



Primroses

The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Summer 2020

Vol. 78

No. 3



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American Primrose Society

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The purpose of this Society is to bring the people interested in *Primula* together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden 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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Cover: Belarina 'Pink Ice' a charming double primrose grown by Elizabeth Lawson and a photo entered in the APS Spring Exhibition. (see p. 18)
Back cover: Cheerful red polyanthus with vestigial dots that lead to lacing, grown by keen *Primula* grower Regina Ceru in her garden in New York State.
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The View from Here

PATRICIA HARTMAN
APS Board Member & Chair for
APS as ICRA for *Primula*

My love for *Primulas* emerged during 2015 while serving as the Southeast Alaska Master Gardener President. A fellow APS member and Master Gardener inquired about what kind of *Primulas* I grew during the annual plant sale. My reply was "I've just acquired a few *Primula* 'Dorothy' that were given to us for the plant sale and will be planting them for future use and I have a *P. x forsteri* 'Bileckii' that I planted on my garden railway. I'm a leaf counter instead of a rivet counter." I was promptly taken over to the Friends of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum and introduced to *P. juliae*. The world of the *Primula* was opened up to me as I started learning from the local experts about what grows in Juneau and how many unusual *Primula* there are in the world.

As I listened to the experts and acquired books, plants and seeds, the thrilling madness bloomed into having gardens filled with *Primula*. *Primula* are always on the sought-after list to see while visiting any Arboretum in the world. A trip to Palmengarten last year motivated a place on the garden railroad for *P. marginata*, now residing in a rock crevice above the train tunnel.

Although no expert, I am learning and seem to have expanded my collection over the last several years. Several great mentors, such as Merrill Jensen, Paul Dick and Ed Buyarski, helped make the learning curve less steep. I also hold them all responsible for my

madness for *Primula* along with my association with the APS and current position on the board.

At the last meeting, the board agreed to pursue the APS becoming the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for *Primula*. This decision comes after several decades of groundwork and correspondence by APS members and past APS Board Members, most recently Merrill Jensen and Michael Plumb. Merrill who is currently the Arboretum Manager & Horticulturist for the Jensen-Olson Arboretum, holder of the Nationally Accredited *Primula* Collection™, has agreed to stay on the ICRA for *Primula* committee through 2021. APS Board member and Past President Ed Buyarski, who lives in Juneau, AK, has also agreed to serve on the committee, along with new APS board member Lucy Coles from Hopkinton, Massachusetts. I have agreed to chair the committee. We are anticipating that it may take us around nine months or more to get this up and running if we are accepted as the ICRA for *Primula*.

Some of you might be wondering what an ICRA is and what does it do? If our application is accepted, the APS would serve as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for *Primula* (ICRA for

Primula) on an appointment from the International Society for Horticultural Science or ISHS. The ISHS executive committee receives annual reports from the ICRA's and reassesses the appointments every four years. The ICRA program has been in place for over 50 years and currently has over 70 ICRA's listed on their website, ranging from African Violet Society of America (A.V.S.A.) to the Zhengzhou Fruit Research Institute (CAAS). The organization operates under the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP). The purpose of APS as ICRA for *Primula* would be to supervise and avoid the



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duplicate naming of epithets and group epithets along with publishing new registrations. An annual hard copy will also need to be published each year along with the goal of having a database on the APS website that would be searchable by different criteria. According to the ISHS, “The ICRA system is in effect the horticultural world’s attempt at self-policing of nomenclature and is truly international in its scope.”

Over the next few months, some of the areas the committee will be looking into are building a database, filing the application for APS as ICRA, working on guidelines and responsibilities for committee members following all guidelines outlined for ICRAs and generating an application form for future registration of a *Primula* cultivar name.

We will be looking for a Registrar and advisory committee to assist in this endeavor. Registrars will need to have a good working knowledge of, or ability to learn, the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) and the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). More information can be found at www.ishs.org. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, is an expert in *Primula* cultivars or knows those who are, please feel free to contact me at patricia.hartman4@gmail.com.

American Primrose Society Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic

Like the rest of the world, the American Primrose Society has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that has broken out in almost every country, including the United States and Canada. The first impact was the cancellation of the National Show to be held in Portland, Oregon in April. Gatherings of large numbers of people had to be cancelled. In addition, the border between Canada and the US was closed, which meant travel to Portland, Oregon from Canada was impossible.

The New England show was also cancelled but members managed to organize an on-line virtual cocktail party at Matt Maltus' house, which has become a tradition! And there is also a spring exhibition of *Primula* on the APS website, in lieu of an actual exhibition.

This pandemic has affected everyone's life. APS members, like most gardeners, were able to get out in their gardens for comfort, exercise and enjoyment. But even garden visits were limited to the occasional well-distanced one-on-one. The world as we knew it has changed, and we are all still living with the changes. Hopefully APS members will not be personally impacted directly by the virus. Please stay safe, keep well, and carry on gardening.

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Spring *Primula* 2020

Here is a snapshot article of *Primula* blooming in APS member's gardens around the country this spring. Janice Anthony tells us about her experience growing *P. kisoana* in Maine, we have a report from three gardens in Alaska, and Rhondda Porter on Pender Island in the Pacific Northwest chronicles her adventures with a pretty garden thug, *P. elatior*.

