



Primroses

QUARTERLY OF THE AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

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Primroses

*The Quarterly of the
American Primrose Society*

Volume 66 No 3

Summer 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*.

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Front Cover: Winner of the 2007 APS Photography Contest in the category of 'Other People's Gardens', Becky Carls' photo of a *P. x juliana* hybrid possibly called 'Yellow Portland'.
Back Cover: Auricula table at the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Show.

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President's Message

LEE NELSON

As I write this, many of the *Primula* are still going strong in my garden, and I do hope you have all had a great flowering year as well. Last year I went to visit Judy Sellers' garden about an hour's drive from my home. The new house she was moving to didn't have the shade that her current garden did, so being concerned that the new owners would not appreciate the plants that were left behind, Judy invited me to visit and bring my trowel. We spent an enjoyable morning digging *Primula* of many species and in a wide range of colors. Little did I realize the treasures I had received until this spring, when my garden came alive with all my new primroses. Two plants were outstanding. 'Jane H. Coates' is a poly with huge clusters of very large pips that start out white and slowly fade to pink. 'Bruce's Fire' is a seedling that Judy spotted near her compost pile and thought it looked promising..... how right she was. A plant she sent to Terry Mitchell in the UK went on to win a first at the Cheadle show in 2002. 'Bruce's Fire' is aptly named with a fiery red margin that flames up from the bold yellow center. If they produce seed, I'll try to get some into next year's seed ex. Thanks Judy.

I'm sure all of you who attended the National Show in Victoria BC will echo my thanks to Michael and Rhondda Plumb for a job well done. The show, which was held in conjunction with the Vancouver Island Rock Garden Society, was well attended and the benches were full of well grown plants. I had the opportunity to act as a junior judge, and under the tutelage of our two very experienced judges I certainly learned a lot. I want to thank Ed Buyarski and Cheri Fluck for the experience and for a job well done. Thanks also to Julia Haldorson and Pam Eveleigh for keeping it all straight as our very capable clerks, and to Maedythe Martin for making visitors to Victoria feel welcome.

The three gardens on the tour were fantastic; a brief shower couldn't dampen our enjoyment of walking around these beautiful gardens. Several in the group found an opportunity to view the garden from the restaurant windows while enjoying a British cream tea.

Traveling west to Victoria to attend the show also provided a great opportunity for me to finally meet many of the officers and other members of our organization.

On a business note, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to re-admit the Tacoma Group as a full APS Chapter at the Annual General Meeting in Victoria. We welcome them back and look forward to reading their activity reports and articles in future issues of the Quarterly. A real debt of gratitude goes to Candy Strickland and Cy Happy for their work in increasing the membership to become a chapter again. Thank you, Candy and Cy.

Articles on the National Show are abundant in this issue, as there was a lot to talk about. It has been a very busy *Primula* season, especially for those attending spring events.

On a final note, our editorial committee always welcomes articles from members. We would love to have you share your own accounts with our other *Primula* enthusiasts.

Lee



Seed Exchange Primer

What seed to save and send?

Primulas, and any other Primulaceae; clean seeds please; and properly document them. Note the botanical name, and/or cultivar name and whether garden origin or wild collected, hand pollinated or open pollinated.

Where to send the seed?

Donors from the USA should send directly to:

APS c/o PO Box 67
Millwood N. Y. 10546.

In this age of increased difficulty with mailing seeds, it is perhaps better that the word "seed" doesn't appear in the address.

Canada and overseas members, send seed to: Maedythe Martin

951 Joan Cres.
Victoria, BC V8S 3L3
Canada

When to send them?

Any time from now up to the end of October.

What about a donor form?

Please print the donor form from the website and fill it in.

What about the printed seed list?

We will only mail out a seed list to you if you request it. Otherwise, the information is listed on the website and updated as major changes occur.

*Be sure seed packets are carefully sealed and no seed will leak out. It is useless when loose in the envelope -- we don't know what it is.

*Be sure seeds are mailed in a sturdy, padded envelope, to keep them safe in the mail.

Sherriff and Ludlow

BY JOAN N. FRASER

George Sherriff and Frank Ludlow, ex-army officers with streaks of romance and adventure, introduced sixty-six species of primula – a record – from the eastern Himalayas to the Western world. Traveling in the years 1933 – 1949, before and after the Second World War, they led major expeditions into the mountains of Bhutan and Tibet, much of it to unexplored and politically sensitive territory.

Their first joint trip, in 1933, mostly in Bhutan, established good relations with that government. "The result was a collection of ...over 500 gatherings of plants which included several species new to science ... as well as a renewed determination to undertake a series of journeys, gradually working eastwards through Tibet along the main Himalayan range, ... until the great bend of the Tsangpo was reached."¹

Sherriff and Ludlow were not the first geographer/botanists to map and collect in the Himalayas.² But their expeditions were so methodical and elaborate there was speculation about how they were financed. Sir George Taylor, of the British Museum and later Director of Kew, a member of the 1938 expedition, says that Sherriff had intuitive command, and "bore by far the greater part of the expenses of mounting these costly expeditions".³ Ludlow said that "Although transport and supplies in Bhutan and Tibet were

cheap, expeditions on the scale we organized were not run without incurring considerable expense. Occasionally we received grants from funds at the disposal of the British Museum (Natural History) and members⁴ of the expedition at times contributed according to their means, but it was Sherriff who defrayed the greater part of the costs."⁵ Nonetheless the rumors are in print. "Although both Ludlow and Sherriff were men of independent means, I have often wondered how it was that an ex-teacher and an ex-consular official were able to fund such ambitious expeditions during the prime of their careers. It seems probable that they were in fact part of what Kipling called "the Great Game" and that their wanderings served some tactical and political purposes. Whatever their primary motives, there is no doubt that the excitement and challenge of uncovering totally new botanical storehouses of great richness dominated their interests."⁶

The two men, from different backgrounds, met by chance. Ludlow was an academic, given to quoting poetry and inventing Gilbert and Sullivan like ditties. He graduated from Cambridge in 1908. When he was there he read botany under the direction of Professor Marshal Ward, the father of the famous Himalayan botanist Frank Kingdon Ward. Perhaps inspired by the professor's comments on the Far

East, after graduation Ludlow went to Karachi to teach biology and English. He served with the 97th Indian Infantry during the First World War, and then worked for the Indian Education Service. He opted to take a three-year term to start a school in Tibet, when he fell under the spell of the country. He also established credentials which later allowed him and chosen companions to access the then forbidden land.

He retired in 1927, planning to travel in the Himalayas to collect specimens of birds, his first love, and incidentally of plants, for the British Museum. In 1929, while spending a winter at the British Consulate in Kashgar, he met Sherriff. Excellent marksmen, Ludlow with both gun and catapult, they went on shooting parties together. They found interests in common besides loving the countryside, and made tentative plans to explore Bhutan and Tibet sometime in the future.

From March to November 1930, while Sherriff was still working at the consulate, Ludlow undertook an expedition on his own. He traveled some 4000 miles, collecting 800 bird skins, 2000 butterflies, 700 birds' eggs and about 200 plants for the British Museum.

Sherriff resigned in 1932.⁷ When the two men joined forces for the expeditions, Sherriff added the practical and administrative skills of an immensely competent professional soldier. He had graduated from Royal Military College, was commissioned in the Royal Garrison Artillery in

1918, fought in Europe, and in 1919 was sent as a gunner to India's North West Frontier. He entered the British Consular service in 1928, being appointed Vice-Consul, later Consul, in Kashgar, which allowed him to travel widely in Turkestan and Ladak. "The affecting and abiding magic of Tibet had touched Sherriff from his (army) experiences on the Ladak-Tibet border."⁸

"Sherriff's training and temperament made him an ideal organizer and his proficient planning, typical of his strict military practice, ensured that the primary objects of the expeditions were achieved. He was responsible for arranging the commissariat, and even contrived to have vegetable seeds sown at intervals on the long journeys and to have porters collect the produce as it matured and bring it to the advance camps....much foresight was exercised to ensure the comfort of the entire party."⁹ "Often accompanied by 100 retainers, his staff work was immaculate, and his men and animals well cared for. Every night, it is said, Ludlow and Sherriff relaxed with a nip of whiskey distilled at Sherriff's own family distillery."¹⁰ Some retainers became expert at collecting and preparing specimens.

