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ON THE COVER
Old-fashioned primroses once again, appear to be special interest to primrose growers. The cover shows some of the old-fashioned flower forms recreated by Peter Atkinson in his hybridizing program. The large background photo is a Feather or Shag with long narrow calyx separations carrying the flower color, and the inset photo is a Hose-in-Hose of fine, upright form. Jacqueline Giles describes her success growing traditional or old-fashioned primroses in an article in this issue.

A SPECIAL THANKS
Thank you to Cy and Rita Happy for all their help with the quarterly.

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A Message from the President

In this the first quarterly of the new year, I would like to thank our editor, Maedythe Martin, for the fine job done on the Fall 1993 issue. We, in the society, owe a great deal to our editor for such an excellent publication. Both the content and the color presentation in the last issue were outstanding.

The quarterly bulletin is a real credit to our society, thanks to the many contributors. The fall issue was very attractive with the superb photographs and fascinating article by Paul Held, APS member from Connecticut. Let's see more of this high caliber of publication.

The society has many requests for color photographs in every issue. This would be great — after all, primula deserve to be shown in color all the time — but the expense is considerable. Each issue with a color cover and inside color photographs cost an extra $1,500, over and above normal printing costs. At this rate, our bank balance would soon deteriorate. However, we can afford to have a color issue every year, maybe more often.

The society executive pays attention to all your letters requesting information on growing primula, on sources of plants and seeds, for book lists. Thea Foster, corresponding secretary, if you are interested and would like the APS to sponsor the trip.

Spring shows are upon us — the joyous results of years of preparation and care. Do participate, lend a hand, and enjoy.

To a successful year.

John Kerridge, President

Color Issue
Still Available!

50th Anniversary Issue

Eight Pages of Excellent Color Photos
Order from the Treasurer
Addaline Robinson
9705 SW Spring Crest Dr.
Portland, Oregon 97225
Board of Director’s Meeting
Held October 9, 1993 at Chehalis, Washington

This is a summary of the board meeting.

Corrections to the minutes: membership and the financial year in APS run from January to December. Board membership is from April to April.

The treasurer was unable to attend and no report was given. The editor sent a report on the next issue, which will contain color photographs. There will be an additional $1,500 cost for printing and photograph reproduction to the cost of a regular black and white issue.

The Judging Committee reported that there will be judges training in the spring. Herb Dickson hold a show April 16-17, 1994. Eastside will not hold a show April 9-10. The Vancouver group reports good attendance at its meetings held every two months.

Thea Oakley was appointed librarian for the society. She brought some books on primulas to demonstrate what can be made available to members.

Fred Knapp of New York State has accepted the position of director of the society.

Micro-propagation was again discussed. The society has agreed to proceed with the propagation of one named auricula. This will be a trial effort, and plants will be available to members only.

Dorothy Springer has received very few responses to her request for plant descriptions of P. x 'Juliana' to be included in the register. She once again sends a plea for the cooperation of all members.

Further suggestion on an APS video include: Herb Dickson on primrose culture from seed, Bedil Leamy on root cutting, Cy Happy on division of plants.

Chapters reported. Washington State Chapter will hold a show April 16-17, 1994. Eastside will not have a show, but will hold a plant sale, date to be announced. The National Show will be held April 9-10 at the Beaverton Mall. The Vancouver Chapter will hold a show April 9-10. The Vancouver group reports good attendance at its meetings held every two months.

Marie Skonberg, Seed Exchange coordinator from Alaska, attended the board meeting and reported that seed is being donated. Barnhaven has been very generous. Marie is seeking new sources of seed and would appreciate any information from the APS membership.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN PRIMULAS
by Fred Knapp

This past summer the New England Wild Flower Society offered a plant exploration trip to Czechoslovakia, led by Paul Martin Brown. As outlying members (New York) we had already been on several good trips with Paul under NEWFS auspices, and thought this would be a marvelous opportunity (probably our only lifetime chance) to see the area with knowledgeable guidance and with administrative problems solved by other hands. This was our first trip to mainland Europe, so we had no idea what to expect of the flora and still do not know to what degree its fantastic bounty is unique to the area or typical of other European areas of similar climate and topography.