A LIGHT IN THE FOREST - *PRIMULA KISOANA*

JANICE ANTHONY: JACKSON, MAINE

It took me a number of years to successfully germinate the Japanese woodlander *Primula kisoana*, but I kept at it since I had long admired the crinkled and softly hairy leaves and the pure pink of the flowers. When I finally had little plants, I planted them out in a number of woodland areas, in light shade. Most of these kept going for a number of years with mild enthusiasm, following their idiosyncratic method of sending out stolons and moving to more promising locations.

I tried several lonely pieces that had been surrounded by more energetic shade plants in a new bed, along a stone path edged with rocks, creating a raised shelf of woodland soil. The pink *P. kisoana* thrived there, enjoying having a large space all to themselves, but over the next few years they again began to migrate, over or under their rock edge to form a new colony below. I couldn't see a clear difference between the microclimate in one location over the other, but they're quite happy. Now the white form, *P. kisoana alba*, is planted on the same rock shelf, and seems very contented, so both create a lovely colony. The pink and white blooms, with their fuzzy crinkled leaves, bloom in mid-May, lighting up the shadowed woods path. In late September, the globular green seedpods finally mature to brown, and the seeds can be harvested and sent to the APS Seed Exchange.

JUNEAU PRIMROSES

PAUL DICK: JUNEAE, ALASKA

Hundreds of spring primrose plants came to life in May, after a winter that left 4 feet of snow in my yard at the beginning of April. Living in a slightly higher elevation (400 feet) on the hillside on Douglas Island in Juneau means a significantly greater amount of snow accumulation in some years when temperatures hover around the freezing point at sea level.



The abundance of snow (while cursed in March) resulted in a thick blanket of insulation from harsh winter temperatures and wind, and from freeze/thaw cycles that occur in Juneau during winter. The last of the snow melted out of the yard on April 27, followed by long days of sun and warmer temperatures.

Within two weeks from the last snow patch, the spring primroses had bolted and reached their peak color with *P. juliae* hybrids colors ranging from the light yellow in the 'Dorothy' plants to magenta in the 'City of Juneau' plants, with many varieties in between (top). Hundreds of *P. denticulata* plants provided a mix of colors ranging from white to



lavender to red (previous page, middle). There were other bright patches of colors in the garden with *P. rosea* with their neon pink flowers and several varieties of garden auricula (previous page, left and right).

JUNEAU PRIMULA

BONNIE GRUENING: JUNEAU, ALASKA

Primula sieboldii is a native of eastern Siberia, Manchuria, Korea, and Japan where it grows in light woodland and damp meadows, its creeping rootstock spreads the plant into large clumps. The leaves are pale green and wrinkled. In Japan, it has been bred and cultivated as a garden flower from at least the sixteenth century. Flowers are fringed like extravagant lace and as unique as a snowflake. Be careful to note where you plant them so as not to disturb them as after bloom they die back and disappear to emerge the next spring. Here in Juneau Alaska they bloom mid to late spring.



Primula waltonii were found high in the Himalayan mountains, up to 19,000 feet! This incredibly tough, hardy, and exceptionally beautiful plant has sweetly perfumed pink to wine-colored, flared, funnel-shaped flowers in mid to late spring. They have long slender stalks, above low clumps of shiny, bluish-green leaves. It does well with some shade and moisture here in Juneau Alaska.

SPRING 2020 AT THE JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM

MERRIL JENSEN: JUNEAU, ALASKA

Spring in Juneau is anything but uninteresting. Early April nights were cold and delayed flowering of the *Primula* display. The first *P. denticulata* (right) bloomed at soil-level and looked rather odd. Once the air and soil temperatures warmed, a profusion of flowers literally exploded across the landscape. *P. elatior* was the tallest and most floriferous I have seen in my 13 springs at the Arboretum. On gray days, they seemed to glow from within.



All Arboretum visitors took note of the very floriferous Belarina® series. ‘Belarina Nectarine’ stole the show with mounds of nothing but flowers. ‘Belarina Amethyst’ did not live up to the rest of the series and only presented a few flowers.



While there was exceptional bloom from all the spring primroses, not everything was so positive. Changing baseline weather in SE Alaska (at least here on the water) has caused some of our Himalayan species to disappear. Last summer’s record heat and drought caused *P. flaccida*, *pinnatifida*, *capitata*, *maximowiczii*, *violacea*, and *conchobloba* to disappear. Lingering damage (few to no flowers) was present in *P. chionantha*, *pulverulenta*, *rosea*, *veris* (of all things while *P. veris* ssp. *macrocalyx* did surprisingly well), and *P. warshenemskiana*.

Approaching my retirement later this year, I am overwhelmed this spring and summer (and all these 13 years!) with gratitude for the gift of this place, and the vision of its benefactor. The Nationally Accredited Primrose Collection™ and all the plants of the Arboretum

have been an inspiration to many; I look forward to watching as it changes and grows over the next chapter of its existence.

