2 memorial to the 43rd Wessex Division, is a large population of *P. vulgaris*. Amongst these, and close to the top of the hill on the north side, can be found a number of plants with varying amounts of pink coloration. This varies from a pink tinge to the edge of the flower, to deep pink flowers. I do not know the origin of this color break; it may be that someone transplanted a red Juliae hybrid amongst these native yellow flowered plants, or pollen traveled in from the house gardens no more than 100 feet away.

On the adjoining Long Hill populations of *P. veris* and *P. vulgaris* overlap, and hybrids between these two species, the false oxlip, *P. x polyantha*, are fairly common, particularly on the lower north slopes of the hill in the open grassy areas between the brush and shrubby trees. These false oxlips are also found on Castle Hill, but are less common. In good years these form attractive multi-flowered plants

with a season that overlaps the parents and are invariably a golden yellow in color, similar to the color of the cowslip. Another hybrid form is found, usually in close proximity to a false oxlip. In these plants the coloration is the same as the primrose, and without close examination would seem to be *P. vulgaris*. However



Photo: *P. veris* from Doretta Klaber's *Primroses and Spring*

the flowers grow from a short peduncle, usually no longer than an inch. In *P. vulgaris* the peduncle is absent, pedicels emerging from the base of the leaf rosette. In many of these plants basal flowers are also present. Presumably these are a poor form of *P. x polyantha*, but it would be interesting to know if perhaps these plants result from backcrossing between *P. x polyantha* and *P. vulgaris*. My mother would have thought they were all lovely, and would have called them oxlips.

Collecting and Keeping the old Quarterlies

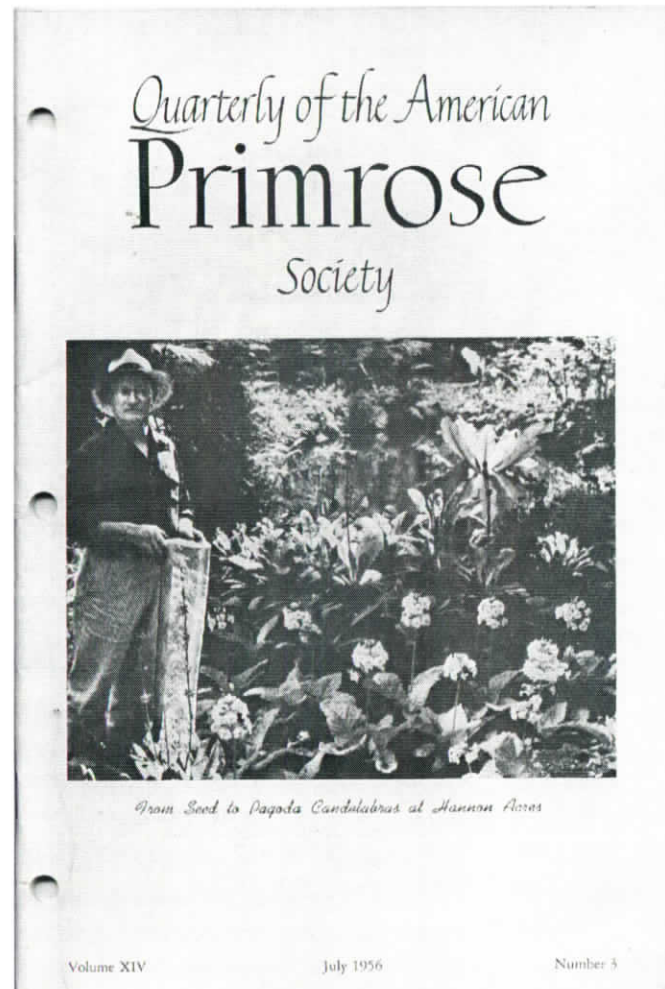
LINDA BAILEY

Shortly after I personally joined the APS in 2000, I ordered all the back issues available from Cheri Fluck, the Quarterly Librarian. The one issue I really wanted was the Pictorial Dictionary but it was no longer to be had. Some years were incomplete. However, I was happy to get that stash and cache it. I found a box the right size to hold them all – even to the Qs being published today! It sits on the floor by my computer for ready reference.

When I saw *Primula incana* on a seed exchange list, I referred to a couple of back issues describing its habitat and growing conditions. I have managed to keep the one surviving seedling going for two years now; planted in a double pot sunk in the

ground surrounded by crumbled concrete and mussel shells to give it a wet alkaline environment. A bird cage protects it from deer damage. It has produced seed which I donated to our Seed Exchange.

