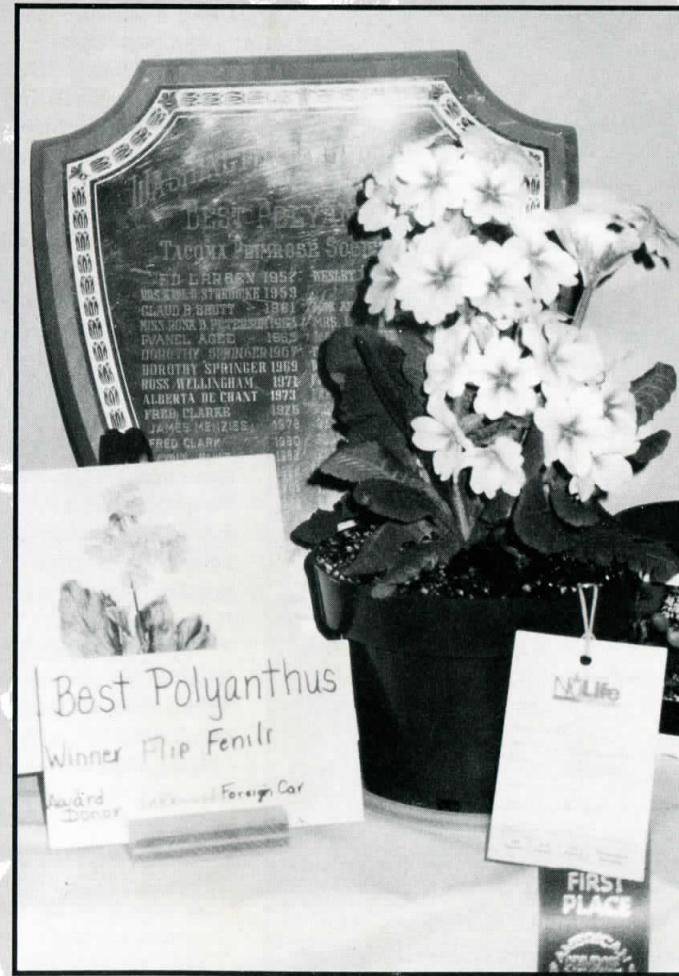


Primroses

Summer 1993
Volume 51, No. 3



PRIMROSES

Quarterly of the
American Primrose Society

Summer 1993
Volume 51, Number 3

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ON THE COVER

Flip Fenilis' sturdy yellow polyanthus was best-in-class at the 1993 National Show in Tacoma. The background plant was the result of *P. juliae* pollen on a cowichan polyanthus.

A Message from the New President

It is an honor to be elected president and I am well aware of the long line of notable people who have held this position. It will be a challenge to live up to their achievements but I will certainly do my best.

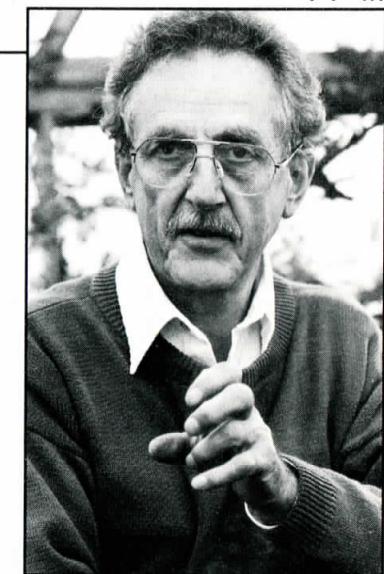
At this time our society stands in good stead. Internationally its reputation is fine, especially following the successful "Primula Worldwide" symposium in Beaverton, Oregon, last year. Our quarterly bulletin, *Primroses*, is very popular and interesting. These successes have been due largely to the organization of Greg Becker and Jay and Ann Lunn for the symposium and to Maedythe Martin as editor of the quarterly.

Membership is now 607, including interested growers from across North America and overseas. Our finances are healthy and secure.

However, I must tell you that there is a real problem foreseeable in our chapters. The bulk of the organization and activity has been carried by relatively few who are dedicated and hard-working and mostly of the "old guard." Younger, active participants are needed because burnout is predictable. A lot of our membership is scattered in more isolated communities and overseas, but those of us closer to home can take part, give a hand and share the load. We need younger members. So give interested folks plants, time and advice to encourage them to grow primulas and catch the bug.

In British Columbia we are encouraged by an interest in forming a primula growers' group. The first annual display was held in April this year and is described in this issue along with APS shows. Those interested primula growers in the Vancouver area are keen, but it is too early to say if this group will form a chapter of

Photo by Cy Happy



John Kerridge at the APS picnic in July.

the American Primrose Society. Alaska has been busy with meetings, and shows are planned thanks especially to John O'Brien Sr. All this news is encouraging.

Meanwhile, greetings for a good growing season and best wishes for successfully dividing all those large primrose crowns and collecting all that ripe seed.

John Kerridge

John Kerridge, President ♦

Auricula Theater at the Chelsea Flower Show

Photo by Thomas Hobbs



Auriucla theater at the Chelsea Flower Show.

At this year's Chelsea Flower Show in London, England, Thomas Hobbs photographed this fine display by Brenda Hyatt featuring an auricula theater. The four-sided display box was fitted with slanting mirrors that reflected rows of grey, green and white show auriculas endlessly in all their glory!

All auricula plants in the booth were grown in authentic "long toms" that originally belonged

to Gordon Douglas. The added historical touch set off the fine quality of the show auriculas and completed the stunning display.

Auricula theaters date from the 18th and 19th centuries and were created to display to full advantage florists' flowers which at the time included the auricula, gold-laced polyanthus, laced pink, anemone and hyacinth among others. The late Ruth Duthie has written about florists' flowers in her superb little book **Florists' Flowers and Societies** published in 1988 by Shire in England. ♦

Perils of a Primrose Exhibitor

by Ann Lunn

There are only two weeks left on the calendar before the primrose show. Several *Primula denticulata* are at their peak of bloom now, as is a magnificent pot of *P. marginata* "Agee." They will never last two weeks. Would the *marginata* keep for two weeks in the refrigerator or perhaps in a snow bank on Mt. Hood?

A tour of the garden reveals several Juliana hybrids beginning to show nice bloom. One in particular, *P. x Juliana* "Gracie," is so full of large white flowers that the leaves are barely visible. It will never last until the show, but perhaps the *P. x Juliana* "Jay-Jay" will be nice. Its flowers are just beginning to open. Part of my mind wishes for cool weather, so the Julianas will be nice for the show; the other part wants warm weather to force the *P. sieboldii* into flower.

Four days before the show I head out to the garden with a trowel to dig plants to exhibit. Why didn't I do this yesterday before that torrential downpour we had? Crawling around in the mud is not helping the cold I have — now where did I put the Kleenex? The question now is not which plants look good, but which plants

are salvageable? Certainly, one Juliana cannot be saved. Last night the neighbor's cow got out and stepped right in the middle of "Jay-Jay." Despite the neighbor's efforts to convince me, I know that is not an elk track! Of all the animals in the area, why couldn't it have been one of the llamas that stepped on poor "Jay-Jay?"

After placing the plants in clean pots, I take them to the kitchen to see if some grooming will work miracles on these sad-looking excuses for primroses. The cool weather has kept some bloom on the Julianas, but the plants are mud spattered and show the ravages of hordes of slugs. A spray bottle of distilled water meant for the steam iron helps take care of some of the muddied leaves and flowers. I'll let them dry and see if the rest of the dirt will brush off. Now to cut off the spent or damaged flowers and hope there will be enough left to impress the judges.

After grooming, some of the Julianas look pretty good, but the *P. sieboldii* are still a long

continued on page 21

Photo by J. Lunn

*Unidentified Primula
"Wanda x Cowichan"
entered at the last moment by
Ann Lunn.*



Seed Exchange News

- The seed exchange has a new coordinator and has moved to a new address — in Alaska! Marie Skonberg of Ouzinkie, Alaska, has agreed to look after the American Primrose Society seed exchange.
- We welcome her to her new job and wish her every success.

- Now, all you primula growers — save seed and send it to Marie or at least send her a note to let her know what you're sending by October 31, 1993. Then she can get the list put together and sent out by the end of December.

- Send seed to: Marie Skonberg
Seed Exchange Coordinator
P.O. Box 70
Ouzinkie, Alaska 99644

Tips from Rosetta

An expert in raising primula from seed — mostly seed from her own hybridizing program — Rosetta has promised to pass on tips for better growing.

TOOLS FROM THE KITCHEN

All those seeds you planted earlier are now little plants that need pricking out. I have found the best tool for the task is a small pickle fork. You can lift out the seedlings with no damage to the tender little roots. It is easy to separate the seedlings, make a hole in the transplanting medium, pop them in and firm the soil all with the little fork.



Rosetta Jones ♦

When dividing larger primula plants, rather than pulling them apart I use the larger dinner fork. You can tease all the roots apart and sort of comb them out without damaging the fine hair roots which take up the nutrients. Then prune the divisions the desired length for the tops and roots.

Candy Strickland... the Ultimate Volunteer

by Cyrus Happy, Past-President

*A Tribute to Candy Strickland,
Seed Exchange Coordinator, 1990 to 1993.*

A society like ours is run with and by volunteers. Their time, strength and abilities need to be considered when asking for a job to be done, but the ones who say "I'll do it!" when others hang back are tops in my book and get the job.

Candy Strickland was asked by Herb Dickson to take the minutes at a board meeting in 1983 and then to take over the duties of secretary for APS. We also needed someone to put the quarterly into envelopes and mail them and Candy said, "I'll do it." And she has — for ten years.

Back then we needed a seed exchange coordinator and again she volunteered and did it for several years. She was still putting in twelve-hour work days with the telephone company then — retiring in 1986.

