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American Primrose Society Annual Banquet, Awards and Annual Meeting Minutes

Show Reports
Board Meeting May 1, 1971

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER: Primula Kleinii
Photo by Cyrus Happy 111

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
President’s Message

Spring at last, a new year, a new beginning. This year our winter dragged a bit and sunny days were slow to come.

A number of our members were able to see all our Primrose Shows.

The most enthusiastic, I believe, with the most involvement of city officials, garden club members and youngsters was that held in Mt. Angel, Oregon.

It was held on a Sunday. Everyone participated to make it a huge success.

Let’s do have more of this worthwhile “Early American” throughout our membership.

Any group that can arouse the public, involving everyone young and old with this enthusiastic spirit needs hearty congratulations.

Willing followers of their example are needed in other communities.

Now again as always when a new president is elected our funds are low. Perhaps this is considered a warm welcome. At any rate, each individual wishing to remain a part of A.P.S. please see that your membership card says 1971.

“Has anyone else ever thought of giving an A.P.S. membership as a gift? I have, several times. Our gardening friends usually enjoy gifts such as these.

May I state how I feel in regards to being elected President?

I believe the office of President is bestowed upon an individual to establish guidelines in leadership and direction in the activity at hand. It is to be considered a job to be done, not a position of prestige!

My desire is to draw our Society closer together through the involvement of more people and better communication in all areas.

Letters will be welcome with suggestions, constructive criticism and approval. These will be acted on to the best of our ability.

A reminder, absentee ballots do count and are most welcome. Thank you for using them in the past election.

They say, “Actions speak louder than words.” I hope mine are such, that you will feel your faith has not been misplaced.

Most sincerely,
Thelma M. Nelson

Some Woodland Groundcovers

By Frances Kinne Roberson

Pleasure from garden plantings need not always be associated with flamboyant color. In fact, verdant growth and more or less recessive flowers often fill shady areas without diminishing one’s enjoyment of the picture created. Texture and form of leaf as well as plant habit then become of paramount importance. Neighboring with primroses may be achieved easily with some of the plants which fall into this category.

A few natives from the Saffrage Family might be good for a natural woodland setting. A good beginning would be with the dainty Mitella pentandra or any of the other available species of Mitrewort or Bishop’s Cap. The 5 to 9 lobed leaves of M. pentandra are often studded with fine hairs while above them the elongated flower stems bear their tiny greenish blossoms in ascending sequence.

Tiarella trifoliata or False Mitrewort is equally delicate and of about the same stature. However, as the name indicates, the leaves have three distinct lobes.

Botanists sometimes play games with words as we decide when we realize that the genus name of our next plant, Tellima grandiflora, is an anagram for Mitella. The plant is usually called Fringe Cup, referring to the fuzzed edges of the many greenish flowers spaced along the one-and-a-half to two-foot stems. This is a more invasive and coarser plant than the two previous ones but it has considerable decorative appeal when sufficient room is available.

All of the foregoing plants relish moist ground as does this next one which again has a hirsute appearance. Tolmiea menziesii bears an interesting name. First of all, the genus name honors Dr. William Fraser Tolmie (1812-1886) who distinguished himself as a botanist while serving as surgeon for the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Vancouver in the middle nineteenth century. Secondly, the specific name pays tribute to Dr. Archibald Menzies (1754-1842) who preceded Tolmie in collecting botanical specimens in the Northwest when he served as surgeon and naturalist for Vancouver during his explorations from 1790 to 1795.

An unusual feature of this species is that new plants develop, one at the base of each old leaf. These root readily and ensure rapid coverage of any congenial locality, such as damp woodland, in which leafmold is plentiful. This odd propagation characteristic explains the common names of Piggyback or Pick-a-back Plant, Youth-on-age and Mother-of-Thousands, although this last nickname is applied more commonly to several other unrelated plants. Tolmiea menziesii flowers are interesting but inconspicuous in a sparse raceme on a stem which may be as high as 30 inches and which usually has tiny leaves set along the lower part of it. In passing we might mention
that this plant has enjoyed popularity for indoor use, most frequently in a hanging container where the offspring soon cover the outside of the pot or basket.

Here we depart from the Saxifrage Family to discuss *Adiantum pedatum* or Maidenhair Fern which can provide diversity of texture and foliage height while enjoying the same growing conditions. However, it should be set in clumps or groups rather than to be scattered through the above subjects which have more substantial foliage. Of course Maidenhair Fern is a good foil or companion for bright flowered primroses of the daintier types.

So far we have adhered to northwestern natives and I want to mention one more favorite in this classification. *Luetkea pectinata* has finely dissected leaves and may be used where a continuance of ground cover is the main object but a break in general plant appearance is needed. (*Luetkea*, like the genus *Tolmiea*, has only one species.) Woodland conditions produce a lush green carpet but *Luetkea pectinata* may also be grown in partial sun. There the upright leafy stems will be shorter and less crowded on the stoloniferous roots, the leaves will be burnished by the sunlight, and the several-inch-high flowering stems will be more numerous but smaller. The whole effect in the sun is less opulent. In nature, the plants often originate at the base of young Alpine Firs, creep outward and, as the tree ages, the foliage will be lush under or at the edge of the branches and sparse as the roots spread outward.

Close examination of the half-inch long leaf reveals the pattern responsible for the common name of Partridge Foot, while the dense two-to-four-inch racemes of cream colored flowers and the northern habitat give us Alaska Spiraea. Whatever name one likes, the usefulness of the plant remains unchallenged. Cuttings root easily and, if proper conditions are established, a large area may be covered from a small amount of collected material. Thus we follow a good conservation practice.

The cool green-ness of all these plants which we have considered will rest the eyes while inviting us to differentiate between closely allied or similar appearing kinds. These are not flowers to gather for arrangements; rather they mingle with each other as they grow naturally, crowding when they flourish, but creating withal a vista of happy serenity.