Czecho-Slovakia is now an anachronistic term; the area has been split approximately 60-40 into the western Czech Republic and eastern Slovakia or Slovak Republic. It is several years since Communism gave up its grip on the area. Border crossings — Austrian or inter-republic — are non-events similar to U.S./Canada, or even easier. We are not into travelog nor social comment in this article but can say that there were many surprises, many problems now paltry in retrospect, and many plants — none paltry. There were even a few primulas!

The trip dates, June 25 to August 14, 1993, preluded primulas in bloom in the areas we visited. Despite this, Primula elatior was a dominant influence in nearly every site. In any grassy meadow or field and most woodlands, at all altitudes other than alpine — everywhere P. elatior leaves were a large part of the herbaceous understory. Sometimes one wished for a machete to cut back the pesky Dactylorrhizas and Gymnandrias to find the primulas (minor exaggeration).

Further reading included: Dorothy Springer and Thelma Genheimer on root cutting, Cy Happy on division of plants, and Avril Delacy on propagation. The roofs of Prague greet the traveler to Czechoslovakia.

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It made me jealous to stand, in July, in the midst of unaccustomed color and variety, and then to realize that this was no mere summer phenomenon but a second wave following an earlier great profusion of primulas. The reaction was even stronger than that, however, for there was usually an equal part of Colchicum autumnale foliage — the third wave of bloom for autumn.

One of our standard reactions to plant tours of different parts of the U.S. is, “Maybe we should retire to this area?” It’s easy to put Czechoslovakia on the list. The identity of these plants — I had expected P. veris to be more common in such profusion, primarily on the grounds of familiarity — was uniformly assigned by each of our several Czech botanists in various parts of the trip.

Primula farinosa is a great favorite among U.S. primula seed growers, along with P. froomova, its close cousin. For those who, like me, are not experienced in Latin, Primula farinosa is the story of the baby’s hands; P. froomova is the story of the baby’s father.
Chechoslovakian Primulas continued

sure of the difference nor the valid results of purchased seed, there is a great color plate in John Richards’ new book Primula. We saw P. farinosa in only one spot, a sunny sub-montane wet meadow. Here grassy or, I suppose, more properly sedgey, tussocks of sphagnum made a glistening net of waterways just big enough to soak an unwary foot poked through the mask of foliage. Nearly every tussock had its rosette of P. farinosa perched on sphagnum. Some companion plants (to fill out the impression of the area) were Eriophorum latifolium, Pinguicula vulgaris, Equisetum palustre, Caltha palustris, Pedicularis palustris, and Dactylorhiza majilis. Our friends P. elatior and C. autumnale were still around on the larger dryer tussocks.

The Carpathian Mountains form a huge irregular arc of about 900 miles and almost 270 degrees, stretching northeast from Bratislava along the approximate Czech/Slovak border, thence to the east along the Slovak/Polish border, and then making a great sweep south and west through the middle of Rumania to plant their foot on the banks of the Danube at the Rumania/Yugoslavia border. Halfway across the Slovak Republic is the area called the High Tatras, long a target for alpine plantmen, skiers and hikers.

The region is primarily granitic, contains the highest peaks in the Carpathians and is set out a bit to the south of the main run of the range. It is only 16 miles wide. The highest peak, at 2,655 meters, is Gerlachovsky Stit, variously called Gerlack, Stalin Peak or Franz Joseph Spitzpe depending on the fortunes of empire.

I make that 8,711 feet, but it is elsewhere listed at 8,735 and/or 8,737 feet. The Tatras are not inaccessible, but neither are they akin to the Beartooth Pass or Rocky Mountain National Park. One does not drive to the top.

