



# Primroses

THE QUARTERLY OF THE AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

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# Primroses

*The Quarterly of the  
American Primrose Society*

Volume 67 No 4

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The purpose of this Society is to bring the people interested in *Primula* together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden 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: APS Photo Contest Winner in the "Other Gardens" category: Becky Carls' *Dodecatheon* growing on the beach in Kodiak, Alaska.  
Back Cover: Tufa wall with *Primula allionii* from Jules Fouarge's garden in Belgium.

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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 (including the Pictorial Dictionary) and use of the slide library.

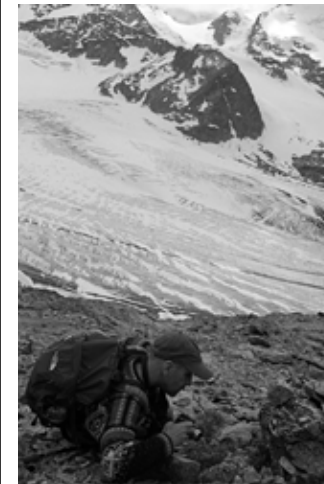
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\$70 for three years  
Overseas rates are:  
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Contact the treasurer for details.

# President's Message

JOE PHILIP

Hello Fellow Members,



It is that time of year again, when we are preparing for the cold weather to settle in around us. I was walking around the yard and all of the swamp maples have already turned scarlet red and bright orange. In Massachusetts, these are always the first things to start to turn color. This is the time when we need

to start preparing our gardens for a long rest. This year I am going to try a small hoop house that is open on both sides for my show Auriculas. I will let you know how it all turns out in the spring.

At this time, I would like to encourage fellow APS members to try their best to renew by the deadline of November 15th. Failing that, please, please, renew by year end, December 31. Any issue that can not go out with the bulk mailing costs the society money. Last year there were so many late renewals, the amount was almost \$300. On postage alone! Our alternative is to hold your first issue of the year, and send the January one in the bulk mailing in April. But all this would be avoided if your name is on the membership list for January 1, 2010.

I also encourage you to look carefully at the APS seed list when it comes out on the website, and order some seeds to start. The most amazing things come out of those small packages. You can

obtain seed for plants in the APS seed exchange that you would be unlikely to find any other way. And what a sense of satisfaction when your new seedlings are ready to plant out. The seed list should be available on the website by December 10, 2009. And remember that donating seed gets you first in line for ordering - see page 35 - for further information on the Seed Exchange.

Joseph Philip  
APS President



### Marie Ann Skonberg

It is with great sadness that we report that Marie Skonberg died peacefully in her sleep on June 28, 2009. She was a life-long resident of Ouzinkie, Alaska, and a long-time member of APS. For a number of years in the 1980s, she ran the APS seed exchange. A friend, Elana White, from Kodiak Alaska contacted us and sent Marie's obituary from the local Kodiak paper printed July 14<sup>th</sup> this year. She is survived by many relatives, including her grandson Devon James, after whom she named a *P. x Juliana* primrose she raised. It is a most unusual color; pink with some peach tones, striped and flecked with red. It is only one of many primroses she raised, for she was a very gifted hybridizer.

She will be missed by her many APS friends, both in Alaska and in the lower States.

## HELP!

### OUR TREASURER NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE!

Advertising Manager needed!

Do you have a few spare hours a month to correspond with the vendors who advertise in the Quarterly? Jon Kawaguchi, our treasurer, would welcome someone to take over the files and keep in touch with these people. For more information, email Jon at [mogeura@aol.com](mailto:mogeura@aol.com)

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## Primula Paradise by a Ski Lodge: Visiting Joan Hoeffel's Garden in the New York Wine Country

LEE NELSON

One thing often leads to another. My friend Ellen Hornig has a nursery which I visit, and she and I often discuss *Primula*. She once said to me, "You must go and visit Joan Hoeffel's garden, it is full of *Primula*." I tried to get in touch but the phone number I had was incorrect. Then in fall 2008, I issued a challenge in the APS quarterly asking growers to tell me when they divided their plants. Joan was the only person to respond. Talk about serendipity! Now I had contact information.

I got in touch with Joan, who invited me to visit. "You must come when the primroses are out," she said. Just before I was heading out to the APS National Show, Joan emailed to say I could come anytime in the next two weeks. So, on a cool but sunny day in early May, my good friend and fellow *Primula* enthusiast, Camilla McLeod, and I began our two-hour drive north toward Naples, one of the pretty little towns located at the south end of Canandaigua Lake in the heart of the wine country.

Joan had mentioned that finding the house might not be easy as it was located down a road beyond the ski lodge but thanks to our GPS, we had no trouble and as we drove around the curve there was no doubt that we had arrived. There, at the base of the hill,

nestled in a clearing in the woods, stood a mushroom house surrounded by thousands of *Primula*.

Upon our arrival we got the full tour of this incredible garden, including a new rock garden that Joan is still working on, but it was the *Primula* that were breathtaking. Many have self sown and hybridized among themselves and the variety is amazing. One very wet area has an array of *P. japonica* and other candelabras. Of course, being keen plants-people we traded *Primula*. Joan sent us home with flats full of plants and when we got home, we sent her a box of plants from our gardens.

Over lunch Joan and her husband, Don, told me how the house was built – it is an unusual design. (More on Joan's house in the sidebar.) I hope to visit Joan again, and possibly arrange for members of the N.E. Chapter to make a visit. It is well worth the trip.



Notes about the house:

We had our house built in 1969, here at the Hunt Hollow Ski Club in Naples, NY, as a "vacation home." Only 50 minutes from Rochester, it was ideal for weekend get-aways. The architect is Jim Johnson, with whom my husband had worked: he is known for his crazy, sometimes beautiful, always unique creations. He designed . . .

. . . the “Liberty Pole” in downtown Rochester and the “Mushroom House” in Powder Mill Park which is foamed urethane covered with a layer of cement (we are just foamed urethane), as well as some gorgeous churches, one in Naples and one in Greece, NY. While the exterior of our home is startling to many people, the interior is, to our minds, absolutely wonderful. The outside walls are all undulating urethane, there are six wooden posts and beams on each floor, and the bedrooms and other rooms have conventional interior walls. Urethane is an insulating material, and we are cooler in summer and warmer in winter than most homes. Our view from our two 6’ front doors is 10 miles down the valley through the Bristol Hills to Honeoye Lake. I like to think I live in the mountains of Italy or France. We never, ever tire of our view or the house. We moved down here full time when we retired in 1991 and started Hunts Hollow Perennial Gardens on a hill across the highway from the ski club. We did that until we were exhausted: it closed in 1998. While I had some gardens during the time I ran the nursery, after 1998 I found I was able to live in the garden from March or April until November.

~Joan Hoffel May 2009

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## *Primula allionii*

PAM EVELEIGH

I’m not sure when I saw my first *Primula allionii*, but I know that I’ve been entranced by these remarkable cushion *Primulas* since I started growing alpines in 1991. The plants were unobtainable locally back then - no one was growing them in Calgary - so I was thrilled when I spied them for sale at a Winter Study Weekend. Moments after my purchase, my excitement turned to despair mixed with determination when Norman Singer examined my plants and said “Good Luck, you’ll need it to grow those!” Thus began a process of buy-try-kill until I got it right.

*Primula allionii* is native to a small area (just over 200 sq km) of the Maritime Alps on the French – Italian border. The main habitat is centered on the Roya Valley in France which runs in a north-south direction and is subject to strong winds and snow in winter. The plants have a specific growing preference for calcareous cliffs, composed of rock which is similar to hard tufa but which still allows for the percolation of water. This creates pockets and crevices in which the plants grow. Sometimes they also grow in small caves, but never in the soil at the base of these cliffs. The plants flower March to April in the wild and as early as January in cultivation. The flower buds form in the fall and, like many *Primulas*, the plants can start and stop blooming, holding their buds during cold weather. Seed is late ripening, usually October to November.