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GOLD LACED POLYANTHUS

—Some Personal Observations

This is not intended to be a how-to-grow theme, but rather a few not-so-profound observations resulting from growing near two hundred plants each year for the past seventeen years. The Gold Laced Polyanthus is a great challenge to a grower's patience and effort if one would bring them near to the Standard of the Old Florists.

My interest in the Gold Lace became very keen upon seeing a photo of a plant in bloom in a Barnhaven catalogue about nineteen years ago, so straight away I sent for a packet of seed. Germination was excellent and in the autumn forty-nine plants were bedded out. That winter I read all I could lay my hands on pertaining to Gold Lace. The plants came into flower the following February. Some Fifteen plants were lifted and seed saved from these. The plants resulting from this seed were all poorer than the parent plants. This same year I received some seed from Peter Klein. After the plants resulting from the Klein seed matured they were crossed both ways with the Barnhaven plants. My results were better, and since that time no other seed or plants have been added. Each year a small improvement is noted in the flowers. Careful records have been kept from year to year, a “stud book,” so to speak, on each plant that was kept for seed production or for division. Rarely were more than twenty-five plants kept for breeding. In addition to flower formation and color, attention is given and recorded as to health, foliage and the manner of flower its offspring carry. Good records and proper labels prevent repetition of some errors in judgment of former years. A carton of cards to carry about the plants is useful when making records.

A few observations recorded at random over a period of time follow—

The better flowers don't at all times produce the finest offspring — does like really and truly beget like?

Many of the plants promptly depart this earth once they have been pollinated — what genetic make-up brings this to pass? Many show marked resistance to damage by the dreaded Red Spider — others depart in haste at the first sign of infestation despite all efforts to give relief.

Kind treatment would not seem to be an aid to robust health, rather it is the plants in the rough, bedded out, which seem to be in better health. Many plants with flowers closest to the standard never set seed, in spite of assistance, or the seed germinates poorly.

After nine years why will an odd plant or two of Silver Lace appear? Not knowing that these were treasured by some, they were destroyed.

The same cross from the same parent plants will not give the same results two years straight running.

In conclusion may I urge all that foster the Gold Laced Polyanthus to keep on with their efforts. Let us all set a high standard. Then perhaps we may yet see another Tiny, Beeswing or other gems of bygone times.

Good luck with your efforts and warm greetings from California.

—John Zanini

NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to welcome Miss H. E. Rozman, of 20341 Chateau Drive, Saratoga, California, as a Life Member.
Dear Round Robin Members:

The Round Robin letters arrived and I have just finished reading them and have enjoyed them so much. Since I am to become another member of the group, I had better give you a thumbnail sketch of my experiences as a primula enthusiast—which is considerable.

It was way back in 1942 that I first became interested in primroses and really started raising them. I jumped into the fun of growing them with all four feet and by 1947 had accumulated about 30 thousand plants, believe it or not. They included most every kind of primrose I could obtain from all over the world. In the spring of that year, I set up a sales yard in Lake City, a suburb and business section of Seattle, and sold nothing but primrose plants. It was surprisingly successful and my wife, Evelyn, and I were really busy at it for over two months. However, due to a change in my work, I then moved into the city of Seattle proper and simmered down to own what plants I could grow on a small city lot.

Now we have moved again to a large double lot still in the city of Seattle where I have a 12" x 24' greenhouse and rich loamy black soil and room to grow several hundreds of plants mostly in beds. I have retired and this is now my hobby, doing nothing but experimenting in the hybridizing of primroses, mostly the auriculas, especially the double sorts. I have many projects going, many of them taking years to complete. Each year for several years, I have made on the average of about one hundred separate crosses, the majority of them between double auricula plants. Not all of them do set seed, but the other day I counted ninety different kinds of seed that I have now planted in my greenhouse. I do not sell plants any more but do occasionally sell a bit of seed. It is a wonderful hobby for a retired man for it can be done right at home. What fun it is each spring to go out each day and look at the new ones that are blooming and gloat over some new kind that no one else in the world has ever seen before. I keep volumes of records and can tell you the parents and grandparents and many other relatives of most of my plants. And my hobby does not cost me any money and actually pays for itself.

Mrs. Nelson has asked me to answer some of your questions on raising primroses, especially the auriculas kinds and now I will do the best I can but do not claim to be the final authority and certainly do not know it all. My knowledge, of course, is limited to my experiences here in the Pacific Northwest where it is rather mild and quite wet, especially in the winter time. It also never gets very hot here and so we who live in this area do not have the troubles of many of you who face the real hot dry summers and the icy cold winters.

Now for some answers to your questions:

To Berg Madison in Illinois who is having trouble growing auriculas from seed. I think that most failures in germinating primula seed are due to either of two things. One is allowing the seed to dry out after it is planted, even if but for an hour or two. The other is because the surrounding temperature is kept too warm for primrose seed germination. It likes a temperature of at least ten degrees lower than most other kinds of plant seed. The optimum temperature for germinating it is just under 60° and it seems to help if it gets cooler, even down in the 40's at times, especially at night. The type of soil mix one uses to start seed isn't too important for it will germinate between two pieces of wet blotter if given the proper temperature. I have often done it that way for tough-to-germinate seed. However, I use a mix consisting of about a third of each: good garden soil, leaf mold or sphagnum peat moss and coarse river sand. I often use number one granite Chic Grit in place of sand if good coarse sand is not available. Mix these three together and sift through a quarter inch screen. This works well also as a potting mix.