Both men were on the expeditions of 1933 (five months); 1934 (five months), and 1936 (ten months). Sherriff made the 1937 trip (four months) when Ludlow was occupied in Kashmir. In 1938 Sir (then Dr.) George Taylor of the British Museum joined them on a ten month journey, and for the first time

they sent a collection to Britain by air. "The results of this expedition were satisfactory in every way, and Ludlow has described it as producing the largest and most comprehensive collection of plants that has ever come out of Tibet in one season, the collections being all-embracing and of great taxonomic and horticultural value."¹¹ Unfortunately, during the Second World War most of the collection sent to Britain was neglected or lost to bombing.

Sherriff married in 1942, and his wife Betty described their war years. "Early in 1942 he [Ludlow] was sent to Lhasa with the special task of persuading the Tibetan government to allow supplies to pass through their country to help China's war effort and to organize the transport for this undertaking – by no

means an easy assignment."¹² Sherriff organized trade with Tibet for HMG, and in 1945 he and his wife succeeded Ludlow at Lhasa. First Ludlow and then the Sherriffs made short collecting forays around the station, discovering *Meconopsis torquata*, the Lhasa Poppy, "until then very imperfectly known from a single gathering made by Walton or one of his collectors in 1904."¹³

In 1946-7 the two men and their party set off on an ambitious trip to southeast Tibet. They started in winter and split up in March to they could cover more ground. Sherriff fell ill and had to return to India, but Ludlow stayed on for fourteen months.

That was the last of the Tibetan trips, for by 1949 neither Tibetan nor Indian



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governments would sanction them. So for their final trip, in 1949, they went once again to Bhutan. They discovered, among other plants, *Lilium sherriffiae* and *Meconopsis sherriffii*.

Neither man attempted to publish accounts of their travels, but they kept diaries and field records in which most of the primula, rhododendrons and other plants are specifically located and described in detail. In spite of the formality of the writing the hunter's thrill of a new "find" is very evident.¹⁴ Dr. Harold Fletcher melded this material in *A quest of flowers*, the plant explorations of Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff told from their diaries and other occasional writings, published in 1975. (The extensive "botanical index" to the volume lists 115 primula and 12 variants; 110 rhododendrons and 9 variants; and 23 meconopsis with 5 variants as well as the numerous other plants included

in the text.) There is an informative "Historical Introduction" by Sir George Taylor. The book also includes some of Sherriff's photographs; maps, and a section written by Betty Sherriff for the years 1942 - 5.

Ludlow had an ideal for collecting. "To label, press and preserve plants for the herbarium was never the sole object of our botanical expeditions. Few, save the expert, ever spend much time in herbaria, but the living plant, that grows in our gardens and parks, is a joy to all who behold it. And so we experienced just as big a thrill when we garnered the seeds of some dry and shriveled plant in autumn as when we plucked it in all its floral loveliness in spring - for others, perhaps, would now be able to enjoy its beauty.

"The trials of a seed hunter are numerous and we often used to wonder how many of the

people who received our seeds ever paused to think of the labor entailed in their collection. Only a few, I fear.

"Yet the labor at times was great, not a mere snatching of capsules and berries by the roadside as we passed by. To climb 3,000 or 4,000 feet and find the seeds all shed, or green and unripe, eaten by grubs or birds or cattle, or buried 'neath a blanket of snow, were some of the difficulties with which we had to contend.

"And even when we had collected good ripe seed we could never be quite certain that it would germinate... We collected ripe and abundant seeds and sent them to at least fifty expert gardeners in Great Britain. All failed; not a seed germinated."¹⁵

A "constant plague" they encountered was leeches. Sherriff: "Today I had what I hope will be my last leech bite. He got through my long boots, somehow. When Ludlow saw it he rather laughed and said that I should wear breeches, not shorts and then they wouldn't bite me. And went on to say how lucky he had been [recently] with leeches. However I had the laugh on him, for when he took off his boots and socks there was a fine fat one, in his sock, which had had its fill. A leech injects something first to make the blood run or keep it from coagulating and this seems to affect Ludlow more than me. It was some hours before the bite stopped bleeding."¹⁶

On the post war trips the difficulty of the terrain affected both men. As noted, in 1947, Sherriff had to leave the expedition because of heart problems. In 1949 Ludlow said "...I must confess that I was pretty "cooked" at the termination of today's march. At 64 it is a pretty severe test to climb 1,000 feet at any altitude above 15,000 feet and then to descend from 16,600 feet (approx) along the roughest tracks to 12,500 feet. However, I managed with a few groans and a few nips at the brandy flask. ..."¹⁷

Sherriff retired to Scotland in 1950, and at his home in Kirriemuir (altitude 900 feet) "he and his wife transformed a wilderness overrun by rabbits into a Himalayan garden of surpassing beauty, where grew ...primulas, meconopsis, gentians, lilies, rhododendrons as in their native haunts."¹⁸ He died in 1967. Ludlow worked in the Ludlow and Sherriff collections at the British Museum until he died, aged 86, in 1972.

"The thorough exploration of these areas by Ludlow and Sherriff first revealed fully the richness of these territories for a number of groups of Primula. For instance, Ludlow and Sherriff discovered no less than eight new species in section *Minutissimae*, six in section *Petiolares*, and four in section *Soldanelloides*. In all, they found no less than 26 species of Primula new to science ... they introduced at least 66 species of Primula, the majority of them new to cultivation. For many growers, their best introduction was, arguably the loveliest of all primulas, the ice-blue *P. bhutanica*."¹⁹

Please remember . . .

. . . to save seed.

Donating seed to the APS Seed Exchange is not only a good way to obtain new varieties for your own garden, it's also a great way to ensure the future of *Primula* everywhere.

2008 Canadian West Coast Shows

BY MAEDYTHE MARTIN

- 1 Sir George Taylor, in the "Historical introduction" to Harold R. Fletcher, *A Quest of Flowers*, the plant explorations of Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff told from their diaries and other occasional writings, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 1975, p xxv.
- 2 See Taylor's "Historical introduction", pp x - xxix, in Fletcher.
- 3 Fletcher, xvii. Taylor says they carried a "massive" short wave radio.
- 4 From time to time they were joined by other enthusiasts, including medical officers Dr. K. Lumsden, and Dr. J.H. Hicks, Sir George Taylor, of the British Museum, and Betty Sherriff.
- 5 From an article by Ludlow in J.R.H.S., 93, (1968), quoted in Fletcher, p 367.
- 6 Richards, p 17
- 7 "He sensed that the Communist influence in Turkistan would lead eventually to the subjection of that country, but his opinion was not shared by his superior officers and he felt that these differences were so grave that he resigned." Taylor in Fletcher, p xvi.
- 8 Taylor in Fletcher, p xv
- 9 Taylor, in Fletcher, p xvi He says they even took books, discarded when space was needed.
- 10 Richards, p 16
- 11 Taylor in Fletcher, p xxvi
- 12 Betty Sherriff quoted in Fletcher, p 227.
- 13 Taylor in Fletcher, p xxvii
- 14 Fletcher seems to take special pleasure in making corrections when a possibly "new" specimen was already known.
- 15 Fletcher p 222.
- 16 Fletcher, p 34.
- 17 Fletcher, p 322
- 18 Fletcher's comment, in Fletcher, p 363.
- 19 Richards, p 17.