PRIMULA ELATIOR – A BEAUTIFUL THUG

RHONDDA PORTER, PENDER ISLAND, BC

Most people who grow *Primula*, whether in the open garden or in pots, normally begin by falling in love with a particular variety. For some of us, this love affair begins with a visit to a local nursery which suddenly bursts with row after row of colorful primroses, including doubles and the occasional species. For others, the addiction takes hold after a visit to a *Primula* or alpine show. For many of us, this addiction leads to heroic efforts to grow *Primula* from exotic locations in the somewhat less than ideal conditions where we live. Once hooked, many *Primula* lovers want to branch out and build their collections by growing rarer and more unusual *Primula* from seed. The APS Seed Exchange helps to make this possible, sometimes with unexpected consequences.



This was the case with our current infestation of *Primula elatior*. When two *Primula* lovers with very different *Primula* addictions inhabit the same growing area, there can be problems. The enthusiastic seed grower ends up with more plants than he can handle and begins to look for plant shows at which to sell them, people to give them to, and places to plant them. The current proliferation of *P. elatior* began when two pots of them in full bloom were presented followed by the inevitable question, “Are you sure you couldn’t find a place for them? They’re really beautiful and won’t take up much room and they come from my part of England.”

Primula elatior, commonly referred to as the oxlip, is found throughout Europe, from Denmark and southern Sweden, in the north, to the Altai Mountains in Russia in the east¹. To the south, *P. elatior* can be found as various mountainous areas including Northern Iran². In England, the oxlip is found in fragmented locations in East Anglia,

especially in the areas around the borders between the counties of Essex, Cambridge, and Suffolk. The true species form of *P. elatior* has yellow flowers while the main European sub-species, *meyeri*, has flowers in various shades of lavender, violet-blue, and purple.³

Primula elatior grows in a variety of conditions. It inhabits damp meadows, open woodlands, often close to streams, and in more mountainous regions, on north-facing slopes⁴. In our garden, it grows everywhere, in gravel on top of landscape cloth (right), in pots of bamboo, in the fill around the side of the garage, under rhodos, on the rocky terraces in the front of the house, behind the house on a north-facing slope in the shade of conifers. The only place it doesn't grow is in full sun. *Primula elatior* is pollinated mainly by bees⁵ and produces abundant seed. The question remains however, how has the plant managed to spread over such a large area of our garden? The seeds are small and it is possible that a certain number of plants could be a result of seed being blown around by the wind, but that doesn't explain how it ends up in so many widely dispersed locations including the magnificent clump in the blueberry pen (left).



The temptation to weed out the invaders remains strong, but once they begin to flower in late February or early March and produce their cheery yellow flowers, I don't have the heart to consign them to the compost bin. I sigh, collect a bunch of pots, mix up some soil, and begin to pot up the little invaders, all the time wondering how to find homes for them. Perhaps I can sell them at a plant show or at our local farmers' market, or better yet, give them away to some unsuspecting gardener!

1. 'Primula elatior', https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primula_elatior 20 May 2020.

2. G.F. Smith, B. Burrow, and D.B. Lowe, *Primulas of Europe & America*. (The Alpine Garden Society, 1984). p 51.

3. Peter Ward RHS *Wisley Handbooks: Primroses and Auriculas*. (Cassels, 2003). p.11.

4. Peter Ward. *Primroses and Polyanthus*. (London, BT Batesford, 1997) p. 13.

5. John Richards. *Primula*. (Timber Press, 2003). p. 110.



THE PETIOLARES *PRIMULA*

TERRY MITCHELL, NOTES BY MAEDYTHE MARTIN

One of the more difficult *Primula* to keep in cultivation is the *Primula* petiolares. I remember one of the elderly stateswomen in the alpine garden club here managed to get one and to keep it going for a few years, and it was greatly admired and revered. It is a striking looking plant, which comes from Nepal and Sikkim with cousins, like *P. aureata*, in Bhutan, Tibet, and Assam.

I have only known of about 2 other growers that managed to make it grow. Ed Buyarski in Alaska had it in a shaded spot in his garden where I saw it some few years ago, now. And my friend Terry Mitchell in Yorkshire had a whole frame of it at one point in time. Here are his comments on growing it.

The plants in the frame were a mix of *Primula aureata* and ‘Netta Dennis’ the hybrid raised by John Dennis from Doncaster and named after his wife. I recall seeing the images of these covered in farina which gave them a ghostly appearance. What can I say, Maedythe, the colder you can grow them, the better. They don’t like sun or heat and why would they, coming from their natural home conditions. All I can say is they grew for me, it seemed they liked it here in that frame whereas they didn’t like the greenhouse next to the frame. I gave many away to friends and colleagues over the years and the only other person who grew them well was the late Derek Lockey who lived over 100 miles further north from me so a climate even more to their liking. I used to divide and repot them every year in Wimbledon week with almost 100% success. I grew them in clay pots plunged in sand with a good golden-brown peat-based compost and sharp grit and nothing else. It seems I lost my touch or the climate has changed here and now is too warm for them. I currently have none of them anymore, though sometimes I have got one or two when I could but they just died on me or the dreaded vine weevil got them. I did try leaf cuttings but no success but they produced more than enough offsets for me, so I was happy to propagate them that way.