The real joy of *Primula allionii* is its enormous variability and its potential for generating new hybrids. Wild plants deviate in size and shape of both flowers and leaves and the color ranges from pink-magenta through to blue-purple. White forms are rare, though the breeder, Ken Wooster, was known for his white seedlings including the popular ‘Snowflake’. *P. allionii* has been hybridized with at least seven other species; however only one natural hybrid has been found in the wild. This is *P. x meridionalis*, a cross between *P. allionii* and *P. marginata* found in the Miniera Valley and first collected by Mr. C. C. Mountfort in 1927. This collection is still in cultivation under the name ‘Miniera’. Later collections of this natural hybrid show that it is as variable as its parents. All this variation adds up to a breathtaking sight when a show bench is filled with perfect domes of *Primula allionii*!

After many seasons of killing this species, what is the secret to its cultivation? I tried growing plants in clay pots plunged into sand (with limited success), in holes drilled into tufa, even in a trough filled with a tufa grit mixture. They all eventually died. The key to success for me was realizing that Calgary is a relatively dry climate and that these *Primulas* required more moisture than provided by the methods I had been trying. Eventually I stopped babying this species and planted them

directly into gritty soil, tucked in beside the north-east face of large rocks and mulched with large stone chips. This worked! For those in a more humid and wetter climate, growing *P. allionii* in tufa may be your answer as more than one rock gardener has been successful doing this. Certainly keeping the crown of the plant from contacting the soil and removing dying leaves and flowers immediately with tweezers will prevent botrytis problems. Also, good ventilation and protection from direct contact of moisture on the leaves will keep your plants healthy.

Now that you have *P. allionii* growing successfully, you can't rest on your laurels. As with all plants in the Auricula Section, older leaves die back and new leaves form at the top of the stem, effectively elongating the stems as the plant matures. This produces a progressively untidy cushion but these stems are perfect for cuttings which can be taken any time from after flowering through to the fall. Remove dead leaves from the stem, make a nice clean cut at the bottom, and insert into damp pure sand (slightly coarse) ensuring the sand is well firmed around the base. The fresh leaves should not be in contact with the sand and the cuttings must be well ventilated, not closed in. I do this in the fall and by spring the cuttings have rooted. It is highly recommended you continually rejuvenate your plants because older cushions may die suddenly of root rot and may be more prone to botrytis. And don't forget to pass on your cuttings to others, so they may discover how best to grow them

in their gardens. These gems should be enjoyed by every rock gardener!

There are many good references on *Primula allionii*:

- [www.primulaworld.com](http://www.primulaworld.com) images under *P. allionii* in the Species Gallery
- [http://www.auriculas.org.uk/Allionii\\_Data.htm](http://www.auriculas.org.uk/Allionii_Data.htm) to check the accuracy of your named plants refer to this list by John Gibson
- [http://www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk/galleries/european\\_primulas.html](http://www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk/galleries/european_primulas.html) for pictures.
- Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (64: 313, 1996) for the results of an excellent study conducted in the wild by Jules Fouarge
- Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (53:276, 1985), (60:255, 1992) and (72:187, 2004) on *P. allionii* cultivars – lists and pictures.
- Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (69:338, 2001) on cultivating in a tufa wall by Jules Fouarge
- Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (60:462, 1992) encouragement on starting to grow *P. allionii*
- *Primulas of Europe & America* by Smith, Burrow and Lowe
- *Primula* by John Richards



## Growing Primula on a Tufa Wall

JULES FOUARGE

With the kind permission of the Alpine Garden Society, we are able to reprint an article on a unique way of growing *Primula allionii* successfully outside in your garden

*Fooling both plants and garden visitors into believing that they are in the mountains is no easy matter. The tufa wall is a sophisticated means of accomplishing this feat. Jules Fouarge, a Belgian member with a long-standing interest in Primulaceae, explains the building and planting of one such structure.*

Discovering *Primula allionii* in full display at least once in a lifetime may be considered almost obligatory for an alpine gardener. I have been lucky enough to enjoy the cliffs of the Roya valley beautified by hundreds of pink-purplish patches of this species, and this has instilled a deep desire to witness this spectacle again.

However, I live some 1,300 km from there, and consequently cannot visit the Martime Alps annually. And I am getting older! One solution I have chosen has been to grow *Primula allionii* on a structure that imitates, if only on a very modest scale, the native cliffs on which this beautiful plant makes such a dramatic display.

And so, in the winter of 1994, I built a tufa wall; by early spring of 1995 it was ready for planting. The design followed that of the ones that Harry Jans (Holland) and Michael Kammerlander

(Germany) had constructed. My version was constructed against the north-eastern side of my garage, and runs along one side of my alpine house, so receiving overhead glass protection. It is 4.5 m long and 2 m high, and is composed of natural tufa (travertine) blocks which are quite easily drilled or gouged to create planting holes.

The largest available blocks were chosen: some required three people to lift them into position. They are supported by two stacked concrete tables, so allowing a total of three levels in all. Where necessary, the blocks are fixed into position by metallic bars. Horizontal plastic pipes (with pairs of holes at 10 cm intervals along their lengths) were set on each concrete table to provide an underground watering system, these holes are provided with filters to prevent sand and compost from becoming clogged in them. I should add at this point that a gap of 15 – 20 cm was allowed for between the garage wall and the back of the tufa blocks during construction: this was then filled with a soil mixture comprising mainly river sand and water-retentive materials such as Perlite. Further compost was mixed to fill the numerous small gaps and crevices where one block adjoined its neighbors. To avoid the fine mixture from trickling away, a special “mortar” made up of 40% sifted peat, 40% river sand and 20% tufa dust was used to fill the cracks and crannies along the front of the wall. One other advantage of this

mortar is that it does not set hard, and can readily be partly gouged away later on if you decide to plant in such places. If necessary, of course, a little cement could be added, its excess alkalinity and stark appearance being cancelled by the peat, whose presence results in a form of the well-known hyper-tufa used to make troughs.

### **Planting**

Here are two main categories of the structure planted up with alpines; cracks between the blocks, and holes bored with a drill (from hardware shops you can obtain special circular [hole] saws that make the process of cutting out a hole much easier). One point to note here: a long drill with a bit at least 20 cm long, will be required, enabling you to bore a hole right through the block, and so giving the plant roots access to this soil. Wherever possible, young plants of primulas and other alpines should be used (even planting out at the seedling stage), but of course larger specimens are also suitable, especially if you remember to avoid disturbing the root ball. In these later cases, you merely have to bore a larger hole.

Filling in and then firming the soil after planting is critical. It helps to “water in” most plants, directing a fairly strong jet of water around the collar. Smaller fragments of tufa can be pushed into the soil surface as a top dressing, and have a triple function: they keep the soil in place, minimize evaporation from the surface layer, and enhance the appearance of the planting. For freshly planted alpines, weekly automatic watering may be insufficient, as the

roots will not have delved deep enough to reach the sandy compost. Moreover, the five minutes watering involved will not soak the tufa enough to sustain the un-established plants, which will need individual attention until well-established. On the other hand, well-established plants can withstand long periods without watering, especially between September and February or even March.

The end of winter and early spring are the best periods for introducing new plants to the wall. If, however, it is possible to avoid root disturbance, then planting can continue more or less throughout the year, naturally avoiding the hottest part of summer and periods of severe frost.

### **Direct Sowing**

A year or two after the wall was created, the first self-sown seedlings began to appear. Mainly, these were of *P. allionii*, but spontaneous hybrids with *P. marginata* and others were found. Other seedlings noticed included androsaces and campanulas, *C. morettiana* in particular. I normally leave them undisturbed where they appear until after their first flowering, and then I remove those of lesser interest and keep the better ones *in situ*. But special care is often necessary to make sure that these tiny seedlings survive through to flowering stage. Certainly some seed will fall into damp cracks in the tufa or other favorable spots where the seedlings will soon establish. Others may fall and subsequently germinate on hard rock, thinly covered with soil or moss, and these will often struggle

to survive. Hand watering seldom guarantees their survival; if they do not die in the first few months, they often perish in the first year or so.