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The two shows at the West Coast to which primula lovers can bring their favorite treasured plants are the Alpine Garden Club of B.C. show and the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society show, both held in April. Both clubs have long associations with the American Primrose Society, though neither has a close relationship any more.

The Alpine Garden Club of B.C. was once called the Canadian Primula and Alpine Society and Grace Conboy, a founding member, was a west coast regional reporter for the APS quarterly in the 1950s. The name changed in the 1970s, but there are still many alpine growers who bring in excellent primula plants to the show. Susan Worthington Watson, the prime mover behind the APS Pictorial Dictionary, lived out her later life in the Vancouver area, and is still remembered by the Juliana primula plant she introduced, 'Butterball'. This is one of the larger Juliana hybrids, but has a charming freshness, as seen in the plant displayed in the AGCBC show this year.

This is not a large alpine show, and this year had only a few over 170 pots, but there are some fine growers and one or two surprising and interesting plants always appear. This year the *Primula* taking the trophy for Best *Primula* in Show was a *Primula ellisae* grown by Joe Keller, a stellar alpine grower, who

is also interested in growing primula. Roxanne Muth created another superb "potting shed" display for the B.C. Primula Group. The old garden collectibles and antique display items are always pleasing and interesting to look at. The Group also sponsored a successful plant sale on the Saturday morning of the show.

Whenever we start to describe a plant show, we inevitably talk about the weather, and this year was no exception. It was a late and unseasonably cold spring here at the Canadian West Coast, but I think the cool air acted like a giant refrigerator, for the plants to arrive at the VIRAGS show were some of the best anyone could remember! The alpine show was the largest in a long time, at 400 pots, and the American Primrose Society show, was held in the same hall at the same time. The combination made for a fantastic display.

In the VIRAGS show the trophy for best polyanthus went to a tidy dusky rose-colored polyanthus called 'Viola Mae' which appears regularly. Other notable plants were some three-pan entries by Sue Lee of seedling 'Striped Victorians' and 'Cowichan' polyanthus, both superbly grown and very fine plants. Sue also brought a polyanthus jack-in-the-green, a curiosity that is always a treat to see. Bryan Davies helped fill the benches and his *P. hirsuta* crosses were

pretty plants with good form in pastel colors. Bryan's colorful plants in the three-pan class for polyanthus, bright pink, red and yellow, were eye-catching. And finally, the trophy for Best *Primula* in Show again went to Joe Keller for a very large pot of a black garden auricula, appropriately called 'Blackie'.



Photo: Maedythe Martin

The Julianas provided a practical demonstration of "close but not the same." 'Jay Jay' is now a classic Juliana here at the West Coast and is such a fine, enduring garden plant that it is brought to shows regularly. But there were two jack-in-the-green Julianas, one in the VIRAGS show and one in the American Primrose Society show. With the help of Cheri Fluck, who was attending the APS show, and has grown Julianas for

many years in Juneau (where we know they grow as big as cabbages!) we were able to determine that the one in the VIRAGS show was actually 'Gina' a sibling or cousin of 'Jay Jay'. There is a color picture of 'Gina' on the cover of the Winter 1995 (Vol. 53, No.1) APS quarterly. The color is different, perhaps a shade darker than 'Jay Jay', and the flower is slightly daintier. It was nice to have them both in the same hall and be able to compare them.

The colorful primroses of spring, the cowslips, the drumstick primula and the tiny bird's eye primula were all there to remind us how much we enjoy and delight in spring.



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2008 New England Chapter Show Report

BY JUDITH SELLERS

A blanket of snow remaining on the ground in much of New England at the end of April and a hard freeze on May first did nothing to deter chapter members from enjoying the annual primula show during the rainy weekend of May 2, 3 and 4 at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Massachusetts.

After hasty retyping of the benching cards on Friday afternoon (because the ones used by the Hosta Society would have been misleading to the public,) the set up process went as smoothly as Show Chair Joseph Phillip had hoped. Eleven members brought sixty-nine plants to display on the benches in the long hallway leading to the orangerie. There were fewer pots than in past years, but the quality and variety more than made up for the reduction in quantity.

Judges Kris Fenderson, Mark Dyen and Mary Malloy were assisted by clerks Deborah Wheeler and Marion Stafford as they carefully evaluated each plant and awarded ribbons.

Congratulations to Susan Schnare, whose bright yellow self, 'Paradise Yellow', took Best Auricula and Best in Show. Kris Fenderson's large plant of *P. marginata* 'Agee's Form' (which was given to him by Orville many years ago) was stunning, and received second Best in Show as well as Best in Species Division. A pot of six different dainty *Primula* from the auriculastrum section benched by Judith Sellers was third, and Best 'Grower's Exhibit'.

Deborah Wheeler's beautifully grown yellow polyanthus won its class, and Mark Dyen's star-eyed hot pink primrose won Best Acaulis. Sunny Border Nursery's last minute entry of a wine red cushion form julie hybrid was the best in Division III, and they triumphed with the most blue ribbons: five in all classes.

Best exhibition auricula was a small plant of the old reliable bloomer, 'Argus,' benched by Judith Sellers. Mary Malloy tucked the flower buds on her *P. marginata* under the beautifully formed and farina-edged leaves to place it in the Foliage Division, where it deservedly took first place. Marianne Kuchel is becoming well known for the plants she grows from seed, and her semi-double blue/mauve auricula with a huge truss of perfect flowers demonstrated her skill as a grower of garden auriculas, winning her one of her three firsts in this show. Rodney Barker received blue for his glowing pink *P. kisoana* in full bloom, and his pristine white one took second. Marion Stafford, a veteran gardener but novice *Primula* exhibitor, earned a blue and Best in Class for her large pot of dark purple *P. denticulata*.

The awards were widely distributed, each exhibitor winning at least one blue first place ribbon, with 48 ribbons awarded in all classes.

We were inspired by Kris Fenderson's presentation showing how many species of *Primula* could be grown

with success in New Hampshire. Continuous propagation, regular division, planting in richly organic soil, and annual mulching with old leaves or pine needles seem to be Kris' keys to success with plants ranging in size from *P. minima* to *P. florindae*. Matt Mattus also wowed us with a digital slide show of *Primulas* and the other true alpine plants he and Joseph Phillip found high in the European mountains.

Plants and events at Tower Hill, including enticing plant sales, combined with excellent food and company provided an outstanding weekend for all of us, and we owe special thanks to 'Joe Show Chair' for bringing it all together.



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FROM THE VAULT OF *Primroses*

Vintage Bits

Selected by MICHAEL PLUMB

The author of this article found in the very first volume of the quarterly recommends fall division of polyanthus, but the Editor, Florence Levy, adds a note after the article to say other growers find dividing in July once the plants have seeded to be more successful. What do our readers think? Please send your thoughts or experiences to the editor at editor@americanprimrosesociety.org

Fall division of Polyanthus Primroses

Alfred E. Brooks from the APS Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 2, October 1943, pages 35-36

Dividing primroses is not a difficult feat and does your plants a great deal of good. If not divided, they soon deteriorate. If a maximum number of new plants is desired, divide down to single crowns, but if you wish to have a good display in the spring following division, leave two or three crowns on each new plant.

The actual division is simple. Dig the plant to be divided; remove all soil from the roots; divide into one or more plants as desired; trim the roots to about two and a half to three inches and trim off all old leaves. Don't forget to keep divisions cool and moist before and after resetting, water thoroughly. Occasionally you will have a plant with a tough, enlarged root resembling wood. Cut this root with a sharp knife into the desired sized new plants, eliminating as much of the old woody structure as possible.