Terry Mitchell's frames of *P. petiolaris* and *P. aureata*, above and below, with the hybrid 'Netta Dennis' to the right



Photos by Terry Mitchell

The American Primrose Society's
New England
Show's Virtual
Cocktail Party
was held
on Zoom
this
year,
hosted by Matt Mattus and Joe
Phillip





Dean Wiegert in Wisconsin is having some success raising the Oak Leaf *Primula*. It seems the jagged form in the leaves also happens in the flowers, making them thin and often strange looking, but Dean has raised a hose-in-hose which is a great curiosity.



SILVER SPOON MYSTERY MAEDYTHE MARTIN

Recently I found a small silver spoon in my chest of drawers where I keep my table napkins and linens. It has an auricula on the handle. I couldn't for the life of me remember where it came from. I wrote Lawrence Wigley in England and sent a picture, he recognised it a once. "The Silver Spoon award was the idea of Kenneth Gould back in the 1970s. We still have the original drawings from the manufacturer. The early spoons had an enamelled auricula as part of the handle but we later switched to silver plate. Allan Hawkes was also on the Committee in the 1970s when the spoon idea evolved. He may have had a few spares. Do you recall him giving you one on one of your UK visits?"

This is exactly what must have happened, for I visited Allan Hawkes in the late 1990s a number of times and he must have kindly given me this attractive auricula memento.



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In early spring APS received a request from someone in New York State about where to buy gold-laced polyanthus. A quick survey of online nurserymen revealed that none had any GLP for sale. In replying to the request I made the acquaintance of Regina Ceru who is an enthusiastic *Primula* grower and has a number of laced polyanthus, if maybe not exhibition quality GLP. Here are two of her *Primula* and views of her *Primula* beds. Purple double with a ruff may be a Belarina primrose and the orange is likely Belarina Apricot. More of Regina's laced polyanthus are on the back cover.



American Primrose Society Spring Exhibition



Because of COVID-19, the APS Shows this year were cancelled, so a virtual Spring exhibition was held on the APS website instead. Here are some of the cheerful entries of spring flowers that brightened our day.

'Cloisine', grown by Lucy Coles (above), is an unusual double laced primula. The orange sherbet-colored poly (right) is a hose-in-hose grown from Barnhaven seed by Lucy Coles.



'Marie Crousse' (below) is an old favorite double primrose, grown by President Elizabeth Lawson. The dark red glowing flowers (right) of this polyanthus show a seldom seen ruffled form of the Cowichan. It was grown from Barnhaven seed by Lucy Coles.





Henry Pugh, gifted hybridizer in England, now has plants from his seed growing in North American.

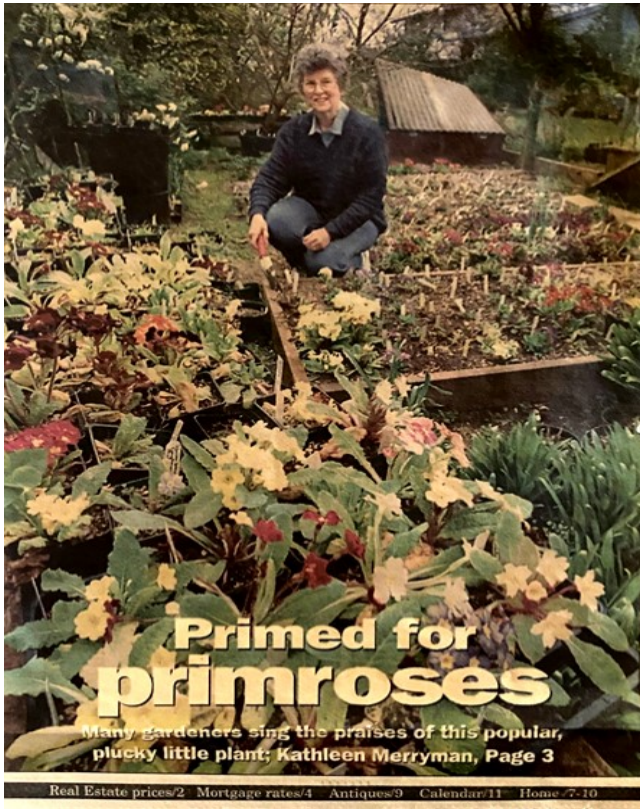
This pale peach-colored self auricula (top left) bloomed for the first time this year in Maedythe Martin's garden.



Auricula hybrid from a 2018 sowing of Henry Pugh's seed S1602 x S1264 in Dean Weigert's garden in Wisconsin (left).

Kevin Baker has a number of seedlings from Henry Pugh's seed including this fancy with a bright red ground and pale green edge (right).





