A Lifetime of Memories...

Report from the Primula Worldwide symposium
by Greg Becker, Symposium Chairman

WOW! What a weekend we all had in Portland. Three hundred primula enthusiasts from eight countries converged on the Greenwood Inn and were treated to the experience of their lives. I've never seen a more enthusiastic group gathered in one spot hungry for anything to do with primula. In fact, I noticed a couple of teeth marks in some of the show plants. Now that's T-R-U-E enthusiasm.

THE FIRST DAY
Friday morning the scene was set for early registration of those attending the pre-session clinics and tours. The registrants were greeted on Friday morning the scene was set for early registration of those attending the pre-session clinics and tours. The registrants were greeted by Ann Lunn, Symposium Registrar, and her staff. Each person received a beautiful symposium pin, a hospitality bag stuffed with informational materials and "goodies," a registration packet, which included our attractive program, a copy of the 50-page symposium booklet, An Introduction to the World of Japanese Primula, supplied by the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club, a copy of the American Primrose Society 50th anniversary quarterly, primula seed compliments of the Alpine Garden Society of England and assorted additional symposium documents.

Friday afternoon marked the opening of the plant sale and the exhibits, both of which attenders flocked to. Plus, feedback started coming in from people attending the tours and clinics! And it was fantastic! The tours were highly praised, and to see people coming out of the clinic rooms with smiles and full note pads, anticipating their next event, was most rewarding! It was great to see people having such a good time.

Friday night was the first series of presentations by speakers. Brent Elliot, archivist and librarian for the Royal Horticultural Society, was the evening's moderator and added a sophisticated international flavor. Cy Happy and Sybil McCulloch started the evening off with their fine presentation entitled "Primula of Many Springs." Ron McBeath followed with a most fascinating presentation on primula of Nepal, Tibet and the Himalayas. Both reports were excellent and extremely interesting.

Not only were there speakers, the Friday night session and each subsequent session was kicked off with four door prizes, valued anywhere from $40 to $130. Every door prize winner received either a three-year complimentary membership in the American Primrose Society or a one-year complimentary membership in the Royal Horticultural Society. An assortment of horticultural products, choice plants, books, posters, primula art, gift baskets, troughs and hand-thrown pots rounded out the prize. People were amazed! A total of 20 such prizes were awarded during the symposium.

SATURDAY, THE SECOND DAY
Saturday morning was the premiere for the National Flower Show. Was it worth the wait? FANTASTIC! Etha Tate and Thelma Genheimer, the co-chairpersons, did an incredible job. Hundreds of primula were beautifully presented, and organization was the order of the day. It was the finest show I have ever seen. Really first rate! The plants were magnificent and the growers have much to be proud of. The judges, headed by Al Rapp, really had a tough job but handled it in a most professional manner. The finest plants were awarded their truly deserved trophies.

ON THE COVER
Mr. Torii from Japan speaking at the symposium "Primula Worldwide" at Beaverton Oregon, April 10-12, 1992. Inset is Mr. Torii and some of his collection of "Sakurasoh," Japanese show primula.
The assortment and diversity of plant material in the room. Now that's a plant sale! Over $11,000 in sales in ten hours in a 30' x 32' space. The sale was an overwhelming success with a collection of primulas and auriculas for sale. American Primrose Society president Cy Happy expressed his appreciation for the event, saying, "It was fantastic! Arm loads of plants were carried out."

Gardens organized 14 vendors and managed to fit in 26 tables stuffed with plants and seeds. Across the room, the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club had an elegant and extensive flower sale! You had to be there! A truly once in a lifetime opportunity for us all. It was unbelievable and greatly appreciated by the symposium attenders. What a morning!

Saturday afternoon was a real treat for those attending the Portland Japanese Garden tour. Not only did they see the beautiful Japanese gardens, but they were presented with 40 minutes of traditional Japanese music by Mr. Kazui Hara, Ms. Aki Nakano and Mrs. Kimiko Nakano of the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club. Afternoon tea was provided by the sponsoring societies. A unique and wonderful experience! Saturday continued with another round of clinics, the exhibits and the national show. Will Simonds and Emily Pierce of the Berry Gardens organized 14 vendors and managed to fit in 26 tables stuffed with plants and seeds. The assortment and diversity of plant material was excellent. Herb Dickson had a magnificent collection of primulas and auriculas for sale. The sale was an overwhelming success with over $11,000 in sales in ten hours in a 30' x 32' room. Now that's a plant sale!

Saturday night was the banquet. The food was excellent, and we were all treated to a warm welcome by Mayor Cole of the City of Beaverton. Immediately following the banquet, American Primrose Society president Cy Happy awarded the National Show awards. Etha Tate was awarded the Dorothy Dickson award for her years of service to the American Primrose Society. Plus, I was treated to something really special. Etha Tate, president of the Valley hi Chapter, and Thelma Genheimer, president of the Oregon Chapter, presented me with a one-of-a-kind, hand-engraved gold inlaid commemorative crystal plaque for my efforts in organizing the symposium. It was really special of them, and I will treasure it always.

We were treated to outstanding presentations following the banquet. Brian Burrow spoke on "Old World" primula and Frank Cabot led us on a remarkable trip through his garden, illustrating primula and companion plants. Both were fantastic. What's more, at the Saturday night session, each participant also received a gift arranged by the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club. Compliments of the Kirin Brewery Co., we each received a six-inch potted plant of "Rosaceaous Polyanthus" — a breathtaking new polyanthus introduced to America for the first time in celebration of the symposium. This is the first time these plants are released in the West. What an honor!

It was also announced Saturday night that the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club had sent Sakurasoh plants to the Berry Garden (who in turn had potted them up) and that these plants were going to be for sale at the plant sale Sunday morning. Among these named varieties had never before been available to Western growers and collectors.

SUNDAY, THE LAST DAY OF THE SYMPOSIUM
Sunday morning was quite a sight! 125 people were in line at 7:30 a.m. waiting to buy their Sakurasoh. It was better than Macy's White Flower Sale! You had to be there!

After a number of suggestions and counter suggestions, it was decided that each person could buy one plant. However, there will be a registry of all the Sakurasoh plants and owners, compiled by the editor and published in the American Primrose Society quarterly. This way, we can divide and swap plants in the future. It was a great idea, whoever suggested it.

The Sunday morning sessions were moderated by Cy Happy, American Primrose Society President. Cy did a fine job of keeping everything organized and moving along. We were treated to three excellent presentations by Tass Kelso (on North American primula), Randy Burr (on micro-propagation) and Larry Bailey (on show auriculas). Three top-notch, outstanding people.

Sunday afternoon once again saw a repeat of the clinics and garden tours, the continuation of the plant sale, and the national show and exhibits were open. And what beautiful exhibits they were.

Don Howse, exhibits chairman, did a superb job in organizing the exhibits and exhibitors. Among the others, there was an attractive APS booth organized by Vice President Dr. John Kerridge. Kris Fenderson's book, A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula, was for sale at the APS booth at a special price for conference attenders. Right next door, Theo Oakley was selling the magnificent APS sweatshirts — a must have for every APS member.

Across the room, the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club had an elegant and extensive display. The American Rock Garden Society and the Berry Garden, the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Auricula and Primula Society — Northern and Southern Sections — also set out attractive displays. Larry Bailey, former APS president and editor, along with many other artists, had prints for sale.

Books were everywhere. The Symposium was honored to be the occasion for the release of Josef Halda's book The Genus Primula in Cultivation and the Wild. If you don't have Josef Halda's book or Kris Fenderson's, your primula library is not complete. Plus, Gary Eichorn had his famous antique primula prints, dating back to the sixteenth century, on display boards in the exhibits area. Magnificent!

IF YOU MISSED IT!
Now, if you are one of the poor unfortunate souls that could not attend the symposium — the gods are with you! We had Alan Klockman Productions of Portland video tape all the keynote speakers' presentations and these tapes are available for purchase.

So, even though you were not there, you have a chance to participate in this memorable event. The tapes would make an excellent program for a club meeting, too.

A BOUQUET OF THANKS
I have so many people to thank, and not the space to do it in. Without question, my
A Lifetime of Memories continued

overwhelming thanks and appreciation go to Ann and Jay Lunn — two of the most professional, hard working and dedicated people I know. Without them, this symposium would not have happened. Two really special people!

Additional thanks go to Etha Tate and Thelma Genheimer for their magnificent national show; the Berry Garden staff and volunteers — particularly Grady Tarbutton; APS President Cy Happy and the APS board; Kazuo Hara and the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club and Mah Yanagisawa (I hope you all follow me and join the MS&PC and order the new book The Primula of Japan available through Althiflora Inc. of Japan); Chris Brickell, director general of the RHS; all the outstanding keynote speakers; all the clinic leaders; all the committee chairpersons; all the co-sponsors; all the vendors and exhibitors; all the generous companies that donated door prizes and all the people that donated their time and effort. Like any victory that occurs on the field, it's because of the hard work and team effort. I had a magnificent team to work with.

As you can see, the three days were packed full of excitement, fun, camaraderie and were an unprecedented educational event for all! And to top it off, the symposium was very profitable and will allow much needed funds to be directed toward many desirable projects. Indeed, it was an unbelievable event and the reward for everyone was ... "a lifetime of memories." ✶

Greg is recovering from his exhausting but rewarding task of Symposium Chairman back home in Eureka, California, and sent this note, "Not only was the symposium weekend exciting, I got home just in time for three earthquakes — 7.1, 6.5 and 6.7 on the Richter scale. They hit the area on April 25-26; 400 homes were destroyed and 1,100 damaged. Fortunately, we came through it all with only minor breakage. What an exciting life!" Thanks once again, Greg, for a job very well done.


Borrow a copy of the tapes from your chapter. The following chapters have tapes:

- Tacoma
- Etna Tate and Thelma Genheimer for their magnificent national show.
- Greg Becker, Symposium Chairman, for ensuring that it happened.
- The road to success was bumpy. For almost a year, nothing was accomplished. It was doubtful the conference would take place.
- Then Greg Becker agreed to pick up the pieces and salvage the effort even though several things should have been firmed up months before he took over. Some of the associated events had to be dropped. Greg, by his enthusiasm and organizing ability, and by many hours of work, won the complete support of the various committees, workers and the APS board.
- Without Greg’s enthusiasm and leadership, the symposium would never have happened.
- One of the things that had to be dropped was a published book of the symposium. Something better was substituted: a video record of the conference that shows in color the major presentations, all the slides as well as the talks.
- Thank-you, Greg, from the bottom of my heart and from the American Primrose Society for bringing an idea to a glorious, successful conclusion that will be remembered as an outstanding achievement for years to come. ✶

From the "Symposium" Mailbox

To the Symposium Registrar and former APS Secretary

I am on my way home from “Primula Worldwide” and am saddened to have it all over, but thrilled with the memories of the best conference I have ever attended. I do want to ask you to thank everyone involved for the really super experience you gave us.

The speakers were all tops in their fields and the clinics offered such a broad scope of primula learning that we are greatly enriched and enlightened. It was a unique experience to me to meet all the “greats” in the primula world, whom I had only known by name heretofore — and to see that incredible show that you all produced. It was a real eye opener to me and I am going home determined to try to grow them the way you do — not so easy in northern New York State!

Thank-you all for a really marvelous weekend. All the arrangements were so well done and it went off so smoothly that I can appreciate all the planning and work that must have gone into it. I felt privileged to be there and to share such a memorable experience!

With deep appreciation,
Berry Corning, Albany, New York
Continued on page 8

A Tribute to the Chairman
by Herb Dickson, American Primrose Society Advisor

"Primula Worldwide", an international symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary of the American Primrose Society, is now history. Many people and organizations contributed to its success. Few people realize what we owe to Greg Becker, Symposium Chairman, for ensuring that it happened.