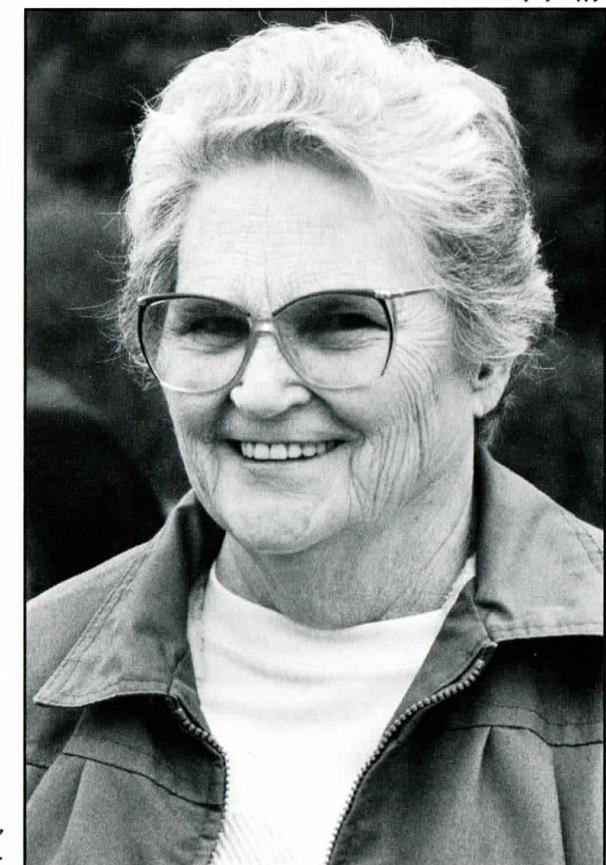
Again in 1990 we needed a seed exchange coordinator all of a sudden and guess who said, "I'll do it." Candy, once again. She learned on the job. Richard Critz had provided a guide for an outstanding seed exchange that was a great help. Seeds were requested and received

from sources worldwide. Some were slow in arriving. The better the seed list, the more the problems.

Candy also puts out the newsletters for two of the local primrose chapters plus two other plant society groups. She brings interaction between these groups and is often president of one or more of them.

If you need something done, call Candy — she's the ultimate volunteer. ♦

Photo by Cy Happy



*Candy Strickland at APS picnic,
Chehalis, 1993.*

National Primrose Show, APS

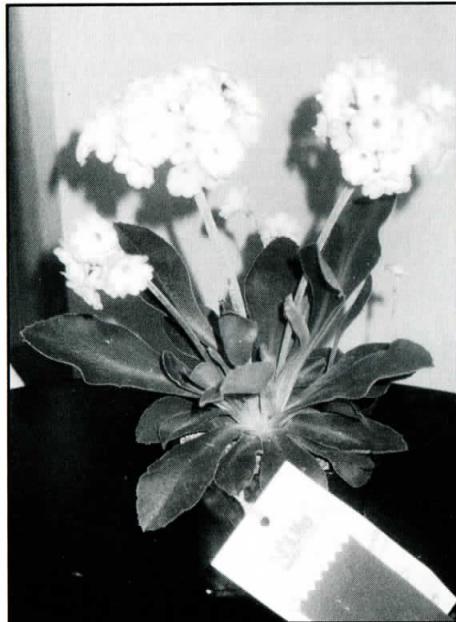
Hosted by Tacoma Chapter
Lakewood Mall, Tacoma, WA - April 3-4, 1993

Tacoma Chapter benched 230 primula plants at the national show held at the Lakewood Mall on April 3 - 4, 1993. Entries in the divisions vary from year to year but this year there was good representation in all the division but one. The poly-acaulis section was the stepchild with only three plants. Oddities and rarities are always low.

The best-in-class plants that found their way to the winner's trophy table were acclaimed by visitors and growers alike to be the most outstanding in many years.

Since this was a national show, all the special awards carried the primrose motif: water color paintings, prints, notecards, paper plates and matching napkins, porcelain cups and saucers, coffee mugs, giftwrap, even primrose seed.

Photo by L. Fenili



Best plant in show: Dan Pederson's auricula from Herb Dickson's new "Picotee" strain.

Winners also received either 10 oz. Shultz Instant fertilizer or 16 oz. Rapid-gro. There were many compliments on the quality of the prizes and winners were very happy with their awards.

The configuration of tables that has been so successful during the past few years was used again — one rectangular and two round tables in sets of three or more in any combination along the main corridor. The off-white coverings and skirts show off the brilliant colors of the primroses. The mall's white walls and high, sky-lighted ceilings are a plus for a show featuring flowers.

We set up our tables in the rotunda near the major department store which is in the center of the mall — everybody goes by this area. Sales proved brisk and profitable both days.

Our two courtesy floor displays were popular, as usual. Rick Lupp of Mt. Tahoma Nursery exhibited various-shaped troughs with mixed plantings. The Pacific Rhododendron Society built a lush garden of massed rhododendrons, accented with primroses.

A delicious banquet, served by Country Buffet in the mall community room, was one of Saturday's high points. Lavender-decorated tables put us all in a festive mood. The group of about fifty people unanimously approved the by-law revisions. Cy Happy turned the presidency over to Dr. John Kerridge, who outlined some of his plans for the future of APS.

It was a pleasure to recognize Darlene and Lyle Heller as the special guests of honor. They have been such generous contributors to and delightful participants in our many shows. Cy presented some of his outstanding slides of primroses in the program which concluded the evening.

AWARDS

Best Acaulis: Ernest Winter Trophy

Cy Happy: large butter-yellow flowers, dark foliage

Best Polyanthus: Washington Hardware Trophy

Flip Fenili: tall, primrose-yellow plant, 4 umbels

Best Acaulis-Polyanthus

Rosetta Jones: deep red with yellow center and wire-edging, 5 poly stems

Best Julie Hybrid

Lesley Phillips: blue-violet flowers

Best Hose-in-Hose

Peter Atkinson: wild acaulis soft-yellow, back petals well separated from front

Best Double Acaulis

Rosetta Jones: 8 reddish purple blossoms, white dotted edges

Best Double Vernaes

No Award

Best Jack-in-the-Green: Floyd Keller Trophy

Thea Oakley: "Dawn Ansel" double white, 16 blossoms beautifully spaced

Best in Hybridizing

Dr. John Kerridge: pink poly x "Wanda," deep red, small yellow eye, poly form

Best Garden Auricula, Brightest Garden Auricula

Dan Pederson: large, pale yellow "Picotee" strain with lavender edging

Photos by L. Fenili



"Woodsy Wandas" a new introduction by Peter Atkinson, retain the attractive low-growing habit of the Julies but add a range of soft orange and pink shades.



The awards table at the national show in Tacoma.

National Primrose Show continued



Left to right: Lesley Phillips, Candy Strickland, John Kerridge, Flip Fenili and Dorothy Springer.

Best Double Auricula, Best Auricula Seedling
Herb Dickson: double light yellow with greenish tinge

Best Border Alpine
No Award

Best European Species
Cy Happy: deep red with 9 flower stems (*P. veris* x *P. juliae*)

Best Asian Species
Dan Pederson: *P. sieboldii* "Shi-Un," pale lavender

Best Native American Species
No Award

Best Non-Hardy Primula
Thea Oakley: bright pink, compact form *P. malacoides*

Best Seedling
No Award

Best Named Show Auricula
Cy Happy: "Gleam" yellow self, 9 flower on compact head

Best Self Show Auricula: Rosa Peterson Trophy
Cy Happy: "Gleam" yellow self, 9 flower on compact head

Best Alpine Auricula:
Dan Pederson: "Argus" purple, shaded, light center

Best Alpine Auricula Seedling
No Award

Best Show Auricula Seedling
No Award

Best Gold-Laced
Dr. John Kerridge: black ground, 6 petal blossoms, yellow lacing

Best Gold-Laced Seedling
Peter Atkinson: dark red, yellow lacing

Best Rarity
Mt. Tahoma Nursery (Rick Lupp): *P. allionii*, ssp (from seed)

Best Oddity
No Award
Best Growers' Exhibit (6 in 1)
Mt. Tahoma Nursery (Rick Lupp): *P. allionii* in trough

Best Growers' Exhibit (Floor)
Pacific Rhododendron Society (Rick Lupp): troughs with mixed plantings, rhodie garden with primrose accents

Best Primulaceae
Mt. Tahoma Nursery (Rick Lupp): clump of bright yellow *Dionysia aretoides*.

Best Decorative (Sec. A)
Thea Oakley: tiny pink *P. malacoides*, tiny pussy willows in 2"x 3" planter

Best Decorative (Sec. B)
No Award
Best Decorative (Sec.C)
Thea Oakley: alpine planting in round container

Best Companion Plant
Steve Whitcher: *Syringa velutina*, dwarf lilac, 16" x 16"

Best Plant in Show: Silver Tray
Dan Pederson: garden auricula "Picotee" strain
Sweepstakes: Ryan Trophy
Peter Atkinson
Chair/National Show: Silver Tray Shirley and Gordon Lymburn ♦

Eastside Primula Society Show, APS

Primroses: Harbingers of Spring
Totem Lake Mall, Redmond, WA – April 16-17, 1993

It was spring at Totem Lake Mall with primroses, narcissus, tulips, hyacinths, bleeding heart, lilacs, flowering quince all blooming in the garden display. It all contributed to a most colorful effect for the Eastside Chapter show.

Peter Atkinson's double polyanthus were new to us. His hybridizing always brings something special to the show. Darlene Heller showed an eye-catching chartreuse double auricula. The variety of *Primula farinosa* grouped in the Best Grower's exhibit by Don Keefe showed the different forms found in a group of seedlings — an instructional and attractive display.

Cherry Garden Horticultural Club had their rose quilt on display. It is hand-embroidered and quilted and a beautiful item which added interest to the show.

There were 102 entries of primulas, 84 horticultural entries, 19 design and floor display plantings.

AWARDS

Best Plant in Show
Mary Baxter: Black-ground gold-laced polyanthus
Best Polyanthus: Washington Hardware Trophy
Mary Baxter: dark, almost black "Cowichan"
Best Julie Hybrid
Don Keefe: red stalked form, small eye
Best Double Vernalis
Mary Baxter: gold acaulis
Best Hose-in-Hose
Mary Baxter: old-fashioned maroon, yellow eye
Best Jack-in-the-Green:
Thea Oakley: "Dawn Ansel" double white

Photo courtesy of T. Oakley



Thea Oakley and Mary Baxter at the Eastside Show.