As I write this, I recall seeing *Primula allionii* in its native habitat where, despite the seeds lodging in small cracks on the massive rock faces, and the plants growing in full sun, they are perfectly healthy. To examine why this is so, I once made a point of examining these plants to see how their roots were adapted to these conditions. One photograph that I took shows a plant growing in a fine crack between two layers of rock, which has developed a very large, dense and thick root system, enabling it to utilize every droplet of water and available nutrient that comes its way. The leaves, in contrast, are tiny, and a further adaptation to the periodic

dryness is the presence of numerous fine hairs on the leaf margins. Unlike hard limestone and dolomite, tufa is not formed by a sedimentary process but by chemical precipitation and aggregation. Importantly, it varies in consistency and porosity; some samples are porous, others are very hard and impermeable, certainly too hard for plant roots to penetrate, and sometimes so obdurate that drilling holes becomes difficult.

Returning to the subject of sowing, the success of self-sown plants gave me the idea to harvest seeds and sow them directly onto the tufa wall. The obvious advantage is that one can choose the most appropriate sites; these include shallow cracks and natural holes (where organic nutrients are often concentrated). At the time of writing (March 2001) around one plant in twenty on the wall originated as a direct sown seedling.

### **Watering**

The underground watering system follows the design of Harry Jans (PVC pipes 8 cm in diameter, with 4 mm holes at 10 cm intervals). These pipes are protected from clogging through the ingress of sand by a special filter. One important point, the pipes must be laid perfectly level; if not, the flow of water will not be equal along the entire length. To overcome this problem, it is advisable to install two half-length pipes and link them.

My experience is that this system should be turned off in the winter, then restarted in March or early April, following the onset of the plants' new growth. A weekly five to ten minute



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watering spell should be given, so that the soil progressively becomes quite damp. The level of moisture can be gauged by placing dry wooden spills (those used as kebab spears are ideal) here and there: pull these out and the progress of the moisture can clearly be seen.

Of course, it is essential to avoid overwatering, and to this end provision for drainage should be made. Beyond this, I keep an eye on my watch to ensure that the water is not left on too long. The system can also be automatically controlled, which is a great help if I am away for several days. Sometimes I introduce a soluble complete fertilizer to provide additional feeding, especially when new growth is observed, and similarly a soluble fungicide can be used to treat or guard against disease.

While this watering system provides most of the wall's occupants with sufficient moisture, newly-set plants, those that have yet to develop roots long enough to reach the main body of the soil, and self-sown seedlings have to be hand-watered. Where plants are in vertical crevices, I use a hand sprayer, setting the nozzle so that it releases a concentrated stream of water, which helps to avoid wetting the foliage. If, by error, the leaves of *Primula allionii* or similarly intolerant plants become saturated, the best means of drying them is to use absorbent paper (rolls of kitchen towel are ideal), pressing the sheets gently against the leaves, and in some cases rolling a section of the towel into a very narrow cigarette shape and pushing this between the sodden

rosettes.

*Jules continues his article with a section on pest control and diseases, and on the plants he has grown in the tufa wall. His final word is as follows:*

I would like to emphasise that this has been only a preliminary report, and encourage others to experiment further, since plants that do not succeed in my garden, with its particular set of conditions, will in all probability thrive with others. Five years is not long enough to present any firm conclusions, but I recommend this form of gardening to those who, like me, delight in these plants and their glorious natural settings, and seek to recapture some of this enjoyment in their garden.

*Jules informs me in recent correspondence that* "Some of the plants grown on my tufa-wall are still alive from 1991 when I first planted them. But I'm getting older and have reduced heavily my garden occupations and again I'm turning back to my first hobby which is birding and especially birds photography."

*Jules has written another article on P. allionii if those keen on the plant wish to consult it: Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (64: 313, 1996) for the results of an excellent study "Primula allionii in the wild" by Jules Fouarge.*

Jules Fourage's article was first published in 'The Alpine Gardener' (Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society) in Volume 69, pp. 338-345 (2001) and excerpts are reproduced by kind permission of the Editor of the Alpine Garden Society.



## Free Reading - Books You Have Wished for

JUDITH SELLERS

I was sorry to see the old multi-drawer wooden card catalogue removed from our local library and replaced by seemingly heartless computer screens displaying endless lists of books. When I tried the new system, however, I was pleased to see that it was possible to reserve and borrow any of the thousands of books held by libraries in the four surrounding counties in addition to those previously listed in our card catalog. Unfortunately, books such as *The Land of the Blue Poppy* by Frank (Francis) Kingdon Ward, which I had always thought would be a fascinating read, were still not available unless I wanted to buy an expensive used copy. Our helpful librarian suggested I try the Google Book Search on the internet.

Begun in late 2004, The Google Library Project offers something never before available: unlimited universal access to thousands of books. There is no required membership sign-in or fee for use. Each book is prefaced with an agreement that books and other published materials scanned by Google and shared with us will be used appropriately, and that the copyright laws of each land will be observed.

Google borrows books and other publications from libraries and universities around the world, scans them, adds the ability to search the contents, and includes them on the web site. The initial project partners, Harvard University, (including the Arnold Arboretum), New York Public Library, Stanford University, University of Michigan and University of Oxford

(Bodleian Library) have been joined by many other institutions worldwide, and authors and publishers are invited to participate by allowing sections of their books to be included.

The mission of the Bodleian Library, since its founding in 1602, has been based on Sir Thomas Bodley's vision of a library open to everyone, serving the worldwide 'Republic of Letters'. The Google Library Project's mission is similar: to make it easier for people to find books they wouldn't find any other way. Their ultimate goal is "to help users discover new books and publishers discover new readers." The developers believe that opening the millions of pages of the world's books to all can help remove barriers and promote understanding among peoples.

There has been controversy about allowing people to access books without any charge, and Google is still working through legal settlements and agreements with libraries, but the project is moving forward, with many thousands of books already available.

To see if they offer what you want, go to <http://books.google.com> and select 'Advanced Book Search' where you can type search terms or specify as much or as little information as you please: author, title, publication dates, language, ISBN or ISSN numbers, or even just a subject.

'Full View' books and magazines are those which are no longer under copyright or those which publishers or authors have asked to make viewable

and downloadable. Other publications, either still under copyright or not yet digitized, may appear as snippets, a few lines surrounding your search terms, or suggested places to purchase the books online or libraries where they can be found.

Not only did I find all 399 pages of *The Land of the Blue Poppy*, but many others, such as books by or about Gertrude Jekyll, George Forrest, William Robinson, Thomas Hogg, Reginald Farrer, and numerous journals, chronicles and magazines dealing with *Primula*, plant exploration and gardens. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1922) is even searchable through the website. Once a search has begun, other topics and authors come to mind, and time passes quickly as additional irresistible reading material is discovered.

If the book is in the public domain, you can save a Portable Document Format (PDF) version to read at your own pace, or print some or all the pages later. I was addicted to 'real' books -- ones you can hold, tuck a book mark into, and read while sitting in a favorite chair--and I thought it would be awkward to read an entire volume on a screen. I found that with just a few clicks on the mouse, I can have the type at exactly the right size for comfortable reading, and turn a page with one touch of a key .

There is no need to go to the trouble and expense of actually printing the books out on paper. If you have a lap top computer, you can even take the 'book' to bed, turn the page sideways to fit the screen, and place electronic bookmarks in the spot where you fell asleep. Best of all, unlike many library books, Google books are not full of a previous reader's toast crumbs!

The only problem is that I want to download so many books that I run the risk of filling my computer's memory. An easy solution is to transfer the book files onto a little flash drive device, resulting in a virtual library on a key chain.

If you read other languages, you'll find even more of interest. The titles make me want to relearn my French and Latin, and take up German or Italian! As the books are scanned pages from the original publications, there are some crinkled edges, marginal notes, and the occasional missing map, but the old fonts and styles provide an authenticity to each book for the time when it was published, and testify to the fact that some books have been kept safe for centuries. Illustrations are often stunning, and while reading a passage to my husband from an old book, where the printed s's look like f's (fpecies, fuggeftion), I laughed so hard I had to close the 'book'.