The event was a long time in the making. I conceived the idea of an international primula conference in America to be held on the 50th anniversary of APS when I attended the 60th birthday celebration of the American Horticulture Society. It took two years to sell the idea to APS. It finally came to a vote of the membership at an annual meeting. The board was then obligated to act.

The road to success was bumpy. For almost a year, nothing was accomplished. It was doubtful the conference would take place.

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From the "Symposium" Mailbox
continued from page 6

To the Treasurer
Notes on membership forms
The conference was absolutely wonderful, it was a fine stream of events and information that progressed so smoothly that one would think you did these gatherings every year.

Thank you,
Mary Jo McCassey,
Bellevue, WA
I am in hopes that your International Symposium can be held on the east coast next year.

Thanks,
Garden by Design, Carolyn Haines,
Rochester, NY

We enjoyed "Primula Worldwide" so much. It was so well organized, and every minute was an enjoyable, leaning experience. And it was especially nice to meet so many of the participants.

We were also impressed with Oregon -- all of the lush green and the beautiful flowers plus your mountains and gorgeous coast. It was a wonderful experience!

Richard Kordes
Ahmeek, MI

PRIMULA OP MANY SPRINGS
Presentation by Cyrus Happy, President, APS and Sybil McCulloch, Victoria, B.C.

Here they were, gossiping over the teacups. It was a lively listen as Sybil McCulloch and Cy Happy praised vernales primulas and assailed the reputations of vernales growers over a pot of tea. I think I had better stick to reporting some of what they said about the primulas, as who knows how litigatious the growers might be?

Everyone knows that one should break up clumps of primroses and reset the separated crowns in fresh new soil every year or two. I always plan to do it, but the period right after they flower is a busy time. So, it usually gets done only if someone wants a start of that plant. I was delighted to hear in one of Cy's comments that I have left my plants the possibility of sporting into anomalies like hose-in-hose by not dividing. I could hardly wait to rush home and check the edges of my over-grown clumps.

'Quaker's Bonnet' is a mauve double which is almost 500 years old and still vigorous. It has survived flooding for twelve days and still flowered as usual in her garden in Victoria, Sybil reported. Cy added that it produces pollen in single flowers near the season's end and seeds itself around. 'Cottage White' is an another old plant that does the opposite. It starts the season with singles until it gets into gear and produces the expected double flowers. It likes to be replanted often into new woodland soil. 'Marie Crousse' is lovely under trees — Sybil remembers seeing it at the Dusek's garden. Now there are named doubles from Great Britain being micro-propagated for a nursery just outside Vancouver, B.C., so lovely plants will gradually become commercially available.

Plants with dark leaves providing a contrast for their flowers were very attractive in the slides. However, sometimes in the garden the dark leaves don't contrast well enough with the dark soil to be noticeable. The 'Garryards' are noted for the color in their leaves, and one slide showing a cross of a 'Garryard' and a julie had intensely dark leaves. Peter Atkinson has produced a striking plant with a cream flower on tall dark stems. I will try for this plant from the APS seed exchange.

The Jellito 'Wandas' also have dark leaves, this time crisply piqued. The flowers show a bit of 'Cowichan', but aren't as distinctive as the leaves should warrant, I thought.

These and other comments, gleaned from the informal chat of two old friends was a charming beginning to the rest of what turned out to be a great symposium.

Report by Dianne Whitehead, Victoria, B.C. Look for Sybil's "Story of the 'Cowichan' primula on page 33

PRIMULA OF THE RISING SUN
presentation by Koochi Oogaki
Lecturer at the Tokyo Bio-technology Institute and the Tokyo College of Agriculture, Advisor to the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Society

The habitats of wild primroses in Japan are suffering from urban growth and the encroachment of people and their activities. It should come as no surprise for the same problem occurs in other parts of the world and yet it is a
Keynote Presentations continued

sad fact of the modern world. Warm applause greeted each report by Mr. Oogaki of another reserve or protected habitat and there were a surprising numbers of efforts reported.

From the first arresting slides of microscopic views of the growing embryo of a _Primula seiboldii_, showing the developing flower bud present even at the almost cellular level, Mr. Oogaki's presentation revealed for the symposium audience an ever increasing insight into the world of primula growing in Japan. How fitting that "high technology" images from a country renown for technology development opened the lecture. But these images were followed by slides of _Primula seiboldii_ in its natural habitat, a considerable contrast.

A tour through some of the species growing in Japan, via wonderful photographs, both of the primulas themselves, and of their attractive natural settings, eventually led us back to civilization once again. Attractive urban settings showed some of the efforts of cultivation of wild primroses in garden settings.

Finally, hints that recent hybridizing developments may result in a double seiboldii at last, and the news that the translation of 'Sakurasoh' is "herb with cherry blossom flower" prepared the way for Mr. Torii's talk later in the morning on the "show" primulas of Japan.

As Mr. Oogaki approached the podium to speak, I realized that some of his companions nearby were translators, and I was somewhat apprehensive about the outcomes, as language and cultural differences can be a formidable barrier. However, my fears were groundless, as, thanks to the rapport established by Mr. Oogaki and the expertise of Mr. Yanagisawa, the translator, it was a top-notch presentation.

Report by M. Martin, Victoria, B.C.

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Report by M. Martin, Victoria, B.C.

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**PRIMULA OF THE CLOUDS**

*Presentation by Ron McBeath*

*Assistant Curator, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh*

A two thousand mile journey through Yunnan and Nepal to the Himalayan Mountains revealed to us some of the exotic Asian species of primulas. The area has been the focus of plant collectors for over a century. Some of the species do well in gardens. Two attractive species that caught my eye were the deep rose _Primula secundiflora_ and violet _P. pinnatifida_. As both of these grow near melting glaciers, they are less likely to be amenable to garden culture than _P. involucrata_ found in northern India. However, they would be well worth a try.

Report by M. Martin, Victoria, B.C.

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**ROCKY MARRIAGE**

*Presentation by Ron McBeath*

*Assistant Curator, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh*

In his lilting Scottish brogue, Ron McBeath gave a fine talk and slide presentation on primulas in cultivation in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

The garden, founded in 1670, covers an area of 65 acres, including a rock garden, tropical house, woodland and peat garden, a fine collection of troughs, and an alpine house and numerous cold frames. Taxonomy, the classification of plants, is the main focus of the Royal Botanic Garden; and primulas are a strong interest with 170 species presently in cultivation.

Report by M. Martin, Victoria, B.C., and Don Keefe, Redmond.

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Apparently the soil and climate are far from ideal for growing primulas in Edinburgh and I was surprised to learn the average rainfall was only 24 inches with the dry periods being in May and June. Cultivation of primulas is mostly done in the cold frames outside the alpine house where they are covered with glass at the end of September. Flowering alpines and primulas are on display in the well ventilated alpine house throughout the year for the public to enjoy.

Ron McBeath gave useful cultural information as each primula was displayed on the screen. Primulas from the Petioleares section, for example, including _P. sonchifolia, P. whitei, P. petiolares, and P. edgeworthii_, require shaded frames, high humidity, a well drained compost and the seed sown while green for successful germination. Some of the tiny gems — an inch or so tall — such as _P. spathulifolia, P. tangutica_ and _P. prenantha_, the small yellow candelabra, also require special conditions to grow well.

The wretched root weevil, a great pest on both sides of the Atlantic, is found in Edinburgh too. The use of nematodes, a biological type of control, is being tested and, in some instances, proving to be effective.

Built in 1850, the two and a half acre rock garden has a dry sandy soil and a few Asiatic primulas are grown there, including _P. denticulata_ on the shade side of a rock, _P. capitata, P. flaccida_ and _P. ioessa_. _P. edgeworthii_ grows in the peat bed and is covered with glass in the wintertime.

In the woodland area where there is ample moisture, _P. helodoxa, P. cockburniana, P. secundiflora_ and the lovely _P. chumbiensis_ grow happily.

Ron McBeath thinks all the Himalayan primulas are worth growing, and having seen a number of them myself, growing in their natural habitat during my visit to Nepal, I can certainly agree with him.

Although the Royal Botanic Garden is a wonderful place to visit anytime of the year, I look forward to someday seeing it in the early spring, so that I, too, can feast my eyes on those special treasures in the primula collection.

Report by June Skidmore, Mercer Island, Seattle, WA
Keynote Presentations continued

are being developed. Mr. Torii himself has introduced a white variety called ‘Sankahaku’ in appreciation of a view of Mt. Fuji in a print — "evening school over night sky."

I was very impressed with the camaraderie among the members of the Matsumoto Club, and their willingness to reach out to the rest of us who could not speak Japanese. Their contributions to the symposium, from the 50-page booklet for each person attending, to the plants they made available, were a grand gesture of international friendship and cooperation. I hope we will continue to keep up our connection with the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club.

Report by M. Martin and Don Keefe, Redmond.

OLD WORLD SPLENDOR
Presentation by Brian Burrow Lecturer, Advisor to the United Kingdom Dept. of Agriculture, Co-author of Primulas of Europe and America

Many of the garden primroses originated in the European mountains and meadows. Brian reintroduced us to these old friends — this time growing in their natural habitat. The Vernales, more recently called section Primula, includes the cowslip and oxslip, here shown in the Pyrenees in Spain. A surprise was the very rich color of Primula vulgaris ssp. sibthopii, darker than the plant we have in gardens in the Pacific Northwest which may be the hybrid "Spring-time".

The Farinose primula, now in section Aleuritia includes the 'Birds-eye' primroses of England. Others in this group, including the very pretty P. auriculata extend into the Alps and eastern Europe. Section Auricula contains the ancestors of the garden hybrids that led to the elegant show auriculas. Many good alpine house plants, including P. hirsuta and P. allionii also come from this section.

Brian included a few notes on cultivation when these plants are taken from their natural environment into the captivity of an alpine house. Many of these are summarized in a useful handout: "European Primulas: Cultivation Notes." Pointers on propagation from both cuttings and seed, and even on hybridizing rounded out the presentation. Brian left us with a challenge: there is no good white form of P. marginata. Hybridizers, take note.

Report by Maedythe Martin, Victoria, B.C.

PRIMULA & FRIENDS
Presentation by Frank Cabot Gardening in La Malbaie, Quebec, when not in Cold Springs, NY

After-dinner speakers have a difficult task. Their audience is replete with good food and good company which encourages the catching of forty winks just as the speaker reaches his best story!

Frank Cabot did not have this problem. It was a rare treat to hear this erudite easterner add to the "orgy of primulatiousness" to which faithful primula-lovers had been exposed during this symposium.

Mr. Cabot has created two gardens. The first, in Cold Springs, New York, is now open to the public by appointment and is under the direction of Caroline Burgess (formerly of Kew Gardens and Barnsley House). The second garden is La Malbaie, Quebec, and the development and planting of this garden was the focus of much of Mr. Cabot's talk.

The property at La Malbaie was for many years the family's summer residence, with splendid views reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands and a similar climate. Mr. Cabot eventually realized that this would be the perfect place for primulas, especially the species, and through trial and error appropriate sites evolved. The best results came from planting in part shade, the full sun for part of the day, and wet feet for most of the time.

It took seven years of weeding and very selective clearing to prepare the planting areas. The woodland duff was ideal leaf and needle mould over sandy soil, but sprinklers had to be installed as the soil would dry out in 24 hours if there were no rain. Fortunately the garden was blessed with a real stream and five artificial streamlets were made. This was not too satisfactory so cement was tried. However, the best results came from shallow ditches gouged out of the soil and allowed to saturate and pack down.

The ideal conditions prepared for the primulas made the native plants very jealous and they tried to gang up on the treasures and choke them out. These aggressors were banished to areas twelve feet from the streams.