Primroses can be successfully divided

at any season of the year, even when in bloom, but there is a proper season for such work. In the opinion of this writer, the proper season for dividing primroses is late summer, just prior to fall rains.

Primroses are decidedly cool weather plants. The hot summer months are their rest or dormant season., and their long roots down in the cool, damp earth should not be disturbed until the fall growing season is about to commence. By delaying division until this season little watering is necessary and the plants do not develop large lush growth before the winter frosts. An excessive growth during summer and fall makes primroses particularly subject to winter damage for they have been forced and weakened through insufficient rest.

Fall division of primroses also helps to eliminate strawberry root weevil from the new plants. Weevil eggs are laid in early summer and hatch in a few weeks. The larvae immediately travel down the primrose roots and start feeding on them. By late summer, or early fall, even the latest larvae are hatched and feeding. Division at this time removes practically all larvae from the roots and the new plants are set with clean roots ready to start natural growth and bloom freely in the spring. The writer has, for several seasons, observed that fall divisions have been free from the root weevils, whereas plants which were baited, but left in place, had some larvae in their roots.

To summarize, let me repeat the advantages of fall division:

1. Primroses stand the hot weather better with a full root system.
2. Dividing should be done at the end of the dormant (summer) season so the new plants have cool weather in which to become established.
3. Late division is a great help in eliminating strawberry root weevil

from primroses.

4. Don't overlook the human element. Who among us gardeners does not, at some time or other, neglect the plants not in bloom? New primrose divisions require water frequently during summer.

Editor's Note: [by Florence Levy (later Bellis)] There are two schools of thought on growing habits of primroses and the relationship these habits bear to cultural practices. In order that our readers may take the best from both and adapt the result to the particular set of conditions under which they garden, the opposite side of the question – the benefits of dividing in July after seeding with the summer as the growing season – will be presented at a future date. Honest controversy is the spice in the pudding.



Pretty as a Picture

*Make time to indulge in photos
from the English Shows*

[http://www.auriculas.org.uk/
photosweb/primulas_album.
html](http://www.auriculas.org.uk/photosweb/primulas_album.html)

[http://www.
auriculaandprimula.org.uk/](http://www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk/)

[http://www.
southernauriculaprimula.org/
pictures.html](http://www.southernauriculaprimula.org/pictures.html)

Pins + Thrums noteworthy bits

Trip Photos

Have you looked at the pictures on Pam Eveleigh's website, PrimulaWorld, from the trips to Tibet and China in 2007? Pam spoke at the American Primrose Society national show on her trip to Tibet, and not only was it a fine presentation, but the photos of primula, some newly discovered, were wonderful! If ever you want a feast for the soul, go and look at the pictures. They are under the "news" tab on her website.

The Top 100

Ever wished you could find a list of *Primula allionii* and hybrids as a reference? Someone pointed out an article to me that might be this very thing. It is a list, compiled by David Philbey in Petersfield, Hants., and is published in the *Alpine Gardener*, June 2004 issue 187 and on.

David references a list published over 20 years ago of the *P. allionii* clones, compiled by Margaret Earle, that was also published in the *Alpine Gardener*. His list adds some of the many wonderful new introductions since Margaret's list was published as well as his all time favorites. A few of the plants from the strains presented by growers and nurserymen, such as Lismore, Lindum, Wharfedale and Broadwell are found here along with other plants both new and old. Pages of color photos of flower pips provide a visual reference. Cryptic comments by the author, such as "indispensable", "connoisseur's dream" "sometimes temperamental" or "boisterous" provide the novice grower with hints when forming a collection.

Perhaps your garden club has this journal, or it is lurking on your bookshelf somewhere. Get it out and have a look, it is a very useful list.

Mary's Book

One of the most useful books on auriculas, I have found, is Mary Robinson's *Auriculas for Everyone*, published in 2000. A friend was looking at my copy recently, and when she went home, looked up on the web to find a copy for herself. To my surprise and dismay, the few copies offered in North America cost over \$100. I believe there is one copy offered in Australia for only \$40. I was going to ask someone for a book report to publish in *Primroses* and recommend it as an indispensable reference book for beginners with auriculas, but it seems a bit useless to do this, if you can't get the book! If you have a copy, treasure it! If you know of a spare copy, could you let me know, as my friend wants it.

Installing a Theatre

BY IAN MACGOWAN

The Auricula Theater is located in the Gatehouse of the Meerkerk Rhododendron Garden on Whidbey Island about 50 miles north of Seattle. Meerkerk is one of the largest public specialty gardens in the state.



"...there needed to be a way to increase the interest in Auriculas and create some new growers in the area."



Photos: Ian MacGowan



"...designed and built by Ian MacGowan and his wife Brenda...Robin Fisher, who designed the Auricula Theater that won the Gold Medal at the Chelsea Garden show, and David Tarver who has written the definitive history of Theaters..."

"The design was meant to blend in with the design of the garden's gatehouse and...become a permanent fixture"

Show varieties were used and Alpines of exceptional color, which offered the public a good view of the breadth of colors and types.



VIRAGS Show, 2008



Alpine Garden Club of BC

Photos this page, clockwise from top left: Joe Keller's Best in Show winner *Primula ellisiae*, white *marginata* seedling, Roxanne Muth and her display at the show, table of *allionii* many entered by Rhonda Porter, Pam Frost's 'Lady Greer', *Primula x pubescens* 'Petite'
All Photos: Maedythe Martin



Photos this page, top: view of the hall showing the VIRAGS trophy table, clockwise from top left: silverfaced jack-in-the-green, Bryan Davies winning *julianna* hybrid, bench of *primula*, Roger Whitlock's *P. pruhojiciana*, blue striped Victorian.
All photos, except as noted: Maedythe Martin



Photo: Bailey Guild



Photo: Jane Guild



2008 APS National Show



Photo: Pam Eveleigh

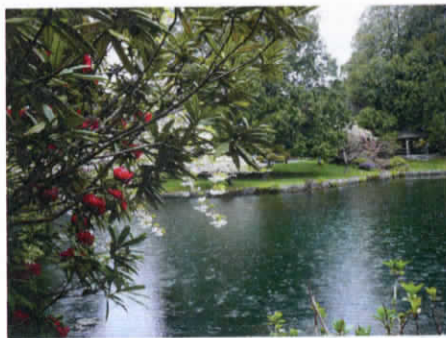
This page, clockwise from top left: Joe Keller's Division Winning *Androsace*, a decorative basket of primroses, Michael Plumb's well turned-out pot of *Primula vulgaris*, border *auricula* class from the APS show in the foreground and the VIRAGS show behind, Maedythe Martin's double grey seedling.