Best Garden Auricula, Brightest Garden Auricula
Darlene Heller: semi-double auricula, lavender-blue

Best Double Auricula
Darlene Heller: chartreuse double

Best European Species
Thea Oakley: *P. veris*
Best Asian Species
Darlene Heller: *P. denticulata*, lavender, petite

Best Non-Hardy Primula
Thea Oakley: light pink *P. malacoides*
Best Named Show Auricula: Al Smith Trophy
Mary Keefe: "Mrs. Heckler" blue self

Best Alpine Auricula
Don Keefe: "Winifred" red, yellow eye
Best Companion Plant
Darlene Heller: Lewisia cotyledon hybrid, salmon color

Best Grower's Exhibit
Don Keefe: *P. farinosa* seedlings
Best Primulaceae
Thea Oakley: *Androsace x carneae*

Best Decorative
Beth Tait: design, yellow primula, tulips, narcissus, hellebore
Best Garden Planting

Thea Oakley: pan with *P. juliae* species, *androsace x carneae*, small willow tree, *saxifrage*, *sedum*

continued on page 13

Washington State Show, APS

Hosted by Tacoma Chapter

South Center Pavilion - April 9, 1993

Two plants of distinction at the Washington State show were raised by two of the outstanding long-time hybridizers: a white, large-flowered, stalked Juliana primula by Rosetta Jones and a strong-colored and garden-worthy red auricula by Herb Dickson.

Theresa Richardson brought, among the many plants she exhibited, one of the old-fashioned hose-in-hose plants which remind us of the history behind the garden primrose.

The informal meeting in conjunction with show set-up led to lively discussion of all aspects of the show proceedings — even some mild disagreements. It all contributed to a good show and sale. The public response was positive and we gained some new members. This being Herb Dickson's last show season, he set out a great display of his colorful auriculas, both on the show table and for the sale.

"Dawn Ansell" a double jack-in-the-green acaulus primrose exhibited by Thea Oakley is one of the attractive double acaulus primroses available through micro-propagation. Thea also generously arranged to pick up a supply of these plants from the nursery and ensured that they were delivered for sale at the plant stalls at this and the other chapter shows.

AWARDS

- Best Double Acaulis
Rosetta Jones: white-edged magenta
- Best Jack-in-the-Green:
Thea Oakley: "Dawn Ansel" double white
- Best Hose-in-Hose
T. Richardson: white
- Best Juliana:
Rosetta Jones: large white stalked Juliana
- Brightest Garden Auricula: James Watson Trophy
Herb Dickson: red garden auricula
- Best Double Auricula: C.C. Chambers Trophy
Rosetta Jones: "Son of Brownie" brown double
- Best European Species
T. Richardson: *P. elatior* (oxslip)
- Best Asian Species
T. Richardson: *P. denticulata*, purple
- Best Non-Hardy Primula
Thea Oakley: bright pink, compact form
P. malacoides
- Best Seedling
T. Richardson: double pink acaulus
- Best Alpine Seedling: Grace Dowling Trophy
Herb Dickson: seedling
- Best Oddity
Rosetta Jones: pink and white
- Best in Junior
W. Richardson: pink double acaulus seedling
- Best Primulaceae
Thea Oakley: *Androsace* sp.
- Best Miniature Garden Planting
Thea Oakley: miniature garden
- Best Companion Plants
Rosetta Jones: *Lewisia cotyledon*, "Sunset Strain," coral color
- Sweepstakes: Marion Hannah Trophy
Rosetta Jones ♦

APS Quarterly Needs Help!

- Writers ■ Public Relations Coordinator
- Regional Reporters - see page 23

Oregon Primrose Society Show

Milwaukie Community Club - April 10-11, 1993

The show was small this year, but there was good variety among the plants staged. An educational display encouraged new members to join APS, and issues of the quarterly from earlier years were given away. Plant sales were good, and a refreshment table offered tea, coffee and cookies. But attendance at the show was down from former years.

AWARDS

- Best Acaulis:
Dorothy MacFarlane: yellow acaulus
- Best Polyanthus:
Ann and Jay Lunn: *Primula* "Garryard"
- Best Julie Hybrid: Mary Zach Trophy
Ann and Jay Lunn: *Primula x Juliana* hybrid
- Best Double Vernaes
Ann and Jay Lunn: *Primula* "Quaker Bonnet"
- Best Garden Auricula
Herb Dickson: red-brown garden auricula
- Best Double Auricula
Herb Dickson: yellow semi-double
- Best Alpine Auricula
Herb Dickson: rose-colored alpine seedling
- Best Show Auricula
Herb Dickson: "Gleam"
- Best Species
Orville Agee: *Primula kisoana*, white form

Best Species Hybrid

- Thelma Genheimer: *Primula marginata*
"Linda Pope"

Best Seedling

- Herb Dickson: rose-colored alpine auricula

Best Decorative

- Etha Tate

Best Plant in Show: Dale Worthington Trophy

- Ann and Jay Lunn: *Primula x Juliana* hybrid

Sweepstakes

- Ann and Jay Lunn ♦

Photo by O. Agee



A display at the Oregon show.

photos continued on page 14

Eastside Primula Show

continued from page 11

- Best Horticulture
Florence Tibbatts: *Cyclamen persicum*, pink
- Best Miniature Design
Dene Henderson: oxslips and aubretia in white pitcher, under 5" height
- Sweepstakes
Mary Baxter
- Runner-up Sweepstakes
Thea Oakley ♦

SEED EXCHANGE

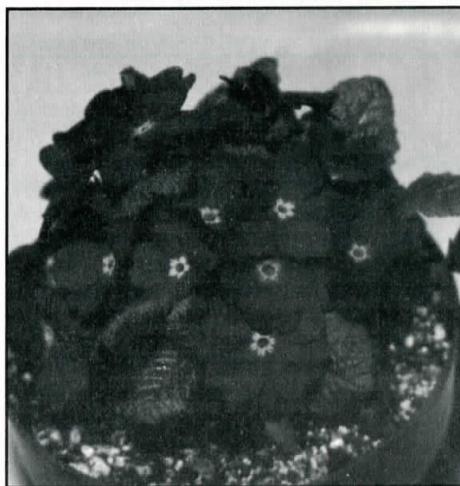
GATHER AND SAVE SEED

Send seed or a list to:

APS Seed Exchange

P.O. Box 112157

Tacoma, WA 98411-2157

Oregon Primrose Society Show continued

Best Plant in Show Award-winning Juliana cross shown by Ann and Jay Lunn.

Photos by J. Lunn



"Garryard Guinevere" shown by Ann and Jay Lunn.



Herb Dickson's yellow show self auricula "Gleam" at the Oregon show.

Vancouver Primrose Display

*Thomas Hobb's Southlands Nursery
Vancouver, B.C. - April 24-25, 1993*

The first primula display in Vancouver for many years was achieved by a dedicated group of "primrosers" despite a little rain. A delightful setting was arranged at Thomas Hobbs' Southlands Nursery, where a marquee sheltered the plants, the owners and those who came to admire.

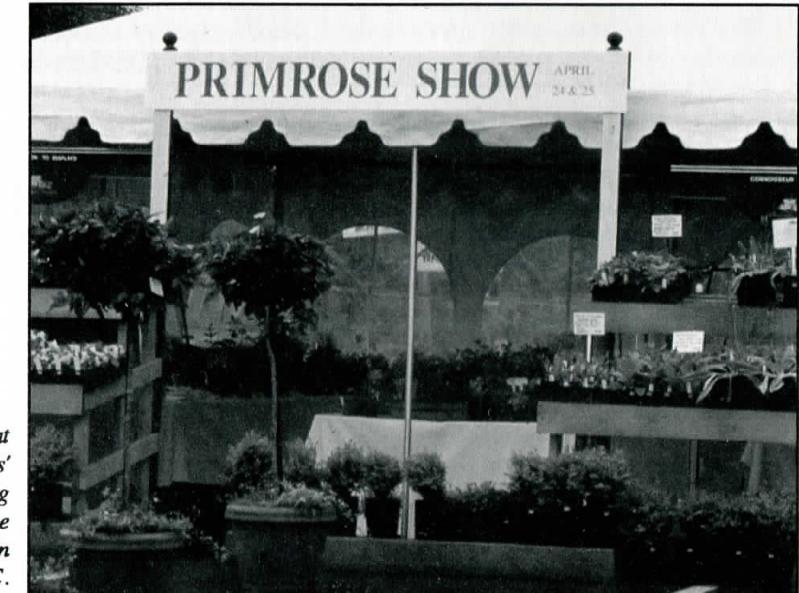
Stormy weather notwithstanding, the display was similar to APS chapter shows. No judging made it less onerous for exhibitors to select interesting plants. The windstorms blew over some of the exhibits the first morning, but these were set upright and by the afternoon the skies had cleared and many people came to see the primroses. More than thirty signed up as interested in further involvement with primulas, and it remains to follow-up with a newsletter and a meeting to form a tighter association.

Plant sales were brisk and raised \$1,400 for the growers. Ten percent was retained to help start a newsletter.

Bodil Leamy brought a display from the University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens with some fine plants, including two attractive double acaulis from Australia: "Lemon Souffle" and "Blue Petticoat." These plants belong to Bruce MacDonald, director of the gardens; and Bruce also included a striking dark-red, almost black "Cowichan" hybrid in the display plants. Both color forms of *Primula sinopurpurea* (formerly *P. chionodoxa*), the clear purple and a shining white were also found in the UBC display.

Thea Foster showed a grand collection of soft yellow garden auriculas which included both her named plant "Marguerita" and others raised from the same line. "Cambridge Blues," her

Photo by J. Kerridge



Marquee tent at Southlands' Nursery housing the primrose display in Vancouver, B.C.

Vancouver Display continued

own *Primula marginata* crosses, filled out the display.

Large decorative terra-cotta pots full to overflowing with huge plants grown by Thomas Hobbs filled the center table. A large "Argus" with twenty-five flower stalks in perfect form made an incredible display. A double primrose, one of those introduced from England and micro-propagated here in the Pacific Northwest, was a delightful mound of soft yellow flowers. Some unusual striped fancy auriculas raised from seed contributed variety, color and interest.