I have successfully used many kinds of containers to hold this mix for planting but whatever is used, it should be rather shallow and must have small drainage holes in the bottom. I have used cottage cheese cartons, tuna fish tins and the like for small amounts. Also, of course, clay pots, especially—the shallow ones are old standbys. For large amounts of seed, I usually use the regular flats such as used in greenhouses. Since I have had trouble sometimes, mainly because of neglect I do admit, and have allowed my seed to dry out after planting it, (I just plant my seed on top of the soil without covering it), I now germinate much of my primula seed on bricks, believe it or not. I have over forty such bricks with dirt on top and planted with primrose seed now sitting in pans of water in my greenhouse. In most of them, the little plants are already up and growing. The brick idea is quite popular here in this area. It is the lazy man's way of keeping them always watered with no danger of the seed ever drying out.

I just take an ordinary brick, never a glazed one, and build sides and ends to it out of apple box material. This extends about an inch and a quarter above the top of the brick to hold the soil mix. This little miniature "flat" on the top is filled with the soil mix, leveled off and pressed down just a bit and it is ready for planting. The seed is then sowed evenly and pressed a bit into the soil after which I place a glass or plastic cover over it to conserve moisture and then usually put one thickness of paper over this too to make it a bit dark. Then the brick and all is placed in a shallow pan of water. The water moistens the brick which in turn moistens the soil and...
keeps it always moist but never too soggy. All one needs to water is to pour water once in a while into the pan so that it always touches the brick. It is a foolproof way of watering and the brick is easily constructed.

Here is a diagram of the constructed brick—so simple to make:

The nail under the brick is to hold it from falling out. If you are having good luck germinating seed with the method you are now using, do not change. This really works well for me because I just do not always have the time to water when it needs it and have lost lots of seed that way. The construction of the box sounds more complicated than it really is.

To Mrs. Schmitz about the time it takes the garden auricula to flower from seed. I like to plant my auriculas early, in the middle of February, and then by growing the seedling plants well without any check, they will bloom the following spring. Now and then there will be a slow plant that won’t bloom until the following year but not often.

To Mrs. Doonan about growing auriculas in sun and rock chips. I don’t consider the rock chips very important and don’t use them. Auriculas do prefer a bit of shade but need a bit of sun too. But that is here in the Pacific Northwest. In areas where in the summer there is a boiling hot sun and it is very dry, of course, they do have to be protected and kept well watered. They like lots of water but do need good drainage for they do not like to stand with their feet in the water. I would say the amount of sun needed depends upon how hot the sun is.

Since you do live near Seattle, Mrs. Doonan, my wife and I would enjoy having you or any other members for that matter, come and visit us and our primrose gardens. You will see many of them growing, especially the auriculas.

Ralph Balcom

Dear Members:

Spring has finally come to New England in its usual manner. We are always slow starters, then in a week we catch up with several days really too warm for comfort. This Robin flew in on the weekend and very happy to read it. I suppose it will take a while for all of us to become acquainted, but can see many of this group are very experienced in the raising of Primroses, and that I will be one who does the receiving without being able to contribute too much from my limited experience.

This has been a hard winter, hard on evergreen plants, the little Penstemons, Phlox, Dianthus, even the Primula rubra were hit hard. Lack of snow is the cause for these losses. A few P. rubra are blooming now, along with a nice bed of denticulatas, and many of the acaulis and polys will be in bloom for the weekend, so all is not forlorn. I have two plants of P. marginata, they too are blooming, but can anyone tell me how to keep them from climbing out of their beds?

I have all of Mrs. Klabers small books, and they are just fine for a new gardener, or one just starting on Primulas or Gentians, but they are really not complete. Lincoln Foster’s book is a particular favorite of mine, also Walter Kolaga’s “All About Rock Gardens and Plants.” Collecting garden books (also almost any other kind of books) is a hobby of mine, and made note of Walter Blasdale’s “The Cultivated Species of Primula,” mentioned by Norman Deno. It will make a great addition to the library.

By early spring, I had planted all my seeds with many seedlings up and growing in the cellar. Am most pleased with two flats of the dainty little P. modesta, and a can full of P. minima, and it is from here in that my troubles begin. How does one take care of such tiny little ones? They seem so small to put out to the rigors of our climate, but don’t think they will appreciate the artificial growing conditions for much longer. I grow my Prims from instructions by Florence Levy. I don’t know where they were printed, but I wrote them down in detail and since then have not been disappointed. They always come up.

Couldn’t help but notice another New Englander along with myself, and it will be fun as time goes on for us to compare notes on the differences in climate within even this small area. We are supposed to be in Zone 5, but many things listed for that zone are not hardy here, while others supposed to be tender, grow on beautifully.

Gardening seems to be a sort of contest, trial and error. I feel gardeners must be very stubborn people. They just never give up, always wanting to succeed with a plant, willing to try it over and over.

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RUTH S. BARTLETT
Dianthus alpinus keeps eluding me, but each year I try again, and someday I am going to win the battle and find the kind of home for it. In the Primula section it is the birdseyes that fade away on me. Have had at one time or another, P. frondosa, P. farinosa, and P. darialica, but they do not remain. It is now so confused that of the ones that stayed are all a question mark as to whom is left, but am assuming the few alive and budded right now must be P. frondosa, this supposedly is the stronger.

Kathleen Gardens was mentioned. I used to visit there quite regularly, but haven't been there for a number of years and no longer receive the list, but Alice is a very special friend and we try to get up to her place at least once in the season. We don't go too far from home during the growing year, there is just too much we want to do, and no matter how we promise ourselves that we will go into the spring without any big projects, we have yet to make it. There is always something to be done, but this is our joy, so it is fun, and the changes usually turn out to be an improvement.

As I read back over this, can't say I have contributed very much but I have enjoyed all the letters, enjoyed visiting with all these new people, and hope we will all get to know each other as the Robin flies around and around.

Merle Emerson

PRIMULA RUBRA

Photo by Orval Agee

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Answers by Alice Hills Baylor, Corresponding Secretary
Johnson, Vermont, 05656

Question: I lost all but two of the Primroses I planted last spring over the winter. Can you tell me why? Others in Philadelphia area lost established plants.