Facing page, clockwise from top left: Bryan Davies' award winning double seedling, auricula theatre, three-award winning seedling by Bryan Davies, Grower's Award winner double seedlings from Derek Salt's seed, Joe Keller's award winning species, Michael Plumb's exhibition Alpine 'Walton'



Photo: J Sellers





Photos: Judith Sellers

HATLEY PARK AT ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY AND THE ABKHAZI GARDENS



Photo: Judith Sellers



Photo: Jane Guild

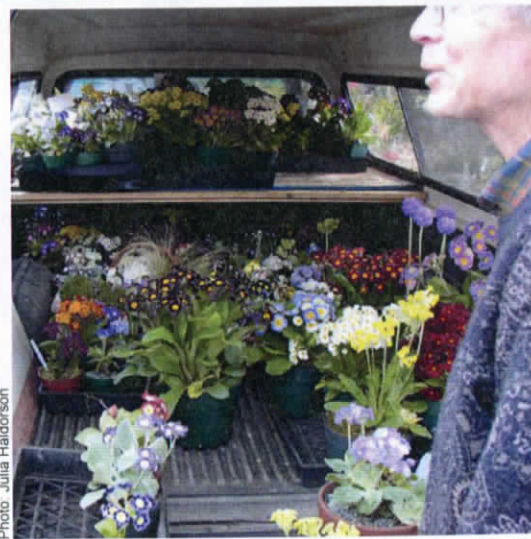


Photo: Julia Haldorson

Photos this page, clockwise from top left: Hatley Park in the rain, Abkhazi garden's rocky pond, Bryan Davies award winning show *Auricula*, Bryan Davies with his truck full of show plants, Michael Plumb checking entries, Judith Sellers and Janis Buyarski taking photos during staging, winning entries with their ribbons, Jacques Mommens's Dorothy Dickson award for Outstanding Service to the APS



Photo: Pam Eveleigh



Photo: Judith Sellers



Faces, Places, Plants and Awards 2008 APS National Show



Photo: Jane Guild

Photos this page, clockwise from top left: Rhonda Porter looking over the APS show table, Michael Plumb receiving his award for Best Named Show *Auricula*, Bryan Davies receiving one of his awards, Julia Haldorson, Ed Buyarski, Judith Sellers and Michael Plumb discussing table setup, Joe Keller with his award for Best Species, Judith Sellers receiving Jacques Mommens award on his behalf, Barbara Blyth after spending many hours at the APS sale table.

New England Show 2008



Photo: Judith Sellers



Photo: Judith Sellers

Above: Hallway of entries, Best in Show and Best Garden Auricula 'Paradise Yellow' benched by Susan Schnare, benches of entries, a magenta drumstick *primula*, full hallway of entries, *Denticulata* Section. Top right: prize winning double. Bottom right: Kris Fenderson's *P. marginata* 'Agee's Form' taking Best in Division. Center right, clockwise from top left: purple *P. denticulata*, benched entries, semi-double *auriculas*, Cowichan, *Acaulis* and Other Sections. All Photos: Joe Philip, unless otherwise credited.

The American Primrose Society's 58th National Show, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada:

April 25 - 27, 2008
A Novice's Impressions

BY JULIA HALDORSEN

After an early start, we caught the 7:30 am Washington State ferry in Anacortes, Washington for the "international" sailing to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. On board we settled back to enjoy the 4 hour trip through the San Juan Islands. The weather was cool, but the puffy white clouds gave promise to a fine day ahead. Sure enough, by the time we cleared customs in Sidney, British Columbia, the sun was shining. We drove into Victoria and located the church where the National Show would be held in conjunction with the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society (VIRAGS) spring show. The Cadboro Bay United Church is located near the village of Cadboro Bay, a lovely area on the eastern side of Victoria. And, hooray!, there was a Starbuck's in the Village where one could refuel!

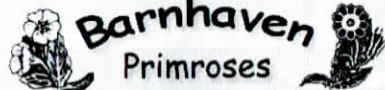
Setting up the show was intense and a lot of work. While we were focusing on APS members and their entries, it was hard to ignore all of the wonderful rock garden plants appearing for the VIRAGS show. Each plant entered had to have a "ticket" prepared (which included the plant grower's name, plant name and the division where it would compete), then the plant was placed on

the bench. The show stewards, Michael and Rhondda Plumb were there, as were the show judges, Ed Buyarski and Cheri Fluck. We worked with the exhibitors to make sure the plants were grouped properly for judging. Someone brought in an "auricula theater", which was promptly assembled and filled with show auriculas. Very nice! All told, there were over 140 entries in the show from seven exhibitors. Finally, all of the plants were staged; we were off for pub food!

Early the next morning I arrived at the church to help with the judging. Janis Buyarski and I clerked for Cheri Fluck while Pam Eveleigh clerked for Ed Buyarski and Lee Nelson, Senior and Junior judges, respectively. I must confess that my experience with judging is very limited. I am not a grower, but one who appreciates a beautiful plant. At shows, I am usually relegated to the cash box. So the clerking experience was informative, great fun as well as hard work. Each judge was assigned half of the entries (or about 70 plants). Each plant was examined, assigned a ribbon (if any) with the judge's "gentle" comments recorded on the "ticket" by the clerks. I learned that the most beautiful, unusual

plant may not receive a blue ribbon if not properly groomed.

The judging took all morning, and when it was finally done, one exhibitor, Bryan Davies from Victoria, emerged as the star of the show, garnering 7 of the 11 trophies awarded. My favorite Davies plants were the pale yellow seedling that won the Mary Zach Trophy for Best Show Auricula and the orange gold-centered alpine auricula that won the John Haddock – C. F. Hill Award for the Best Alpine Auricula Seedling and the John Schuman Award for the Best Show Alpine Auricula. Another favorite of mine was Michael Plumb's exhibition alpine auricula "Walton" which won the Frank Michaud Trophy for Best Named Show Auricula.



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The afternoon talks were wonderful. Pam Eveleigh, a founding member of the Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS) and former webmaster for the American Primrose Society, presented "Primula of the Tibetan Plateau". Pam was fortunate to travel to Tibet in June-July, 2007 to photograph primroses in the wild. The talk featured amazing photographs of primroses and their habitat as well as an informative description of the trip itself. Details of Pam's trip can be found on her website at www.primulaworld.com.

The second talk entitled "Wild and Tame Alaskan Primroses" was presented by Ed Buyarski, former president of the American Primrose Society. Of special interest was that Aline Strutz, an Alaska pioneer and the mother in law of one of Alaska's governors, Walter Hickel, gathered wild primroses from all over Alaska and successfully grew them in her garden in Anchorage, Alaska. We saw slides of many of her plants including *Primula borealis*, *p. cuneifolia*, and *p. tschuktchorum*. I later read that Aline Strutz collected and grew all of the primroses identified by Eric Hulten in his book *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories*. An interesting insight into the history of Alaska!

The next morning started off bright and early with Pam Eveleigh's workshop, "Creative Approaches to Photographing Flowers". Pam, an accomplished photographer with a degree in computer science, is expert with digital photography and "the post processing

of her images." The workshop included a review of equipment, a list of photo storage websites for inspiration, information about photography techniques and artistic direction. A list of books was also provided. Pam showed us her little "bag of tricks" for enhancing photographs. Some of these tricks employed common materials such as a piece of polyethylene to act as a light diffuser. After the workshop, Pam took us into "the field" to try our hand at some of the newly learned techniques. The workshop was fun and informative!

I skipped out of the Open Forum. I needed that café latte from Starbuck's, and I enjoyed the break, sitting outside in the sun and reflecting on the show, the talks and the photography workshop. Later I was back at the church, strolling through the hall, looking at all of the wonderful displays from both VIRAGS and APS, breathing deep to enjoy the fragrance of the primroses.

On Sunday, April 27th we enjoyed tours of some of Victoria's most beautiful gardens. First to Hatley Park, which was created in the early part of the 20th century. At that time the classic Edwardian park surrounded Hatley Castle. Today Hatley Park is part of the Royal Roads University. We explored the Japanese, Italian and Rose Gardens, as well as the Lord and Burnham Greenhouse. The gentle rain that was falling actually enhanced the beauty of the gardens. Many thanks to Mr. John Sheridan, formerly the Garden Curator, who gave us a wonderful tour of Hatley Park.

QUARTERLY SETS AVAILABLE - \$25!