From the Editor (Dorothy Springer), 1973: *"To Florence Bellis: my eternal gratitude for your faith in me and for your article in this issue, and hopefully, for more to come."*

"I grew up with Primroses and the names that filled the pages of this magazine...many names still ring true...", Leslie Marker, Dorothy's daughter



DOROTHY SPRINGER DIES IN APRIL, AGED 89

The APS received a note from Dorothy Springer's daughter, Leslie Marker in April letting us know that Dorothy had died. She was such a stalwart supporter of the society for many years, and we are all sad to learn of her passing. As a tribute to Dorothy, we are including Leslie's notes on her mother's long connection with APS.

I grew up with *Primroses* and the names that filled the pages of this magazine...many names still ring true in the current issue....the photo of Cy Happy on page 16, Spring issue, 2020 (a man that I knew not only in name but from the many, many occasions that he and my mom would discuss their beloved primroses and auriculas or the editorship of *Primroses*). Also in this issue on page 23, "Herb Dickson" is mentioned, not the plant, but the man the primrose is named after... Mom was the Editor of this wonderful publication from the Spring 1973 issue to the Winter of 1977 issue (after that Cy and Rita Happy became the Editors). My siblings and I were mom's production crew and the floor of our rec. room was where were learned all about how to mail a publication that was read not only in the US, but around the world.

I think that it is fitting to quote from mom's first issue of *Primroses* as Editor. It mirrors the "The View from Here" article written by Elizabeth in the current Spring 2020 issue:

From the Editor

"In going through old year books in the Editor's files, a letter printed in a year book caught my eye. In it, our Editor Emeritus Florence Bellis, described the early days of the APS Quarterly. In her words . . . "by 1943 no publication had materialized . . . and I was appointed editor." Thirty-one years later, and with the same sort of mixed emotion, this editor steps into the shoes originally worn by Mrs. Bellis and then passed on by those editors who followed in her footsteps. It is because of Mrs. Bellis that I write this message

today, for it was through her words many years ago that I started down the Primrose Path, never dreaming that someday I would find myself in this capacity. The Quarterly has been very dear to me and it is my sincere wish to continue the Quarterly publications with the same high standards and hopes set for it my previous editors. This is YOUR publication. Articles, photographs, and advertising are solicited, and constructive criticism will be most welcomed. Because of the late publication of the Winter issue and the subsequent delay in transferring the Editor's files, the Spring issue does not contain all the changes that were originally intended for it. Included in this issue is a feature called "Want Column," a service designed to help members locate specific seed or plants. Also planned is a column which will be titled "Down the Primrose Path" and which will contain excerpts from notes to the Editor. To those of you who helped with this issue: President Al Rapp, who has been my right hand; to Cy Happy for pictures; to my printer Bryce Pollard ... my most sincere thanks. To Florence Bellis: my eternal gratitude for your faith in me and for your article in this issue, and hopefully, for more to come."

Quarterly Editor
Dorothy Springer
(Spring Issue 1973)

Mom loved this publication, the American Primrose Society, and the amazing members she met from all around the world. Mom was the Editor of 16 issues of *Primroses* and contributed to an additional 9 issues as a Regional Editor in addition to many articles that she wrote that were about many of the same subjects written about today...including the notorious weevils and a primrose named 'Wanda'.

Thank you, on mom's behalf, for continuing this publication and for housing all of the back issues on your website. Also, for cultivating the love of gardening for future generations.

Most Sincerely,
Leslie Marker



REMINISCENCES OF HERB DICKSON

APRIL BOETTGER

In the Spring issue of the APS quarterly I mentioned Herb Dickson in connection with the smaller auriculas that were grown in the Pacific Northwest. Lee Nelson dropped me a note to say how much she enjoyed thinking about Herb again. He had actually made a visit to New England some years ago, where she met him. And of course, when Herb's name comes up, I immediately think of April Boettger, who worked with him for years. We decided to write down some of the things April remembered from those years.

Lee Nelson recently, after some years of not being in touch, asked me to call her to talk about *Primula*, plants, and Herb Dickson. I remembered many funny things—or not—from my time working in his nursery, Chehalis Rare Plants. Maedythe asked me to write an article for the quarterly, so I thought I would record some of those flashes shared with Lee while they are on my mind.

When Herb hired me in May 1988, I had limited knowledge of plants and none of *Primula* or rare plants. I had grown a few things like petunias, snap dragons, and some vegetables. And my favorite, pansies with their happy little faces. I never could understand why Herb, for some unknown reason, hated pansies, which is practically the only plant I ever heard him admit to loathing.

In general, when I started, I had very limited knowledge of the plant world and the various needs of plants like soil, sun, shade, lime, wet, dry, and such.

I wandered around in a daze—so happy that I was chosen to work there. I loved putting things in order and Herb was working in chaos, but still growing such incredible things. Remembering some of those times makes me smile - NOW!

Almost immediately I found a *Primula viallii* in a back greenhouse in such full, beautiful bloom. Stunned, I brought it to him and said “I know this is not a primrose – but what is it?!” Well, when that dear old man told me it was a primrose – I just said, “Oh, OK,” nodded my head and spent my lunch hour looking through his books because -- I **knew** that it could not be a primrose. Surprise! I suspect this is when I first learned about coveting primroses and it only got worse the longer I worked there....