Answer: If others lost Primroses also it may have been extreme weather conditions, an ice storm or freezing and thawing causing heaving of plants. I have not heard from any in that area having had trouble. If Primroses were planted in spring they should have been established. Rosea has shorter roots and takes longer to become “rooted in.” P. Sieboldii will live if forgotten and left at the top of the soil, but we do not suggest that treatment.

The soil should be cultivated 8-12 inches and enriched with organic fertilizer and humus added. Another requisite is drainage. No Primula will live with soil on the crown, nor water standing around the plant. It may be just one reason why you lost your plants, try and check all possible conditions.

Question: What pH of the soil do you suggest for best results for Primulas?

Answer: The Primulas as a group will do best in an almost neutral soil, a pH of around 7.0. However, the Auricula group will do best if given a top dressing of lime chips, with good organic fertilizer at the base of the roots. The soil in New England is on the acid side. We use wood ashes in preparing the beds which tends to neutralize the acid condition. In our woodlot where we grow the Canadabras the soil is on the acid side as we have not limed that area due to the fact that many wild flowers grow among the Asiatics.

Question: What Primroses affect the skin?

Answer: Only those which grow in the Southern Hemisphere and are used as greenhouse plants.

Question: Can the Garden Primroses grow in pots indoors under fluorescent lights?

Answer: Yes if the temperature is between 55 and 60 degrees and the air is not dry. We grow our seedlings in our cool basement under lights. The air is moist.

Question: What did I do wrong? I planted P. acaulis and polyanthus in the garden. They did splendidly. I covered them with pine needles and excelsior and they rotted at the crown. Some others were planted on the northwest side of a hedge, not covered except for some snow and they came through the winter and bloomed profusely.

Answer: It may be a question of “mini climate” or the soil and drainage perfect and sheltered from wind by the hedge. The problem may be that water stood around the crown of the plants in the garden and were too wet.
If the beds are raised a few inches above the surrounding area that problem will be overcome. It is when snow melts and the ground is frozen that water may stand around plants for several days, or it may be when there are heavy rains in early spring when one does not watch the garden as closely as other times.

Question: In our lake-side woodlot in New Brunswick I should like to plant and grow Heathers and Primroses. The soil is acid as viollets, Trilllumis, Lady Slippers and other wild flowers flourish. The trees are Spruce, Oak, Cedar and Maple and wild azalia also grows there. Are we too cold and snowy?

Answer: Without a doubt your soil is acid from the list of existing plants. The Candelabra Primulas will grow there and very likely those in the vulgaris group. If you choose Julies I would suggest the stalked type, P. acaulis, and Veris. You may find the edge of the woodlot where the area receives the sun most of the day will be ideal for the Ericas and Callunas. They enjoy the companionship of an old log or in the case of the prostrate ones a rock over which they can drape themselves. Both groups of plants will endure your climate.

Question: I have some P. geraniololia seedlings showing. What conditions do they like and are they as hardy as P. polyneura and P. saxatilis?

Answer: I found the P. geraniololia not as long lived as its cousins P. polyneura, P. Cortusoides and Saxatilis. Right now all of those are in bloom in Vermont (June 19th) and are giving a splendid effect with the handsome foliage and the upright flower heads of marvelous colors, from a good rose to bright pink and deep ruby. That is the color range from a packet of seed! And the plants are a mixture of the above types. The soil in which they are planted is heavy with leaf mold. The bed is raised a few inches above the lawn and they were given a good top dressing of humus and fertilizer (organic) after they bloomed last June and again early this spring. One plant of P. Takedon which was sent to me from Japan has handsome full foliage and the florets are a good rose in the center with the edge pink, the eye tiny and yellow. Chester Strong did some fine work with this group and Doretta Klaber's drawings show clearly the difference in foliage.

Question: When is the best time to transplant P. sieboldii? Mine are in bloom now (June 19th) and are giving a splendid effect with the handsome foliage. When is the best time to transplant? How many colors?

Answer: Perhaps there is no more satisfactory Primrose for our gardens than the wonderful Sieboldii as they are long lived, multiply, give wonderful garden effect after the first rush of Primrose bloom is past. The best time to transplant is directly after blooming when one can divide the tangle of roots and allow the foliage to die down for the rest period. They may also be transplanted in spring but care must be taken not to harm the tender "eye" from which the flowering stalk grows. The color range is from pure white of "Snow Flake" and "The Bride" to shell pink, bright pink, valender, deep rose, red and the "Southern Cross" which is two-toned, laven-

deer or pink on the back of petals and white on the face.

Question: Are the Border Auriculas the same as the Garden Auriculas?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do the Show and Alpine P. auriculas need special winter protection?

Answer: They are just as hardy as the Garden auriculas here in Vermont and need no winter protection. They do need a lime stone mulch.

Question: When is the best time to divide Primroses?

Answer: Right after the plant blooms.

BROWSING

In browsing through an old garden book by Richardson Wright, long time editor of House and Garden, I found in his foreword the story of a running argument he carried on with Mrs. Frances King, whether gardening is best considered to be an art or a sport. He summarized this by saying women are interested in the effect of gardening and he conceded that plant arrangement is an art. He contends, however, that the practice of gardening is sport, being more of a gamble than racing, more violent than tennis, more expensive than golf, more of physical exercise than baseball, and more acting on the whole man, his strength, brain, all five senses, his dreams and aspirations.

Martha Harrison
PRIMULA VULGARIS
(or acaulis)

A. E. Bridgewater
100 Watwood Road, Hirley, Salihill
Warwickshire, England

Of all the Primulas that have been grown in our gardens, it is safe to say that none has received the attention from gardeners than has the common primrose, *Primula Vulgaris* (or acaulis). Florists' journals over the past two hundred years or more have extolled its beauty, poets have written voluminously about it. Apothecaries have used it extensively and gardeners have taken it in hand, selecting, crossing and recrossing it with other species, until today we have primroses and near primroses of every shade of yellows, pinks, reds and blues, everything in fact except the true species which is today very seldom grown in our gardens. So, forgetting for the moment all varieties and cultivars of the primrose, let us use just what is the true *Primula Vulgaris*.