On the sale table a wide range of primroses and auriculas could be found, if only briefly. Bob Bunn has grown a number of species from seed, and a surprising variety could be found in the

flats of seedlings he brought for the sale table. John Kerridge contributed seedlings of some of his hybrids, and Stan Cryan who has been growing primroses quietly in White Rock for years brought in a number of flats of seedlings for sale.

We hope we made the gardening public in Vancouver more aware of the diversity and beauty of primulas to be found each springtime. Already we are looking toward a great show next year. The addition of more species primroses plants and some Julianas would have rounded out the display. A later date in April might result in a wider variety of primroses. It would help growers here in B.C. where plants often bloom later than those in the United States to our south.

John Kerridge
Show Organizer ♦

Alaska Show 1994

APS members in Alaska invite you to a conference on May 14-15, 1994 in Juneau sponsored by the Master Gardener's group. President John Kerridge has been invited to speak. Contact John O'Brien Sr. for more information. (907) 789-7516

"Marguerita" Mia

by Thea Service Foster

When my first seed order as an APS member went off in 1978 to Helen and Ross Willingham, I was far too new an auricula grower to know what was in store for me. The listing of "auricula, blue and white" donated by Kris Fenderson sounded very interesting. Interesting, indeed, as it turned out.

White flowers are one of my abiding passions, so I was delighted when two seedlings flowered within a year of sowing that were close to white. One was a pretty plant but had rather thin-textured petals that didn't stand up well in wet weather. The second was superior in all respects.

The superior one is a strong plant. It has large deep cream buds opening to ivory-white flowers that are slightly ruffled and bear a tinting of pale green around the center. By 1980 it had been exhibited and had taken a first prize in an Alpine Garden Society of British Columbia pot show. After a year or two it was deemed worthy of a name. It became "Marguerita" after the tequila and lime cocktail. Yes, I know that the Mexican spelling "Margarita" should have been used. However, several divisions had been handed on before my error was spotted so it remains "Marguerita" with a "u."

It is not only a lovely border auricula but has other assets. Since its first year it has never failed to rebloom in the late summer or fall. Increase is rapid so substantial groupings can be established in the garden in a short time. As a breeding plant it passes on those useful, reliable habits of re-blooming and fast increase to its progeny.

Crossed with Herb Dickson's "1977 Best Yellow Auricula Prize-winner," "Marguerita" has mothered a large family of attractive border auriculas. Herb's plant looks very like photos of the old Irish variety "Queen Alexandra" with lightly ruffled primrose-yellow flowers. About

one-third of the seedlings are white to ivory in color. There are also various shades of yellow. A number of striking rich golds have resulted. They match the color of the British show self auricula "Brazil" in that the gold of the petals is enhanced by a backing of coppery-bronze which shines through to make the white centers look even snowier. Leaves are finely meal-edged. These were an unexpected bonus and prove that hybridizing is seldom dull.

The only problem stemming from "Marguerita's" habit of producing multiple crowns is that plants become congested with leaves and flower stalks. All of my most valuable plants of the auricula family are regularly groomed. Yellowing and decayed leaves are stripped off so that the necks of the plants can be seen. New shoots then have a chance of healthy development. In early summer mine are split up into rooted divisions, each with one large rosette bearing a number of small side growths. These are set out far enough apart to allow air circulation between them but close enough that they will soon merge to form what appears to be a generous single clump. If they are kept watered well while they are getting their roots re-established, they should grow away nicely. All of the auricula family tend to create dense canopies of leaves. Given a casual sprinkle of water, they may simply shed it with very little reaching the root zone. Check your plants to be certain that the moisture is actually getting to the root ball. Keep in mind that their ancestors' original home in the European Alps is having its rainy months in the summer when many of us are dry.

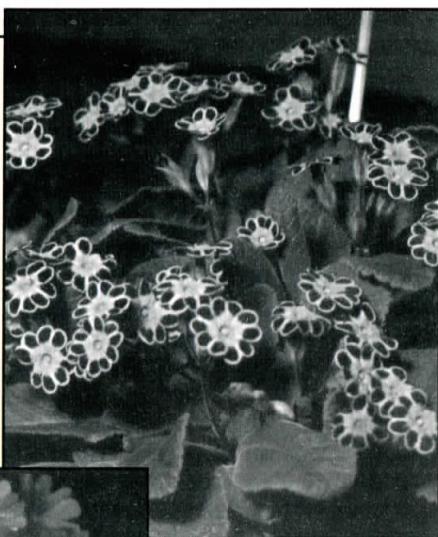
In the cases of my more valued plants, I do not set all the divisions out in the garden. About six good-sized rooted pieces are placed in large pots to make, once again, what appears to be a

continued on page 33

Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society

Annual Spring Show 1993

Gold laced polyanthus grown by Tony James won award for best polyanthus in show.



Photos by Cy Happy



Prize-winning P. modesta ssp. matsumurae shown by Mike Lambert.

For about 15 years I've been coming to this wonderful Victoria Rock and Alpine Garden Society show. The plants are varied and marvelous and so are the people. I look forward to it from year to year.

This show and the one in Vancouver are judged by one judge per division instead of a commit-

tee of three as in the U.S. shows. Before settling down to judging, I take a look at the general quality of the plants overall and then check to see if any are entered in the wrong classes and make any necessary changes.

There were some great plants this year. Keith and Susanne Muir's fuzzy pink *Primula kisoana*

in a group of three (*P. saxatilis* and *P. sieboldii* "Tah Ni" being the other two) would have to be considered for best primula as would Maedythe Martin's "Old Irish Green" and grey-edged "Cornmeal" auriculas. She staged three nice alpine auriculas -- "Prince John," "Bookham Firefly" and "Argus." Then there were Paul Chyz's super garden auriculas. Sybil McCulloch's *P. pubescens* "Apple Blossom" was very nice but needed a few more blossoms.

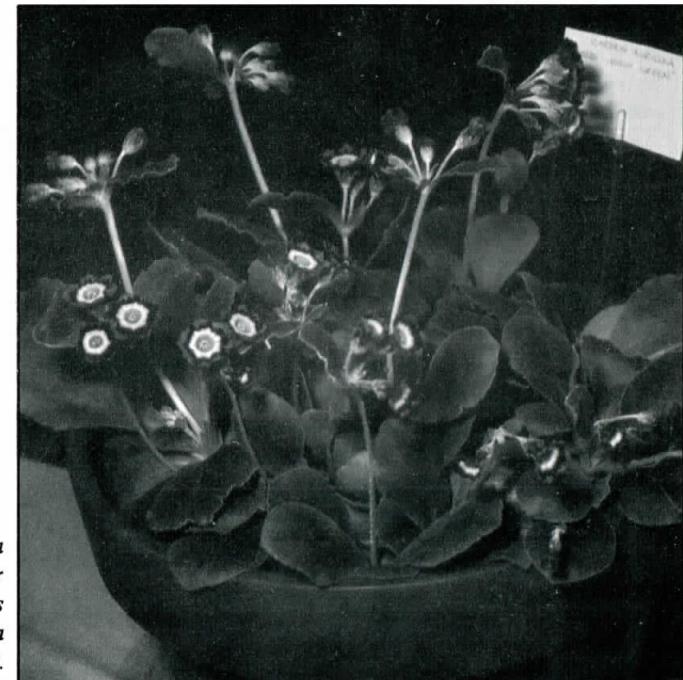
In the end, the two primula trophies were awarded to Tony James for best polyanthus and Mike Lambert for best primula in show. Tony's plant was an eight stemmed gold-laced polyanthus, and Mike's was a magnificent *Primula modesta* ssp *matsumurae* which he raised from seed. Thanks, Mike. It was not a tough decision.

On our way to the ferry we passed a new woolen store in downtown Victoria — Avoca Hand Weavers of Ireland. Could it be related to the firm of my long ago friend Miss Wynne? Inside, there on the wall, was an old black and white photo of the three Wynne sisters.

Beverly, an employee, was fresh from Avoca and brought me up to date. Two old plants, "Old Irish Green" from the Wynne garden, and grown from pollen from a Wynne garden auricula, "Dusty Double," were there in the VIRAGS show.

Report by Cy Happy ♦

Photo by Cy Happy



"Old Irish Green" auricula shown here at the Vancouver Island show, came from Miss Wynne's garden in Avoca Ireland.

Alpine Garden Club of B.C. Show

Plant Pot Show 1993

For the first time in many years the Alpine Garden Club of B.C. put on a show. It was a great success and I hope the first of many more. The primula section had almost 100 plants. Best primula was a lacy edged pale yellow border auricula (like garden auricula but with meal) "Marguerita" raised by the long-time master show woman, Thea Foster. The plant had six stems, very upright, perfectly fresh, in character, perfectly potted — the works. She must have had a dozen other plants almost as good. It was great to see Thea in such good form, too.

Bob Bunn, a really great grower in Vancouver, raises difficult species from seed. His *Primula reinii* was outstanding. He should spend some time with Reba Wingert of Victoria. They both have the gift.

In the *Juliae* hybrid class Amanda Offers had an excellent and correctly labelled "Lady Greer." "Lady Greer" and "Dorothy" are often confused. "Lady Greer" has the faint touch of pink. "Dorothy" is a very soft, clear yellow, and the plant usually has a touch of virus.

Ellen Wilson showed a cowslip — *P. veris* — in good character, having the proper one-sided cluster of nodding cupped flowers. In the same class were several very good small yellow polyanthus with flat flowers, the hybrid between *P. vulgaris* (the primrose) and *P. veris*, sometimes labeled *P. x polyantha*. This judge tends to give a very slight edge to the true species in a species class.

John Kerridge brought many plants and collected best show auricula with a purple self and best gold-laced polyanthus with one of his new large-flowered hybrids. Dark and rainy weather was not helpful with two of his entries in the polyanthus section.

The first, McHenry's yellow, an oldtimer from Portland, was great to see again. It is probably the finest large garden polyanthus, having been produced by the McHenrys in the 1940s.