I spent a huge amount of time weeding in the beginning and attempting to put things in order. I was weeding one of the sales areas and found this dead grass. I had it all pulled out of the rows ready to throw it away. Herb came by and asked me what I was doing with his grass. I learned about Mondo grass, and that all things black weren't dead!

Herb grew many, many things from seed – beside *Primula* – much of it ordered from plant societies and nurseries from all over. But he also saved much of his own seed from things in the nursery. He had grown an assortment of *Sorbus* trees which were very large by the time I worked there. I must admit that while I liked the foliage, I did not like the orange berries – orange is not my color. But then I saw the most adorable pink flowering plant growing in one of the pots where it had apparently self-sowed. Of course, I immediately went to find Herb, I had to find out what it was. A lovely *Cyclamen hederifolium* and another lust formed.

Lust was one thing, but our budget was another -- so I was able to go home without buying much of anything until I saw my first *Gentian septemfida*. There is not a shade of blue that I do not like and that rich blue with the little fringes on the petals took my breath away. The gentians still readily contend with my love of *Primula*.



I had a whiskey barrel in my front yard – no garden – with a few, dear plants and that gentian was the first to live there. No matter how busy life got, each spring for years when that gentian bloomed, I spent at least several mornings drinking my coffee hovering over that gentian. Finally, one year, my husband backed our truck into the whiskey barrel and that's another story.

Herb hired another guy, Jeff, within a day or so of hiring me and had a kid working for him after school a few days a

week. Everyone kept talking about the “DRUMSTICK” primrose and finally after some time passed I thought to ask, “Hey, why do they keep calling it the drumstick primrose, it doesn’t look like a “chicken leg”. Yes, I was more into food than music!

Primula cockburniana makes me remember another funny tidbit. Herb had some blooming and I was showing them to a customer, telling her about *Primula cockburniana*. A tall, distinguished-looking gentleman walked by and said, “No dear, that is *Primula coburniana*.” So, I ran around calling it *Primula coburniana*. Finally, when Cy Happy and I were discussing the proper names of some plants, I asked him which name was correct. He said it was named after Mr. **Cockburn**. And then someone else said... So finally, I was showing folks this cute little orange primrose – with NO NAME! It was pretty cute, so I forgave it for being orange.

Several years had gone by and Herb fairly well trusted me not to dump out the wrong stuff and to do the watering. He went away for 2 weeks to visit his family in Missouri. Everything was going well – I was thrilled to be Queen of the Roost. Until I walked past the dodecaathlon and they were all dying. My instant thought was: he is going to kill me—they were fine when he left. I ran up to the house and after a bit of frantic research, I was extremely relieved to learn that Dodecatheon go dormant shortly after blooming. Phew—another disaster averted!

I learned about so many incredible plants from my time with Herb besides the *Primula*, some I had almost forgotten about until I started thinking back. A tiny member of the gentian family: *Centaurium scilliodes* was perhaps insignificant compared to some of his plants but I adored the way that it stayed in bud for weeks with just a sliver of the pink flower showing.

But others, such as *Shortia*, growing in a flat with its gorgeous pink bells and dozens of pots of blooming *Ramonda*, let you know that Herb had magic in his hands. But still and all, it’s the plethora of *Primula* that always brings Herb to mind the most.

Oh, and finally, I did learn what defined a *Rare Plant*. It is one that is not quite done, yet – so just let it grow a bit longer!



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD:

ELIZABETH LAWSON (PRESIDENT)

I have undertaken the task of casting a net for more advertisers for the quarterly. So far, I have solicited Digging Dog Nursery, Wrightman's Alpines, Stonecrop Gardens, Evermay Nursery, Pops Plants, Munchkin Nursery, Edelweiss Perennials, Fritz Creek Gardens, Mt. Tahoma Gardens, Carolyn's Shade Gardens, Far Reaches Farm, Avant Gardens, and Sun Farm (West VA, Barry Glick). Suggestions that I have received and will follow up on are these nurseries in CT—O'Brien Nurseryman in Granby, Oliver's Nursery in Fairfield, Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden, Sunny Border Nursery in Berlin, and Pride's Corners; Ward's in MA, and Van Berkum in NH. Unfortunately, Sunny Border seems to be out of business. They used to carry a wide selection of primroses. It may be that advertising in a small print publication is not attractive to the great majority of nurseries, who let their websites do the advertising for them, but we need to find that out for sure before we stop casting the net.

DEAN WIEGERT (SECRETARY)

Our Constitution requires that the Society hold an Annual Meeting of members. The current wording of the Constitution states that the Annual Meeting shall be held in the same vicinity as the National Primrose Show. This was traditionally the place and time that many society members gathered. The American Primrose Society is truly an international society with members from Canada to New Zealand. The present Board recognizes that the time may be right to amend the Constitution to allow the Annual Meeting to be held online, rather than requiring it to be at the Annual Show. To that end, the Board has agreed to a change in the wording of Article V of the Constitution regarding the Annual Meeting.

Here is the current wording of Article V of the Constitution with proposed changes underlined:

ARTICLE V – ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the society shall be held during and in the same vicinity as the National Primrose Show, when possible. The local chapter or affiliated society sponsoring the show will be host to the national society for the annual meeting. In the event this isn't possible, the annual meeting of the society may be held online at a different specified time to be determined by the President. Advance notice of a scheduled online Annual Meeting shall be posted on the society website.