Mr. Cabot did not start with hundreds of each plant. Often there were only one or two, but these were divided several times a year. Seed was collected and grown on so that in time large drifts of plants emerged.

There are three definite high points of bloom in the year. The first is in May, when Primula rosea keeps company with Anemone quinquefolia, A. nemorosa flor eplena and hepaticas. Shortia galacifolia, Jeffersonia dubia and bulbs add to the scene. Primula frondosa and P. farinosa blend with the Corydalis ambigua and seldanella species hang modest heads. Pulmonarias add foliage interest as well as flowers, while P. dentilicata makes a thick carpet of bloom.

The second period is from late June to early July when the Asiatic primulas are at their best. P. cockburniana romps around and P. alpilca in its several forms adds fragrance to the air. Primula kisoa alba spreads by runners and the exquisite P. flaccida (was P. nutans) raises soft lavender heads to be admired. Choice companions for these are Corydalis lutea and C. cashmeriana, Cyperedium reginae and the great leaves of Peloboykinia tellimoides. Primula vialii fascinates and P. sikkimensis makes its appearance.

In August the third flush of bloom appears. Primula florindae is separated into yellow, russet and red forms and each used in different ways. The huge leaves of rodgersias, Petasites japonicus 'Giganteus' and Heracleum...
Keynote Presentations continued

antasticium make such an impact that a psychiatrist friend was convinced that Mr. Cabot was looking for the ultimate fig leaf! In ravines Kringlishoma palmata thrives while mushrooms and berries start to make their appearance. Autumn gentians and Primula capiata finish the season.

Every year Mr. Cabot tries to improve the plantings so that one year it may become a symphony. There is also a new garden being developed.

Mr. Cabot exposed us all to the “only complete delight the world affords” for this was a glimpse of paradise.

Report by Barbara Flynn, Redmond, WA

SYLVIA “TASS” KELSO

Tass Kelso’s presentation brought many welcome insights to the primulas growing in North America. Set in the metaphor of immigrants coming to this continent, her thoughtful and thorough presentation showed us similarities and parallels between North American primulas and those from other parts of the world. Primula incana is our version of a farinose primula like those originating in Europe; P. boralis of Alaska, our version of P. modesta. Tass is still exploring some of the mysteries, such as why P. minima from Czechoslovakia looks very much like the North American P. farinosa.

One of the North America natives, P. cusikiana from Idaho, Nevada and eastern Oregon, was chosen for the symposium primrose and appears on the attractive lapel pins each registrant received. All of the natives of North America have a fragile hold on their environment, living in marginal habitats. This makes them hard to find, and very much in danger of extinction. Slides of some of this group were taken by Jay Lunn, who, with his wife Ann has the sole honor of having seen all the United States endemic primulas.

An exciting period lies ahead for botanists focusing on the primula species as political barriers drop and access to areas is at last available for exploration and gathering of better information. We wish the intrepid researcher like Tass good luck in these adventures of discovery, and hold her to the promise that she will not change the names of primulas we know and grow unless there is a very good reason.

Report by Maedythe Martin, Victoria, B.C.

A TOUCH OF THIS AND A TOUCH OF THAT:

Presentation by Randy Burr
Co-Owner of B & B Laboratories

Randy Burr guided his listeners on a tour of B & B Laboratories in Mt. Vernon, Washington. Slides of autoclaves, triple beam balances, pH meters, transfer stations and culture rooms gave the impression this was 21st century technology at work propagating plants by the tens of thousands. However, Mr. Burr pointed out that tissue culture of primulas can be performed on a much smaller scale in kitchens with items most people have on hand or can reasonably obtain.

Tissue culture (micropropagation) is a relatively new method by which plants can be propagated in large numbers with a minimum of expense. A small piece of plant tissue is placed in a test tube on a medium containing nutrient salts, vitamins, and growth hormones. In six to eight weeks — for primulas — this bit of tissue will grow into fifteen or more plantlets.

For the primula enthusiast with a small number of plants to propagate, the most convenient method is to order premixed and sterilized media. (Names and phone numbers of companies which supply media are listed at the end of this report.) Then the only tools or supplies needed are a pair of tweezers for transferring the plant tissue to the media, household bleach and rubbing alcohol for sterilizing the tissue and a work area. You will also need a grow light or other suitable area in which to place the tissue culture while the plantlets grow — and, of course, your favorite primula.

Mr. Burr notes that if you want a few plants from varieties that propagate easily from seed or division, that is the way to do it. However, if you have a special plant that will not come true from seed, or if divisions are slow in coming, try tissue culture propagation. It can be a fun, new experience — one well worth trying.

Cultural information on micropropagation and recipes for mixing the growing medium were included in the hand-out for this presentation.

order supplies from:

Sigma Chemical Co.:
For catalog or to order: 1-800-325-3010
For technical assistance: 1-800-521-8956

Carolina Biological Supply Company:
For catalog, technical assistance or to order: 1-800-334-5551

Report by Ann Lunn, Hillsboro OR

A STAR IS BORN

Presentation by Larry Bailey
Show auricula grower, former president and editor, APS

Larry Bailey’s talk on show and alpine auriculas was the last presentation on the program — and he had a lot of tough acts to follow.

His talk had an unusual viewpoint. Although steeped in the literature published by the British growers over the past several hundred years, Larry saw his topic through the eyes of an American, and that made it fresh and interesting. History, qualities of the various types of show and alpine auriculas — plus stripes and doubles — led into judging and growing.

My notes don’t indicate that he solved the nasty problems of fungus gnats or root aphids. I'd appreciate hearing of any new developments on controlling these two pests.

Judging decisions about show and alpine auriculas often arouse the ire of exhibitors. My considered qualifications for the job include being appreciably color blind, moderately sober, able to make snap judgments in very poor light and having a fast car parked just outside the hall entrance.

Larry, your talk upheld the high standards of the symposium. Well done.

Report by Cy Happy, Tacoma, WA
News from the Symposium

‘Primula Worldwide’

Edha Tate was speechless! She was awarded the Dorothy Dickson Memorial award after the banquet for her outstanding service to the APS, and was caught totally off guard. Of course, that’s the best part about being able to give an award like this to recognize someone like Edha’s contribution to the APS.

Kris Fenderson gave each member of the Japanese delegation to the symposium a copy of his book. The gesture is one of international friendship and definitely encourages the exchange of information on primulas across country and even language boundaries.

Josef Haldal most generously gave the APS a copy of his recently released book The Genus Primula in Cultivation and the Wild. This is now placed in the editor’s library to assist in the correct naming and cultural information provided in the quarterly. Our gratitude for your kind gift, Mr. Haldal.

Mr. Rikou Nakamura, in a considerate gesture, presented the editor with some photographs of Primula seiboldii no. 11 and 12. The photos via the editor, with two issues of their bulletin, brought by the Club for display and generously given to APS by the Japanese delegates to the symposium.

The editor also received from Mr. Torii a cotton scarf with a pattern of pink P. seiboldii, two note cards from the Matsumoto Club via Mr. Hara with a P. seiboldii motif on them, and a package of information on the Tajimagahara wild primrose field in Urawa City, Japan. This is a national reserve, made into a park to protect the thousands of wild P. seiboldii that grow there. There are limited numbers of these brochures, but if anyone is interested, they are encouraged to write the editor, who will send you one. The others will be distributed at the next board meeting.

The APS was also the recipient of a copy of the book The 70 Year Memorial Memoirs on the Tajimagahara Wild Primrose Field…. This includes color photos of the park, of the wild P. seiboldii, and also the article by Masaru Niwa entitled “Growth of subterranean stems and flower differentiation of Seibold primrose (Primula seiboldii E. Morr.)” containing the intriguing microscopic pictures of growth buds seen in Mr. Oogaki’s presentation. The APS is truly most grateful for all the material kindly given to APS by the Japanese delegates to the symposium.

The very clever idea of a register of all the named P. seiboldii made available to those attending the symposium was Barbara Davis-Murray’s. Thanks, Barbara. This register will be invaluable to the editor as she compiles the registry of Sakurasoh distributed at the symposium.

Continued on page 44

Clinic Presentations

Small group sessions for special interests

GROWING FROM SEED
Clinic presented by David Palmer

Introduction

The genus Primula consists of about 400 to 500 species principally originating in the northern hemisphere, in Asia and in Europe. Seeds and plants collected in the wild by plant explorers, such as the great Scottish collector George Forrest, were introduced to Britain early in the 1900s. These collections are the source of most of the primulas in cultivation today.

Most hardy species are spring flowering and their seeds ripen from June to August. Primulas are easy to grow from seed and seed is available from the American Primula Society, other gardening societies or commercial seed houses.

When to Sow

Seed should be sown as fresh as possible, whether picked fresh from one’s own plants or purchased. If planting cannot take place immediately, seed can be stored in the refrigerator, away from freezing, by placing the seed packets in a screw top glass jar or alternatively putting the seed in a 50/50 mix of sand and peat. Primulas require coolness for good germination, so the best time to sow is December through April.

What to Sow In

Essentially, any container you like will work. Square pots 3 1/2” or 4” deep are preferred, because more will go in an area than round pots. Either plastic or clay pots are the usual container but it is essential they be clean and have drainage holes.

What Soil Mixture to Use

Any good seeding mixture in which small seed will grow will work. Palmer’s seed mix consists of two parts Fisson’s Sunshine Mix, one part peat, two parts vermiculite, 4 parts pumice (screened through a 1/4” screen) and one part washed mason’s sand. Add 1/2 ounce super-phosphate per bushel. The planting medium must be porous and loose so air can penetrate the mixture, while at the same time it must retain moisture.

There are various thoughts on sterilization of the soil mix. An easy way to sterilize the top of the mix is to put a piece of paper towel over the top of the pot and pour boiling water over the towel.

How to Sow

Each pot should have an inch of course material — gravel, broken pots or sand — in the bottom. Put a small amount of moist peat on top, and fill the pot with wetted soil mix. The soil mix should be wet enough to stay in a loose ball. Tamp the soil mix down 1/2”. Place seed in palm of hand and roll them between fingers to put into the pot. Sow seeds thinly. Then cover the seed with #2 chicken gravel, no more than 1/4” deep. The gravel stops algae growth. The containers must be kept moist either by soaking from the bottom or with a fog nozzle from above. Directly after seed sowing, water with hot water two days, in succession, then water normally.

How to Care for Seedlings

The seedlings must never dry out. Keep them moist, but not soggy. Germination can be aided by covering the pots with glass, putting a plastic bag over the pot or placing a cloth over the pots. Once seed has sprouted, remove the covering.

As soon as the second pair of true leaves appear, the seedlings are ready for transplanting to pots or trays filled with good growing medium with drainage in the bottom of the pots, the same as for starting seeds.

Set seedlings one inch or more apart each way. Keep well watered in partial shade until ready to plant in their beds in the garden.

Report by Jim Rainer, North Vancouver, B.C.
PROPAGATING PRIMULA
Clinic presented by Jan Palmer

Jan Palmer gave us an interesting talk and demonstration on the negative propagation of primula species. She prefaced her remarks by suggesting that for success in growing primulas we should observe their various needs and try to duplicate their natural environments — not so easy a thing to do when we consider how many of the choicest species find their homes in the Himalayas.

Leaf Cutting
She started her talk with leaf cuttings of *Primula boothii alba*, one of the petiolaris section, which she said was one of the easier ones, emphasizing the need to keep them as clean as possible. Use a solution of one part chloride bleach to 30 parts water. The best time to take leaf cuttings is in the spring or fall, when things are cool and damp. The leaf should be pulled off the plant in a tug, like pulling rhubarb. This ensures that a tiny leaflet will remain attached.