The common primrose, *P. Vulgaris*, belongs to the section Vernales and in England is found in almost every county. It loves moisture, but never stagnant water at its roots. In open woods and copses it grows in countless thousands when the conditions are right, and the myriads of yellow starry flowers in the moist early days of spring is, indeed, a never-to-be-forgotten sight.

A stiff, even a clayey soil is preferred but the annual fall of leaves from the trees which eventually forms a layer of mould seems essential. Under these conditions the plant does not grow large and lush, and the flower stalks seldom exceed one or two inches in height.

Somewhat different conditions prevail in the hedgerows and ditch banks of the lanes. Here, the plants are much larger, the leaves longer and the flower stems pushing their way through the spring growth of grasses and herbage often reach six or eight inches in height and the flowers are usually much larger than the woodland plants. In such places more direct sunlight reaches the plants, but during the hotter summer days, the plants are well protected by the thick growth of other plants in the hedgerows and ditches so that they never become completely dried out.

Railway cuttings (beds) are another resort of the primrose, but here the plants and, consequently, the flowers are on the small side. Again, during the summer months the primroses are well protected by the growth of grasses, etc. and, although the embankments get very dry, the nightly fall of dew trickling down to the primrose plants is obviously enough to keep them going. In the autumn and early winter the embankments are usually burnt off, but this rarely affects the plants, which appear again the following spring in their usual numbers.

Now and again, as with all other plants, an extra fine primrose will be found growing amongst its neighbors. My son once sent me such a specimen from Wales. This had flowers of a very pale creamy white, almost circular in outline, and exceeding one and a half inches in diameter. It is from such sports or mutations that tremendous numbers of varieties of *P. Vulgaris* have been built up.

Careful selection and hybridizing with other species of the section Vernales from other countries has resulted in a fantastic range of doubles, hose-in-hose, jack-in-the-green and, of later years, a strain from the Continent of Europe which can quite easily be grown in pots throughout the year. These come in all colors and are ideal plants for home decorators.

So enthusiastic has the modern gardener become over the varieties of common primrose that the humble originator, the true species, is more often than not, wholly overlooked and forgotten, except in some of the old country gardens, which is a great pity, because the common primrose, *P. Vulgaris*, is one of the most beautiful of the great genus Primula.

What's in a Name?
Perhaps there might band together a group whose motto would be: "Stamp out Latin names!" If such a goal were achieved, many of our plants would not remain without labels. They could merely repossess their common names, antedating their scientific ones. The former appeared in the old "herbs" which preceded botany books. A frequent part of the old English name was the ending "-wort," mean "plant". The first part of such a name, as in "Liverwort," often alluded to some part of the human body which it resembled in shape. In those days when botany was the servant of medicine, a concoction brewed from liverworts was assumed to have a healing effect on the liver.

The following list includes many which are represented in alpine gardens:

- lungwort Pulmonaria
- nailwort Draba
- spleenwort Asplenium
- navelwort Omphalodes
- throatwort Trachelium
- barrenwort Epimedium
- madwort Alyssum
- lousewort Pedicularis
- sneezewort Achillea
- bellwort Uvularia
- moonwort Solidanella
- pearlwort Sanguina
- slipperwort Calceolaria
- pennycwort Cotyledon
- starwort Asterol
- mildewwort Mitella
- ragwort Senecio
- bitterwort Lewisia
- butterwort Pinguisula
- milkwort Polygala
- sandwort Arenaria
- soapwort Saponaria

Ed. Latimer
Alpine Garden Club, B.C.
Notes from Around the Globe

I have not belonged to the Primrose Society since 1968 and I miss the Bulletins and am considering rejoining. I enclose $1. Will you please send me a recent issue of the bulletin, especially one with an article about doubles. I am especially interested in Polyanthus, stalked Janulas and double primroses. Thank you very much. Rhoda N. Smith, Ontonagon, Mich.

* * *

If this weather don't improve we won't have many primroses out. I had a beautiful row of Springtime (Julie) blooming all through February but last week the weather finished them. Some Julias are doing a little blooming and some Acuallis. The weather was a little rough for slugs but the Quail were enjoying the flower petals. I'm trying moth balls and Naptha flakes to keep them away. My Sieboldii are up and looking good. I have several flats of seedling Rosea which I don't know what to do with. I planted green seed and every one grew. I guess they will go to the show sales booth—Mrs. J. I. Lewine, West Stockbridge, Mass.

* * *

As I can't bear to miss the Quarterly, I've decided to renew my subscription. I'm not much of a primrose raiser, but I love to read about them. So here is my cheque and thank you.—Mrs. B. Thordarson, Point Roberts, Wash.

* * *

Thank you so much for your letter enclosing the candelabra primrose seed. We planted it right away and are awaiting the time when they will peep through. Does anyone grow the woody type primrose Suffruticosa?—Harry Miller, Des Moines, Iowa.

* * *

I just got back from the Rock Garden conference at Harrogate and your note was waiting for me. We stopped in at Barnhaven and although we missed the blooming time by about 2 weeks, I was impressed with the Alpine house construction that was in use. I wish I could write something for the Quarterly. Maybe by next year I will have something to say on the subject of growing primroses. Germination this year has been good.—Emmy Lou Allen, Gaithersburg, Md.

ABOUT HOES AND THINGS
By Ruth S. Bartlett

Gardening has been my vocation since I was a child and my vocation since 1946. In all these years I have used about every sort of hoe and other garden hand tool devised by man. Like most everyone else I am quite allergic to the hoe handle, but I have found one hoe that seems to alleviate this to some extent.