Our Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members. Please review the Board-approved change above and submit your vote. You may vote on the website or you may copy the ballot as printed and return to the Secretary, Dean Wiegert, 3708 E Norport Dr, Port Washington, WI 53074, USA.

JON KAWAGUCHI (TREASURER AND WEBMASTER)

Budget: The Final Budget 2019 was Revenue totals of \$7,631.71 and Expense totals of \$7,312.45 with net earnings of \$319.45. It appears that the 2020 budget could be similar to 2019 budget since the 2020 National Show was cancelled and there appears to be a reduction in expenses for the publication of the Quarterly with the printing company taking over the mailing of the Quarterly beginning in fall 2019.

Website: Jane Guild (IT person) has been instructing me on how to do to tasks on the website. Her instructions are easy to follow. We are in the process of stream lining things on the website to eliminate duplicate steps so changes can be done with the least amount of time; using the membership listing on the website as the master membership listing allowing the Treasurer, Membership Chairperson, Editor, Webmaster, Seed Exchange Chairperson, and IT person access to the list instead of having multiple membership lists; added “easy to see” buttons for donations, renew, and Join Us on the front page. These are just a few examples of things we have, and hope will be done with the website. Since all the APS shows have been cancelled, the 2020 Spring Exhibition was set up by Jane and the exhibition is now open for photographic entries.

JANE GUILD (EDITORIAL AND WEBSITE)

Jon Kawaguchi is taking over more actions on the APS website. Recent projects include getting the 2020 Spring Exhibition up and running (<https://americanprimrosesociety.org/2020-spring-exhibition/>), getting the online voting for the proposed changes to the Constitution up and running (<https://americanprimrosesociety.org/2020-amendment/>), and setting up a portal page for members to access the chat for the online AGM (almost online). In the background, we are working as syncing our old and new membership systems to be prepared for the coming membership renewal season.

MAEDYTHE MARTIN (EDITORIAL)

The quarterly was completed with all four issues for 2019. The printer is working out quite well, as we had to ask them to not only print the issue but mail it as well. The winter issue, the first for 2020 was a bit late, as is the spring issue, but Jane and I are doing the best we can in light of our personal loss late last year, which has knocked us both off track.

JULIA HALDORSON (MEMBERSHIP)

Total membership figures were 209 as of 5/21/19), 221 as of 8/12/19, 199 as of 2/6/2020, and 220 as of 5/9/2020. Thus, membership is up somewhat from a year ago.

AMY OLMSTED (SEED EXCHANGE)

The results are similar to last year. The treasurer will report final figures in full, but details of the most recent seed exchange can be found on p. 28 of the Spring 2020 Quarterly.



AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

The meeting was held online. Quorum and start at 6:08 pm EDT.

Board members present: Elizabeth Lawson (President), Mark Dyen (VP), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Dean Wiegert (Secretary), Jane Guild (Editor/Webmaster), Rhondda Porter (Past President), Pat Hartman (Director, President of Juneau Chapter), Janice Anthony (Director), Ed Buyarski (Director), Lucy Coles (Director)

Non-Board APS members present: Merrill Jensen, Jacques Mommens

Opening and Welcome to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the National Show has been cancelled. Therefore, the Annual General Meeting was held online prior to the regular quarterly Board Meeting.

Approval of the Agenda (Dean/Pat)

Approval of the AGM Minutes of May 26, 2019 (Ed/Dean) as presented.

Discussion of Board's Annual Report. Elizabeth compiled an annual report from information provided by the board that addressed financials, membership, seed exchange, quarterly publication, search for paying advertisers, and progress on the website. This report was posted on the website prior to the meeting to allow APS members to review prior to the meeting. The report shows 2019 Revenue totals of \$7,631.71 and Expense totals of \$7,312.45 for net earnings of \$319.45. Membership total was 199 as of February 6, 2020 and 220 as of May 9, 2020. Discussion noted the general positive aspects of the report.

Results of the Spring Election. The spring election closed on March 27, 2020. Lucy Coles has been elected to a 3 year term as the new Director to fill the position vacated by Cheri Fluck. Jon Kawaguchi has been re-elected as Treasurer for a 2 year term.

Conclusion of the Annual General Meeting. Elizabeth adjourned the AGM at this time to begin the regular business meeting of the Board.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2020 Board Meeting. (Ed/Pat) Approved with correction to item 6A, Juneau Chapter report: the chapter meeting was held on February 8, 2020. (Pat)

Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter 2020 (Report emailed prior to meeting)
Income less expenses January 1st to March 31st, 2020: \$1,493.04
Total Liabilities and equity as of March 31st, 2020: \$31,241.98
Motion (Janice/Pat) to accept the treasurer's report. **Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes of February 17, 2020

Changes to the Constitution to incorporate online Annual General Meetings.

Information on the proposed change to the constitution and instructions for member voting are on Website and in Spring Quarterly. Voting closes on July 15, 2020. Rhondda will put a reminder on the APS Facebook Page. Pat recommended that Chapters send out information to their members.