Five or six leaves were placed in a plastic bag and squirted with the bleach solution. The leaves were then inserted at an angle, about a half an inch deep in a pot filled with damp, washed builder’s sand, which will ensure good drainage. A small plastic bag is then fastened over the pot with an elastic band. The bag should be removed every three or four days and the condition of the leaves observed. They should still be fresh looking and will normally root in four to six weeks if kept in a shady spot.

Stem Cuttings
The next method of propagation was by stem cuttings using members of the auricula section and other European species. These would be taken as soon as the mother plant has finished flowering and is throwing out new, white roots. The plant is lifted and the small offsets can be pulled off. If you are lucky they may already have their own small roots. They are given the bleach treatment and then inserted in holes made by a pencil around the edge of a large pot filled with peat and perlite, topped with pumice. A small clay pot filled with damp sand is set in the middle. Do this early in the day and cover with a plastic bag as before. Place the pot in the shade.

Remove the bag every two or three days at which time a little water can be added to the sand in the middle if needed. The middle pot can be lifted after three or four weeks and the new roots should be showing. When working with *P. glaucescens*, a bit of lime, such as crushed egg shells should be incorporated into the mix.

Root Cuttings
The third method of propagation was by root cuttings. Plants of the denticulata and candela-braka section were used for demonstration. Root cuttings must be taken when the bud is still close to the ground and new growth is just starting. Up to one third of the roots, close to the leaves, may be removed with a sharp knife. Lay the roots flat on a pot of damp sand and cover with a thin layer of perlite. If kept at about 50 degrees Fahrenheit, these will produce one plant per root in about six weeks. As an alternative, damp sphagnum moss can be laid over the roots.

Division
The fourth and most common method of propagation discussed was division and the vernales section was used for demonstration. The plants will be found to have rhizomes and the separate crowns can be pulled apart, each piece with its own roots. This can be done in the spring after flowering, or in the fall. Plants from the farinosa and frondosa sections can be divided in the fall, using two hand forks to split the clump right down the middle. Do not tear the crown, and remove old leaves. Primula seiboldii should be divided in the spring as soon as the leaves appear above ground, for by fall, they have disappeared again.

 Armed with the useful, practical knowledge from this workshop, we can now propagate primulas by a number of methods. Thanks, Jan.

Report by Dennis Oakley, Richmond, B.C.

DOUBLE JEOPARDY
Clinic presented by Rosetta Jones

It was a privilege to attend this clinic, where Rosetta, famous for her beautiful double primroses, was willing to share all her secrets regarding hybridizing.

First she got out her equipment — a magnifying glass attached to a wooden stand, a small rectangle of very shiny black glass and a corrosive pin. Rosetta explained that when she and the late Dorothy Dickson attended a primula show years ago they both felt sorry for the 'Quaker Bonnet' varieties with such weak stems they were unable to hold up the double heads. This motivated her to begin the quest for double primulas with strong sturdy stems. It took 6 years for her to get her first perfect double.

Rosetta only uses flowers from her own strain. She usually looks for one with a double row of petals, never an actual double: this is of no use as it most often lacks both pollen and a pistil. A single flower on a double plant is okay, though.

First check the "pin" of the flower under the glass to be sure there is no pollen already on it. Then remove the petals very, very carefully so that they will not attract insects to pollinate the flower after you have so carefully pollinated it by hand. This is the flower that will receive the pollen.

On the other flower, most often a "thrum", carefully grasp and bend back the petals and using the corrosive pin scrape the pollen from the anthers onto the black glass. Now, with a very steady hand, hold the flower to be pollinated under the magnifying glass and use the corrosive pin to dab some of the pollen from the glass onto the pistil of the prepared flower. That's it! Incidentally, one grain of pollen equals one seed.

Rosetta showed us her hybridizing bible — a well worn small notebook in which she keeps track of every cross. Each cross is recorded with a number, such as 123 x 456. When the seeds from that cross grow, they each get their own number. In a larger book she has what I think of as a "family tree" where she can trace not only the background of the plants and the crosses, but which varieties are more prolific in producing seeds.

Other aspects of hybridizing were discussed, such as color preference in your crosses. And of course, we got around to discussing seeds again. Asked how she can say how many seeds there are in a given amount, she first pretended that she counted them. But then she explained that she uses a powder scale from a store specializing in guns. It is so accurate that it will even weigh just one or two seeds. Incredible!

Thank-you, Rosetta, for sharing your expertise in such an interesting and fascinating clinic.

Report by Renee Oakley, Richmond, B.C.

CHANGING CONCEPTS IN PRIMULA
Presented by Kris Fenderson and Tass Kelso

The Latin names of primula species are interwoven with the history of their discovery and introduction to cultivation. Kris Fenderson, author of A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula, and Tass Kelso, a research associate
amateur growers of primulas, they cannot but be interested in the new findings that may result. And we have the promise of these two botanists that they will change the names only when absolutely necessary!

Report by Maedythe Martin, Victoria, B.C.

GREENLEAVES TO GREENBACKS
Clinic presented by Jerry Cobb Colley

Here was a lot of information for those primula growers who want to sell plants. Jerry spoke confidently about choosing the right type of primula for selling, and having enough of it on hand to meet requests, but not so much the market is overwhelmed. Be prepared for all types of weather conditions in plastic greenhouses — good construction and air vents are a must to keep the plants in good condition. Jerry showed us some excellent examples of greenhouse construction, ventilation and benches in his slides.

I learned of choosing the bright colors for sale plants. These will catch the buyer’s eye and sell faster than dull colors. The use of displays is an important factor to push sales.

The use of insecticides was discussed — what products to use for which insect problems. Preparation of soil, drainage, the use of sand, gravel and grit and a new product called biomass were discussed and samples of each were available so we could see and feel the difference.

Jerry spoke of ways of marketing the plants by making sure they were groomed well to be most attractive. He showed more slides of tidy, marketable primulas.

To be most successful you must know your product. Educate yourself before going into sales. Learn what grows best in your area. And most importantly — think success! This positive attitude and your own enthusiasm for growing primroses will help to encourage and educate your customers and they will return for repeat purchases.

I found the short one-hour workshop very satisfying and educational. Jerry covered every aspect of seed, soil, plant grooming, marketing tips, greenhouses and customer relations very effectively. It’s too bad the clinic wasn’t longer because however many questions were asked and answered, people being people, we all wanted to learn more. Jerry did an exceptional job of covering a lot of material in a very short time.

Report by Marie Skonberg, Ouzinkie, Alaska

IN THE BEGINNING
Clinic presented by Will Simonds

This was the last clinic, third time around, given on the last day of the seminar and everyone was a little worn. But Will managed to give us useful pointers on primula cultivation for beginners, nonetheless. One of the best things about this clinic was the handouts. Well prepared and comprehensive, the three pages contain a wealth of information.

The one on soil mixes helps you prepare the ground, a list of easier primroses with cultural direction points the direction and gets you started, and the third handout gives you information on growing.

And the best thing is that all this information is written down to take away. Absorbing all these facts in one session is impossible, but with these handouts even the notes are taken for you.

I learned a number of interesting facts for beginners. Relating to auriculas, for example, the more shade they get, the more lush green leaves you’ll get; the more sun, the more flowers. So take this into account in locating your plants. And the true auricula, found in the Alps, is a clear yellow with relatively small flowers and the same habit as the oxlip, a tendency for all the flowers to point in one direction at the top of the flower stalk.

Another pointer: remember that primula seed will continue to germinate up to two to three years, so don’t throw it away until then.

Will included a bit of information about the Berry Botanic Garden and their experiences relating to primulas and sent us off full of enthusiasm to get started growing our own primulas.

Report by Elaine Whitehead, Victoria, B.C.

PRIMULA IN TROUGHS
Clinic presented by June Skidmore

At the “Primula Worldwide” symposium this spring I attended the clinic on trough-making given by June Skidmore because I feel that troughs make a delightful addition to one’s garden. Tiny, exquisite alpine plants are more easily seen and appreciated in a trough, whereas they may be almost lost in a rock garden. June told us that she had filled a trough with primroses by her front door and was able to enjoy them each time she came and went from the house.

It was an excellent workshop. Troughs can be made in different shapes and sizes by using different molds. I was fascinated to learn that one can use a garbage can lid as a mold to make a bird bath.

The hypertufa mixture recommended to make the trough is comprised of one part cement, one
Clinic Presentations continued

part sand and two parts peat moss by volume. Being a breadmaker, I could imagine myself, wearing rubber gloves as recommended, mixing these ingredients in a wheelbarrow in the garage. A well-ventilated area is recommended. Water is gradually added until the mixture is just about right for pressing into the plastic-lined mold until about one inch thick. Drainage holes must be made, and the whole covered with wet sacking for two days before the new trough is removed from the mold.

It is important to neutralize the trough by washing it with a weak mixture of water and vinegar. June explained how to cover the drainage holes with netting to keep out slugs and how to fill the trough with a free-draining soil mix fertilized with Osmocote. In the old days, June explained, a cow pat was put in the bottom of the trough! She also explained how rocks carefully placed could shield a plant from the heat of summer that you wash away the soil. Use a winter cover for protection — snow is fine, or leaves, excelsior, or evergreen branches.

It is the species, rather than the primula garden hybrids, that survive the summer heat and winter cold in these sections of the country, Karen has found. Her annotated list from hard experience goes like this:

- P. elatior, P. vulgaris and P. veris do okay — aculia is not reliably hardy
- P. amoena and P. sibhornii do well
- P. farinosa and frondosa are shallow rooted, add grit and they’ll manage
- P. mistassinica is good for a bog garden
- P. denticulata is reliable
- P. cortusoides and that whole section, including P. seiboldii are very hardy
- P. petiolaris and its group are hardy but hard to grow
- P. capitata is hardy but short lived
- P. japonica and all its relatives are just great
- P. modesta, P. rosea and P. warshenewskiana are all okay.

For a bog area, use half peat and half sand. An old wading pool sunk in the ground does very well. In the rockery auriculas will last, but put them on the north side of a rock, in shade for the hottest period of the day. Give them good drainage by working in some grit — avoid heavy soil. Divide every two years. And top-dress with more grit as a mulch.

Read everything you can on the primula species' native environment — it will give you cultural clues. And, unfortunately, trial and error is often the only way to learn.

A woodland garden is possibly the best solution for growing primulas in these areas of the country, as the trees provide a shade cover in the summer. Trim the branches high up. Companion plants, such as hostas and bulbs add to the effect. And for the summer, interplant with impatiens — they’ll give you a clue about watering if they start to wilt.

Gold-laced polyanthas have survived well for Karen, but the doubles may only last two to three years.

Karen's enthusiasm for her primulas was infectious and everyone was soon chiming in with what they had found worked well in growing species primula in their area of the country. A great exchange of information! Thanks, Karen.

Report by Maedythe Martin, Victoria, B.C.

NICHEs AND ROCKS
Clinic presented by Steve Doonan

The “care and feeding” of the section Auricula, those plants that grow in stony soils and rocky outcrops, was the focus of the presentation by Steve.

He recommended what is called “saxifrage mix” — four parts granite grit, four parts washed sand, one part peat moss — as the proper growing medium for these plants. This mix will ensure a highly-serrated root system. The key to vigorous roots and healthy plants is proper soil preparation.

If planting section Auricula from seed, sprinkle seeds lightly in the saxifrage mix in pots, putting them outside to get rained on and frozen.

Plant out seedlings in the garden in spring so their roots get well down into the soil before the heat of summer. Since these plants need good light but not the very hot afternoon sun of summer, an eastern exposure is best. Steve recommended the use of a ground cloth under the soil to prevent the bed being disturbed by worms, the use of a mulch from 1/2" to one inch to stop moss from growing, and the use of stone chips, which match rocks in the rest of the garden, for a finished appearance.