Some years ago I found a “bean hoe” in a barrel of old garden tools at the “Trading Post” across the highway from our place. I bought it for a quarter. Both my husband and the friend who ran the “junk shop” thought that I was crazy to invest even that small sum in it as they believed that it was only worn out, not different.

I was delighted with it from the first using. It made all other hoes seem clumsy. We had plenty of others, too, as my husband was always buying different ones. We had triangular hoes, wonderful for making trenches for planting; crescent hoes, these were my husband’s favorites; shuffle hoes, loop hoes and the good old standard variety in many sizes, fine for cleaning the henhouse.

Visitors to the nursery saw my hoe and asked about it. Because of this interest and also because I knew that my pet couldn’t last forever, two and a half acres to keep clean takes a lot of hoeing, I started looking for a replacement. I visited garden shops and hardware stores wherever I went but never found a single one even similar. Finally the expected end came and the blade snapped. I took the remains to an old machinist friend who does “handy man” work and he duplicated it for me. He used part of an old crosscut saw blade to form the new blade for my hoe and welded it onto the “neck” of the old hoe. He has since made me four more. I bought new hoes for these to get the “neck” and handle.

These hoes are really better than the original one that I bought as the old saw steel is so very tough and strong.
These are four and a half or five inches long with a straight cutting edge and very sharp ends. They are about two and a half inches wide where the "neck" is welded on. They all have full length handles. I had a short handled one, to use in the raised beds but like many other things around here, it developed legs and went away! The small size allows cutting close to plants, even small ones. The sharp corners make it possible to hook grass clumps and weeds very close to the plants.

No doubt many of you use a three or four tined "Potato digger" to loosen soil and to rake up small weeds.

My father made me a hand weeder from a single one inch strip of rather heavy flat steel. The piece was about fourteen inches long and bent in such a way that the blade was parallel to the surface of the ground when the handle was at about a 45 degree angle. The edge was sharpened. The handle was about four inches long and of wood.

The best digging trowel I have ever seen or used was made by Earl Welch of Seattle and given to me. It is made of a disc of stainless steel, bent into a curve and with a rather long handle welded on. You can push it into the ground two or three times around a plant and lift it out with an almost perfect ball of earth.

I am not very good at mechanical drawing but perhaps the sketch will help give you the idea.

More from a

ROUND ROBIN MEMBER

What a week! (March 5, 1971). Just when I thought spring was on the way the snows came . . . and freezing nights, down to 12 degrees one night. Rhododendrons budded or in bloom . . . . . . Olive, Bric-a-Brac, Cilpinense, Snow Lady . . . all had frozen blossoms. Next year we'll have those early blooming plants in an enclosed lath house, so we can see them bloom every year instead of one in three.

This evening, when I turned in at the white gate and walked down the bark mulch path, the snow was nearly gone, and the sun shown on Julianas Snowflake and Wanda at the edge of the rock garden. On both sides of the garden path early spring bulbs were blooming . . . February Golds, with blue polyanthus, Erythronium hendersoni with yellow acaulis, and around the "mountain" meadow shades of pink to deep rose polyanthus with Scilla siberica, a small red quill daisy, 150 hyacinths in bud (I felt rich when I planted those), a carpet of white violets and Primula veris.

Several dozen japonicas, planted under huge oaks where they get showered with an oak leaf mulch, every fall are fat green buds in flat rosette leaves, so they are thriving without bog conditions . . . though all our garden gets watered all summer with the big sprinklers. I want a bog at the edge of our small lake but that dream hasn't gotten past the read and plan stage.

Denticulatas I grew from seed are sending up bud walls. They are planted on a slight slope, well drained in winter, in scree soil, with Iris reticulata (I keep trying to get that one to stay with me for more than a season or two), Narcissus species, Silene, and a catmint. That soil is so well drained I may be out there all summer with a watering can.

A double primrose . . . Marie Crosse . . . no, I think it's Quaker Bonnet is flourishing like clover all through my husband's alpine garden . . . That's no place for it, he tells me . . . and he's right. . . HE doesn't want double flowers out there with his dwarf rhododendrons, gentians, hardy Cyclamen . . . I just walked around the garden in the rain . . . noticed Cyclamen coen in a sheltered spot between rocks is blooming, unharm by the freezes we had last week so doesn't need to be protected . . . with Juliana Dorothy that seeds itself.

One of the prettiest pictures in my garden is a mass planting of N. Thalia, Silver Chimes, and Actaea with polyanthus in yellows, apricots and deep reds, and purple violets under an old apple tree. There are other things out there too, a white fritillaria, lamb tongues, arabis, hoop petticoats . . . and azaleas in yellow and apricot shades. The soil is our usual sand from the river and leaf mold with a sawdust mulch.

As soon as the ground can be worked . . . vegetable and cut flower ground . . . love fresh flowers all over the house . . . I'll be running . . . not walking as I usually do . . . home from school. It's two miles and I walk it home every day . . . rain, sleet, snow . . . love it even in stormy weather.

As soon as the ground can be worked . . . we're going to start planting, because we're going to have a huge vegetable garden this year. (Our neighbors don't have banties, Eva . . . I laughed at your note . . . I know about banties . . . Our kids used to raise them.) I'll be home this summer to weed and feed and I'm looking forward to it.

For the past two summers I've taken classes . . . painting and drawing . . . which I liked but this will be my summer to garden. Our newish tractor has a loader which will lift a 2000 pound rock, a great help to us as we slowly build the rock garden. Since we live on the valley floor, building rockery areas that look like natural slopes takes some doing. But how can you garden without rocks?

I'm also trying organic gardening entirely—will see how it goes—my husband is working on the greenhouse it's taken us so long to build, I've ignored my housework to get this letter written—so now I'd better be at it.