Plan to bring more advertisers to the quarterly.

Elizabeth outlined her attempt to email potential advertisers in her portion of the Annual report for the AGM. She is concerned that her emails may go directly to spam folders and so may try sending printed letters instead.

Addition of Links to the Website (botanic gardens, etc.)

Amy had posted a request on the Primula Lover's Facebook Page asking for recommendation of places to see Primula in order to provided links on the website.

Amy was not in attendance at this point in the meeting to comment. Rhondda noted the Forum section of the old website had a place to post places to see gardens, etc. Jane said she is looking for the old Forum files.

Virtual Nation Show.

Jane has named this the 2020 APS Spring Exhibition, entries are available for viewing by a link on the website homepage. Website visitors can enter their own digital photos in the exhibition through another link. Jane called for more entries.

Committee Reports

a. Membership Julia emailed a report prior to meeting. Membership is 220 as of May 9, 2020.

b. Website Jon emailed a report prior to meeting. Jon is working with Jane to eliminate duplicate steps on website, and maintaining a master membership list for ease of access. Rhondda mentioned the ease of use of the Portal for APS members to access the AGM. Jon mentioned Jane's work to create the online Spring Exhibition and online voting for the change in the Constitution. Rhondda asked about how often and how long website visitors stay. Jane said she will be doing an IT report for the board.

(Mark Dyen took his leave at this point)

c. Editorial Maedythe emailed a report prior to meeting. The spring issue is out now.

d. Seed Exchange Amy was not in attendance at this point. She did supply financial numbers for the exchange to Jon for the treasurer's report. As of March 31, 2020 the net profit is \$1,147.03

11. Chapter Reports

a. Juneau – Pat reports that the group hopes to have 3 more meetings this year with a possible picnic on July 18th with other groups if social distancing allows.

b. New England- Mark reported before he left that the NE chapter is adapting to pandemic social distancing and hopes to have an actual show in 2021.

c. BC Primula Group- Maedythe emailed report prior to meeting. The National Show planned and supported by the BC group was cancelled due to pandemic.

New Business (Due to time constraints, only the first item of new business on the agenda was discussed at the meeting)

Merrill Jensen's Request for a Decision Regarding APS as Primula ICRA. Prior to the meeting, in an email, Merrill provided the board with information regarding the requirements for APS to become the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for Primula cultivars with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and said he would serve through 2021 on a committee for the project. Merrill requested a decision from the board on whether or not the society wanted to pursue the effort and asked if APS had the resources to commit to this project. Prior to the meeting, Pat Hartman had agreed to chair a committee for this project if the board voted to proceed. There was lengthy discussion over the issue before a vote was called. Ed and Lucy agreed to join Pat and Merrill on a committee and Rhondda said she would help create a form for cultivar registration.

Motion (Jon/Pat) To continue APS application to become the ICRA for the genus Primula. Carried.

8. Date of next meeting: Sunday, August 16, 2020

9. Adjournment: 8:16 p.m. EDT (Elizabeth)



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:
Mr. Bobby Ward
Executive Secretary, NARGS
PO Box 18604

Raleigh, NC 27619-8604
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



£10.00 Overseas Membership.

to: The Honorary Treasurer, Tracey Pockett,
'Majutora', Longney, Gloucestershire,
GL2 3ST, United Kingdom.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

SOUTHERN SECTION

www.southernauriculaprimula.org

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 (UK) for single or family membership, Overseas £15.00
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: D. Skinner, Treasurer, Nanny Lane, Church Fenton, Tadcaster, N. Yorks. LS24 9RL.

Overseas membership £15

Please make checks payable to NAPS.
www.auriculas.org.uk

New Members

April 16 - July 29, 2020

Year of Expiry	Name	Name	Address
2021	Karen	Breckan	930 Vista Court, Morgan Hill, California 95037-4714 USA
2021	Minh	Bui	13111 Ardennes Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20851-2312 USA
2021	Christy	Cox	5624 Dumfries Road, Warrenton, Virginia 20187 USA Tree Tops, Badgeworth Lane, Badgeworth, Cheltenham GL51 4UW UK
2021	Mark	Dodson	
2021	Barbara	Haman	841 South Lakeshore Road, Port Sanilac, Michigan 48469 USA
2021	Stephanie	Jurries	Gale Force Gardens, P.O. Box 177, Craig, Alaska 99921 USA
2021	Colby	Kavanagh	977 High Street, Bath, Maine 04530 USA
2021	Holly	Kjerulff	397 Gibbs Avenue, Carriage House, Newport, Rhode Island 02840 USA
2021	Elinor	Klivans	18 Rockbrook Drive, Camden, Maine 04843-1616 USA
2021	Heidi	Ricc	1294 Turnpike Road, Norwich, Vermont 05055 USA
2021	Michael	Yales	11527 Doty Road, Maybee, Michigan 48159 USA

Should there ever be a question about your membership, please contact:
Julia L. Haldorson, APS Membership
 P. O. Box 292
 Greenbank, Washington 98253 USA
membership@americanprimrosesociety.org

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