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

After a congenial lunch at the Royal Roads University Cafeteria we were off to the Abkhazi Garden. Created in the 1940's the garden was described by the garden's creators, Peggy and Nicholas Abkhazi, as "a Chinese scroll which, as it is unrolled, gradually reveals its sequence of views, mood and character." The entry to the garden is through a rhododendron woodland. The rhododendrons were in full bloom with many species of primula in bloom at their feet. We continued to explore the garden, finishing our tour at the tea room which was the Abkhazis' former living room. From the tea room one gets an overview of the garden and the views of Victoria beyond

Our final garden was a private Victoria garden which featured a pond, a lovely rock garden and a newly constructed Japanese tea house. While Hatley Park and the Abkhazi Garden were truly wonderful and awe inspiring, it's in the private gardens where one can glean ideas that may actually be applicable to one's own garden.

The garden tours were a fitting end to the 58th National Show of the American Primrose Society. The show was also memorable for the many members who traveled to Victoria from Vancouver, B. C., New York State, Wisconsin, Saskatchewan, Washington State, Oregon and Alaska. It was great to meet long time member Jan van Saase from the Netherlands. Many thanks to the show sponsors, the B. C. Primula Group and the Primrose Group of VIRAGS; show stewards, Michael and Rhondda Plumb; judges, Ed Buyarski and Cheri Fluck; talk and workshop presenters Ed Buyarski and Pam Eveleigh; and especially the plant exhibitors of the American Primrose Society.



Trophies Awarded, 2008 APS National Show

Mary Zach Trophy for Best Show Auricula: **Bryan Davies**, *Pale Yellow Seedling*

Ellen Page Hayden Trophy for Best Double: **Bryan Davies**, *Greeny-Yellow flowers*

Frank Michaud Trophy for Best Named Show Auricula: **Michael Plumb**, *Exhibition Alpine Auricula 'Walton'*

Peter Klein Hybridizing Award: **Bryan Davies**, White Garden Auricula

John Kerridge Award for Most Species in Show: **Cheri Fluck**

Rae Berry Memorial Award for Best Species: **Joe Keller**, *Primula halleri*

John Haddock - C. F. Hill for Best Alpine Auricula Seedling: **Bryan Davies**, *Orange Gold-centered Alpine*

John Schuman Award for Best Show Alpine Auricula: **Bryan Davies**, *Orange Gold-centered Alpine*

C.J. Hill Award for Best Alpine Auricula Seedling: **Bryan Davies**, *Orange Gold-centered Alpine*

APS Award for Highest Aggregate Points: **Bryan Davies**

Novice Award for Highest Points: **Ian MacGowan**

Dorothy S. Dickson Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to the APS: Awarded

Feedback from the show...

"This was a very successful and enjoyable show. There was a good mix of species and hybrids on display as well as the impressive auricula section.

Coupled with the VIRAGS display it was possible to spend hours just looking at plants. The organization was very good and the talks and round table discussion were excellent. Thanks to everyone concerned for a great show."

~ Alan Lawrence
Lake Delton, Wisconsin



"My first visit to an American Primrose Society show was much more than I could have expected. In fact, I didn't know what to expect, as I only knew Pam Eveleigh in the primula world.

The quality of the entries was impressive and making friendships with other APS members was a great antidote to thinking about my snow-bound garden, still covered with a fresh layer in late April.

I was concerned that the APS entries seemed to be squeezed out by the alpine entries. The APS sales table, next to a commercial grower, was in danger of being swamped and had to be guarded constantly! But Judith Sellers and I provided patrol duty for much of the time.

The icing on the cake for me was the gift of Michael Plumb's winning *Primula vulgaris* at the end of the show. It is home in northern Saskatchewan now, and planted in the ground, as the snow has finally melted, the mini-jonquils are showing buds and the eagles are back.

It was a great weekend, and I congratulate the organizers on all their hard work."

~ Barbara Blyth
La Ronge, Saskatchewan.



"I did enjoy my visit to Victoria and the APS National Show very much. It was very nice to meet so many people who I only knew from the APS quarterly's articles and photos. My thanks to Michael and Rhondda Plumb for their warm welcome and for organizing this all.

I also very much enjoyed the Banquet Dinner with the two big round tables which gave me the feeling of a family reunion. Also the bus trip to the gardens was great. For me, it was worth it to make the long trip and I probably would do it again another time."

~ Jan Van Sasse
Netherlands

Hatley Park, Abkhazi Garden, and More

Garden Tours of the National Show 2008

BY JUDITH SELLERS

Drizzly weather could not dampen our spirits as our minibus toured Victoria's B&B's and hotels collecting us for the Sunday garden visits planned during the APS National Show in Victoria, BC, Canada. After some fun with seat belts that no one over the age of 7 could easily manipulate, we were on our way to Hatley Park, a National Historic Site overlooking the sea with beautiful views of distant mountains.

The Castle guide recounted the history of the 565 acre estate and of its building by former BC Premier and coal rail baron James Dunsmuir. The pseudo Scottish castle has a Norman center with 16th Century style wings, but proudly states '1908' on the drainpipe. With the stipulation when it was donated to the Canadian government that it always remain a 'school', Hatley Park eventually became the Royal Roads Military College, and today is part of Royal Roads University.

Instead of marveling at gilded antlers above massive stone fireplaces inside the castle, we spent most of our time with John Sheridan, the garden curator,

and the head plant propagator. Our most knowledgeable guides showed us the places and plants they tend with obvious joy. Complete with knot gardens, terraces, ancient trees carefully preserved, urns on balusters, grand staircases and waterways, the estate also once had a walled kitchen garden with heated glasshouses and cucumber frames. Of particular beauty was the Japanese garden, set around



Photo: Judith Sellers

a pond with various primula species, glowing rhododendrons, enviable tree ferns, authentic pagodas and bridges, and a rock garden.

We were excited by a tiny *Primula* seedling being grown in the alpine frames beside the greenhouse. The plant had been labeled '*P. capitata*, Holubec, 2003' but was obviously some other *Primula* which none of us recognized!

As we had listened carefully to Pam Eveleigh's presentations on *Primulas* in Tibet (some unknown) and Photographing Plants at the National Show the day before, we knew that properly documenting this plant would be important. Cameras clicked as we jostled to take pictures of the flowers and foliage from all angles, and Pam will soon be inundated with email copies of our photos for possible identification.

After a quick lunch in the Hatley Park cafe, we again played with our seat belts on the way to the Abkhazi Garden. Set on just an acre and a half,



Photo: Judith Sellers

and relatively modern (1946), the area was cleverly designed on a steep site to give the illusion of a much larger garden with clear long views and intimate pathways. Peggy Abkhazi seems to have achieved her goal of having a garden which entices and enchants visitors as does the unfurling of a Chinese scroll. From Rhododendron Woodland to formal South Lawn, from

duck pond to massive rock garden, we found vistas and reflections, bright colors and perfected forms at every turn.

Running behind schedule, we eventually tore ourselves from Abkhazi Garden and avoided seat belt struggles by walking to a nearby private garden. Our hosts, Yvonne and Hugh Rorison, were building a complicated rock waterfall and pool within their existing landscape. In spite of very limited space, it was obvious that the gentians, *P. marginatas*, androsace, daphnes and many other choice plants and shrubs would not be disturbed for

construction, and the whole would soon become only more intensively attractive. It was a privilege to be invited to tour this garden, where horticultural ability and energy were demonstrated so well.

Back on the minibus, having

most efficiently clicked our seatbelts, we voiced a loud thanks to Michael and Rhondda for having selected so carefully the sites that provided us with a memorable day in the gardens of Victoria.



Goodbye Dodecatheon; Hello Primula!