The other, a large poly, is really an oldtimer — going back before 1900 — and with any care at all is indestructible. It's long sturdy stems carry umbels of creamy flowers with orange eyes. When at its best, it's a show stopper. Instead of producing a continuing series of flowering stems throughout the blooming season, it produces more flowers from the original umbels. It even survives Montana winters.

Congratulations, Vancouver. It was a great show.

We hiked around beautiful Van Dusen Garden in the rain — almost got lost. Great drifts of *P. denticulata*, pink *P. rosea*, and yellow cowslip were breath-taking. The colors photographed beautifully in the rain. All this and a marvelous luncheon made it a perfect day. ♦

APS Quarterly Needs Help!

- Writers ■ Public Relations Coordinator
- Regional Reporters - see page 23

More "Cowichan" Primula News

over 20

It's an ill wind that blows no good. Last spring when President John Kerridge's van broke down on Saltspring Island, he managed to find a ride back to Vancouver with a friend. On the way, they called on the friend's father, Dr. Verchere, in Ladysmith, B.C.

There in Dr. Verchere's garden was a patch of polyanthus with dark foliage. It turns out that Dr. Verchere, who was 90 then and has recently passed away, obtained this plant from his sister many years ago. She, in turn, had it from a lady who is believed to have bought it at Palmer's Nursery. All this is being checked out, but if it is true, can this primula be a clone of the "original" "Cowichan" polyanthus?

Of course when John asked, a piece was generously given to him. This year the polyanthus bloomed in his garden and appears to be the same plant that has been grown in the Victoria area for years.



This "Cowichan" primrose variety, grown on Vancouver Island for many decades, is distinctive for its purple color, lack of eye and slightly long, sometimes drooping pedicel.

It is very satisfying to discover a "Cowichan" polyanthus closely related to, if not the same clone from which Florence Bellis developed the modern hybrid "Cowichan" in the wonderful range of velvet hues. The "Cowichan, Neel Variety" survives here on southern Vancouver Island and still is grown in the same region in which it was discovered in the 1930s.

Report by John Kerridge
and Maedythe Martin ♦

Perils of a Primrose Exhibitor

continued from page 5

way from having the requisite number of open flowers. Would a day in a warm oven help? One marvelous deep red, velvety "Cowichan" that I had counted on to be a prize winner has only three blooms left after grooming. Since the rules call for five open flowers, the "Cowichan" is destined for the education table.

A glance at the show plants the day before the show prompts me to make another tour of the garden. There is one unnamed Juliana that doesn't look too bad. It is unnamed because when my better half planted it out, he neglected to label it. Now, because of advancing age, neither of us can remember what it is or where

we got it. I quickly pot that one up and groom it. We head out for the show with all the primulas and several beautiful *Lewisia cotyledon* for the companion plant division.

There is one certainty about primrose shows: they are always unpredictable. The judges deemed that Lewisias are not proper companion plants, so no prize there. The last minute addition of the unnamed Juliana came away with a trophy. Perhaps the greatest irony of all was a statement overheard at the show, "I wish I had a greenhouse, so I could grow all these beautiful primroses!" ♦

Primrose Notes

by Don Keefe

CORTUSOIDES SECTION, THE WOODLAND PRIMROSES

This group of primulas has distinctive hairy leaves, and most species tend to bloom a bit later in the season than other primulas. Some of the better known garden plants from this section include *Primula sieboldii*, *P. saxatilis*, *P. cortusoides*, *P. geraniifolia*, *P. heucherifolia* and *P. kisoana*.

Primula sieboldii propagates readily from root cuttings and does well in a partially shaded location. *P. cortusoides* is one of the easiest to grow from seed. Seed of *P. jesoana* and *P. kisoana* mature later than most primroses and in this area is not ripe until September. Members of the Cortusoides section have been known to withstand frosts to zero Fahrenheit without being injured.

TRIPLOID KISOANA

I have found references to a triploid *Primula kisoana* created by the late Dr. Ralph Benedict. However, I could find only sketchy information in the APS quarterlies concerning these plants. Any specific comments about the origin, description and history of this mutated plant would be appreciated. There is one article by Gordon Emerson in the spring 1982 issue of *Primroses* on page 13.

KNOWN RECORDED CROSSES

Earlier this year Barry Glick of Sunshine Flower and Gardens, Renick, West Virginia, gave me some seed of *P. sieboldii* x *P. kisoana*. I passed some on to friends. Hope we get it to germinate. There are recorded crosses between species in this section: *P. cortusoides* x *P. sieboldii*, *P. cortusoides* x *P. saxatilis* (easy to

do), *P. sieboldii* x *P. kisoana*, *P. sieboldii* x *P. polyneura*, and *P. cortusoides* x *P. reinii*. *Primula reinii* is from the Reinii section.

YELLOW-FLOWERED MEMBERS

Of the 26 or 27 primula species in the Cortusoides section, depending upon whether you refer to Fenderson's or Halda's book, there

Photo by J. Lunn



White *p. kisoana*, on display at the Oregon show by Orville Agee, is a member of the Cortusoides section.

are only two yellow flowered species: *Primula eugeniae* (pale yellow with a deep yellow eye) and *P. pauliana* (pale yellow with an orange tube and eye). It would be interesting to cross these yellow-flowered plants with some of the others in the Cortusoides section to see if the color-range of the flowers could be expanded. The trouble is, I don't know where seed for *P. eugeniae* and *P. pauliana* can be obtained.

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Primrose Readers – Help!

IT'S YOUR TURN TO PARTICIPATE

This society has had 52 continuous years of a publication of which it can be very proud. But to continue this tradition, APS needs your active participation. Six hundred members scattered around the globe are tied together only through their interest in primulas and their news of each other in *Primroses*.

Your editor has had a fine time for the past two years choosing what she wanted to see in the quarterly. But now it's your turn. I have no way of knowing if what you see in the quarterly is what you like. Where are those letters of response, of news of your plants or what you are reading...?

Greg Becker has outlined a development plan, but it requires more than I can do by myself. Here's your chance to take part. We've got a new president full of good ideas, we've just started a new APS year — let's get going on a renewed and improved quarterly. Here's what we need:

WRITERS

We need writers! This is you. Don't worry about whether your prose is immortal. Just get your thoughts down on paper and send them to me. It's the editor's job to tidy them up and make sure they are readable — and I'll be happy to do that part. But I need something to work with. I want to know what you grow this year, how primroses are doing in Puerto Rico or Pittsburg.

REGIONAL REPORTERS

Greg's ideas include lots of new features — regular reports from all areas of the US, from Canada, from Europe, from the Far East. Volunteer to be a reporter for your area — even if only for one year. You'd just send news on what's happening in your neighborhood every three months.

FEATURE COLUMNS

What about a "beginner's corner" again? What are your questions, beginners? What do you want to see in this column? Send me requests. I'll get information. Some of the more experienced gardeners will be happy to provide answers — just send the questions.

Rock garden primulas — could we use a regular column on this topic? What about a companion plant feature? Send your ideas. How would you like a column on "what to do in the garden this month" to keep your primroses healthy? I need to know what you want to see in *Primroses*.

Anyone want to cruise the nurseries in their area on a regular basis and report back on what's hot in the primulaceae line? You're going to be out there looking at other plants. Notice anything new and interesting in the primula line? Send a note.

JOURNAL REPORTER

We need an interested reader to peruse the journals APS gets on exchange from other societies and report on primula news. What a way to get to read all the rock and alpine journals and the yearbooks from the British auricula and primula societies!

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

APS and the quarterly would benefit from a public relations coordinator. We need a member who likes to write letters and keep in contact with other societies, botanical gardens, other specialty gardening publications — arrange to place our APS ads in these and get ads from these groups. The contacts would provide further interesting news for Primrose readers. Could you volunteer? Send me a letter.

*Primrose Readers continued***PRODUCTION**

I have to confess that I need help in production of the quarterly. I don't live in the Seattle-Tacoma area, and that is where the quarterly is produced, published and distributed. We have a great distribution coordinator. Would someone in that area be willing to help with local foot-work and carry the photos to and from the designer and the photography shop? Carry copy to and from the proof readers? You just

need a bit of time, an ability to develop a timetable and stick to it, a telephone and a car. For this you'll develop new primula friends, see your name in print, and learn what publishing is all about. Come-on, join the APS publishing team.

So — where do we go from here? It's your call. Let me know. ♦

Primrose Notes

continued from page 22

BLUE-FLOWERED SIEBOLDII

I have found no evidence in the booklet "An Invitation to the World of Japanese Primulas," written by K. Oogaki, T. Torii and K. Hara for the symposium "Primula Worldwide," that blue-flowered *P. sieboldii* exist. In fact, in chapter 2, titled "Sakurasoh — the Japanese Show Primula," Mr. Hara advised that there are no orange, yellow or blue corolla colors. Also in this booklet the description of the species *P. sieboldii* states the corolla color as "rose."

Further, in the book *A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula*, G.K. Fenderson makes no mention of a blue-flowered *P. sieboldii* nor does Josef Halda in his book *The Genus Primula in Cultivation and in the Wild*. Florence Bellis created a blue-flowered strain of *P. sieboldii* many years ago, and I am not aware of any other primula breeder in the world who did likewise. Hopefully seed from the beautiful Barnhaven blue-flowered strain may again be available for sale in 1994.

ON TO OTHER THINGS

Plant markers — for years Mary and I have used plastic plant markers to identify our plants. We used fine-point black ink so-called "permanent" markers advertised as water

resistant. Unfortunately, the water-resistant writing would usually fade after a few weeks so that the printing was not legible. Friends advised us to use number 1 or number 2 lead pencils to write on the white plastic markers and our problem was solved!

MINIATURE DENTICULATA

In my "Primula Notes" in the summer 1991 issue of *Primroses*, page 16, I referred to Mary Robinson's description of *Primula drummondiana* as a member of section 20, Denticulata. Referring to her book *Primulas, the Complete Guide* I noted that she called it a miffy little thing, like a miniature lavender *Primula denticulata* only two to three inches high (5 - 7 cm). Without checking further, I assumed that Mary Robinson had correctly identified the plant and hence my article. To my embarrassment, I learned from an English friend that *P. drummondiana* is a member of section 12, Petiolaris.