Every time I began a search to create a list of books of possible interest to *Primula* enthusiasts for this article, I was caught up in reading tantalizing bits from all sorts of books. I ultimately decided to omit such a list because it would be far too long for inclusion here. As there is no end to the internet, so there is no end to the information and enjoyment to be gained from a Google book search.

Websites to visit:

<http://books.google.com>

<http://www.gutenberg.org>

<http://www.biolib.de/>

<http://num-scd-ulp.u-strasbg.fr:8080/>

## ALLIONI

How did the exquisite and temperamental *Primula allioni* get its name?

JOAN FRASER

The answer to that question goes back to the mid-1700's, with the publication of the "binomial system of nomenclature", or classification system, for plants. Up to that time, the naming of plants had been haphazard. When in 1735 the Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus published his great work *Systema Naturae* it set out one of those "right time, right place" concepts. His idea, to describe plants in a systematic manner, was received enthusiastically by botanists from all over Europe and even from "America and the Middle East". After Linnaeus' publication was issued he received literally thousands of letters and specimens, many from eminent men in the field. Although Linnaeus rarely left Scandinavia, and may have met only a few of his more outstanding correspondents, he showed his gratitude to those who had helped him by naming plants after them. <sup>1</sup>

One of the men so honoured was Carlo Allioni (1728 -1804) of Turin, his name being given to several plants, among them the lovely little primrose, "the jewel of jewels among our European saxtaile species".<sup>2</sup> Allioni was a medical doctor and botanist who published papers and books between 1755 and 1789. His 20 volume correspondence, preserved at the Torino Academy of Sciences, includes an entire volume of correspondence with Linnaeus. It

is clear that there was a close, if long-distance, relationship between the two men.

Allioni was much respected in his own time. "Considered one of the major authorities on botanical and medical science in the circle of 18<sup>th</sup> century local and European culture, Allioni gives birth to the application of new principles of botanic nomenclature based on the Linnean model, being the first to accomplish a systematic renaming of Piedmont's flora and publishes the results in this treatise of 1785. Clarity, readability and the elegant page layout distinguish the plates, fruit of painstaking copies from life, making this one of the most

**It's that time again!**

The renewal deadline is just around the corner. You can help by remembering to renew your membership by November 15, 2009.

Please remember that late renewals cost the society both time and money.



important works published in the Age of Enlightenment.”<sup>3</sup> Having adopted the Linnean system for naming plants, Allioni had sent Linneaus a “preprint” of this most important work 12 years before it was published. The Italian’s publications so impressed Linneaus that in the second edition of his work *Species Plantarum*, he describes Allioni as one of the *autores reformatores*<sup>4</sup> of the day.

Allioni was a Professor of Botany at the Medical Faculty of the Torino Atheanuem, and he also was head of the Turin Botanical Garden. According to one source,<sup>5</sup> the Botanical Garden “holds a collection of about 7,500 paintings and drawings of plants, bound in 65 folio volumes”. Allioni made good use of this resource for his own publications, citing from the collection and using some of its illustrations for his major work, the *Flora Pedemontana*, in 1785. Judging from small hard copy reproductions, the illustrations are beautiful and some are even dramatic. Five names are given as the “main” artists<sup>6</sup>. The digitized copy of the book is at <http://num-scd-ulp.u-strasbg.fr:8080/202/> but looking at this only makes the viewer want to see the real thing.

As might be expected, there is much bibliographical information written about Allioni in Italian and some references are listed in the articles cited below. Allioni’s picture, more details about his publications and other references are found in Wikipedia. It is too bad that more easily accessible

biographical information about him is not in English. Perhaps after admiring one of those lovely little cushions of the primrose, someone will be inspired to translate.

(Endnotes)

1 Linneo a Bologna, L’arte della concoscenza, a symposium held in Bologna 22ottobre 2007 – 31 gennaio 2008. Published by Alma Mater Studiorum Universita di Bologna. Most of the publication is in Italian but there are short sections in English. The sections referred to here are on p 13 and p 50.

2 A.J. Marcham, “*Primula allionii*, an end or a beginning?” in Garden Society Quarterly, v 60, no 3, Sept 1992, p 255.

3 <http://www.olschki.it/Plus/hm/2003/52845.htm>.

4 Another man who earned this compliment was Gerard, whose work did not find “acceptance in botanical literature simply because Gerard did not accept binary nomenclature”. Frans A. Stafleu, *Linnaeus and the Linnaeans: the spreading of their ideas in systemic botany 1735-1789*, Utrecht, Netherlands, A Oosthoek’s Uitgeversmaatschappij, N.V. for the International Association for Plant Taxonomy, 1971.

5 Frans A. Tafleur, *A selective guide to botanical publication with dates, commentaries and types*, Utrecht-Netherlands, International Bureau for Plant Taxonomy and Nomenclature, 1967, and 1976 supp v.1.

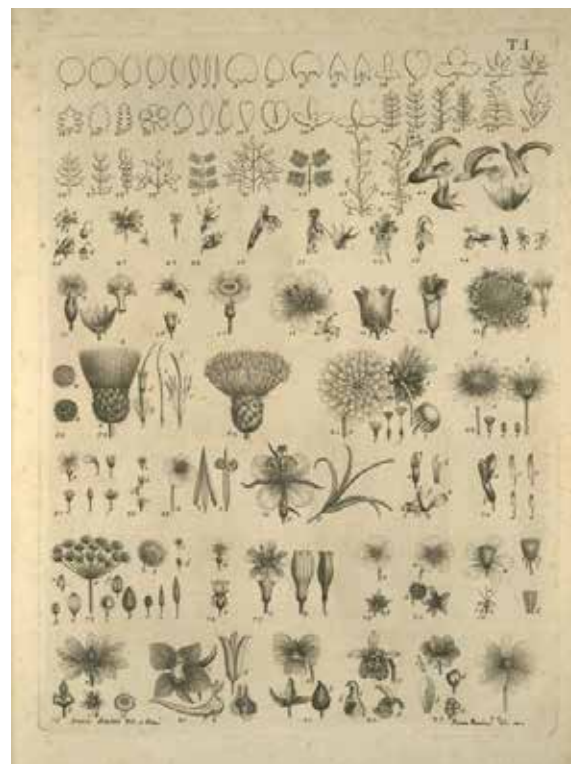
6 Tafleur, p 5.



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Carlo Allioni, botanist and physician, from a contemporary portrait.; *Primula allionii* growing at the angle it prefers in the Northumberland garden of *Primula* expert, John Richards. September 2009



## Carlo Allioni

Shown is a page from *Flora Pedemontana*, by Carlo Allioni, from 1785, with detail showing what looks to be an auricula.

See articles page 13 & 15



Photo: John Richards

# Primula allionii

“*Primula allionii* is native to a small area (just over 200 sq km) of the Maritime Alps on the French – Italian border... The plants have a specific growing preference for calcareous cliffs... This creates pockets and crevices in which the plants grow. Sometimes they also grow in small caves...”

Shown here, *Primula allionii* in Pam Eveleigh’s Calgary garden, peeking out from a blanket of snow, much like its native habitat.



Photo: Pam Eveleigh

Below, *P. allionii* ‘Neon’ showing off its striking colors.

Right, Pam Eveleigh’s colorful rock garden display.

Lower right, *P. allionii* growing in John Richards’ garden “under overhangs in a ‘limestone’ cliff”

See article page 7



Photo: Pam Eveleigh

“...my excitement turned to despair mixed with determination when Norman Singer examined my plants and said “Good Luck, you’ll need it to grow those!” Thus began a process of buy-try-kill until I got it right.”



Photo: Pam Eveleigh



Photo: John Richards



# Primula Paradise by a Ski Lodge

see article page 5

“While the exterior of our home is startling to many people, the interior is, to our minds, absolutely wonderful.”