But I hadn't really looked at many issues 'just to read' until recently. I took one (XIV #3 - July '56) to peruse while having chemotherapy in Spokane. It still smelled a bit musty but was a great issue, I thought. Rather nostalgic for me - even though I was in High School and unaware of the existence of APS in 1956. But after getting involved in



the Society in Seattle in the 1970s and meeting Cy and Herb and Orval, seeing the trophies at shows, it brought back a lot of memories. In it, there was:

A letter from the President, Wayne Arnold, expressing his unhappy feelings about the move of APS from Oregon to Washington - "the Society BELONGED to Portland, it was started HERE." Cy Happy III was nominated for President and Herb Dickson, Vice President. There was a photo of Cy and his missus receiving the Bamford Trophy (copper kettle). He looked so very young and proud!

An article on Captain Hawkes included a picture of him on his haunches arranging pots of sempervivums. He is wearing a suit and tie, no less! There is a trophy bearing his name, too. He grew the Primroses which our ancestors knew, notably the double, and hybridized Jacks-in-the-Green and Hose-in-Hose to perpetuate and renew the old forms.

A notice that Orval Agee had won the Sweepstakes for the photography contest, the Hannon Acres Trophy, the Barnhaven Trophy, and a sack of Blue Whale. His prize for the Sweepstakes was a 2 vol. edition of Farrer's *The English Rock Garden*.

And a notice that Linda Eickman had died. She was a hybridizer of polyanthus and developed a very special strain of "Majestic Polyanthus Primroses", the "Linda Pinks."

I really enjoyed that Q.

Most recently, I pulled Vol. 2, No. 3 - January 1945. It has a short Epilogue by Gertrude Jekyll entitled "In a Primrose Wood." She surely had a gift – describing things in such picturesque detail but never boring. It was reprinted by special permission of Charles Scribner's Sons from her book, *A Gardener's Testament*, published posthumously in 1937. It is a lovely parable of life, death and immortality. I would like to see it reprinted again after all these years; it was an inspiration to read it today and gave me comfort as well.

Those old quarterlies contain the history of our society, members and shows; developments of new hybrids, as well as documentation of species in their native habitat. I shall treasure them as long as I live.

QUARTERLY SETS AVAILABLE TO BUY - \$25!

Please contact Cheri Fluck at 17275 Point Lena Loop Rd
Juneau, AK 99801-8344 USA cheri44@comcast.net
for more information

Chapter News

JUNEAU CHAPTER

Greetings to all from Alaska. We are currently enjoying a mild fall/almost winter season with the snow level above 1500 feet-I live at 175 feet! Last year at this time we had 4 feet of snow on the ground!

The National Show in May was a success and gardens grew well though much slower than usual this summer.

The Juneau Chapter recently met and set meeting dates and prospective programs to come into 2008. We will plan a small Chapter Show for late May of 2008 and hope that our plants will return to a more normal flowering schedule. Robert Tonkin and I planted about 400 donated bulbs in the Juneau Library planting beds along with a few small shrubs and when mulching them the day before Thanksgiving noticed a number of yellow auriculas still blooming!

The third edition of the Juneau Garden Club book "Gardening in Southeast Alaska" is due to be released in December with a chapter on Growing Primroses here along with much other great information on gardening in our rainforest. A number of our members contributed articles, photos, proofreading and layout help to bring the book together. Someone here will do a book review for the Quarterly once it is available.

~Ed Buyarski

The Juneau Chapter of the APS met Saturday, November 17th at the Mendenhall Valley Library. In attendance were Ed Buyarski, Julia, Haldorson, and Robert Tonkin. Elfrida and Becky came by to let us know they couldn't stay for the whole meeting but were looking forward to the new season.

We wish to let the membership know it was decided to hold Chapter meetings on the third Saturday of each month at 10am in the Mendenhall Library conference room. We WILL have a meeting December 15th. Elfrida will do a slide show for us. Future programs

include (hopefully) Bobby Lee's Dolomite's trip, Ed doing one of the APS's slide shows and Robert doing an Auricula program.

It was decided to hold a spring show in Juneau. Robert offered to Chair the show. It will be a low profile, low budget affair. Most likely it will be later in May, perhaps two weeks after the combined Spring plant sale.

When Robert returns from vacation mid December he will update the Chapter's website calendar to include all future meeting dates and other noteworthy garden related events. Please keep looking at www.alaskaprimroses.org. We will get another email out for a reminder of the December meeting.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our winter meetings! the third Saturday of each month.