With 15 people of mixed vigor and limited time our leaders chose Lomnicky Stit, a mere 2,632 meters but furnished with gondola and chair lifts. We left our bus at the gondola base about 900 meters, took the gondola to a small lake, with hiking trails, at 1,751 meters. From there, six or seven of us took the chair lift to 2,190 meters or 7,185 feet.

For us two this would have been exciting by itself as the gondola ride was steep, and the chair lift our very first encounter with such! There is a gondola to the tippy top, but our botanist had sneered that there were no plants there — I thought him a prejudiced and tasteless lowlander until I later read some promo material which admitted that “purists” dislike the concrete steps and railings which prevent people form jostling each other over the side. Always believe your local botanist! I’m glad we did!

Around the chair lift terminus were such typical alpines as Silene acaulis, Salix sp., Pulsatilla alba, Chrysanthemum alpinum, Soldanelia carpatica or perhaps S. hungarica (didn’t check), and Sedum acre. Finally, our least experienced member found the toothy little fans of Primula minima. That certainly made the day. Having taken a fix on P. minima, we found plenty more around the chair lift, we missed nothing by not seeking the view from the very top.

Due south of the High Tatras, halfway to the southern border of Slovakia, is a central area, the Muranska Planina or Muran Plains, of irregular terrain, karsty, with limestone cliffs and outlooks from 900 to 1,400 meters. It is a protected land reserve with restrictions on use and access. Here lives Daphne arbuscula, an endemic. All its other homes are artificial. Many outlooks are in the neighborhood of 1,200 - 1,300 meters, and we were shown D. arbuscula on east-facing cliffs in such an area. Nearby was a familiar friend, P. auricula, with other alpine/sub-alpines such as Dryas octopetala and Draba aizoon and even Gentiana clusii. Another good day! We also saw P. auricula on roadside cliffs at lesser altitudes in the general area.

The original intent of this article was merely to report that we saw four species of primulas in Czechoslovakia. If you want to understand why it took so long to get it reported, take a trip over there yourself and see if you don’t come back with the same problem! •

At the foot of the Tatras lies the 13th century walled town Levoca.
Plant Portrait

**PRIMULA SECUNDIFLORA**

Purple, reddish purple, crimson, deep rose, red, plum, wine. These terms have all been used to describe the color of *Primula secundiflora*. The color is difficult to define, but the understated elegance of the plant in a shady garden is obvious.

*Primula secundiflora* was discovered by Delavayi in 1884 in Yunnan. The first plants in cultivation bloomed in Veitch’s nursery in 1905 from a Wilson collection in 1904. It was given the Award of Merit in the same year.

Most authorities place *P. secundiflora* in the Sikkimensis section. In his recent book John Richards chooses to align it with the Proliferae group, stating that the only natural hybrid known is with *P. poissonii*. No garden

*Primula secundiflora* is one of those plants in a shady garden that a visitor might not notice immediately. It doesn’t signal its presence like *P. florindae* and *P. sikkimensis* with their shining yellow flowers. The visitor will, however, take a second and third look at this quality plant. As to the color, the best description was written by Reginald Farrer in *The English Rock Garden*: “their colour is such that they just miss the absolutely frightful and in the missing achieve with precision the absolutely beautiful.”

**PRIMULA VIALII**

During an initial surge of interest in the genus *Primula* I tried a score or more species, including *P. vialii* — it and more — without much permanence.

As I recall, I first purchased two or three plants of *P. vialii* from a mail order source. The plants survived the summer without blooming and vanished over winter. Next I raised some plants from seed. One or two flowered before dissolving in the late summer heat. Perhaps it had been an excessively wet (or dry) summer. We have both kinds in northeastern Ohio. I forget which; this was 12 to 15 years ago.

Late spring last year, 1992, in the course of browsing the left-overs on the next to last day of Bluestone Perennials’ week-long end-of-shipping season clearance sale I picked up a four-cell tray of tiny primrose seedlings labelled simply “Orchid.” I presumed these to be *P. x Juliana*. The largest of the more than dozen seedlings had leaves no more than one half inch long.