Further to the information above, the miniature lavender *Primula denticulata* growing in Alaska that I mentioned in the Spring 1992 issue of *Primroses* reigns supreme as the only miniature *P. denticulata* that I am aware of. John O'Brien, up there in Alaska — how about some more information regarding this miniature *P. denticulata*? ♦

News from the Chapters

Photo by Misty Haffner



The Alaska APS show and sale in May was held at the McDole's on Douglas Island.

ALASKA

The APS plant show and sale was held at Clay and Daisy McDole's home on Douglas Island — a beautiful setting. The weather was overcast — good primula weather.

Six members brought various primulas, including *P. auricula*, *P. florindae*, *P. japonica*, the miniature *P. denticulata* and various Juliania hybrids. We had a good time visiting and sharing plants with local gardeners, many of whom only know about the early-blooming primroses. So we were able to let them know about other later-blooming species.

The display table was a riot of color from the blooms of various auriculas, a yellow *P. x pruhonickiana*, a precious gold-laced polyanthus, other brightly-colored polyanthus and a fine display of primula from the Candelabra section brought by Dr. Eichman. There was one mystery plant that we could not identify.

Several people asked about *P. sieboldii*. Unfortunately, they are rather rare in Juneau. All of us would love to have more. That gives us something to work on for the future.

Our sales were good. I was concerned there would not be enough plants for everyone, but it worked out great. We were able to raise \$343 for the society.

Misty Haffner
Juneau, Alaska

PENNSYLVANIA

Doretta Klaber Chapter
Seed Sowing Workshop
February 6 and February 20, 1993

The seed sowing workshop was held in two sections, both on February 20, as icy roads on February 6 prevented many members from attending. Altogether 27 members participated.

Our treasurer, Bill Siegel, gave a report. In gratitude for their many years of service to the chapter, Anita Kistler, who served as president for the past six years, and May Mills, who served as treasurer, were presented with gift certificates to Mt. Tahoma Nursery in Graham.

Deno Garden Visit

Dot Plyler has investigated the possibility of renting a van for the trip to Norm Deno's garden in State College on May 2 Richard Critz suggested that people might prefer car-pooling, and offered to drive his car with three passengers....

Plant Sale and Annual Dinner

Saturday, June 19, is the date for the annual pot-luck supper and plant sale. If possible, divide plants before bloom so they are strong by the sale. Roxie Gevjan agreed to coordinate the dinner, and to be our hostess. Ginny Ingram will obtain plates and cutlery. There will be a mailing when the date approaches.

Show and Tell

At the meeting on February 6, Joann and Fred Knapp, who had traveled from their Long Island home, showed plants from their rooftop greenhouse, including *Primula marginata* "Amethystina" and "Caerulea" cultivars. Bill Siegel reported that he grows *P. marginata* outside in a southwest exposure, and Richard Critz said that he had also been successful with the plant outside.

In order to make as much information available to all members, the group was asked to help

News from the Chapters continued

compile data on the best primroses for the East, seed and nursery sources, bed preparation and the like. Please collect information on both successes and failures, from seed to bloom so that we can all benefit from these experiences. Carol Kueppers (108 Lee Circle, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010) has agreed to collate the information....

ARGS Bulletin Vol. 49 no.2 on primulas, especially the articles by Nancy Goodwin and Joann and Fred Knapp, give helpful cultural information. Richard Critz urged us to read the "symposium" on primula seed sowing in *Primroses*, Vol. 43 no.3. Copies of these articles were available at the workshop on February 20....

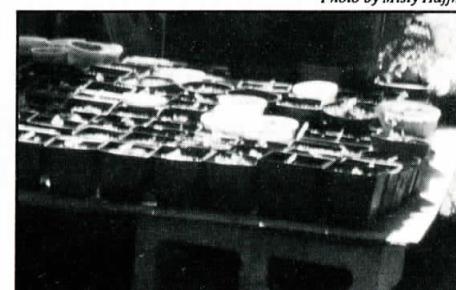
Super-absorbents

A sample of super-absorbent was given to each member at the meeting so that we can each try the gel and compare our results. The Knapps highly praise Liqua-Gel (formerly Aqua-Gel) from Miller Chemical and Fertilizer Corporation, Hanover, PA. This product is starch based, and has worked well for them in their sandy soil, when added as dry powder to new planting beds. John Gyer mentioned that Terra-Sorb is Magnesium silicate, which also absorbs large quantities of water. Other products were discussed, all with a polyacrylamide crystal form. Barbara Bruno, who gardens in sandy soil in New Jersey, added about two tablespoons of the hydrated gel to each planting hole and feels it helped retain moisture. Joanne Walkovic mentioned that nurserymen are dipping the roots of bare-rooted trees into the hydrated polymers before planting.

Various members had read of studies which indicated that the products did not actually make a difference for container grown plants. In contrast, we were told that Jim Cross, the Long Island grower, praised gels for container grown primula. It was also pointed out that some of the sterile potting mixes on the market contain these products, without specifying which one. In view of the differences in composition, application rates, price and experience with the various products, it will be interesting to hear of further experimentation from the members.

Seed Sowing

A large variety of primula seeds were available, donated by Bob Brotherson, Richard Critz, Carol Kueppers, Jay Lunn, Claire Muller, Dot Plyler, and



Misty Haffner's "primrose babies" flourishing in the May sunshine in Juneau.

Ann Rosenberg. Seed of the *P. acaulis* "Pageant" series was purchased from Harris Seed Co., and double acaulis from Rosetta Jones. Seed was also purchased from Herb Dickson. He was most generous in what he sent. Dot found that a plant of Pageant "Lemon Yellow" bloomed almost continuously for her last year, and hopes we will all have similar success. Each seed envelope was labeled with the section name, both as classified in Doretta Klaber's book, *Primroses and Spring*, and in Josef Halda's new book, *The Genus Primula*. Richard Critz had further classified the plants from "easy to grow" to "next to impossible" and that was on the envelopes also. Anita Kistler pointed out that doubles do not usually bloom double until their third year, so that when plants bloom as singles the first time no one should despair!

The seeds were sown in 4" pots in a mix of about half Turface, half Pro-mix, with a generous handful of Grani-Grit. Members could choose to plant the seeds in a top layer of grit or moistened milled sphagnum moss. From the discussions overheard, some people would be placing their pots outside, some in the refrigerator and some in a cool room. We will be interested in the reports on success and failure on all the various seeds.

Instant gratification came in the form of a blooming Juliana which had been purchased for each person from Ashcombe Nursery, near Mechanicsburg.

We all enjoyed our brown bag lunches supplemented by Dot's delicious cookies, cake and coffee, and left happily contemplating the dozens of new plants promised by the seeds in our pots!

Flower Show

Those who attended the flower show couldn't help but notice the many primulas to be seen. The Rock

Garden Society display included the following plants purchased from growers in Scotland: *P. boothii* x *brachystoma*; *P. gracilipes* and *P. gracilipes* "Winter Jewel"; *P. elatior* ssp. *pallasi*; *P. griffithii*; *P. auricula* "Harlow Car"; *P. acaulis* "Johanna"; *P. petiolaris* "Linne"; *P. "McWatt's Cream"*; *P. x Juliana* "Kinlough Beauty"; *P. x Juliana* "Old Port"; *P. petiolaris* "L.S #19856"; and *P. calderiana*. From Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery came the *P. sieboldii* cultivars "Isotaka," "Fimbriated Red" and "Kuisakigama." Lee Raden exhibited a special *P. petiolaris* which he has been growing for several years. Members of the DVC/ARGS who worked on the show have purchased the plants and will try them in either their gardens or cold frames after the show is over. The Doretta Klaber members may be able to learn from their experience which ones will be hardy in our area.

Carol Kueppers
Recording Secretary

WASHINGTON *Eastside Chapter*

Meets the first Monday of every month at the Universal Savings Bank, 6615 132nd Ave. NE, Kirkland at the Bridal Trails Mall at 7:30 pm.

Special Note: primrose T-shirt still available. Contact Thea Oakley for more information.

April program: Primrose presentation by President John Kerridge.

May program: Beth Tait discussed the dos and don'ts of growing primulas from seed, transplanting, planting and answer questions.

June program: A table discussion on how to bring primulas and other plants through the summer.

Seattle Chapter Meets four times a year.

May program: Ilse Burch, a keen gardener and a nurse by profession shared her ideas for successful growing of primulas and campanulas from seed. Her Issaquah garden has perfect conditions for growing primulas. There will be a picnic in August.

Tacoma Chapter

Meets the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August in the Fireside Room of the United Methodist Church, 1919 West Pioneer, Puyallup at 7:30 pm.

April program: Ann Thurston is water conservationist for the city of Tacoma. Anna told us how to

have a beautiful garden and still save on water consumption.

May program: President John Kerridge talked about his success with primroses, including gold-laced polyanthus and auriculas.

June program: Rick Lupp of Mt. Tahoma Nursery presented his program on campanula. We will also discuss successes of the past year and the prospect of a study group.

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER

Meets the second Friday of each month except July and August at the Good Neighbor Center at 305 S 43rd St. Renton at 7:45 pm.

April program: Meeting held at the South Center Pavilion in conjunction with set-up for the annual show. Alan Jones' report from the March meeting included note, "Heavy discussion on "What color is a red julie?" by Peter Atkinson and Rosetta Jones. Then everyone got into the act. Rosetta's double acaulis have some julie blood in them; that's where the color palaver started."

May program: Recap of the show, and a round-robin for new members. There was lively discussion on show procedures, future plant sales, new ideas on staging, trophies and awards. The idea of having future shows at plant nurseries, suggested by John Kerridge, was met with great favor.

June program: Discussion of points of interest: primulas, election of officers, show and tell — a send-off to a beautiful summer. ♦



From the Mailbox

Letters from our readers

Bristol, England
26 April 1993

Dear Editor,
I was amazed to read in the Winter '93 issue of Primroses the critical comments by Elizabeth England on Peter Ward's booklet "Show Auriculas." Without wishing to hurt the lady's feelings I fail to see how a person, who on her own admission knows little about the subject, can undertake to review a book written by an acknowledged expert in the field.

At first I thought it must be a joke of some sort but if that was the intention it passes me by.