BY JAY LUNN

Herbalists from the 15th century, Carl Linnaeus the great Swedish naturalist who followed in the 18th century, and all but the most recent modern taxonomists have had to rely solely on visual characteristics to classify plants. However, present-day taxonomists have been using DNA analysis in their work. The first instance in which I remember such analysis being used was by Cholewa and Henderson¹ in their diagnosis for the species *Primula alcalina* in 1984. They determined, that a plant, formerly considered a white-flowered form of *P. incana*, was actually a previously undescribed species because of its lower chromosome number. They ascertained that this white-flowered plant had a chromosome number of $2n = 18$ (the same as for *P. mistassinica* and *P. specuicola*) as compared to *P. incana* with a count of $2n = 54$. The preponderance of a taxonomist's work relies upon examining dried herbarium specimens. I believe a good case could have been made for describing *P. alcalina* as a new species by observing both it and *P. incana* in the wild (*in situ*) without reliance on DNA analysis.

An article authored by Austin Mast and James Reveal, *Transfer of Dodecatheon to Primula (Primulaceae)*², was published in the March 2007 issue of *Brittonia*. They concluded that recent molecular evidence was in agreement with prior hypotheses that the small genus *Dodecatheon* is most closely related to one of the seven subgenera of *Primula*. "To avoid future confusion," they make new combinations for *Dodecatheon* in *Primula* and establish *Primula* section *Dodecatheon* as a member of *Primula* subgenera *Auriculastrum* in which to place them. The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) is the set of rules and recommendations dealing with botanical names that are given to plants. The ICBN specifies that the oldest validly published name must prevail. Linnaeus proposed both *Primula* and *Dodecatheon* in 1753, so the authors chose to retain *Primula*, "since it represents a far larger and more widespread group."

Accepting their conclusions would result in the *Dodecatheon* species (and one *Meadia* species) names being changed to the following *Primula* names:

Dodecatheon austrofrigidum = *Primula austrofrigida*³

Dodecatheon clevelandii = *Primula clevelandii*³

Dodecatheon clevelandii subsp. *insulare* = *Primula clevelandii* var. *insularis*³

Dodecatheon conjugens = *Primula conjugens*³

Dodecatheon cusickii = *Primula pauciflora* var. *cusickii*³

Dodecatheon dentatum var. *utahense* = *Primula utahensis*³

Dodecatheon ellisiae = *Primula standleyana*⁴

Dodecatheon frigidum = *Primula frigida*³

Dodecatheon hendersonii = *Primula hendersonii*³

Dodecatheon jeffreyi = *Primula jeffreyi*³

Dodecatheon jeffreyi var. *redolens* = *Primula fragrans*⁴

Dodecatheon meadia = *Primula meadia*³

Dodecatheon meadia var. *amethystinum* = *Primula fassettii*⁴

Dodecatheon meadia var. *frenchii* = *Primula frenchii*³

Dodecatheon meadia var. *latilobum* = *Primula latiloba*³

Dodecatheon meadia var. *macrocarpum* = *Primula pauciflora* var. *macrocarpa*³

Dodecatheon patulum var. *gracile* = *Primula clevelandii* var. *gracilis*³

Dodecatheon pauciflorum = *Primula pauciflora*³

Dodecatheon pauciflorum var. *monanthum* = *Primula pauciflora* var. *monantha*³

Dodecatheon pauciflorum var. *shoshonense* = *Primula pauciflora* var. *shoshonensis*³

Dodecatheon poeticum = *Primula poetica*³

Dodecatheon pulchellum var. *distolum* = *Primula pauciflora* var. *distola*³

Dodecatheon subalpinum = *Primula subalpina*³

Dodecatheon tetrandrum = *Primula tetrandra*³

Dodecatheon viscidum = *Primula conjugens* var. *viscida*³

Dodecatheon zionense = *Primula pauciflora* var. *zionensis*³

Meadia patula = *Primula clevelandii* var. *patula*³

Meadia patula was described in 1891 and two other names that have been used for this species were *D. patulum* and *D. clevelandii* subsp. *patulum*.

The authors transferred *D. patulum* var. *gracile* to *P. clevelandii* var. *gracilis* without explanation. *Dodecatheon viscidum* was relegated to a variety of *P. conjugens* when it was integrated into that genus, although it had been known as *D. conjugens* ssp. *viscidum* in the past. *Dodecatheon amethystinum*, which the authors call *D. meadia* var. *amethystinum*, was moved to *P. fassettii*, a new name they had to make up since there already was a *P. amethystina*. They also made up a new name *P. fragrans* in which to place *Dodecatheon redolens*, which they call *D. jeffreyi* var. *redolens*. The name *P. redolens* was already in use.

Dodecatheon meadia var. *frenchii* was raised to species rank when it was moved to *P. frenchii*; however it had already been known as the species *D. frenchii*. Both *D. dentatum* ssp. *ellisiae* and *D. dentatum* ssp. *utahense* were likewise elevated to species rank during their move. Since there already was a *P. ellisiae* (or was called that before it was reduced to a subspecies), the new name *P. standleyana* was made up for the move of *D. dentatum* ssp. *ellisiae*. The authors followed the path taken by Mast *et al.* (2004)⁵ to corroborate some of their moves. They apparently concluded that the widely distributed and extensive population of plants that had been known as *D. dentatum* (ssp. *dentatum*), should now be *D. media* var. *latilobum* and moved to *P. latiloba*. The name *P. dentata* was already in use.

Since the epithet, *pulchella* was taken, they used *P. pauciflora* as the location for some of their moves, including *D. pulchellum*. *Dodecatheon cusickii* was lowered to a varietal rank in *P. pauciflora* (var. *cusickii*), as well as, *D. zionensis* as var. *zionensis* and *D. meadia* var. *macrocarpum* was made *P. pauciflora* var. *macrocarpa*.

Primula alpina was a synonym name associated with both *P. auricula* and *P. latifolia*. The authors concluded that the name *D. alpinum* which had been accepted for a long time should be *D. tetrandrum* instead, thus avoiding the conflict with the name *P. alpina*.

You should note that (among other nomenclatural rules) the endings for many of the species discussed here differ when linked to one or the other genus. Normally there should be agreement between the genders (masculine, feminine and neuter) of the specific epithets (species) and the generic (genus) names. I believe that the Greek *Dodecatheon* is neuter and Latin *Primula* feminine, so, e.g., the neuter ending *-um* as in *D. pauciflorum* is converted to a feminine *-a* ending for *P. pauciflora*.

Listed below in alphabetical order are the species that would be added to the genus *Primula*:



Photo: Jay Lunn

Primula austrofrigida
Primula clevelandii
Primula clevelandii var. *gracilis*
Primula clevelandii var. *insularis*
Primula clevelandii var. *patula*
Primula conjugens
Primula conjugens var. *viscida*
Primula fassettii
Primula fragrans
Primula frenchii
Primula frigida
Primula hendersonii
Primula jeffreyi
Primula latiloba
Primula meadia
Primula pauciflora
Primula pauciflora var. *cusickii*
Primula pauciflora var. *distola*
Primula pauciflora var. *macrocarpa*
Primula pauciflora var. *monantha*
Primula pauciflora var. *shoshonensis*
Primula pauciflora var. *zionensis*
Primula poetica
Primula standleyana
Primula subalpina
Primula tetrandra
Primula utahensis

This would add 27 species or subspecies to approximately 24 *Primula* that are already recognized as occurring in North America.

James Reveal wrote an article entitled *When a Shooting Star Is Really a Primrose*, which appeared in the Spring 2008 issue of the *Rock Garden Quarterly*.⁶ In this article, he indicated that the forthcoming volume for the *Flora of North America north of Mexico* (FNA) dealing with *Primulaceae* will recognize *Dodecatheon*. He went on to say that this was only because a decision was made early in formatting the volume that *Dodecatheon* would be accepted. Of course he prefaced all of this by saying "... is this the final word?"

Not really." He admitted that recognition of *Dodecatheon* by the FNA would no doubt help to perpetuate the name. There is a detailed treatment of the genus *Dodecatheon* by James Reveal at <http://www.plantsystematics.org/reveal/pbio/fna/dodecatheon.html>. This web page titled Revision of *Dodecatheon* (Primulaceae) incorporates the changes in the genus *Dodecatheon* that Mast and Reveal mentioned in their article² published in *Brittonia*.