Some of the section Auricula that thrive in the stony, well-drained soil are:


At the conclusion of this informal presentation, attendees crowded around Steve, asking all kinds of pertinent questions, examining the many types of soil in different pots, and browsing through the many reference books he brought.

The entire presentation was delivered in an easy, almost conversational manner. The information was certainly not technical so that beginners as well as seasoned growers could understand and be encouraged to try these plants that prosper in niches and among rocks.

Report by Louise and Flip Fenili, Tacoma, WA
**Highlights of 'Primula Worldwide'**

**A HIGH POINT IN MY LIFE**
*Cyrus Happy, President*

As the primula symposium came to a close, I knew it had been a high point in my life. Greg Becker put together a perfect framework, but then the people came and breathed life, enthusiasm and delight into our all-too-few hours together.

The magic started as I opened my packet of symposium materials and was confirmed at the end as many people told me how much they enjoyed themselves and that it was the best convention they had ever attended.

I've been to most of the western rock garden study weekends and enjoyed them immensely, but our symposium was really special.

The national show, plant sale, tours and programs all added to the success, but it was the symposium — with great attention to detail by Greg Becker and Ann and Jay Lunn. I hope they have now had time to reflect on what a tremendous success they put together. The results will benefit the APS for many years to come.

PrimaLovers have formed new friendships and reaffirmed old. Never before has APS had so much to offer. Any one want to do it again in ten years?

![Alaska group at 'Primula Worldwide'](image)

**AN EXCITING CONFERENCE**
*John Kerridge, Vice President*

It was a long time coming — but after 50 years such a conference was bound to be exciting. Put close to 300 "primrosers" together and a stimulating time is guaranteed. Highlights for me were:

- meeting Josef Haldal and finding his new book was at last available. Truly a lifetime of work well done.
- the artistry and decoration of the Japanese working with Primula seiboldii.
- the skillful organization and introductions by Greg Becker. His enthusiasm carried all the preparations along and impressed us all.
- the caliber of each and every speaker's presentation, thankfully recorded on tape to study in a less busy time. All were superb. How varied, indeed, is the wide world of primulas.
- clinics were full of practical information.
- a special tribute to Frank Cabot for his fine presentation after the banquet.

Above all, the general atmosphere of congeniality and delight in mutual interests made for new friendships and ideas for further contacts and visit. Many thanks to all the participants and supporting societies for making this meeting possible.

There are only a few societies devoted to primula. I'm sure there will be closer contact and a new sharing of ideas from the informal meetings between primula devotees.

A thank-you to Ann and Jay Lunn who worked so hard, mostly behind the scene and dealt with every detail so competently.

By all accounts, the garden tours were excellent. Due to APS commitments, I was sorry to miss those opportunities.

The National Show was a success. Given the extraordinarily warm weather, there were concerns that enough plants would survive the heat to make a show. One juliana expert had not a single plant to enter this year. There were some fine plants, nevertheless.

Surprisingly, there were a good number of entries. Perhaps those of us further north in Canada were at a bit of an advantage, but one hasntens to add that most years the shows are held before our auriculas are even open, and after all the early bloomers are gone!

It's been a memorable year.

**ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES**
*Candy Strickland, Seed Exchange Chairman*

I was one of the lucky ones — lucky to be part of a dream come true. Years ago Herb Dickson -- "Mr. Primrose"-- told me that he had dreamed for a long time of a 50th year celebration for APS. And finally in April 1992, with the energy of many people, it finally became the most wonderful dream ever dreamed.

Lucky to be there to meet so many fine friends. Having mailed the quarterly and done the seed exchange these last few years, and being a member of the Rhododendron and Rock Garden Societies, I have come to know a large number of people in these societies by name only. Now, thanks to "Primula Worldwide" I am able to put faces to many of those names.

I met two board members from other parts of the United States: Karen Schellinger from Minnesota and Bill Brown from New York. Several years ago I met Claire Muller, and it was nice to be able to catch up on the years in between. One morning I had breakfast with John Kerridge and Grace Conboy. It was exciting to visit with Grace — she did so much for the Society and helped with Pictorial Dictionary. She is also an avid traveler, and I asked her, "Grace, in your travels have you ever met Diane Whimp, from — I think — Australia? I am hoping to meet her." The little lady in front of me turned around and said, "I am Diane Whimp, from New Zealand!" What a coincidence. She had sent me several notes with her seed donations and seed orders.

Another pleasure I had was the personal visits I had with Marie Skonberg and her father and mother. What a group there was from Alaska—the Chemikoffs, Emily Cheery and Caroline...
The regular news from Chapters notices is omitted in this issue, to devote more space to conference reports. It will be in the fall 1992 issue.

Included here is news from new contacts all over the United States. Reports from other areas, even countries, are welcome, and will be included in future issues.

**ALASKA**

A whole delegation of Alaskans came to the symposium! What a keen group they are. It was a treat to have them — they were friendly and very interested in furthering primula culture in Alaska. So much so, that they returned home to sponsor a booth for APS at the Southeast Alaska Gardening Conference and Trade Show held May 1-2, 1992, in Juneau.

The booth was a great success. John O'Brien, one of the energetic members, wrote up a double-sided page of cultural directions and 150 copies were passed out! And a membership form for APS was attached to each one. There were plants on display and plants for sale. Photos of primula taken by Jay Lunn decorated the booth. There seem to be about a dozen new memberships as a result of the Alaska group’s effort on behalf of APS. Interest in the primula booth was good; in fact, it appears to have attracted the most attention of all at the show.

One of the prime movers in organizing the conference was Misty Haffner, and she is a keen primula grower, too. Great idea, Misty, to have the conference and include an APS booth. John O’Brien, who was on duty at the booth, received two requests to speak on primulas — he can spread the word more widely.

We expect to hear further news of primula enthusiasm from this northern corner of the continent.

**MINNESOTA**

Karen Schillenger is another keen primula grower, and talks about primulas and APS wherever she goes. This spring she spoke at three separate events sponsored by garden clubs, and a couple of new memberships are due to this effort. Karen also has an article in the state horticultural magazine.

Asked what she’s up to now, she says, “Gardening, gardening, gardening!” A section of the rock garden is under redevelopment, partly to move the auriculas to more shade. Two groups are lined up to come and tour her garden in the early summer. And inadvertently, Karen has started a whole new crop of primula seed. “I didn’t mean to; I just couldn’t help it.”

Primula growers in the “other” parts of the US besides the west coast have a much harder time with primulas, and are separated by wide distances. We’re very lucky to have such an enthusiastic member making an effort on behalf of primroses in Minnesota. Thanks, Karen.

**SAN FRANCISCO**

There is a new primula contact in the Bay area: Sylvia Sykora. Earlier in the spring Sylvia and a designer friend created a display booth for APS at the San Francisco landscape design show, a fund raising event for San Francisco’s Parks and
News from the Chapters continued

Gardens Department. A friend, Barbara Stevens, another APS member, roped Sylvia into doing the booth, and it was a magnificent success. Over 30,000 people were expected to attend the show.

The booth displayed primrose plants borrowed largely from the very generous San Francisco city arborium, including a striking display of Primula obconicas. Plants were set off in handsome hand-thrown pots, or exotic urns from Asia. And — to Sylvia's delight — a box of plants arrived out of the blue from Herb Dickson, “auriculas like I've only ever seen in books,” she said. They were really appreciated!

Membership forms for APS were distributed, and a lot of interest was shown in the display. APS members are widely scattered throughout California, and presently are not organized into chapters, but there may be enough interest for them to meet at least once a year. Sylvia says she'll be glad to act as a contact, and encourages any of the California members to get in touch with her if they are interested in carrying the idea of a Bay area or California primula growers group forward.

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From the Mailbox

Letters from our readers

To the Editor: May 12, 1992

...I have enclosed pictures of the Sakurasoh stage — Sakurasoh "kadan" in Japanese. These pictures were taken in my garden the other day.

I have collected about 300 varieties of Sakurasoh. I cultivate more than 800 pots in my garden every year. When Sakurasoh open in April I erect the Sakurasoh stage and exhibit Sakurasoh pots on the stage. I have it lit up, and enjoy it with my family or my flower friends. When Sakurasoh flowers have finished I remove the stage in May every year.

I'm awfully sorry to have kept you waiting so long for my letter. It takes a lot of time for me to write a letter in English. Anyhow, I’ll try my best to learn to write in English.

With my regards to all your family and your flower friends.

Always, sincerely yours,

Tsuneo Torii

To the Editor: May 16, 1992

I thank all of you I met there in the United States, first of all for providing us with such a wonderful opportunity as the 'Primula Worldwide' symposium in Portland. All the arrangements that Mr. Greg Becker and other members of the American Primrose Society made for us were great and worked out perfectly.

I came to the symposium as tour leader and interpreter for the Japanese group of thirteen people. Imagine how thrilled and honored I felt when I met the "big names" in the world of primulas through helping my members in their communication with English-speaking people.

Personally, I enjoyed meeting and exchanging information with people like Dr. Elliot from the Royal Horticultural Society, all the staff at the Berry Botanic Garden, Mr. Cabot and many others.

The three day meeting was too short to meet and talk with so many people from around the world. I wish it could have been a couple of days longer. Lastly, I hope a written official report, or at least a video-tape of the symposium, including the lectures given at the general sessions, will become available in the near future.

As announced at the symposium, the brand new book The World of Japanese Primulas, written in English, should be available from the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club soon. Don't miss it. And enjoy growing Sakurasoh.

Mah Yanagisawa
P.O. Box 24, Gyotoku, Ichikawa, Chiba, Japan
I enjoyed the trip to Portland most of all the trips abroad I have ever taken. Well organized staff and members of the American Primrose Society, very instructive lectures and talks at the general sessions and clinics, warm-hearted and cheerful people I met at the symposium, the city of Portland full of beautiful flowers and the great nature of the Pacific Northwest — these I will never forget. I really can’t thank Mr. Greg Becker, the chairman, and the capable staff of the American Primrose Society enough for all their efforts to make possible and successful this international symposium, which should be recorded in the horticultural history of primula.

We at the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club have been working with the American Primrose Society as their liaison organization in Japan to make the symposium known to people in Japan. As a result, we succeeded in having various domestic organizations, with enthusiastic people work together with the APS. A lot of Sakurasoh clubs, wildflower and alpine clubs, enthusiastic individuals and some local government organizations have designated Primula sieboldii as their symbol. Various commercial organizations in the flower business in Japan also showed interest in working with us.

I am so glad that all of us could contribute to the success of the symposium. I hope this good teamwork will last forever.

I personally enjoyed the very friendly atmosphere at the symposium. I was also interested in the lectures, though I could hardly understand them — little more than half of the contents. I particularly found Ms. Tass Kelso’s presentation “Yankee Doodle Dandies” very interesting because I have had few opportunities to learn much about native American primulas.

The only thing I felt sorry about at the symposium was that no one attended from China where a great many primulas are supposed to grow. Only a little about Chinese primulas has become known so far. Maybe they’ll be there next time.

Since the symposium was held under the name “Primula Worldwide” I wished there could have been some consideration on your side for the language difficulties that attendees from non-English speaking countries might encounter during the sessions and activities.

However, I found the National Primula Show very interesting. Double primroses and show auriculas looked neat and beautiful. Some garden auriculas had flowers of different color patterns I had never seen before, which attracted my attention. I wished to see more wild species native to America in cultivation.

I was very glad to see not only the flowers, but also so many people that I had long wanted to meet: Mr. Greg Becker, Mr. Cy Happy, Mr. and Mrs. Lunn, Ms. Schellinger, Mrs. Martin, staff at the Berry Botanic Garden, Dr. Elliot of the RHS, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Fenderson, Ms. Kelso, Mr. Cabot, Mr. McBeath, Mr. Burrow, Mrs. Chilton who kindly guided us around Portland in the rain on the second day of our tour, American members of our club, and many others. I think it is most important to get acquainted with a lot of wonderful people from around the world through primulas.