~Robert Tonkin

BC CHAPTER

The B.C. Primula Group has had two meetings this fall. The one in Sept. focused on methods for growing seed, and Ian Gillam reported he was undertaking some experiments with gibberellin acid. The November meeting was a book report on "The Origin of Plants" by Maggie Campbell-Culver, particularly the section on the Asiatic explorers of the 19th century and the Primula introductions they brought to Britain.

Planning for the National Show continues well. Michael Plumb and Rhondda Porter are co-chairs of the show, and have outlined a tentative schedule. The APS National Show will be held in conjunction with the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Show April 24 to 27, with set up on Thurs. evening, the 24th. The show is Friday and Saturday, with talks and workshops both days and the banquet Friday night at a local Chinese Restaurant -- yummy food! Sunday it is planned to have a bus tour of some fine large gardens in and around Victoria. We look forward to seeing some of you here.

The next meeting of the B.C. Group is in January.

~Maedythe Martin

The New England Chapter held three enjoyable meetings, toured member gardens, coordinated a successful Primula Show weekend, and met some important organizational goals during the past year.

February 10 found us ignoring intermittent snow squalls while we met at Berkshire Botanic Garden to complete planning for the Show and enjoy two presentations. The first was brief and practical, outlining the steps in transforming a fish box into a trough. The second was complex and impressive, including an on screen presentation of "Cyclamen: Growing and Collecting These Jewels of the Primrose Family." The surprise was a copy for each of us of a small but beautifully illustrated book compiled and printed by Matt Mattus to complement his presentation. During the first weekend in May, Chapter members gathered at Tower Hill Botanical Garden to enjoy all the sights and events of our Annual Show. We met again at Berkshire Garden on June 30 to learn about the history and value of the gold-laced polyanthus, accompanied by excellent slides, presented by our favorite West Yorkshireman, Terry Mitchell. He and his wife were visiting New York City and a corner of New England. At our final 2007 Chapter meeting on September 10, members approved our new Chapter Constitution, watched a unique slide show of historic auricula illustrations provided by Rodney Barker and a very entertaining set of 3 short videos created from stunning floral and landscape photographs taken by Matt Mattus and Joseph Phillip while hiking in the Italian and Austrian Alps.

During the Memorial Day weekend we had a chance to tour the gardens of three members in the 'Far North' of our area. We lounged in Arlene Perkins 'Primrose Paradise', marveled at Kris Fenderson's private Botanical Garden, and relaxed among the borders and rock garden surrounding Marianne and Roland Kuchel's 18th Century Federal style farmhouse.

In addition to arranging the member garden tours, Lee Nelson, the Chapter's Corresponding secretary, coordinated our membership list and initiated a Chapter Newsletter to keep us all better informed about events, plans, and Primroses in New England. Now we just need to collect accurate email and postal addresses to guarantee that everyone receives every issue of this most practical publication in order to enjoy all the Chapter events planned for 2008.

~Judith Sellars

American Primrose Society
Minutes of the Board Meeting
November 25th, 2007

The meeting was held online and by telephone. It ran from 2:15 pm to 4:15 pm, Pacific Time.

Present: Linda Bailey (Director), Rodney Barker (Director), Ed Buyarski (ex-President of the APS, President of the Juneau Chapter), Mark Dyen (President of the New England Chapter), Julia Haldorson (Director and Membership Secretary), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Marianne Kuchel (Director), Lee Nelson (President), Michael Plumb (Secretary), Judith Sellers (Vice President)

Others present: Cheri Fluck

Regrets: Maedythe Martin

1. **The Minutes of August 27th, 2007** - Accepted as presented (Rodney / Michael)

2. **Treasurer's Report**

- Total liabilities and equity as of November 16th, 2007: \$20,245.39 [Sept. 30, 2006: \$22,959.85]
- Total income less expenses January 1, 2007 to November 16, 2007: (\$3,252.75)
- The Treasurer's report was accepted with thanks for the way Jon has increased advertising revenue. (Rodney / Michael).

3. **Committee Reports**

Seed Exchange

- The exchange is on schedule and within the total budgeted expenses of \$2000, and should make a small profit.
- Seed exchanges of many societies are thin this year. Our donations are also down greatly.
- The Euro is quite high at present, so less seed has been purchased from Europe to remain within budget.
- We are still looking for unusual species. In response, Ed offered to send species Alaskan seed - Offer gratefully accepted.
- A suggestion was made to trade native American seed with UK societies in order to increase supplies.