Above and right, the unique exterior of Joan Hoeffel's home in Naples, New York, at the Hunt Hollows Ski Club. Below, slopes covered in *primula*:

“Many have self sown and hybridized among themselves and the variety is amazing.”

All Photos: Lee Nelson



Photos from Lee Nelson's visit to Joan Hoeffel's garden. Clockwise from top: Wide variety of mixed *primula*, benevolent frog looking on, pink-edged primrose, cowslips free-seeding themselves, Joan and Don Hoeffel in their garden.





## Growing *Primula allionii* on a Tufa Wall



*“Fooling both plants and garden visitors into believing that they are in the mountains is no easy matter. The tufa wall is a sophisticated means of accomplishing this feat.”*

Facing page  
 top: *P. allionii* white form from the wild (cuttings taken in Roya Valley, France);  
 bottom: (center plant) a wild *allionii* collected by the late Rolf Wurdig

This page  
 top: section of Jules' tufa wall  
 right: Hybrid between *P. allionii alba* x *P. hirsuta alba* grown by Brian Burrow under name "Snow Ruffles"  
 below left: white form  
 below right: three wild forms

See article page 9  
 All Photos: Jules Fouarge



# Saga of a Primrose Enthusiast: From Total Failure to Gradual Success

DOROTHY G. SWIFT

My earliest years in the garden were as a rhododendron enthusiast. A few years after joining up with organized rhododendron nuts, we visited Linc and Timmy Foster's garden, Millstream, in Connecticut. I began to notice smaller plants, and I was entranced by *Lewisia cotyledon* and *Arisaema sikkokianum*. I do remember that Linc was noted for his early primroses and they were blooming at Millstream. But it took a visit to Europe in 1977 for me to really become captivated by primroses. English friends took me to Wisley, where we inspected primrose trial beds of *Primula vulgaris* types. I was particularly captivated by those with delicate peach, coral, or salmon color. I then began to see primroses everywhere—beds of them as seasonal plantings in southern France, wild *P. vulgaris* sprouting along the railroad tracks in France, Switzerland, Germany, and England and *P. veris* in meadowy areas in England.

Long before I had success with primroses, I was growing lewisias by the dozen. (You have to find sources for them and then you have to give them excellent drainage, as in a rock garden). The expensive *Arisaema sikkokianum* finally came into my garden from another gardener who grew them from seed to sell. My first one didn't last forever, but I occasionally found another one, so I have fairly continually

had this large Jack in my garden. This last year I even grew some from seed of my largest plant. Seed isn't reliably produced, as there is often a very wet spell when the seed would be forming, and there is none produced, probably due to mold.

My mistakes in growing primroses were many. Initially, I was putting them into a woodland area between rhododendron plants. The natural environment was full of wild tree and shrub roots and rocks. There was too much root competition, and it just got too dry in summer. (These are my after-the-fact guesses, as I obviously didn't know a lot about growing primroses at the time). A friend and I split a flat of 36 mixed polyanthus plants. Actually they all turned out to have red flowers, and most of mine were dead within the first year. Another friend gave me some divisions of her plants, and I'm afraid I killed them off fairly quickly also.

I was successful at growing some *Trillium grandiflorum* and *Dodecatheon meadia* in a wild, somewhat wet area adjacent to my lawn. I tried actually preparing some soil nearby for primroses by removing all of the weeds and roots and adding compost. This gave some limited success, but I wasn't making a large enough area for each plant, and I suspect that the soil needed to be better able to hold air as well as



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1. My Favorite Primula and why.
2. Primula received as a gift and what it meant to me
3. What the APS means to me

Submit to the Editor for publication in Primroses during 2010

water. I did grow some Barnhaven plants from seed. A few Barnhaven 'Butterscotch' resembled some of the shades I saw at Wisley. A rust colored polyanthus from Barnhaven 'Desert Shades' is with me yet.

During the early 1980s, a large area adjacent to my house was crudely dug by power equipment for drainage work. Rather than try to restore the wrecked lawn, I decided to make a large planting bed. This led to my first mild success with primroses. At that time, in January and February, florists often sold polyanthus plants in mixed shades that came from hardy strains. Ditto for some of the booths at the Boston Spring Flower Show, where I was able to select some of my favorite colors and put them into the new (formerly lawn) bed. The soil didn't have the rocks and weeds of the woods, and the plants did much better. But I didn't give them enough care. I now know that you ought to feed the primroses each season with some compost and divide the plants every two or three years. So my primroses gradually declined.

When *Fine Gardening* magazine began publishing in the late 1980s, a friend gave me a copy of the first issue. I read Sydney Eddison's article about primroses. It reinforced my desire to grow them more successfully. I summoned up the courage to write to Sydney, and received a phone call back, inviting me to visit her garden the following May. I also joined the North American Rock Garden Society and the American Primrose Society, recommended as sources of information in the article.

Sydney's garden in Newtown, CT is a wonderful place. I saw a huge variety of plants in what we refer to as her "secret woodland garden." This is just one part of her garden. It is solely a spring feature. (She has sunny beds and borders featuring shrubs, perennials and daylilies that have been written about and photographed frequently for articles and books by others as well as herself).

I saw that a lot of work went into the primrose garden. Soil was improved; chopped leaves were used as a mulch and nutrient supply each spring. If a plant did well, Sydney had a broad expanse of it. I also saw the little hinged lath A-frames that she used to shade newly divided or newly transplanted primroses from sun exposure. She gave me a plant of *Primula veris* and one of a yellow hose-in-hose *Primula elatior*, such as pictured in her article. I still have them both, and the yellow hose-in-hose is one of my most favorite plants.

In 1997 I built a new house and moved my garden. I moved from a 1 acre lot to 6/10ths of an acre, part of which is slope that won't be cultivated. So I have less land—but more plants. I moved my favorite primrose plants, and this time I began giving them more care and attention. There are some places that have perfect shade for primroses to flourish—protection from full sun, but enough light from open areas around for them to grow and bloom well. I have a little primrose glade where the plants do best. In another area, I'm making a primrose path. One section is lined with divisions of a red hose-in-

hose primrose a friend gave me. Then comes some plain red polyanthus, then some of the yellow hose-in-hose from Sydney, then a few plants of 'Spring Pastels' polyanthus from Jan Sacks and Marty Schaefer (Joe Pye Weed's Garden). I'll keep dividing all of these regularly to get the effect that I want.

Places where I prepare the soil to have good drainage and good aeration are best for the primroses. And prompt dividing of plants keeps them healthy. Filtered sun, rather than shade, followed by several hours of sun gives better results as well. Not all the plants can have the prime locations. I was able to start a new bed last year by using only divisions of plants that had already survived a winter or two outside (*P. veris*, *polyanthus*, *elatior* etc.) These were not my favorite colors, but they are surviving in an area that gets filtered shade plus several hours of direct sun. I have become less choosy about flower color—any live *Primula* is a joy, and it doesn't have to have large peach flowers. I'm still working out the when and how of planting primrose seedlings outside so that they will best survive their first winter.

Last year I searched the internet to find a source for the primrose 'Sue Jervis', a pink double. My plants came in the mail, and I set them out and then they bloomed. It turned out they were not very different from a plant I grew from Barnhaven Doubles seed years ago, which I call 'Blush Semi-double.' So I'm still looking for a nice pink double or semi-double *P. vulgaris* that is neither magenta nor that pale orangey-

pink color that used to be common for girls' and ladies' underwear.

A friend saw a grouping of red-flowered hose-in-hose *P. elatior* in my garden this spring and mentioned that she couldn't get them to grow like that. I explained that I had just divided several parent plants the season before, and I like to keep divisions of a plant type together in the same area. The plants were all blooming nicely, indicating that dividing the plants had been beneficial for them.

When the New England Chapter of the American Primrose Society was formed several years ago, I joined up immediately. I've gone to its spring meeting at nearly every opportunity and learned a lot from listening to speakers, talking to others, seeing plants in competition, and having a place to buy lots of new plants. It is a special treat when the Chapter hosts the National Show and there are international experts who come.