Kazuo Hara
Secretary, Matsumoto Sakurasoh & Primula Club
Yoshikawa-Koya 647-51
Matsumoto, Nagano, 399, Japan

I needed to write you expressing my heartfelt thanks for the support that the American Primrose Society gave the Juneau APS members.

Our booth at the Southeast Gardening Conference and Trade Show held May 1-2 was GREAT. My husband, Rick, was given the use of an oak display board on which we mounted photographs from Jay and Ann Lunn. They were beautifully displayed and there were many comments about them. The public was very impressed with the free back issues of the quarter we made available and we sold all the 50th anniversary issues we had. Approximately 175 invitations to join APS, stapled together with cultural information Mr. John O’Brien compiled, were given away.

Many people commented that we had one of the best booths at the show and that we had most of the business. We had a lovely display of blooming primroses on one end of the collecting table and on the other end we displayed a large collection of plants donated by the various Juneau APS members to be sold for the Society. The plant sales totalled $155.

For sometime now my husband has been kidding me that I have a case of “primulitis.” Well, he helped at the booth all day on Saturday and he had such a good time selling primroses and giving out information that he admits he’s got “primulitis,” too. I honestly believe that it is contagious and before you know it most of Juneau and the rest of southeast Alaska will have it, too.

Respectfully and thankfully yours
Misty Lee Haffner - Juneau, Alaska

To the former Secretary, Ann Lunn
March 14, 1992

Many thanks for your nice letter of welcome to the APS, also thanks for the auricula seeds which were planted promptly in pots in the cold garage.

We lived for 45 years in Philadelphia and Doretta Klaber supervised the building of our first rock garden. We have all her books and we became close friends, visiting her in Quakertown at least once every month. Her primula path in the woods was spectacular. She died in her garden early one morning.

We are joining the society late in life (past 80) and hope to enjoy our membership for years to come.

Our house is on a lime rock ledge with no drainage and lots of rabbits, raccoons and deer. They have eaten most of what we planted since we moved here four years ago. Some of our treasures — cyclamen, gentians and primulas had to be protected with chicken wire so our hearts would not break.

Again, thanks, and greetings,
Peter and Maria Kirber - Lakeville, CT
Primula Notes
by Don Keefe

PRIMROSES FROM THE SYMPOSIUM
A plant of Kirin Flower's Primrose, a 'rosaceous polyanthus* was given to each member at the recent symposium in Beaverton. This is a new type of polyanthus from Japan with thick, overlapping petals which make the flower resemble an opening rose. The large flowers come in 15 different colors: blue, yellow, white, rose plus some delicate pastels and interesting bi-colors. The plant, raised by Mr. Hajime Maisunaga, is very robust, a long bloomer and, those that I have observed closely, seem to be Jack-in-the-Pots. The ruffled calyx around the flower gives it a corsage-like appearance. I suspect that you will hear more about this spectacular looking plant in the future.

(I got this information from an undated letter in the symposium package titled "Kirin Flower's Primrose" from the Twyford Plant Laboratories Inc., Santa Paula CA, who arranged the distribution of the plants at the symposium. And as you can guess from it's name, it is the Kirin brewing company of Japan that sponsored the development of the primrose.)

QUAKER'S BONNET
I read somewhere that this double-flowered primrose is about 285 years old. Some experts think that it is a Primula vulgaris subsp. sibthorpii. It is a tough, hardy, easy, free flowering plant that has even been micro-propagated in England (noted on p. 179, Primulas, the Complete Guide, by Mary Robinson, Crowood Press, England, 1990.)

Several weeks ago I decided to move five of my own plants to another location — and got the surprise of my life. The soil was dry and very loose and as I pulled up one plant, the other four — six or more inches apart — came with it. They were all joined by an underground creeping root stalk almost half as thick as my little finger. Evenly spaced along the stalk were thong-like roots, somewhat like very fat worms about six to eight inches long. Where did it get the creeping rootstalk?

The plant arrived in England long before species julieae. From extensive research C.C. Heimberger of Victoria, B.C., a scholarly plant scientist, (now deceased) concluded that P. sibthorpii, which reached England in the early 17th century, has a creeping rootstalk. (See p. 13, APS quarterly, Fall 1980 issue.) Also, there is a strong possibility that C.S. Marsh of Ireland reached the same conclusion. Although Marsh called the plant P. altaica, my own reading has lead me to believe that P. sibthorpii and the plant Marsh described in detail and called P. altaica, are one and the same.

DOUBLE GOLD-LACE POLYANTHUS
There is a color photo of a double gold-lace polyanthus on p. 25 of the Wisley handbook titled Primulas and Auriculas. Written by Brenda Hyatt, it is published by Sing King Tong Co. Ltd. 1989. The description printed below the picture describes the plant as coming from a seed strain! Whose strain? How can you get seeds? Does anyone know any more about this?

PRIMULA MALACOIDES
The 'Uguisu Series' of P. malacoides are described as the only cold tolerant varieties that are suitable for use out in the garden in Japan. This information comes from a booklet titled An Invitation to the World of Japanese Primulas by K. Oogaki, T. Torii and K. Hara, published by the Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club in commemoration of the "Primula Worldwide" symposium. I wonder if these primula would be suitable for outdoor use in the warmer areas of the west coast US and parts of England and Ireland?

Continued on page 34

The Story of the 'Cowichan' Primrose
by Sybil McCulloch

I wonder how many primula births have caused as much furor as the 'Cowichan' has? Like so many good plants it is reputed to have had its genesis in Great Britain, but it came to maturity in the Anglo-Canadian community of Cowichan Valley.

This valley was a mecca for colonists from the "old country". Many of the earlier ones came by wagon train across the American prairies to Oregon and then on to British Columbia. In fact, many of the wives were afraid of our local native people because they had been attacked by Indians on the way.

The Cowichan Valley is a fertile region situated between two great trout and salmon fishing rivers, the Kokislah and the Cowichan, which both empty into Cowichan Bay.

The 'Cowichan' primula first appeared in the small community of Cowichan Station, about thirty miles from Victoria, in the garden of a Mr. Neel, who was famous gardener who imported seed from Great Britain. Thompson and Morgan was a popular source in our area at that time. Next door to Mr. Neel lived a Major Knocker, who had a wife who was a keen gardener; and among the plants which crossed the fence was Mr. Neel's primrose.

Major Knocker was a convivial soul and loved distributing his wife's plants to his cronies, and the neighbor who received the Neel primrose was a Mrs. Louis Norie. To this day the Norie children think the 'Cowichan' primrose originated in their mother's garden; but Mrs. Knocker, who lived next door to a friend of mine, Mrs. Jean Gainsford, told Jean that she had indeed received it from Mr. Neel in the 1930s. Jean still lives on part of the Neel property.

This all sounds very mundane and pleasant, as indeed it was.

Then the unthinkable happened; tradition was breached! The Neel primrose turned up at a plant sale under the name of 'Cowichan' primula. The community was shocked to its core. The dispute raged, sides were taken and one had to be sure that certain people were not asked to the same dinner parties. It just was not done — to take a neighbor's gift and turn it into a money-making proposition, and under a new name. The villain in the piece was R.M. Palmer who ran a successful nursery at Cowichan Bay and knew a good thing when he saw it.

For the Cowichan is indeed an attractive plant. It is not a very robust grower but the flowers are a good size, a deep reddish purple with no eye. It does not set seed but the pollen can be used in hybridizing. The leaves have a reddish tint. 

Continued on page 38
Notes from the Editor

UPDATE ON BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL

An editor's major frustration is not being able to find information just as the issue goes to press, and then, once gone, there's what you were looking for, in the next thing you put your hands on.

Such is the case with pest control. The article in the spring 1992 issue introduces readers to biological pest control, but there were no sources listed from which to obtain the beneficial insects. But have you noticed the article in the April 1992 issue of Sunset magazine (west coast edition)?

There's a special report on biological control of garden pests, complete with an extensive list on p. 120 of "Sources for hard-to-find pest controls." There are companies listed in Texas, California, Colorado, Washington, Minnesota, all who have biological products.

More information on biological or integrated pest control can be obtained by writing to the non-profit Bio-Integrated Resource Center, Box 7414, Berkeley, CA 94707 (510-524-2567): catalog $1. Another source is Publications, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, 6701 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, CA 94608 (510-642-2431). They have a publication on how to manage pests without toxins, and a poster of beneficial insects.

Thank-you, Michael MacCaskey, for summarizing all this helpful information in your article.

GARDENER'S SOURCE GUIDE

The society received a complimentary copy of a new publication called The Gardener's Source Guide. It lists over hundreds of nurseries that will send mail order catalogs free. The nurseries are all over the United States, so you will find some in your area. Cost is $5. I can't see any primula nurseries listed specifically, but there are any number who supply perennials — so there may be some primulas lurking there somewhere. Thanks to Bob Armstrong, Gardener's Source Guide, P.O. Box 206AT, Gowanda, NY 14070 for bringing this list to our attention.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

We received a notice from Timber Press that they continue to list two books of interest to primrose fanciers: The Book of Primroses by Barbara Shaw ($35) and Gardening and Beyond by Florence Bellis ($14.95). You can order directly from Timber Press, 9999 S.W. Wilshire, Suite 124, Portland, OR 97225-9962 or pick them up at your favorite book store.

A book review in the New York Times, sent by June Skidmore, of the new Royal Horticultural Society dictionary mentions primulas — if only fleetingly. It seems Mr. Griffiths, the young editor, holds some very definite opinions. "I am absolutely committed to getting people to stop using peat," he told the book reviewer, Anne Raver. "They can use whatever they want: compost, leaf mold, bark. Look up my cultivation notes on primula ['a fertile medium loam, with additional organic matter and coarse sand, with ground limestone on acid soils, is the ideal starting point for most primula...']."

"I want to go back to those old potting recipes the Victorians used. I don't see why we should dig up Scotland so that some idiot can put peat in his garden with the idea that it does something for it." Makes you want to go and look up the cultural notes for primulas and see what else he recommends!

PLANT PRESERVATION — CONTACT MADE

Cy Happy, president, has made contact with the American Council of Plant Preservation. This non-profit society has, as one of its goals, the conservation of uncommon plants that are valuable because of their historic or other value. Contact was made with the society and they...
Notes from the Editor continued

would be pleased to have the recommendations from APS for primulas to be included in the list of plants to be preserved.

APS will begin by listing the julie primulas still grown in gardens in the U.S.A. Dorothy Springer has agreed to help with this list. If anyone has a plant to report, please send your list to Dorothy, 7213 S. 15th, Tacoma, WA 98465.

The second step would be on-going preservation in a public garden or other suitable location. There will be further developments — and any suggestions to Cy on APS involvement would be welcome.

VISITS TO PRIMULA GROWER’S GARDENS

On the way to the recent symposium I was able to stop and visit two of the more prolific primula grower: Mary Baxter in Bothell, WA and Darlene Heller in Mount Vernon.

What a treat to see so many primulas and auriculas in bloom! Mary grows primroses from seed every year, and has two huge beds with wonderful treasures. Dusky cowichans are everywhere, and delightful Julies. One, a cross Cy Happy made for her over ten years ago of P. juliae crossed onto a very large Cowichan, has shiny green leaves with a red margin to every leaf. There are some anomalous primroses, too, including two fine hose-in-hose — a dark red and a cream.

Darlene and Lyle Heller have thousands of primroses — everywhere in their garden. On a small lot, this is indeed a feat. Primroses and auriculas crowd into garden beds, and then there are greenhouses and benches in the car port with more!