I had earlier prepared a bed in anticipation of the little plants I would be bringing home from the sale. This is in an area which tends to stay damp even during the driest summers, yet has adequate drainage and shade until past midday. About six inches of very sandy topsoil was laid over rough-spaded heavy clay-loam. I decided to plant the tiny seedlings directly into the bed rather than into a flat and risk neglect. It was, after all, a mere one dollar investment.

The *Primula japonica* bed nearby came into flower, and other damp-loving primulas thrived after blooming and went into a second winter looking as healthy as anything around.***

**Photo and story by Gordon Emerson**

Nor was I suspicious at first this spring. Only when flowers failed to appear as ‘Wanda’ and her relatives came on did I pay closer attention, noting, for example, the more upright hold of the leaves. All had wintered through despite light or no snow cover through December and January and were growing strongly.

The *Primula japonica* bed nearly came into flower, and other damp-loving primulas bloomed. And then one day while weeding — ah ha! they’re going to bloom after all! The first scape was a foot high before I tumbled — *P. vialii*! By then 11 other scapes had begun to rise — all but three plants flowering. A leisurely-produced, several weeks-long display startled visitors into many “those are primulas!!!” comments. The plants continued to thrive after blooming and go into a second winter looking as healthy as anything around.●
**Beginner's Corner**

For the first time I am able to include a feature column for the novice primrose grower. I hope you will find answers to your questions on how to start seeds and grow primroses. I'm counting on your questions to form the basis of the column. So, send in all your questions and watch for a response here.

**Help!**

September 14, 1993

Dear Editor,

As a Primrose reader, I’m writing in response to your — Help!

I’m a novice at primrose growing and would love to see a "beginner’s corner" in your quarterly. My collection of plants is small, with only four varieties, which I’ve bought through mail order, and have grown from seed.

There seems very little interest in Central Illinois in the culture of primulas, and our local nurseries only stock *P. denticulata*. I shall have to try to change this by inviting our garden club to view my collection next spring and asking the nurseries to stock more varieties of primrose.

My questions are — How and when does one collect seed? Would shredded pine needles discourage the onslaught of slugs and save my plants from becoming tattered remnants? What variety are the primulas that are sold in mid-winter at the supermarket? These brilliant variety are the primulas that are sold in mid-March, and have grown from seed.

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My questions are — How and when does one collect seed? Would shredded pine needles discourage the onslaught of slugs and save my plants from becoming tattered remnants? What variety are the primulas that are sold in mid-winter at the supermarket? These brilliant splashes of color have brightened many a cold day, and I have planted them in the garden is spring and watched them flourish.

Thank you for all the enjoyment you have given me through your publication.

Frances Stagg
Peoria, Illinois

P.S. How about a primrose hot-line?

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**Corrections and Apologies**

Don Keefe in his "Primrose Notes" in the summer, 1993 issue referred to the "late" Ralph Benedict. Don subsequently received a letter from Dr. Ralph H. Benedict protesting his untimely demise! The American Primrose Society wishes to apologize to Dr. Benedict for the error — Don Keefe was mortified — and hopes he will continue to receive and read the quarterly for many years to come.

The photo of the auricula theatre at the Chelsea flower show in the summer 1993 issue of the bulletin is not that of Brenda Hyatt’s, as reported, but Cravens’. Sorry for the error.

**Board of Director’s Meeting**

continued from page 4

Rosetta Jones on pollinating and June Skidmore on troughs. There will be further discussion.

Information on a proposed trip to botanical gardens in China was introduced by President John Kerridge. Those interested should contact him. June Skidmore may be able to arrange a "primula" expedition to the United Kingdom. More information will be available on this, or contact June Skidmore.

The nominating committee will be chaired by Thelma Genheimer. June Skidmore agreed to be on the committee.