This booklet had been very well received in the U.K. where there are far more growers of these plants than in North America. I have heard of no adverse comments, only praise and hundreds of copies have been sold.

I know Peter Ward well — he is secretary and I am assistant secretary and we live in neighbouring villages, which is very convenient except that I have to water his plants when he goes on holiday.

He grows many plants very well but is a dedicated grower of show auriculas and has been a leading exhibitor for many years. In the

booklet, which is a mine of information, he has set down the experiences and methods he uses, for the interest and benefit of others — novices and experts alike.

Now to answer specific points raised by Elizabeth England — of course much of the information is geared to the UK but a lot applies to auriculas generally. Again much of the information is with exhibiting in mind but we are talking about show auriculas. Of course the fertilizers and pesticides mentioned are those available in the U.K. but in most cases there will be equivalents in the U.S.A. and Canada.

There is no encouragement in Peter's article to use illegal pesticides, only a warning that certain substances which have been used in the past can no longer be used under new regulations.

Peter Ward does not say that the only way to grow these plants is in clay "long toms." He says that this is his preferred way (as it is for many other growers in the U.K.).

The method of topping (beheading) the plants to encourage the development of offsets really does work. It is not a new idea although not many people use it. It also works well with *Primula marginata*.

Finally for show auricula enthusiasts everywhere they are well advised to get a copy of this booklet — they will find information here they can get nowhere else.

I hope that you will find space in the APS quarterly, as a matter of fairness, to print this reply.

Yours sincerely,
R.W. Archdale ♦

Sakurasoh Inventory Update

Photo by Cy Happy

Two owners of plants from the "Primula Worldwide" conference have sent in plant reports. Did you make a description of your Sakurasoh when they bloomed this year? Send them to the editor now.

Border Sakurasoh P-48

This is a small plant that has not produced an offset yet. The up-facing flat flowers are pretty, but there are only three in the umbel. The front of the petals is white, with a bit of the pink back showing through. The petals give the effect of being round, but there are a few tiny scallops on the edge. The petals are of standard width. Thrum.

Flower diameter: 4 cm
Flower stem height, including flowers: 19 cm
Leaf length: 5.5 cm
Leaf width: 4.5 cm

Another plant of P-48, growing in a different garden in Victoria, has two flower stalks with about 7 flowers per stalk. It is sturdy and upright.

Report by Diane Whitehead, Victoria, B.C.

Border Sakurasoh 4-36a

This is a sturdy plant that shows up well in the garden. It produced one offset, but had only one flower stalk, with 7 flowers.

The flowers have petals so wide that they overlap and are a bit wavy. Four of the petals have one deep central notch, but the fifth has three notches. The back of the petals is intense cerise. The front has a central white star, with white stippling and veins lightening the cerise edge. The stigma is just above the anthers, halfway up the tube.

Flower diameter: 4.25 cm
Flower stem height including flowers: 26 cm
Leaf length: 7 cm
Leaf width: 6.5 cm
Report by Diane Whitehead, Victoria, B.C.

Border Sakurasoh A-9

This one has a dark red back to the petals and a



Primula sieboldii cultivar shown by Sybil McCulloch at the VIRAGS show, Victoria, B.C.

clear white front. It is very luscious with a strong stem holding the bloom above the foliage. Pin.

Flower stem height including flowers: 18 cm
Report by Paul Held, Westport, Connecticut

Unnamed from Darlene Heller, Mount Vernon, WA

This one is from Darlene or from the plant sale at "Primula Worldwide"? I think it is worthy of naming. It is a very sturdy, narrow-leaved plant with the general effect of *Primula denticulata*, because the 13 flowers are on short pedicels and form a ball-shaped umbel.

The individual flowers have narrow, deeply notched petals, giving a starry effect that is intensified by the white central star on the front

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Notes from the Editor

NEW PRESIDENT

John Kerridge, new APS president was featured in the local newspaper, the *Vancouver Sun* in a March 27 article in the gardening section.

Photographs of John and the gold-laced polyanthus garden plants he has developed set off an article about his hybridizing program. Included are tips by John on growing primroses in Vancouver. Plants he has raised from Barnhaven seed are mentioned and the addresses of John's own seed company, Saltspring Primroses, 2426 W. 47 Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2N2 and of Barnhaven, Langerhouad, 22420 Plouzelambre, France are included in the article.

POWER OF THE PRESS

APS also made the New York Times. In the May 9 Sunday issue columnist Anne Raver featured the garden of Sydney Eddison of Newtown, Conn. where she grows, among other things, a number of primroses. Anne was kind enough to include a contact address for the American Primrose Society. Former treasurer Jay Lunn forwarded the first batch of 65 letters to the recently appointed corresponding secretary Thea Foster. I believe Thea has received about another 30. Wow, hope we get some new members from all this mail.

APS IN THE MAGAZINES

Anne Lovejoy, gardener extraordinaire and garden writer on Bainbridge Island had an article on primroses in *Horticulture*, the May issue. Ann's article surveys a full range of primula from among the 500 species, with useful cultural information on many. Suggestions for placement in the garden, and complementary plants are set off by attractive illustrations by Steve Schindler. An excellent overview for both the novice and experienced gardener – find it and read it.

Another fine article was Ruth Duthie's on gold-laced polyanthus in *Country Life*, March 18, 1993, called "Polyanthus and Old Lace." Sadly, this was printed after Ruth Duthie had passed away earlier this spring, but it is certainly up to her usual standard. The two pages contains, as well as a succinct history of the development of this decorative polyanthus, photographs of the GLP in an eighteenth century water-color and as part of an English porcelain decoration from about 1830.

A NEW BOOK

There's a new book on primula: *Primula* by John Richards. I received the pre-publication notice from the publisher: B.T.Batsford Ltd., 4 Fitzhardinge St., London W1H 0AH.

The author is senior lecturer at the Dept. of Agricultural and Environmental Science, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. The book "fully describes all 425 species of primula" and "represents a modern revision of this important genus, the first which has appeared since Smith & Fletcher's classic scientific monograph of fifty years ago." It's available from June 1993 and costs 35 pounds sterling.

THE REGISTER OF JULIANAS

The national show was in Tacoma this year, so I took the opportunity to visit Dorothy Springer and admire her collection of *Primula x Julianana* gathered for her own interest and in her effort to begin the register of Julianas.

What a variety! Dorothy has "Skyhook Candy Pink," which came from Alice Hills Baylor and looks like a pink "Dorothy," "Irish Gem," which is very small; "Ida," which is even smaller, and about 50 others — varieties, not just plants. There's a wealth of information there. I've always had a soft spot for the Julianas. If you have any that you think Dorothy might not have or that should be included in the inventory, write her at 7213 South 15th, Tacoma, WA 98465.

Photo by M. Martin



Izetta Renton and part of her hosta collection in her garden near Snoqualmie, WA

DOUBLE PRIMROSES AND HOSTAS

Do you remember Izetta Renton's reminiscences in the 50th Anniversary issue? She's been growing rhododendrons and primroses and, as it turns out, hostas for years. I stopped in to visit her in early May and found some double primroses still there among the myriad hostas. What a display! Izetta is working on her own crosses of the doubles.

Izetta is over 90 but you'd never guess from the state of her garden. There are woodland paths and rockeries scattered among the tall firs and huge rhododendrons, some of which have been there for nearly 20 years. When she had the rhododendron nursery in the 1940s and 1950s, she traded plants with nurseries in Japan. Somewhere there are still a few *P. sieboldii*, but they were over when I was there. Maybe next year.

NEWS FROM THE SLIDE LIBRARIAN

John O'Brien of Juneau, Alaska, is putting together slide programs available this fall, one of which is about wild Alaska primula. With the help of Mrs. Hichel, he obtained from her mother, Aline Strutz of Anchorage, who is now 93, several slides of primroses at Nome, Platinum and Valdez. Expect more news on these programs in the next quarterly.

WILD ENGLISH PRIMROSES

June Skidmore has sent a post card to say she received some seed of *Primula vulgaris*, the wild English primrose. Seed of these are sometimes hard to come by. I know it won't be seed-sowing time when you read this, but you might want to order them and have them in your refrigerator ready for planting in December this year.

June is agent for Field House Alpines. Write to her at 6730 W. Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040

VISITOR FROM ALASKA

Marie Skonberg, new Seed Exchange Coordinator, was down for a visit to the Seattle-Tacoma area. She managed to catch the Eastside Chapter meeting and the American Rock Garden Society local chapter meeting in between trips to the nurseries. Thea Oakley, with whom she stayed, took her around to visit Rick Lupp at Mt. Tahoma Nursery and June Skidmore of Field House Alpines.

I'm sure there is lots of support in the Pacific Northwest for Marie as she begins the task of preparing the seed exchange list for next year. Good luck, Marie.

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In Memorium – Ove Leth-Møller

Dansk Primula Klub has lost its chairman, and many members have lost a near and personal friend. Ove Leth-Møller died on January 15, 1993 after a long illness.

Ove was a very stimulating and hard-working chairman with close connections to primula friends throughout the world from Japan to the United States, including Alaska. He was one of those who took the initiative to establish the Dansk Primula Klub in 1981.

His great enthusiasm for green plants dated from his childhood, as his parents were owners of a large nursery near Arhus. In spite of his interest he became a mechanical engineer at the Danish Technical University. He started his professional career years before he actually obtained his degree. He taught younger students technical drawing and I, myself, remember him as a very gifted teacher who could inspire the whole class.

Ove shared generously with friends both his extensive knowledge concerning primulas and the plants themselves of which he produced a large number from seed every year.

Ove's death leaves us with a very great void, first of all in his family to which he was very dedicated, but also in the Dansk Primula Klub. He will be missed by all his friends throughout the world. I feel that everyone who had connections with Ove will say they are happy to have known him.

J. Vagn Jensen, Contact for the Dansk Primula Klub
Daumarksvej 43B
2800 Lyngby
Denmark 42880550

Notes from the Editor

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ARTICLES IN THE JOURNALS

There's a primula on the cover of the Alpine Garden Society quarterly bulletin, March 1993: *Primula hirsuta* in its native habitat in the Pyrenees. The photo was taken by Christopher Grey-Wilson, the editor.