One mystery plant, or at least an uncommon plant, Darlene has grown from seed, is labelled P. nutans, formerly P. siberica. There was a variant name, but it was unclear. Perhaps it was kashmeriana, which would mean the plant is now called P. borealis. Maybe someone can help Darlene out with an identification from the photograph. It was only in bud at the time I saw it, but by now Darlene would be able to tell us what exotic color it turned out to be.

VISITS TO PRIMULA GROWER’S GARDENS

Mary Baxter in her garden.

seed every year, and has two huge beds with wonderful treasures. Dusky cowichans are everywhere, and delightful Julies. One, a cross Cy Happy made for her over ten years ago of P. juliae crossed onto a very large Cowichan, has shiny green leaves with a red margin to every leaf. There are some anomalous primroses, too, including two fine hose-in-hose — a dark red and a cream.

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Mary Baxter’s anomalous primroses.

micro-propagation of show auriculas

Soon after I arrived home from the symposium, I was looking through some back issues of the National Auricula and Primula Society (Southern Section) Yearbook for 1989 and there was an article on propagating show auriculas using biotechnology techniques. The author is Dr. Frank Taylor, and the results are fascinating.

Originally he set out to recreate show auriculas, but compress the development time by micro-propagation. Much was learned from the first experiment, but the author was sidetracked from his original purpose when Brenda Hyatt asked him to attempt the culture of some of her plants — plants in the National Collection that had become rare and endangered. The work is being carried out at Wye College, University of London.

In Dr. Taylor’s culture, centimeter squares of leaf tissue are used — rather than the growing centers demonstrated by Randy Burr speaking on this topic at the symposium.

At the time of writing, 35 plants had been successfully cloned and 20 more are in various stages of culture. Named auriculas include ‘Brookfield’, ‘Remus’, ‘Chorister’, ‘Bramshill’. Dr. Taylor’s intent with micro-propagation is to ensure there are enough plants to allow the continuation of the named variety. He suggests that the Auricula societies may afford a suitable outlet for the distribution of rescued plants. Can anyone send us more news on this fascinating and worthwhile project?

Double Primroses Featured

Country Life, the glossy, oversized magazine from England, has a two-page feature on double primroses, complete with color photographs in the March 5, 1992 issue. The article by Barbara Shaw, holder of the national collection of double primroses in Britain, provides some fascinating history behind the better known varieties: ‘Bon Accord Cerise’, ‘Marie Crousse’ and Primula lilacina plena.

One of Barbara’s comments speaks for all of us that are so fond of the double primroses: “Perhaps the double primroses have been always rather less inclined than their single cousins to put up with conditions not entirely to their liking; yet they are perhaps the most beloved. To me, the old double white primrose P. alba plena surpasses them all, with its neatly arranged rosette of pure white petals and fresh, bright green leaves. Originally coming from the wild and not a garden hybrid, it has a strong constitution and is not uncommon today — although, like all doubles care is needed in its cultivation.” (p. 58, Country Life, v.186, no.10, March 5, 1992)

Barbara also makes a plea for not only preserving the old plants, but preserving their names, as well. “I am increasingly horrified at the number of wrongly named primroses I see in nurseries, garden centres and private gardens. ... No doubt to many this may not seem greatly important, but it does matter to those of us who are trying to pass on our primroses correctly labelled, and to those who come after us.”

News from the Journals

Exchange programs regularly bring the society journals from sister societies. News and information from these issues follows.
Notes from the Editor continued

Vice-president John Kerridge's name continues to appear in the list of winners of the monthly pot shows at the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia. He has taken 'Wanda' hybrids, and some of his own gold-lace polyanthus crosses, as well as Barnhaven plants such as 'New Pinks' and 'Tartan Reds'. Renee Oakley, an ardent primula grower, and her husband Dennis are APS members. Renee also has won in some of the primula categories at these pot shows with double and named acaulis.

Brian Burrow who was a keynote speaker at the recent symposium in Beaverton has written a summary article on "The cultivation of Primulas" in the March 1992 issue of the Alpine Garden Society. (Vol.60, no.1) Propagation, pests, diseases and cultivation notes for each of 18 species are included. There is also a very good photograph of a small, starry primula growing in a rock crevice in Sichuan, China, perhaps P. stenocalyx or P. kaiensis.

Argus, the yearbook of the National Auricula and Primula Society, Midland and West Section was received this quarter. Besides the show reports, full of plants that turn us in North America green with envy, there are fascinating excerpts and comments of primulas of the past, as noted in reports from "floral shows" of the late 1800s.

This issue also contains some interesting notes on the origin and introduction of the named P. marginata — 'Linda Pope'. Mr. Pope was a nurseryman in Birmingham, and a founding member of Midlands section of NAPS. The first record of the plant is an award of merit in 1920. There is a white form, known as 'White Lady', that first received an award of merit in 1970, though it appears to have been in cultivation for some time before. It is not a sport of 'Linda Pope' as Gwen Baker explains at some length in her fascinating article.

The Story of the 'Cowichan' Primrose continued from page 33

The controversy is still there. Twenty years later I was given a form of the 'Cowichan' primula and I asked Bea Palmer, Mr. Palmer's daughter, if that was the true 'Cowichan'. Even though I grew up in the Cowichan Valley with Bea, and had known her and all the people involved all my life, she told me the subject was taboo and didn't want to talk about it. But she did say there were two forms. Cowichan pollen got in the hands of breeders and it changed dramatically; indeed I am told there is now a form suited to the insalubrious climate of California.

I would like to end this little history with the idea that the modern versions be called 'American Beauty' or Mrs. Bellis' primrose and that the 'Cowichan' alone, and unobtrusive gem, remain the 'Cowichan'. If not, give it back its original name of 'Neel primrose'.

Garden Tours

Three garden tours were arranged in conjunction with the symposium: Berry Botanic Garden, Portland Japanese Garden and Bishop's Close at Elk Rock. A special feature was arranged for the Saturday afternoon tour of the Japanese Garden — traditional Japanese music was performed by the group attending the symposium. Here are some comments from visitors touring the gardens.

BERRY BOTANIC GARDEN

It's a good thing there was someone in our group who had been there before: finding the Berry Botanic Garden, set in a residential area of Portland, is a bit of a challenge. But the fact that it was Rae Berry's home sets the tone for the garden. The atmosphere is friendly and the volunteers are very helpful. There are colorful, informative brochures, even one on the genus primula with a key to where examples can be found in the garden.

Set around the house is a rock garden, a trough area and a woodland section, currently under development. I expected to see more primula, but with the unusually warm spring the early group was over and the candelabras had not yet begun. An intriguing sight, though, was all the plants ready for the sale, including the Sakurasoh sent over by the Matsumoto Society and potted up by the Berry Garden.

Elaine Whitehead, Victoria, B.C.

PORTLAND JAPANESE GARDEN

A visit to the Japanese Garden in Portland Oregon is a "must see" for me whenever I visit that lovely city. So I was delighted it was one of the gardens on the "Primula Worldwide" list of events.

The gardens were lovely and I could see vistas that reminded me of remembered gardens in Kyoto and in parks in other parts of Japan. Our guide was interesting and caring, obviously appreciative of the garden he was showing.

After he was through he directed us to the Tea House and what a delightful surprise awaited us there.

The Friends of the Garden had a generous tea laid out for us — real tea in teapots with fine china cups. But our interest centered on the dais; presently our Japanese friends from the symposium appeared and a charming mistress of ceremonies invited us to a concert of Japanese music.

It was a delightful occasion, sitting there through the sliding doors to the Japanese gardens beyond, listening to a Japanese string duo and trio playing Japanese music. The setting was perfect. What a truly happy way to end a visit to that interesting garden.

Sybil McCulloch, Victoria, B.C.

BISHOP'S CLOSE

The visit to Bishop's Close began in a jostle of umbrellas but the rain soon retreated, leaving just enough dampness to enhance the freshness of unfurling leaves and to intensify the scents of shrubs and flowers.

Peter Kerr, who created this garden in the early 1900s, continued to plan and plant into his old age. The magnificent collection of trees is a testimony to his vision. Examples are listed of no fewer than 37 magnolias of various species. It is perhaps because of the strong foundation of trees and shrubs that the garden, even in its "simplified," low maintenance form, succeeds so well.

Essentially it is a woodland garden and the steep east-facing slope above the river is a tapestry of trilliums, camas, erythronium and scillas. Plantings of introduced species blend seamlessly into the resident native plants. There is a welcome absence of bedding annuals.
Bishop's Close. I went out, desperate for some
One of the options during the primrose
symposium was a visit to the public gardens of
had been attending the symposium plant sale.
Evidently Lady MacDonald, like the rest of us,
of assorted plants set down by the greenhouse.
Mr. Kerr's daughter, Lady MacDonald, had
Here all seemed airy lightness and a delicate
delightful and provided an effective contrast to
the more sombre beauty of Bishop's Close.
As in most of our gardens the erythroniums
were over, and the "rest" hadn't begun — and
there were few primulas. It did show how
effective large swathes of perennials can be —
masses of very ordinary plants became dramatic
in their sheer bulk.
We went on to a nearby private garden, courtesy
of Lady MacDonald, daughter of the original
house. This must be the contemporary
equivalent of what Bishop's Close once was
and is all the things that a public garden cannot
easily be — well maintained, with interesting
plants chosen to be attractive year round.
Particularly beautiful, I thought, was an ethereal
rubus arching over a path, framing a blue
wisteria.
The rain brought out the many scents in the
garden, adding that sensual touch missing from
the slide presentation — riveting though it was
— that we hurried back to.
Elizabeth England, Victoria, B.C. ♦

Show Reports
NATIONAL SHOW
Beaverton Oregon, April 10 - 12, in conjunction
with the symposium "Primula Worldwide"

Highlights of the National Show included an
interesting educational display by Herb Dickson
of the mixes he uses for his range of primula
and auriculas accompanied by a plant in each of
the divisions in the show schedule. A significant
piece of work, and a great demonstration.
Handsome sign boards with the history of the
primrose in cultivation decorated the show hall,
compliments of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Other entrants included APS members from
Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Canada
and Clause Nursery of California with a great
display of obconicas.

Those attending the symposium toured through
the show a number of times and the group of
Japanese attending the conference returned a
number of times to take photographs.

Dorothy Macfarlane provided a colorful floor
display outside the door to the conference hall,
and the troughs and garden sculpture in that
area was courtesy of Frontier Nurseries.

PRIMROSE SWEATSHIRTS!
Unique opportunity to purchase an APS sweatshirt
as sold at the "Primula Worldwide" symposium.

Attractive, colorful design of over 14 different primula
flowers — exclusive only to APS. Range of colors
including plum, navy, ivory, grey, royal blue, maginda,
and black. Sizes small, medium, large and extra large.
They do fit small, Thea says. Will sell for $29.95 once in

Order from Thea Oakley, 3304 288th Ave. NE,
Redmond, WA, 98052

Garden Tours continued
Ferns and hellebores flourish along the shady
paths and we came upon a deep, rather spooky
fish pond clothed with water-lilies. Near the top
of the path leading up the cliffs to the level of the
lawn is a fine "stand" of Euphorbia
wulphenii 'Lambrook Gold', obviously
revelling in the sun and good drainage which
the site affords.

Modern roses, of course, would be quite
unsuitable in such a garden but I was tempted to
think that the old Jacobite rose, Rosa alba
maxima, would be in character and would look
well against the rather stark grey walls of the
east facade.

Mr. Kerr's daughter, Lady MacDonald, had
very generously left word that we might go
along and see her private garden nearby. It was
delightful and provided an effective contrast to
the more sombre beauty of Bishop's Close.

Particularly beautiful, I thought, was an ethereal
rubus arching over a path, framing a blue
wisteria.

The rain brought out the many scents in the
garden, adding that sensual touch missing from
the slide presentation — riveting though it was
— that we hurried back to.