Virginia Conley,
Springfield, Oregon

Please send any change of address to the Treasurer.
The awards banquet was held at the Rose Manor Inn, Portland, Oregon, April 17, 1971.

Welcome was given by Mrs. William Tate, president of the host club, Oregon Primrose Society.

Meeting was turned over to our president, Lou Dines.

Ross Willingham relayed best wishes from Ralph Balcom. His health prevented him from attending.

Minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Beth Tait was unable to be with us due to back surgery, so her report was read by the secretary. Savings account, $1,333.64; checking account, $390.64; balance, $1,724.28. 1971 memberships paid, 527 (as we go to press 666 is the count). Spring issue of the Quarterly unpaid.

Dorothy Dickson, slide chairman, reported two sets of slides in Maine and this was the time of year for requests. Slides are free of charge to A.P.S. groups, but they must pay return postage and insurance. Groups outside the society pay $5. This money is used to support the slide library.

Fayme Haverty, seed exchange chairman, stated many more orders to be filled. This is a tremendous job she has, and her work is appreciated by all the A.P.S. members.

Thelma Geinhiemer, chairman for the national show, was thanked for a most successful show. Almost every variety of Primula was shown, a planting by the Wagon Wheel Gardens, interesting education table, and the benches were full of plants.

Emma Hale, editor of the Quarterly, reported she was very grateful for the material and pictures for the Quarterly. She stated the last Quarterlys have been geared toward the new members. She asks everyone to send material and suggestions.

Herb Dickson, chairman of the constitution and bylaws committee, explained the changes and why, mostly simplifying the language. After a lengthy discussion, Ross Willingham moved we accept the changes as printed. Seconded by Ivanel Agee, with show of hands the motion carried.

Presentation of Awards
By President Lou Dines

NATIONAL SHOW TROPHIES
BEST SHOW AURICULA SEEDLING — Bamford Trophy: All Rapp, Tacoma, Wash.
BEST NAMED SHOW AURICULA — Frank Michaud Trophy: Ivanel Agee, Milwaukie, Ore.
BEST ALPINE AURICULA — John Shulman Award: Not awarded.
BEST ALPINE AURICULA SEEDLING — John Haddock Trophy: Not awarded.
BEST ALPINE AURICULA SEEDLING — C. F. Hills Award: Not awarded.
BEST DOUBLE AURICULA — Ellen Page Haydon Award: Thelma Geinhiemer, Beaverton, Ore.
BEST HOSE-IN-HOSE — Wesley Bottoms Trophy: Thelma Geinhiemer, Beaverton, Ore.

OREGON PRIMROSE SOCIETY TROPHIES
BEST SEEDLING IN SHOW — Miller Products Trophy: Richard Charlton; Wagon Wheel Gardens, Gresham, Ore.
BEST POLYANTHUS, Amateur — Agee Trophy: Earl Welch, Seattle, Wash.
BEST POLYANTHUS, Commercial: Richard Charlton; Wagon Wheel Gardens, Gresham, Ore.
BEST ACAULIS: Ruth Bartlett; Spring Hill Farms, Gig Harbor, Wash.
BEST JULIAE HYBRID: Ivanel Agee, Milwaukie, Ore.
BEST NOVICE: Jackie Travers, Portland, Ore.
BEST SPECIES: Mrs. William Tate, Milwaukie, Ore.
BEST YELLOW POLYANTHUS: Ernest Gates, Lake Oswego, Ore.
BEST WHITE POLYANTHUS: Richard Charlton; Wagon Wheel Gardens, Gresham, Ore.
Sweepstakes, Commercial: Richard Charlton; Wagon Wheel Gardens, Gresham, Ore.

DECORATIVE

BEST ARRANGEMENT: Mrs. William Tate, Milwaukie, Ore.
JUNIOR, 7 to 12: Rose Hubbard, Boring, Ore.
JUNIOR, 13 to 18: William Del Rose, Boring, Ore.

Oregon Primrose Society president, Mrs. William Tate, moved that Herbert and Dorothy Dickson be awarded life membership in the American Primrose Society for their many years of devoted time to promoting primroses. Seconded by several members, motion carried. They were presented their life membership award; also Dorothy a primrose corsage and Herb a boutonniere.

Herb Dickson, Richard Charlton, Ernest Gates, nominating committee. Herb Dickson presented slate of officers: Mrs. William Dines, president; Mr. Al Rapp, vice-president; Mrs. William Tate, recording secretary; corresponding secretary East, Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor; corresponding secretary West, Mr. Ralph Balcom; treasurer, Mrs. L. G. Tait; members to the board, Mr. Elmer Baldwin and Mr. Lincoln Forter.

President Lou Dines called for nominations from the floor. Mrs. Ruth Bartlett nominated Thelma Nelson for president. No other nominations. Ernest Gates, Ross Willingham and Mrs. Fred Clarke were appointed tellers. Ballots were passed out and secretary turned over ballots that were mailed in. Ballots were counted and Thelma Nelson was elected president. Ballots that were mailed in had to be verified by Treasurer Beth Tait. Secretary was instructed to mail them for verification.

Motion made by Cyrus Happy, seconded by Ross Willingham, the remainder of nominees be accepted. Motion carried.

Several charter members were present at the banquet: Mrs. Hilidreth Anderson of Elma, Wash.; Emma Hale, Bothell, Wash., and Mary Zach of Portland, Ore. Mrs. Anderson had four generations represented, all interested in primroses.

Past presidents at the meeting were: Mary Zach, Ivanel Agee, Grace Conboy, Cyrus Happy and Herb Dickson. Miss Wanda Grooms, a member from Shasta, Calif., was the member who traveled the greatest distance.

During the dinner hour we were fortunate to have music and songs by Marty Merkley and Candy Geinhiemer. Herb thanked those who furnished the program.

Lou Dines turned the meeting over to Thelma Nelson.