I'm still learning about growing primroses, but I'm more aware of what I didn't know when I first tried them. Appropriate shade, good drainage, lots of organic matter, well-aerated soil, watering in dry weather, and using all of these to carefully select and to prepare the planting site, and making it free of weed roots, will be a good start on the way to success.



# What I Think I Know About *P. vialii*

MICHAEL PLUMB

Everyone is fascinated by the unlikely purple and red spires of *Primula vialii*, and they sell like hot-cakes whenever they appear in garden stores or markets. Yet some people say they are short-lived little beauties, and in the past I have had great difficulty making them live longer than one or two seasons. If you read pages 315-316 in *Primula* by John Richards, you will learn that this plant has apparently disappeared from the wild, so the only clues we have as to its natural growing conditions are observations by one or two early plant hunters, who may have seen the plant only once. Its history is also confused, as the early plant hunters made mistakes in identifying it. Accordingly, perhaps more than with most species of *Primula*, suitable growing conditions for *P. vialii* have to be discovered by observation in the garden.

First, I used to be puzzled by Richard's description in which he says the leaves are up to 30 cm (one foot!) long. Then one day (at a rose show, of all things) I saw one plant growing as a pond marginal, and it was massive. This summer I

have kept my potted *vialii* soaking in a trough of water, sunk half-way up the sides of the pots, and they are thriving! Such conditions would kill most normal *primula*. Perhaps this answers the mystery of why they seem short-lived (Richards says, "It was originally considered a rather tricky species to grow...") - your soil may not be boggy enough! And even if they are, in fact, short-lived plants, boggy soil should produce much healthier and larger plants. A thought - perhaps the strain of *P. vialii* that has come down to us is from wild seed taken from boggy meadows rather than from the plant's drier locations.

A second reason *P. vialii* may seem short-lived is that it remains dormant for about seven months, disappearing below the surface of the soil as a tiny resting bud, so it is extremely easy to dig the plants up by mistake.

Third, if you are over-wintering *P. vialii* in pots, the plants seem to disappear in dormancy, as I have just mentioned. Don't do what I did several years ago as a

## Please Remember...

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.

...Save Seed

new grower of *primula* and throw the pots out, thinking the plants had died!

A different problem is that the plants may not produce a strong scape until their third year, and some of the plants may not bloom at all until their third year (Only one third of my batch flowered in this, their second year.). You will reap your full reward in the third year.

This may all seem a bit negative, but *P. vialii* is so lovely that it is worth the wait. Another bonus is that the seed remains viable for many years if it is kept cool. I recently grew a large batch from John Kerridge's seed which must have been at least ten years old! So if you see *P. vialii* listed in our next Seed Exchange, don't hesitate to order some, as germination is very good. Just remember to keep the plants very wet in their leafy, non-dormant state, and fairly dry in winter (snow covering is good).

*P. vialii* now seems to have disappeared from its native home in Yunnan and Sichuan, so we as gardeners have a responsibility to keep it thriving "in captivity"

For a picture of this lovely plant, see Barry Porteous's photo on the front cover of our Spring 2009 quarterly.



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# Pins + Thrums

noteworthy bits

## Take a look at this diary occasionally!

John Richards, *Primula* expert, pens a Northumberland Diary on the Alpine Garden Society website every week. You can find this at:  
<http://www.alpinegardensociety.net/diaries/Northumberland/>

This is a site well worth a look. For example, in the August 3 entry this year, John discusses rot in the less-easy Asiatic *Primula*. Where else could you find such information?

## RENEWAL TIME IS UPON US AGAIN

Please remember to renew your subscription to the APS by the deadline, November 15, 2009 and consider a gift membership for a friend

## More lists of *Primula allionii*

If ever you need to quickly check the name of a *P. allionii* form or cultivar, check out the list compiled by John Gibson and posted on the Northern Section of NAPS. This can be found at: [http://www.auriculas.org.uk/Allionii\\_Data.htm](http://www.auriculas.org.uk/Allionii_Data.htm). John lists what information can be found on the origin of the plant, the breeder, where it has won an award and is a quick and comprehensive list available quickly with a few clicks.

# SEED Exchange

The donation deadline is November 10, 2009

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Selected by Michael Plumb

You may be wondering why some of the supermarket primroses you buy in early spring often do poorly or die quickly when planted out in your garden. Here is an old article which helps to explain the problem.

A GROWER'S STAND AGAINST OVER-FERTILIZING by Carl Starker, Vol. 2, No. 3, January 1945, page 41.

At a recent meeting of the Primrose Society, I gave a talk on the growing of *Juliae* Primroses. In the course of the discussion I mentioned that I did not fertilize my plants when grown in good garden soil. It is my feeling that especially these small types, but also the larger polyanthus forms, lose much of their appeal when grossly over-fed and over-stimulated. The charm of proportion that is inherently one of the delights of the small sorts is quite lost when force-feeding is applied. Their oversized, lax leafage and their too long flower stems make the plant hardly recognizable as a *Julia* form.

Too much fertilizer given any plant will produce overgrown, heavy lush foliage. The blossoms, too, take on a larger size which, in the polyanthus type, may be desirable if not overdone. But good seed will produce the forms without stimulation. If well selected seed is obtained for growing polyanthus there need be no fear for fine forms and size of bloom.

Especially in cold climates over-stimulation of plants is likely to be

disastrous. If forced too much, they are apt to be short lived and unable to stand the rigors of winter. Even in milder climates when a sudden sharp cold wave hits, it is the fat and over-fed that succumb, while those brought up on leaner fare have the ruggedness necessary to carry them through. People wonder, then, why it is that some polyanthus from the previous spring's purchases die, while others planted close by but from different sources, weather hardships as they come.

If the purchaser wishes larger blooms he may fertilize to his heart's content. He can always buy more plants. But as a grower, I prefer to grow sturdy, compact plants with a good constitution. I know that my plants will perform well in the new owner's garden and will not produce smaller flowers the following season. Nor will he be buying outsized plants which will later deteriorate, undermining his faith at once in primroses, myself as a nurseryman and himself as a gardener. More frequently now the question is asked, "Do these modern polyanthus revert to the original small forms after their first blooming?"

It is not possible for a plant to change its inherent characteristics but should it make a recovery from forced feeding and flower the second year, the blooms will probably be below normal size, and another year of sane growing will be needed for it to regain normalcy.

For my plants, I want no weakened resistance to cold and possible disease. I feel very strongly that we should guard these really fine perennials from the dangerous practice of over-fertilizing, for it will be one of the first things to kill the popularity of a flower that is only just now re-establishing itself in the country.