Elizabeth England, Victoria, B.C. ♦
This one day event was quite successful, considering the condition of most primulas so late in the season — and a warm season at that. The auriculas and companion plants filled the show tables where normally julies, acaulis and polyanthus would be found.

A very good selection of lewisias added a lot of color to the show benches. Best Acaulis: Rosetta Jones - single pink acaulis
Best Polyanthus: Peter Atkinson - white polyanthus
Best Double Acaulis: Peter Atkinson - 'Brownie'
Best Species, European: Herb Dickson - Primula auricula rubra
Best Species, Asiatic: Gladys Kroher - Primula japonica (red)
Best Alpine Exhibition Acaulis: Peter Atkinson - "Midnight Magic" Novice, Proliferae (Candelabra): Teresa Richardson - Primula

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks is extended to new member Raymond Kruk, Chicago, for the donation sent with his membership fee. The society appreciates the support, especially from a new member!

SEED EXCHANGE

GATHER AND SAVE SEED
Send seed or at least a list by October 31 to: APS Seed Exchange
P.O. Box 112157
Tacoma, WA 98411-2157

TACOMA SHOW
April 4 - 5, Lakewood Mall, Tacoma, Washington

A warm winter, followed by a dry spring, had growers nervously crossing their fingers, hoping that plants would not be past their prime for the show. But many beautiful, and in some cases almost perfect, primroses were berched.

Colorful entries in the garden auricula, polyanthus, Asiatic species and companion plants filled the tables. There were a surprisingly large number of 'Garryard' crosses staged, striking with their dark leaves and dusky blooms. Best plant in show was a polyanthus/Garryard cross entered by Cy Happy and made by him over 15 years ago. It is a sturdy and reliable garden plant, and the dark red stems and dark leaves — from the 'Garryard' heritage — show off the pale flowers very well.

Best seedling was one of the large flowered polyanthus in an attractive, traditional pale yellow with a darker yellow eye. Each flower was large and very ruffled but all were presented on a short sturdy stalk. Peter Atkinson, grower of the plant, reports that it began blooming in February and was still going strong at show time.

Bright yellow and bright violet/red lewisias livened up the companion plant table. Plants to the same standard were also available on the sale table but disappeared very quickly.

The decorative division has grown — 18 entries this year. The winner of the section, a very attractive and unusual water-filled globe with denticulas, was staged by Jewel Doering. A steady stream of visitors to the show admired the winning plants on the trophy table.

The show itself was enhanced by sales tables, loaded with plants, and sales were lively both days. Information on primula was also available at the sales tables. Master Gardeners answered questions at an information table nearby. Mt. Tahoma Nursery displayed attractively planted concrete troughs with saxifraga, or with miniature azaleas, firs and cotoneaster.

The Pacific Rhododendron Society built a lush garden massed with rhododendrons in a wide variety of colors around moss-covered stepping stones and a small pool. The pool was surrounded by sub-alpine trees, miniature spruce, laurel and hemlock. Ceramic frogs and squirrels also peeked out of the display.

Best Acaulis: Darlene Hellein - yellow acaulis
Best Polyanthus: Cy Happy - white polyanthus 'Garryard'
Best Acaulis-Polynatum: Peter Atkinson - lavender 'Garryard' cross
Best Julie Hybrid: Cy Happy - 'Dorothy x 'Garryard"
Best Double Vernalis: Cy Happy - orange acaulis
Best Jack-in-the-Green: Flip Penulli - 'Jay Jay'
Best Garden Auricula: Herb Dickson - bright yellow
Best Double Auricula: Rosetta Jones - copper colored
Best Double Auricula Seedling: Rosetta Jones - copper colored
Best Species, European: Herb Dickson - Primula rubra
Best Species, Asiatic: Herb Dickson - Primula acuminigera
Best Seedling: Peter Atkinson - ruffled pale yellow polyanthus
Best Non-hardy Primula: Rosetta Jones - P. x lewisia
Best Hardy Primula: Peter Atkinson - lavender 'Garryard'
Best Oddity: Rick Lupp - green polyanthus
Best Companion Plant: Rosetta Jones - salmon colored laewila
Best Decorative Display A: Jewel Doering - denticulas in glass globe
Best Decorative Display, Miniature Garden: Darlene Hellein
Best Grower's Exhibit: Rick Lupp of Mt. Tahoma Nursery Pacific Rhododendron Society
Best Plant in Show: Cy Happy - 'Dorothy x 'Garryard"
Switzerland: Herb Dickson, Chehalis Rare Plant Nursery

Judging at the Tacoma show: Etha Tate, Herb Dickson, Dorothy Springer.

miniature azaleas, firs and cotoneaster.

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Show Reports continued

EASTSIDE CHAPTER SHOW
April 18 - 19, Totem Lake Mall, Washington

The show was late in a season that was warm and early; as a result, we had primulas on the show tables that we hadn’t seen in a late spring show before. With a name like ‘Early Girl’ you would think it would be over, but there it was — and one best in class, too.

Large pots of polyanthus and auriculas made this one of our best shows. There was a good display of Primula seiboldii, which do appear in late season shows, and the number of Cowichans was interesting.

Lots of flower arrangements were staged — over 20 — and one entry with white wood hyacinths, white seiboldii and pale yellow polyanthus was very attractive.

With the help of the Hilltopper Garden Club and displays of narcissus, tulips, bleeding heart and other spring flowers we put on a wonderful, colorful display.

Best Polyanthus: Mary Baxter • orange-brown polyanthus
Best Auricula: Don Keefe • ‘Early Girl’
Best Double Auricula: Thea Oakley • white double jack
Best Seeding, Veronica: Beth Tate • cream polyanthus
Best Garden Auricula: Darlene Heller • violet
Brightest Garden Auricula: Florence Tibbets • yellow
Best Double Auricula: Darlene Heller • golden brown
Best Species, European: Darlene Heller • Primula veris
Best Species, Asian: Florence Tibbets • Primula seiboldii, white snowflake form
Best Species: Darlene Heller • Primula margarita
Best Alpine Exhibition Auricula: Beth Tate • maroon, gold center
Best Laced Polyanthus: Mary Baxter • silver-laced, black ground
Best Not Hardy: Beth Tate • Primula malacoides • light pink
Best Decorative Display, Miniature Garden: Thea Oakley
Best Companion Plant: Pat Dimon • Anemone nemarosa pitna
Best Plant in Show: Mary Baxter • golden yellow polyanthus
Swansprite: Mary Baxter

Show Chairman: Thea Oakley

News from the Symposium ‘Primula Worldwide’
continued from page 16

allow the exchange of divisions of the plants for those serious in building a collection of named P. seiboldii. Watch for more information on the register in the fall issue of Primroses.

The symposium was the venue for a presentation by the Bureau of Land Management to Dr. Randy Alanko for his research in the Grand Ronde River area. He has compiled a list of over 150 species of plants found in this habitat. Congratulations.

In writing his clinic report, Jim Rainer of Vancouver cast about for an introduction. In the end, he didn’t incorporate them into his report, but sent them along, anyhow. They are

a fitting tribute to the symposium on this springtime flower — the primrose in all its guises. I include them here for your enjoyment.

“A winter wind, primroses, and the new furrow.”

From Edith Wharton, “Spring” quoted in Louise Beebe Wilder’s Adventures In My Garden and Rock Garden, Chapter 4, “In pursuit of the Primrose.”

“We cannot fathom the mystery of a single flower, nor is it intended that we should, but that the pursuit of science should constantly be betrayed by the love of beauty, and accuracy of knowledge by tenderness of emotion.”

From Louise Beebe Wilder’s Colour In My Garden, Chapter 5, “Flowers of Grace.”

The Mystery Primrose
by Thea Oakley

It came up with polyanthus seedlings — almost got pulled out as a weed because it looked different than the others. But when I transplanted them I could tell it had to be a primrose. There were actually two seedlings and I put them in pots and left them to grow with the auriculas for the rest of the year.

In the spring of 1992 there were buds set, and one plant bloomed in March in time for the national show. Since there were only two flowers on the stem, it was not judged.

But all I wanted was someone to identify it. I asked everyone that knows primula species — and there were quite a few at the symposium — but no one could say what it was. It was the last day of the symposium when I finally asked Brian Burrow from England and he said it was Primula cuneifolia subsp. heterodonta. This primrose happens to come from Japan and Brian insisted that I have the Japanese speakers verify the name. They were very happy to tell me that it truly was the primrose found at Mt. Iwaki.

There is another flower stem coming up — I can see the bud — so it will bloom again soon. I will be able to enjoy what has become a very special primrose to me. And the mystery is solved!

A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula
by G.K. Fenderson

A basic reference to the genus Primula, with approximately 1375 species, synonyms and hybrids included.

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American Primrose Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
The board of the American Primrose Society met on April 10, 1992, in the national show room at the symposium, "Primula Worldwide".

Treasurer's report was presented and approved. Jay Lunn distributed a proposed budget for 1992/93. Ann Lunn was busy with registration, therefore the minutes were taken by board member Candy Strickland. Since ballots have not been counted, they were given to Candy to give to Barbara Flynn, secretary-elect. There were no nominations from the floor and a motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as written on the ballot. A report on the ballots will be given later.

President Cy Happy expressed the Society's appreciation and thanks to Ann and Jay Lunn for all their work on the symposium. A job well done!

A motion was made and seconded that we have our picnic and auction on July 11, 1992, at President Cy Happy's home in Tacoma. [Editor's Note: Herb Dickson has since volunteered to have the picnic at Cy's on July 11.]

Cy Happy announced that he would like the Society to begin a register of named primulas. The first section to be done would be the julies, and Cy appointed Dorothy Springer and Don Keefe to do this. [Editor's Note: Don Keefe subsequently declined.] It was mentioned that we need a color chart, and Herb Dickson said he had one.

Editor Maedythe Martin reported the quarterly is on schedule, and the spring issue will be received from the printer about April 15 and mailed soon after.

Seed Exchange Coordinator, Candy Strickland, said there were no excess seeds from the APS seed exchange available for sale at the conference.

Al Rapp, Judging Chairman, reported that the two judging meetings went well. He thinks judges should continue to improve their skills.

Vice President John Kerridge says he feels the APS should make every effort to get back into the Seattle Flower Show. This and a discussion on a traveling display was tabled until the next meeting.

Candy Strickland gave the society a plaque to hold the Bronze Award presented each year by Herb Dickson. It will show who has received the award in the past as well as in the future.

The brief meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be combined with the summer picnic at Herb Dickson's in Chehalis on July 11, 1992.

Barbara Flynn, Secretary

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

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SHOW JUDGES
Al Rapp, 4918 79th Ave. W., Tacoma, WA 98467

SLIDE LIBRARIAN
Gerry Flintoff, 154 NE 194th St., Seattle, WA 98155

MEMBERSHIP
Dues for individual or household membership in the American Primrose Society, both domestic and foreign, are $15 U.S. per calendar year ($16 for renewals postmarked after January 1st); $40 for three years; or $200 for an individual life membership. Submit payment to the treasurer. Membership renewals are due November 15th and are delinquent at the first of the year.

Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly Primroses, seed exchange privileges, slide library privileges and the opportunity to join a Round Robin.

PUBLICATIONS
Back issues of the quarterly are available from the secretary.

Manuscripts for publication in the quarterly are invited from members and other gardening experts, although there is no payment. Please include black and white photographs if possible. Send articles directly to the Editor, Maedythe Martin, 951 Joan Cres., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8S 3L3.

Advertising rates per issue: full page, $60; half page, $30; quarter page, $15; eighth page and minimum, $10. Artwork for ads is the responsibility of the advertiser, and camera ready copy is appreciated. Submit advertising to the Editor.


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