Herb Dickson said we have a new president and starting a new year and with the help of all A.P.S. members we can achieve what we should do for the Society.

Thelma Nelson thanked Fayme Haverty, who has worked so hard on the seed exchange.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. William (Ethel) Tate

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY — Midland Section
Invites all Auricula and Primula Lovers to join this Old Society
Hon. Sec., Mr. P. Green
"Heronfoot," Balsall Common, Coventry, Warwicks, England

Carl Starker was first Seed Exchange Chairman, served four or five years. Between '52 and '54 the Society met in the library in Portland, Ore. During that time Orval Agee waited in the back of room for his wife Ivanel, later became official photographer. In 1953 Linda Eickman introduced Polyanthus, Crown Pink.

Cyrus gave us history of the last fifteen years. He was president in 1956, followed by Wayne Arnold, Ann Siepman, Herb Dickson, Ralph Balcom, Ivanel Agee, Grace Conboy, Herb Dickson and Lou Dines. Cy showed slides of Peter Klein's primroses and told of his friendship with Mr. Klein and help he received in hybridizing. Cy had a very interesting set of slides which were enjoyed by all.

During the dinner hour we were fortunate to have music and songs by Marty Merkley and Candy Geinhiemer. Herb thanked those who furnished the program.

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Thelma Nelson thanked Fayme Haverty, who has worked so hard on the seed exchange.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. William (Ethel) Tate
SHOW REPORT OF NATIONAL PRIMROSE SHOW
By Thelma Genheimer
Show Chairman

With endless work and matching enthusiasm, the Oregon Primrose Society was host for the National Show of the American Primrose Society on its 30th anniversary.

"A Rhapsody of Hues," the show was both beautiful and successful thanks to the outstanding quality of the plants entered.

It's always so nice to see our friends and neighbors from Washington. They added to our show's beauty and success with their lovely prize-winning plants.

We were honored by having Time-Life Magazine photograph many of the plants for their new book on gardening. I understand all credit is due Lou Dines, our past president, for making this possible.

"Thanks to our many friends north and south of Tacoma, we did have a good show in spite of the inclement weather.

We wish to thank each and every one most sincerely.

Thelma M. Nelson, Chairman

WASHINGTON STATE PRIMROSE SOCIETY
Auricula Show Awards
April 24 and 25, 1971
Bellevue, Wash.

Horticulture

Sweepstakes—Ralph Balcom
Runnerup—Thelma Genheimer
Best Polyanthus (AA)—Earl Welch
Best Polyanthus (A)—Faith Deems
Best Sieboldi—Thelma Genheimer

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R. H. D. Orr, C.A., Subscription Secretary
30 Alva Street, Edinburgh 2, Scotland
Etha Tate, seconded by Ross Willingham. Motion carried.

Ross Willingham recommended and moved we ask Bob Putman to be corresponding secretary West. Seconded by Ruth Bartlett. Unanimous vote. (Refused because of health.)

Emma Hale moved a sale booth for plants and seed be held by A.P.S. members at the national show. Ross Willingham asked that "when advisable" be added. Motion seconded by Ruth Bartlett. Motion carried.

Fayme Harverty stated members should send for other plant seed rather than all primroses, as there are choice plant seeds.

Talk of judging schools in local clubs, with judging chairman to give test or grade papers. No action taken.

Elmer Baldwin suggested as seed exchange advisor.

Ross Willingham moved we adjourn, 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. William (Etha) Tate

Letter dated May 2, 1971: President Thelma Nelson informed me she had appointed Ruth Bartlett, Round Robin Chairman.

Application for Membership

Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait, A. P. S. Treasurer
14015 - 84th Ave. N.E.
Bothell, Washington 98011

I desire to be admitted to (or to renew my membership in) the American Primrose Society. Hereewith I enclose my dues as checked below, which will include four Quarterlys a year.

Active Membership, One Year $ 5.00
Active Membership, Three Years 14.00
Overseas (the same as above), One Year £ 2.00
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Library and Horticulture Societies 5.00
Second Member in Family 1.00

Kindly Make Checks Payable to American Primrose Society Treasurer

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Classified Ads

A NEW BEGINNERS MIX of P. Auricula Show, Alpine and Garden seed—$1.10 pkg. Other hand pollinated Primula seed, Sieboldii, Rosea Grandiflora and Hardy Cyclamen seed—$1.10 pkg. Primula Frondosa, Candelabra, Polyneura, Florindae and Blue Poppy of Tibet—$1.55 pkg. Six seedling Auricula Alpine 1 yr. old plants—$4.95 postpaid. Cape Primrose plants blooming, blue, purple, pink—$2.00 each postpaid.

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PICTORIAL DICTIONARY of the Cultivated Species of the Genus Primula. Published by the American Primrose Society, $3.00 per copy. Send orders and checks to Mrs. L. G. Tait, 14015 84th Ave. N.E., Bothell, Washington 98011.

SEED OF HAND POLLINATED, Double Auricula, Polyanthus and Candelabra in good supply this year. 50c a pkt. Please send self-addressed envelope. List of plants on request. Number of seeds in pkt. depends on rarity. NANCY FORD, Rt. 5, Box 231, Arlington Wash. 98223. (It's good to be back hybridizing—no more teaching!)


P. Abchasica; P. rubra; Boothman Hybrid, Miniature polyanthus; Candelabras; Pulverulenta, Pagoda Hybrids, Species.

Seeds, double auriculas, 5c ea. All others, 100/.50. List on request. SKY HOOK FARM, Johnson, Vt. 05656.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY — Northern Section

Invites all Auricula and Primula Lovers to join this Old Society Membership of $1.75 per year includes Year Book Hon. Sec., Mr. J. Robinson
584 Edenfield Rd., Norden Rochdale, Lancs, England

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Page 94 1971 Summer Quarterly

Page 95
Rare Dwarf Slow Growing Conifers

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