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 Calgary Rock & Alp Gar Soc c/o Mrs E Keddie 1519 Cavanaugh PI NW Calgary Alberta T2L 0M8 2009  
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 Chong, Mrs. Ruby 6870 Union St. Burnaby BC V5B 1X5 2009  
 Cole, Trevor 2863 John Shaw Rd, R.R. 2 Kinburn ON K0A 2H0 LF  
 Crossman, Jo-Ann 627 Matson Rd Terrace BC V8G 0E7 LF  
 Delafield, Susan 87 Koch Dr Guelph ON N1G 4H5 2010  
 Ellis, Robert 12151 - 101A Ave Surrey BC V3V 2Z9 2009  
 Galletti, Maria Alpines Mont Echo 1182 Parmenter Rd Sutton Quebec J0E 2K0 2009  
 Gordon, Robert B. 3896 W. King Edward Ave. Vancouver BC V6S 1N1 2009  
 Gray, Susan E. RR #2 South Ohio NS B0W 3E0 LF  
 Hausemann, Jean 20265 - 82nd Ave. Langley BC V2Y 2A9 2010  
 Healey, F. Patrick Box 6 Belmont Manitoba R0K 0C0 LF  
 Hogarth, Mrs. Hanna 315 Kalum Lake Rd Terrace BC V8G 0B9 LF  
 Jardin Botanique de Montreal Bibliotheque 4101 Sherbrooke Est Montreal Quebec H1X 2B2 2009  
 Legare, Andre 698 Chemin des Bernaches Saint-Nicolas Quebec G7A 3P5 2009  
 Martin, Mrs. M. J. 951 Joan Crescent Victoria BC V8S 3L3 2010  
 Moore, Tom 2736 Bridges Rd Courtenay BC V9J 1M3 2009  
 Niemi, Jennifer 36 Elm St Jefferson Pines, RR #6 Kingston NS B0P 1R0 2009  
 Parker, Brian 27 Marshall St. Fredericton NB E3A 4J8 2009  
 Plumb, Michael & Rhonda 3604 Jolly Roger Crescent Pender Island BC V0N 2M2 2011  
 Porteous, Barrie 3 Breda Court Richmond Hill ON L4C 6E1 2009  
 Schram, Brian 2664 Ott Road Stevilleville ON L0S 1S0 2009  
 Scott, Peter J. 13 Cherokee Drive St. John's NL A1A 5Z8 2009  
 Soper, Lynda 5124 Stonecrest Road Woodlawn ON K0A 3M0 2009  
 Stadnyk, Bob c/o Holes Greenhouses & Gardens Ltd. 101 Bellerose Dr. St. Albert Alberta T8N 8N8 2009  
 Ulstein-Bruset, Inger P.O. Box 225 Nelson BC V1L 5P9 2009  
 Victoria Primula Group c/o Yvonne Rorison 15 Beach Drive Victoria BC V8S 2L3 2009

## INTERNATIONAL

Allen, Les Windy Ridge Llandrindad Wells Powys LD1 5NY Wales, UK 2009  
 Aoki, Gishu 17-5 Shibahara -1 Midori-ku Saitama-shi 336-0917 Japan 2012  
 Ashill, Christopher Lindley Library, Royal Horticultural Society 80 Vincent Square London SW1P 2PE England, UK 2009  
 Behan, Mrs. W. D. 4 West Mackenzie Park Draikies Inverness IV2 3ST Scotland, UK 2009  
 Bibliothek Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem D-14191 Berlin Germany GS  
 Brown, Mark 19 Hill St. Crafrers SA 5152 Australia 2011  
 Cochrane, Dr. William 9130 William St Castlemaine Vic 3450 Australia 2010  
 Conservatoire et Jardins Botaniques de Nancy 100 Rue du Jardin Botanique

F 54600 Villers-les-Nancy France 2009  
 Davison, Joe 7 Wordsworth Avenue Westlea, Seaham County Durham SR7 8JP England, UK 09T  
 Doki, Yoshiaki 1 - Hondori Niseko-cho Hokkaido 048-1502 Japan 2009  
 Gibson, John N. 'Farinosa', 3A Primrose Lane Kirkburton Huddersfield Yorkshire HD8 0QY England, UK 2011  
 Giles, Mrs. Jackie Windy Ridge Bolton Percy Yorkshire YO23 7BA England, UK 09T  
 Hall, Elizabeth Vicarage House Kirkyb Wharfe Tadcaster North Yorkshire LS249DE England, UK 09T  
 Hayakawa, Nobuyuki 2 JYO 1Chome1-18 Kitanohigachi Takasu-cho Kamikawa-gun Hokkaido 071-1222 Japan 2009  
 Jelitto Staudensamen GMBH Postfach 1264 Schwarmstedt 29685 Germany 2011  
 Joiner, Graham 1, The Park Pale, Tutbury Burton-on-Trent Staffs DE13 9LB England, UK 2009  
 Jones, Mrs. Jeanie Kilnpoles Kettleholm Lockerbie Dumfriesshire DG11 1DD Scotland, UK 09T  
 Kade, Peter Oberhofstettenweg 5 St Gallen 9012 Switzerland LF  
 Kloppenberg, H. Meibergsdijk 1A Liederlohuis Ralite 8144RJ Netherlands LF  
 Kress, Dr. Alarich Edelweiss - Strasse 9 D - 82194 Grobenzell Germany LF  
 Larkang, Lars Dalahojdsvagen 2 S-443 72 Grabo Sweden 2009  
 Lawson, Mrs. Lynne Barnhaven Primroses 11 Rue du Pont Blanc 22310 Plestin Les Graves France 2009  
 Lill, H. 17 Newton Ave. Newton Hill Wakefield W71 2PX England, UK LF  
 Mackie, Mr. Robert 12 Stuart St. Portessie Buckie Banffshire AB56 1TB Scotland, UK 09T  
 Maerz, Georg Postfach 150308 D-70076 Stuttgart Germany LF  
 Maki, Takao 7-11-6 Kugenuma-Kaigan Fujisawa-251 Japan LF  
 Matsubayashi, Nagao 78 Jorogawa Ehima - cho Tahara - shi 441-3605 Japan 2009  
 Mikkelsen, Erik L. Nyvangsvej 113 Randers 8900 Denmark 2010  
 Miwa, Yoshiyuki 21 Tohkadomo Nagashima-cho Kuwana, Mie 511-1146 Japan 2011  
 NA&PS, Midland & West Section Mr. Brian Coop, Hon. Editor 5 Warwick Court Eaton Socon St. Neots, Cambs. PE19 3HH England, UK GS  
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 NA&PS, Southern Region Mr. L.E. Wigley 67 Warnham Court Rd. Carshalton Beeches Surrey SM5 3ND England, UK GS  
 National Botanic Gardens Librarian Glasnevin Dublin Ireland, UK GS  
 Nicolle, Geoff Rising Sun Cottage, Nollton Haven Haverfordwest Pembrokeshire SA62 3NN Wales, UK 2009  
 Nottingham, Ben and Hazel 34 Mill Green View Swarcliffe Leeds Yorks LS145JT England, UK 09T  
 Oi, Mr. Hiroto 11-1890 Kami-Okawamae Niigata-Shi 951-8068 Japan LF  
 Poulsen, Vibeke Kvislemarkvej 8 Kvislemark 4262 Sandved Denmark 2010  
 Pugh, Mrs. V. A. 94 Hednesford Rd. Brownhills West, Walsall West Midlands WS8 7LT England, UK 09T  
 Reed, Giles 22A Charlton Rd Aynho, Banbury Oxfordshire OX17 3AD England, UK 2010  
 Royal Botanic Gardens MELB Library Private Bag 2000 South Yarra Victoria 3141 Australia 2009  
 Salt, Derek William East View, Main Road Friskney Boston Lincs PE22 8QU England, UK 2010  
 Sell, Mrs. Heather 49 Mill Road Waimate Sth Canterbury New Zealand 2012  
 Skulason, Fridrik Stigahlid 65 Reykjavik IS 105 Iceland LF  
 Son, Ja-Eun Pyung-Gang Botanical Garden 668 Sanjeong-Ri, Yeongbuk-Myeon Pocheon City Kyeonggi-do 487-892 South Korea 2009  
 Taylor, R. 27 Temple Rhydding Drive Baildon Shipley West Yorkshire BD17 5PX England, UK 10T  
 The Alpine Garden Society A.G.S. Centre Avon Bank Pershore Worcestershire WR10 3JP England, UK GS  
 Thiers, Geert Bloemenlei 10 B 2930 Brasschaat Belgium 2011  
 Valvik, Magnus Torborg Nedreaas gt. 20 N-5006 Bergen Norway LF  
 van Saase, J. W. M. IJweg 1063 2133 MH Hoofddorp Netherlands 2010  
 Wallbank, Sue P. O. Box 342 South Hobart Tasmania 7004 Australia 2009  
 Whimp, Diana A. 47A Whau Valley Rd. Whangarei 0112 Northland New Zealand 2013

LF=Life Member GS=Garden Club

# The Seed Exchange - Your Chance for New Plants (and for Sharing Your Favorites)

There are very few ways to obtain the species and crosses of Primulas you have seen at shows or in pictures and always coveted, but the APS offers members an opportunity to grow them through the Seed Exchange.