These are drastic taxonomic changes involving or eliminating well-known names. Regardless of the evidence available, is it necessary to make these changes merely because of common ancestry? I hope the scientific community does not embrace this taxonomic revision. I, for one, am too old to accept the new names. I will continue to call the little plants with the reflexed flower lobes dodecateons!

- 1 Cholewa, Anita F. & Douglass M. Henderson. 1984. *Primula alcalina* (Primulaceae): a new species from Idaho. *Brittonia* 36(1): 59-62.
- 2 Mast, Austin R. & James L. Reveal. 2007. Transfer of *Dodecatheon* to *Primula* (Primulaceae). *Brittonia* 1, 59(1): 79-82.
- 3 comb. nov. (combinatio nova) - new combination
- 4 nom. nov. (nomen novum) - new name
- 5 Mast, A. R., D. M. S. Feller, S. Kelso & E. Conti. 2004. Buzz-pollinated *Dodecatheon* originated from within the heterostylous *Primula* subgenus *Auriculastrum* (Primulaceae): A 7-region cpDNA phylogeny and its implications for floral evolution. *American Journal of Botany* 91: 926-942.
- 6 Reveal, James L. 2008. When a Shooting Star Is Really a Primrose. *Rock Garden Quarterly* (Bulletin of the North American Rock Garden Society) 66(2): 83-93.

Website Notes

You may have noticed that just prior to the National show in April the APS website changed its looks. For those of you on older computers, you should now be able to see the full width of the website without the need for scrolling, and for those of you with newer computers, everything may load just a little bit faster. If you are still seeing the old look of the website, you may need to refresh the page to clear your computer's memory. If you ever have any problems with the functionality of the website, please contact the Webmaster at webmaster@americanprimrosesociety.org.

We have also just added www.americanprimrosesociety.com to point to our website, so if you (or someone you know) happens to put .com at the end, you will still end up at the right place.

The contact information on the website has changed a bit too. We now have a contact form on the website, instead of a link that opens in your own email program. This should streamline the process of getting email to the right person.

We would like to hear your thoughts on these changes - please let us know!

American Primrose Society Minutes of the Annual General Meeting April 26th, 2008

The meeting was held in person, online and by telephone. It opened at 2:37 pm, Pacific Time.

Present: Linda Bailey (Director), Mary Jo Burns (Director), Ed Buyarski (ex-President of the APS, President of the Juneau Chapter), Julia Haldorson (Director and Membership Secretary), Marianne Kuchel (Director), Maedythe Martin (President of the BC Group), Michael Plumb (Secretary), Judith Sellers (Vice President)

Others present: Cheri Fluck (newly-appointed Director), Alan Lawrence (member), Jan van Saase (member)

Regrets: Lee Nelson (President), Jane Guild (Editor and Website)

1. **The Minutes of February 10th, 2008** - Accepted as presented (Ed /Julia)
2. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Linda asked what was meant by "conversions". The explanation is that \$50 is spent to convert \$US to \$Cdn every quarter.
 - Total liabilities and equity as of April 11th, 2008: \$26,147.30 [February 1st, 2008: \$23,470.76]. This includes funds totaling \$1,025.76 brought in from the closure of the Washington and Oregon chapters – Awaiting approval (See MOTION below).
 - Income less expenses January 1st, 2008 to April 10th, 2008: \$294.14
 - Publication expenses for Winter Quarterly, including Editor's honorarium of \$350: \$2798.62
 - Total gifts towards publishing the Quarterly amount to \$2020 (The Alaska Chapter has donated \$1000. The New England Chapter has offered \$400.). Total advertising revenue for 2008 Quarterlies will be at least \$647.50. This means an amount of \$666.88 is available to help support each Quarterly in 2008.
 - MOTION (Cheri/Michael): To assimilate the funds remaining from the closure of the Washington and Oregon chapters into the general APS funds. Carried unanimously.
 - The Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously, with thanks. (Cheri/Ed).
3. **Committee Reports**

Seed Exchange

 - Members should be reminded that the seed list will be posted on the website and not mailed to members unless individual members specifically request this. Michael will ask the Editor to put this reminder in the Spring and Summer Quarterlies.
 - Jacques has kindly agreed to continue as Seed Exchange Coordinator. Marianne and Judith will help if asked.

Primroses Quarterly

 - The donations from the Alaska and New England chapters (See Treasurer's Report, above) follow promised cost reductions achieved by the Quarterly Committee.

Website

 - Jane will continue as Webmaster. In response to her request for help with email correspondence sent via the website, members will be informed in the Quarterly of the following: Julia will deal with membership issues, Jacques will handle Seed Exchange matters, and Lee will answer questions on growing primula. Jane will continue to deal with email concerning the website itself, of course.
 - Alan suggested that members should be able to post public questions and comments

to the website after the manner of "Letters to the Editor".

- TABLED for the next meeting: Discussion on guidance to Jane of what content should be put on the website.

National Show

- Judith announced that the New England Chapter has offered to host the 2009 Show.
- The Board expressed thanks to the BC Group for this year's show, in which over 140 plants were entered.
- Michael reported that the presentations by Pam Eveleigh and Ed Buyarski had been extremely well received.

Membership Committee

- Julia will notify local chapter presidents of new members in their area.

4. **Old Business**

Tacoma Chapter

- MOTION (Michael/Julia): To reinstate the Tacoma Chapter as a full APS chapter (requested in a letter from Candy Strickland). Carried unanimously.
- Michael will send a letter to Candy informing her of Tacoma's reinstatement.
- Lee will send a letter to all chapters reminding them of their obligations as stated in the Society's bylaws. These obligations are a legal requirement in order to retain our non-profit status.

Compilation of APS Board members' duties

Board members were asked to send Lee (APS President) a list of their regular functions. Michael will send Lee suggestions for future show chairs. Judith will write up Seed Exchange guidelines. A record will be kept so that future board members can take on their duties more easily.

5. **New Business**

Dorothy S. Dickson Award for Outstanding Service to the APS

- By unanimous vote of the Board, this has been awarded to Jacques Mommens.
- Michael will send a letter to Jacques.

Election of Directors – Results of members' votes

- Linda Bailey has been reelected unanimously for another three-year term.
- Cheri Fluck has been elected unanimously for her first three-year term.

Coming elections

- The offices of Vice President and Secretary are due for election soon, as are two directors' posts.
- The President will establish a Nominating Committee. Volunteers are encouraged to report to Lee.

New item: Book Librarian

- The President has dissolved this position due to inactivity. The mention of this post will be removed from the website and the Quarterly.
- Michael will inform the current holder of this position.

Provisional dates of the coming year's board meetings

- July 26th, October 25th, January 31st (the last Saturday of these months)

6. **Adjournment** (Cheri / Ed) at 3:26 pm Pacific Time.

Next board meeting: Saturday, July 26th, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Plumb, Secretary



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/membership>.

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society

Midland & West Section



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.

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

New Members

2008 Expiry

Barbara Cenova 15 Ronan Street Hillcrest Binghamton, New York 13901-1546 U.S.A.
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Jackie Van de Veire The Field Museum - Dept. of Botany 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive Chicago, Illinois 60605 U.S.A.
Steve Vinisky 21700 SW Chapman Road Sherwood, Oregon 97140 U.S.A.
Catherine Wagner 1587 Hunt Road Windsor, Vermont 05089-9406 U.S.A.

2010 Expiry

Giles Reed 22A Charlton Road Aynho, Banbury Oxfordshire, England OX17 3AD U.K.

Should there ever be a question about your membership, please contact:

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