Website

- Seed Exchange information has been updated. Preliminary National Show information is online.

Primroses Quarterly

National Show Planning Committee

- Michael had supplied an update of preparations before the meeting.
- It is uncertain whether the silver trophies can be taken into Canada without problems with customs. Michael offered to check.
- Ed Buyarski is currently holding most of the trophies in Juneau. Judith has the Show Chair's tray, and Cheri has the copper urn for species.
- Michael said when the show was held in Canada, certificates were used instead of trophies, to everyone's satisfaction (and winners can keep certificates forever).
- Ed reminded the Board that he has a supply of National Show ribbons to bring to the Victoria show.
- Lee suggested a booklet on show preparation, procedures and benching schedule be developed to aid future organizers. This would include an inventory of trophies and their location.

Membership Committee

- Numbers are uncertain right now, as a large number of renewals are due. Julia has been sending out many notices to members.

- Jon will send 50 rack cards to Michael for the Show, and 50 to Cheri for the Portland area. The Board thanked Jon for his work on the rack cards.
- There will be a membership recruitment table at the Show.
- Judy suggested next time a separate renewal form be included in the Quarterly. Similarly, any ballot should always be on a separate sheet. Reason is that members hesitate to rip out pages and damage their Q.
- Agreed to mark sustaining members and life members in the membership list with a system of asterisks.

4. **Old Business****Constitutional amendments**

- Michael apologized for not yet having drawn up the new document containing the approved amendments. He will see this is ready for possible inclusion in the Winter or Spring Quarterly.

Appointment of Cheri Fluck to Editorial Committee

- Lee, as President, appointed Cheri to this committee in accordance with the constitution.

Election of new directors

- Cheri Fluck has been officially nominated. Linda Bailey is standing for re-election. Their names will appear on the ballot in the Winter Quarterly. Michael will prepare the ballot.
- Cheri will submit a short resume to Jane for inclusion in the Q.

Members' privacy

- A note will be included in the Q to remind members to keep the membership list private.

5. **New Business****New England Chapter's new constitution**

- The Board unanimously accepted the chapter's new constitution. (Judy / Linda). Rodney was congratulated on his work.

Reducing the cost of the *Primroses* Quarterly

- The New England Chapter offered to contribute 10% of their current balance (\$400) to the Q if a plan is adopted to reduce Q costs to the amount generated by membership dues.
- Michael pointed out that the constitution requires four annual issues of some kind.
- New England suggested two color issues and two black-and-white newsletters.
- Michael suggested three black-and white issues (not newsletters) almost completely on cheaper paper, with only two pages of color in their center, and only one glossy full color issue per year (an "annual").
- Marianne suggested that the two newsletters be published online (website), and only mailed to those members who requested a hardcopy. However, a recent survey found that 85% of members prefer the current Quarterly system.
- After other useful ideas, Lee appointed a committee to examine ways to reduce costs: Marianne, Judy, Mark, Maedythe (in absentia). They will report at the next meeting.

Open Gardens

- Some societies maintain a list of members who are willing to accept visitors to their gardens. Lee would like to establish such a list for the APS. She will deal with this in her next President's Letter. Suggestions welcome.

6. **Next board meeting**

- Sunday, February 10th, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Plumb, Secretary

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS PAGE AND MAIL

American Primrose Society

Vote for Directors of the Society

BALLOT

Please mark your choice with a cross or a check in the space in front of the name. You may also vote for a different person by writing their name in the space marked "Your write-in candidate". Be sure that such a person is willing to stand for election.

_____ **Board of Directors: Linda Bailey**

(Standing for a second term)

_____ **Board of Directors:** _____

(Your write-in candidate)

_____ **Board of Directors: Cheri Fluck**

_____ **Board of Directors:** _____

(Your write-in candidate)

Cheri Fluck has been an involved member of APS and the Juneau Chapter for many years. She has grown Primroses since 1970, and has often hosted APS meetings and tours of her garden and greenhouse. In 1994 she became the APS Quarterly Librarian so she could gather most of the remaining back issues from many places and assemble the sets which she has made available to members. She served as APS Vice President from 1999 to 2001, and has been Treasurer of the Juneau Chapter. Recently, she was appointed by the APS President to also serve on the Quarterly Editorial Committee.