Also in this issue are two fine photographs of primula in the article "Some interesting plants at the show, 1991-92": *Primula reinii* var. *kitadakensis* and *P. clarkei*.

And there's another article about primula, this time *P. boveana* in the Sphondylia section. This species is chiefly found in "regions of desert or semi-desert in western Asia" and the author, Hussein Al Wadi, went off to Mt. Sinai in Egypt in the course of his study of this primula. Interesting account of his findings. Try to find a copy of this issue to read. ♦

Primula legionensis . . .

A Note from Cy Happy

A rare Vernales primula may be lost forever when the Esla Gorge near Riano in northern Spain is dammed and flooded. Construction of the dam is scheduled for completion in 1994.

The plant was collected in fruit on July 7, 1927, by Wilmott. A dried specimen was placed in the herbarium of the British Museum with the following statement by Wilmott: "A single specimen collected in fruit near Riano (prov. Leon) has peculiar cordate-ovate leaves about as long as the narrow almost unwinged petiole. They are quite unlike those of any specimen of *Primula veris* or *P. elatior* I have ever seen and resembling in a general way the summer leaves

of an acaulescent viola. Except at the apex they are only very slightly tomentose below, so it cannot be identified with *P. sauvoleens*. The capsule is included in the inflated calyx, so it is either an aberrant form of *P. veris* or a new species."

It is a quick trip from the south of England to Santander in northern Spain — plus 100 miles local transportation. See the APS quarterly Fall 1977 for more information and a photo of the herbarium specimen. It has been dubbed *Primula legionensis*. To me the plant appears close to *P. megaseaefolia*. ♦

Marguerita Mia

continued from page 17

large plant. These are kept where they are under my eye and are my insurance stock in the event that disaster strikes the ones bedded out. The other well-known insurance scheme is to share divisions with friends.

As a brief footnote: when I think back to 1978, I sometimes wonder if it wasn't Kris Fenderson's artist's eye that led him to gather seed from a superior plant when collecting for the APS seed exchange. "Marguerita" and I bless him for it. ♦

Sakurasoh Inventory Update

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of the pink flowers. Pin eyed, with the stigma level with the petals, or a tiny bit above.

Flower diameter: 3.5 cm

Flower stem height, including flowers:

25.5 cm

Leaf length: 6.75 cm

Leaf width: 5 cm

I'm going to cross this with 4-36a to intensify the color, as they both have the white central star. It will be interesting to see what happens to the petal shape.

Report by Diane Whitehead, Victoria, B.C. ♦

APS Quarterly Needs Help!

- Writers ■ Public Relations Coordinator
- Regional Reporters - see page 23

Board of Director's Meeting

April 3, 1993 at the Community Room of Lakewood Mall, Tacoma, Washington

Present: Cy Happy, John Kerridge, Addaline Robinson, Herb Dickson, Etha Tate, Thelma Genheimer, Candy Strickland, Rosetta Jones, Allen Jones, Dorothy Springer, Thea Oakley, Flip Fenili, Maedythe Martin and Barbara Flynn.

Cy Happy brought the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The minutes were read and two corrections were made. First: Milwaukee is spelled Milwaukie. Second: The Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society Show is April 23 and 24 in Victoria, BC.

Treasurer's Report: Addaline Robinson presented the treasurer's report, which showed income for the year of \$17,972.65 and expenses of \$10,441.28, with a current balance of \$13,379.96. Addaline reported a discrepancy with overseas checks due to the fluctuating rates of exchange. It was suggested that "twinning" (exchanging memberships) might be one solution to this problem. (See notice on p. 36.)

The Quarterly: The January issue went out at the end of February. The April issue will be out at the end of April. There was general discussion on costs for further color editions.

Election of Officers: We received 18 ballot returns this year. Addaline Robinson proposed and Dorothy Springer seconded a motion that the nominating committee should have two members for each position on the ballot forms with a space for write-ins. The motion was passed.

Judges Training: Rosetta Jones noted that we need new judges as many of our judges are now unable to travel.

Seed Exchange: Candy Strickland is still getting orders. She reported that she did not receive the seed of polyanthus and juliies until quite late. There is very little seed left from year to year.

Dorothy Dickson Award: Herb Dickson will present this award at the banquet and general meeting to be held tonight. Herb also brought up the fact that the society will be 60 years old in 2002 and suggested that we might have a celebration similar to the 1992 symposium. This will be voted on later.

Chapter Reports: Etha Tate reported that show preparations were progressing well. Thelma Genheimer reported that the Oregon Chapter's show also was progressing well. There is also a plant show at the Zoo, and Valley High

Chapter will take plants and have a booth at the show. Tacoma Chapter is happy to be hosting the national show and also has a booth at the Puyallup Spring Fair on April 15-18. Eastside Chapter will have a show April 15-16. Washington State Chapter will have a show April 10 and 11 at Southcenter Pavilion Mall.

It was proposed by Thea Oakley and seconded by Candy Strickland that the American Primrose Society accepts the request of the Oregon Chapter and the Milwaukie Chapter to jointly host the National Primrose Show in 1994. Passed.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show: Thea reported that all pamphlets were passed out and we received a number of new members from our participation in this show.

Slide Program: The material for the slide and film programs has gone to John O'Brien in Alaska. His group is putting together a new program on native Alaskan primulas which we are all looking forward to seeing.

New Business: Dorothy Springer is working on a registry of julie primroses. She would like a list of the julies everyone grows (both pin-eyed and thrum), and Barbara Flynn suggested an issue of the bulletin in color devoted to julies at some time in the future.

Thea Oakley reported on a source for primulas. Valley Brook Nursery in the Fraser Valley, B.C. has available micro-propagated doubles which originated in England. Thea will keep in touch with this nursery. Greg Becker also suggested that we might micro-propagate auriculas, and John Kerridge will look into the financial feasibility of this.

Greg Becker proposed that we look into having a central library for the loan of books. It was pointed out that all chapters have individual libraries. Van Dusen Botanic Garden has some of our books.

John Kerridge reported that there is a possibility that we could set up a group visit to botanic gardens in Beijing and Shanghai. There will be more information on this later.

The next board meeting will be held in conjunction with our annual picnic at Herb Dickson's on July 10, 1993. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Flynn, Secretary ♦

Annual General Meeting

April 3, 1993

The meeting was called to order by outgoing president Cy Happy. Addaline Robinson gave the Treasurer's Report. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting can be found in the 1992 Spring issue of the quarterly bulletin.

The new by-laws distributed to all APS members with the winter 1992 issue of *Primroses* were adopted on a motion proposed by Thea Oakley and seconded by Allen Jones.

The slate of officers for 1993/1994 presented by the nominating committee was accepted. These officers are:

President: John Kerridge
Vice President: Cy Happy
Treasurer: Addaline Robinson
Recording and Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Flynn
Directors 1996: Larry Bailey and Flip Fenili

The winners of awards at the national show were announced. Special congratulations were extended to newcomer Dan Pederson for winning the Best Plant in Show award.

Herb Dickson presented the Dorothy Dickson award to the team of Ann and Jay Lunn for their years of dedication and service to the APS. It was an emotional moment when Herb announced this would likely be the last annual general meeting he would attend as he plans to move to Missouri to be near his daughters.

President-elect John Kerridge reported on recommendations from members of the board to the next nominating committee:

1. There should be more than one nominee for each executive position if possible.
2. There should be a line for write-in candidates on the ballot.
3. There is no need for a signature line on the ballot: it is a secret ballot process.
4. In order to improve the number of returned ballots, the Board recommends return postage-paid envelopes be sent out with the ballots each year. This is important as future election of officers under the new constitution will be by mail ballot.

Recognition of the guests of honor, Lyle and Darlene Heller, was made by Candy Strickland, president of the Tacoma Chapter, the host of the national show this year.

A motion for adjournment was made by Dennis Oakley, seconded by Larry Bailey. A brief announcement by incoming President John Kerridge provided information on some of his goals for the coming year:

- ◆ micro-propagation of primroses and auriculas sponsored by APS. This topic is of keen interest to John and also suggested by Greg Becker.
- ◆ proposed tour of China by APS members.
- ◆ President's trips to chapters in all areas including those outside the Pacific Northwest.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Flynn, Secretary ♦

Membership Twinning with the National Auricula and Primula Society

Would you like a trans-Atlantic correspondent who would pay your National Auricula and Primula Society (Northern Section) (NAPS, Northern) subscription in return for your paying their American Primula Society (APS) subscription? In the past, several members have formed friendships under such an arrangement. One springing to mind was Frank Jacques and the late John Zanini in California.

If you are interested, write to the "Twinning" Coordinator for the American Primrose Society:

Dennis Oakley
10060 Dennis Place
Richmond, B.C.
Canada V7A 3G8

In England, Contact: Hon. Editor, R. Taylor
8 Larkfield Terrace
Thwaites Brow, Keighley
West Yorkshire, U.K. BD21 4SX

Enclose brief details of your primula interest. One of the original reasons for this arrangement was the problem of sending dollar checks to North America. However, the APS now accepts sterling checks at the equivalent current subscription plus 5% handling charge. For U.S. primula growers who want to belong to NAPS (Northern) there is still the formidable charge for a money order in sterling.

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Director, Dr. Linda McMahan
The Berry Botanic Garden
11505 SW Summerville Ave., Portland OR 97219

Congratulations Thea Foster

Thea Foster has been appointed recording secretary to help answer letters from APS members and others interested in primroses. Contact her at: 779 E 21st Street
North Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V7JIN7



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	Flip Fenili, 7102 Citrine Lane SW, Tacoma, WA 98498
1995	Karen Schellinger, 31335 Kalla Lake Rd., Avon, MN 97068
	Francis Cabot, R.R. No. 2, Box 371, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516
1994	Rosetta Jones, E 170 Dunoon Pl., Shelton, WA 98584
	Dorothy Springer, 7213 South 15th, Tacoma, WA 98465

EDITOR

Maedythe Martin, 951 Joan Crescent,
Victoria, B.C. Canada V8S 3L3

life membership. Submit payment to the treasurer. Membership renewals are due November 15 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.

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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 1); \$40 for three years; or \$200 for an individual

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.