If you have seeds from plants you enjoy growing, please share them with fellow enthusiasts by donating them to the APS Seed Exchange to arrive by November 10, 2009. Donors within the USA should mail their seeds to:

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

Outside the United States, seeds should be sent to:

**Maedythe Martin, 951 Joan Crescent, Victoria, BC, V8S 3L3, Canada.**

No permits are required for seed donations.

Donors are our most valuable resource, receiving in exchange for their generosity the gratitude of fellow members (and the Seed Ex committee) and more packets than non-donors may order, and having their orders filled first.

Be sure your thoroughly cleaned seeds from any Primula or Primulaceae are securely packaged in paper or glassine envelopes with your name and the botanical name of the species or cross on each little packet. As few as 25 seeds of any kind are very much appreciated and up to a tablespoonful is even better.

In order to save printing and postage expenses and to keep the list updated as choices become sold out, the APS website ([www.americanprimrosesociety.org](http://www.americanprimrosesociety.org)) will display the list after December 10. Anyone who requires a printed list must request it from Judith Sellers, 2297 Co. Hwy.18, South New Berlin, NY, 13843 by Dec 20, 2009.

Distribution will begin in January, so you can get an early start with sowing seeds for your new plants when the conditions are right. Each packet indicates the donor's name, so it will be simple to keep records of how the seeds you received from each source fare, and consider reporting back to us with a brief comment or photographs of your plants for future inclusion in this publication.

### 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. Don't forget to add your name!



## American Primrose Society Minutes of the Board Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Board members present:** Linda Bailey (Director), Rodney Barker (Director), Mary Jo Burns (Director), Ed Buyarski (President, Juneau Chapter), Mark Dyen (President, New England Chapter), Alan Lawrence (Vice-president), Joseph Phillip (President), Michael Plumb (Secretary)

1. **The Minutes of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009** - Accepted as presented (Rodney / Ed)
2. **Committee Reports**  
**Website:** Anne Lawrence has volunteered to take over as Web Mistress. **MOTION** (Ed / Michael): "That the board accept Anne Lawrence's appointment as web mistress." Carried unanimously, with many thanks.  
**National Show:** By general agreement, the **MOTION** to postpone the decision on which chapter should hold the 2010 National Show was **POSTPONED**. **MOTION** (Rodney / Ed): "That the board allocate \$500 to next year's show chapter to assist them in running the show." Carried. **MOTION** (Ed / Rodney): "That the APS president store the National Show trophies and prepare certificates for the future winners." Carried.  
**Membership:** The president is setting up a committee to look into ways of increasing membership. Rodney Barker and Mark Dyen are two of its members.
3. **Business Arising and Old Business**  
**Elections for APS officers:** **MOTION** (Michael / Linda): That future ballots not be printed on a tear-out page in the *Primroses* quarterly, but be sent out to members in the form of an insert in the quarterly or in some other publication sent to the entire membership." Carried.
4. **Adjournment** at approximately 7:30 pm, Eastern Time.  
 Respectfully submitted by Michael Plumb, Secretary

## American Primrose Society Minutes of the Board Meeting held on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**The meeting was held online and by telephone. It opened at 6:00 pm, Eastern Time.**  
**Board members present:** Linda Bailey (Director), Rodney Barker (Director), Ed Buyarski (President, Juneau Chapter), Cheri Fluck (Director), Julia Haldorson (Director, Membership Secretary), Jon Kawaguchi (APS Treasurer), Marianne Kuchel (Director), Alan Lawrence (APS Vice-president), Lee Nelson (Past President), Joseph Phillip (APS President), Michael Plumb (APS Secretary)

**Regrets:** Mark Dyen (President, New England Chapter), Maedythe Martin (Editor, President of BC Group)

1. **The Minutes of June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009** – The first item in part 2 was removed as the motion had already been passed in the meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The minutes were accepted with this amendment (Michael/Julia).
2. **Treasurer's Report**
  - **MOTION** (Michael/Marianne): That the Finance Committee investigate ways to re-invest the moneys from the closed Smith-Barney account. Carried.
  - **The MOTION** (Michael/Cheri) to accept the report was carried unanimously.
3. **2010 Budget**
  - **MOTION** (Michael/Ed): That the board accept the proposed budget, with the addition of the mention of \$500 to assist the National Show chapter, and the

addition of \$500 to assist the production of the *Primroses* quarterly. Carried. (The allocation of \$500 for the National Show was already carried at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.)

4. **Committee Reports**  
**Seed Exchange**
  - The President is still looking for volunteers to take over, so the choice of Seed Exchange Chair was **POSTPONED**.
  - A vote of thanks to Jacques was moved (Michael/Marianne) and carried unanimously for his sterling work in running the Seed Exchange over the past several years. The Secretary will send Jacques an official letter of thanks.**National Show**
  - **ACTION:** Ed will investigate whether the Alaska Chapter is able to hold the 2010 National Show. The choice of National Show chapter was therefore **POSTPONED**.
  - **MOTION** (Cheri/Julia): That the president be entrusted with the care of the National Show trophies. Carried. (This vote was a confirmation and clarification of the June 14<sup>th</sup> decision.)
  - Ed has the templates for the awards certificates, which will replace the trophies from now on.**Editorial Committee**
  - Maedythe has asked for more articles from the board. Even small tidbits can be valuable and interesting.**Membership**
  - The Membership Secretary (Julia) is still waiting to hear from the committee about ways to increase membership. She will send out renewal reminders earlier this year, first by email, then by regular mail.
  - Joe is working on an email questionnaire to discover why some members have not renewed their membership.
  - **MOTION** (Michael/Marianne) to accept the membership report. Carried.**Website**
  - The site is being overhauled. Gardening websites in general are becoming much more popular as channels of information. The board welcomed Julia's suggestion that an "Introduction to the Website" be printed in the *Primroses* quarterly to encourage members to use the website.
5. **Chapter Reports**
  - **MOTION** (Cheri/Ed) to accept chapter reports. Carried.
6. **Business Arising and Old Business**  
**Dorothy Dickson Award**  
 Leaving this to a vote of the general membership will not work unless members know who previously received this one-time award. We need to vote on a way to select the winner in a timelier and more efficient manner. **POSTPONED** to the next meeting.
7. **New Business**  
**Terms of APS officers and directors**
  - Over the last several years, the number of positions due for election has gradually become imbalanced through unforeseen circumstances. To maintain continuity, we need to avoid replacing so many positions at one time (four of the six directors in 2010, and all four officers in 2011). Discussion of ways to restore the regular APS election was **POSTPONED** to the next meeting.
8. **Adjournment** (Cheri/Marianne) at 7:50 Eastern.

Next meeting: November 1<sup>st</sup> (provisional)  
 Respectfully submitted, by 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!

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Please contact:  
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Executive Secretary, NARGS  
PO Box 18604  
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Make checks payable to  
North American Rock Garden Society  
<https://www.nargs.org/info/smembership>.

## Join the National Auricula & Primula Society

*Midland & West Section*

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



£10.00 Overseas Membership.

to: The Honorary Treasurer, Roger Woods,  
44 Tansey Crescent, Stoney Stanton,  
Leicestershire, LE9 4BT United Kingdom.

## New Members this Quarter

- 2010 Richard Clements 6589 River Road Jordan, New York 13080 U.S.A.
- 2010 Dr. William Cochrane 9130 William Street Castlemaine, Victoria 3450 Australia
- 2010 Charles Fay 432 Cedar Avenue Highland Park, New Jersey 08904 U.S.A.
- 2010 Betty Johnson 10726 Horizon Drive Juneau, Alaska 99801 U.S.A.
- 2010 Jim Keikkala 1790 Hughes Way Juneau, Alaska 99801 U.S.A.

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

*Julia L. Haldorson, APS Membership*  
P. O. Box 210913  
Auke Bay, Alaska 99821 U.S.A.

[membership@americanprimrosesociety.org](mailto:membership@americanprimrosesociety.org)

## 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](http://www.auriculas.org.uk)

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