Please mail your ballot by April 20, 2008 to:

Michael Plumb,
Secretary, American Primrose Society,
9341 Kingsley Crescent,
Richmond, B.C.
V7A 4V6
CANADA

Catalogue + Shop
www.jelitto.com

Jelitto Perennial Seeds

STAUDENSAMEN · PERENNIAL SEEDS · GRAINES DE PLANTES VIVACES

Production · Breeding · Seed Technology

USA Office: 125 Chenoweth Ln. · Suite 301 · Louisville, KY 40207
Phone: (502) 895-08 07 · Fax (502) 895-39 34 · <http://www.jelitto.com> · abush@jelitto.com
German Headquarters: P.O. Box 1264 · D-29685 Schwarmstedt
Phone: 01149-50 71-98 29-0 · Fax 01149-50 71-98 29-27 · www.jelitto.com · info@jelitto.com



web site: www.munchkinnursery.com mail: genebush@munchkinnursery.com
hard copy catalog: 323 Woodside Dr. NW, Depauw, IN 47115-9039

Native & Non-Native
Rare & Unusual Shade Perennials are our Specialty

New Members

2007 Expiry

Fran Gundry, 255 Niagra St., Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1G4, Canada

2008 Expiry

Laura Haynes Aiken, 542 Chandler Lane, Villanova, Pennsylvania, 19085-1204, U.S.A.
Ev Arneson, 3931 Rolling Hills Rd., Arden Hills, Minnesota, 55112, U.S.A.
Karen Barrett, 732 Hollow Rd., Ellicott City, Maryland, 21043, U.S.A.
Frances Dugger, 11709 Wallen Rd. E., Tacoma, Washington, 98446-2119, U.S.A.
Julia Galloway, 5615 E. M St., Tacoma, Washington, 98404-2537, U.S.A.
Teena Garay, P. O. Box 2653, Homer, Alaska, 99603, U.S.A.
Jerry Rifkin, 310 Valley Road, Merion, Pennsylvania, 19066, U.S.A.

2009 Expiry

Leonard C. Lehman, 362 Vermont Ave., Clairton, Pennsylvania, 15025, U.S.A.

2010 Expiry

Urs Baltensperer, Edelweiss Perennials, 29800 S. Barlow Rd., Canby, Oregon, 97013, U.S.A.

Evermay Nursery

ALPINE AND PRIMULA SPECIES & HYBRIDS

*Grown in the Northeastern U.S.
We ship mature plants in their pots.*

Visit our Web site at:
www.evermaynursery.com
Mailorder catalog available

84 Beechwood Ave.
Old Town, Maine 04468

207.827.0522

RICHARD MAY, PROPRIETER

OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTERS

British Columbia Primrose Group
President, Maedythe Martin
951 Joan Crescent Victoria, BC V8S 3L3
(250) 370-2951
martin951@shaw.ca

Doretta Klaber Chapter
President, Hope Punnett
6635 Wissahickan Ave Philadelphia, PA 19119
(215) 848-5577
hpunnett@voicenet.com

East Side Chapter
President, Thea Oakley
3304 288th Ave. NE Redmond, WA 98053
(425) 880-6177
theap@netscape.com

Juneau Chapter
President, Ed Buyarski
Box 33077 Juneau, AK 99803-3077
(907) 789-2299
amprimsoc@hotmail.com

New England Chapter
Co-President, Mark Dyen
132 Church Street Newton, MA 02158
dyenreisen@rcn.com
Co-President, Rodney Barker
49 Woodcliff Road Newton Highlands, MA 02461
rodney@justice.com

Tacoma Chapter
Co-President, Candy Strickland
6911 104th St. E. Puyallup, WA 98373
(253) 841-4192
Co-President, Cy Happy III
11617 Gravelly Lk. Dr. Tacoma, WA 98499
(253) 588-2585



American Primrose Society
58th
NATIONAL
SHOW

Cadboro Bay United Church Hall
2625 Arubuts Road, Victoria BC

Entries accepted:

Thursday April 24 and Friday April 25

Show, Talks and Workshops:

Friday April 25 to Saturday April 26

• April 25, 1:00pm - Alaskan Primula: Ed Buyarski

• April 25, 2:30pm - Primula of the Tibetan Plateau: Pam Eveleigh

• April 26, 10:00am - Creative Approaches to Photographing Flowers: Pam Eveleigh (Bring your digital camera)

• April 26, 11:30am - The Gardens at Royal Roads University

Banquet Dinner: Friday April 25

Garden Tours: Sunday April 27

SHOW STEWARDS: MICHAEL AND RHONDDA PLUMB
PHONE: 1-604-241-0498