The next meeting will be January 29, 1994.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Flynn,
Recording Secretary

**Beginner's Corner**

Reply from board member Fred Knapp:

October 12, 1993

Dear Ms. Stagg,

Your letter of September 14 has been forwarded to me by Maedythe Martin. I am a new Eastern member of the APS board and a long time confirmed novice at primrose growing.

I am surprised that your local nurseries only stock *P. denticulata* and would love to know what makes it the easiest primula in your area or the most economically useful. Please ask your nurseryman some time and drop me a line if the answer makes any sense. I grow it only poorly here, for reasons yet unknown.

Your questions:
How you collect seed? I’m not sure where your question begins and ends. If fertilized, the seed capsules will be pretty obvious. Many, if not most primulas are not self-fertile. Read some of your books about pin-eyed vs. thrum-eyed forms for mechanical reasons which are part of the story. I suspect that your plants are not setting seed, which is fairly common.

If you have several clones (rather than divisions of the same plant) the task is easier. Disassemble a few flowers, pin and thrum, to identify the location of things, then fertilize them yourself. Use a fine brush, toothpick, or pin. Look to see that you actually have picked up pollen to transfer, and persevere. It may take several attempts before you and the plants can agree on timing/technique. Once you get capsules, let them turn tan to brown before harvesting them. Watch them carefully as fall approaches; even let a few open on their own just to record the timing. Good luck.

Slugs? I do not believe pine needles are rough/sharp enough to discourage them.
Primrose Readers – Help! Update

NEW CONTRIBUTORS, NEW FEATURE COLUMNS
The Winter 1994 issue includes a new feature column, “Beginner’s Corner” thanks to letters from new growers. If you don’t see your question answered here, please send it in. The column depends on questions from new growers just starting with primroses.

The Mailbox column has letters from first-time contributors from Montana and Calgary, among others. Thanks for sending your comments. All you other readers – send your contribution so we can learn what primulas grow well in your area. Keep the letters coming!

GARDENING SOCIETY LIAISON
Is someone willing to help with contacting other societies and exchanging ads? This would put APS in touch with other associations so we could learn about their events and exchange information.

ADVERTISING MANAGER
An advertising manager to encourage new advertisers for Primroses is also needed — desperately! Advertisers are sources of seed for members.

Here are two jobs waiting for someone to help out. Hope to hear from you soon.

The consensus seems to be — have issues with color photographs as often as the society can afford it! So there will be another color issue this year. Thanks for all the compliments for the fall 1993 issue. Paul Held’s P. sieboldii photographs were indeed splendid!

Beginner’s Corner
continued from page 11

Mid-winter supermarket plants? Sold here also, December through spring in successive waves. They are polyanthus and acaulis hybrids, generally incestuously overbred for flower size and color, which often do not turn out to be good doers in the garden — their genes are too focused on their narrow objective. I, too, plant them out and find one here and there which retains garden capability.

In the last decade they have been somewhat refreshed by the introduction of P. juliae blood. Not all the results are hardy, but I look for smaller leaves and flowers as an indicator of possible garden success. The original species stock for these plants was combinations of P. veris, P. vulgaris, and P. elatior.

I am glad to hear that the APS lives in Illinois. Too often the major plant societies seem to be based on the two coasts, while the center of the country seems forgotten. How many other APS members do you know in Illinois or the Great Lakes area? I see that even the American Rock Garden Society, larger than APS and probably the group next most interested in primulas, has only one member listed in Peoria.

I hope these comments will be of some help to you. Good luck with your next growing season.

Fred Knapp
Locust Valley, New York

My Barnhaven Elizabethan Primroses
by Jacqueline Giles

Primroses are one of our oldest and most beloved flowers. When in Elizabethan times the knot garden became very popular in both manor house and cottage gardens, the neat size of the primrose fit the design perfectly. It was at this time that the different forms of the primrose were noticed and named.

In his Herbal, written at the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century, John Gerard describes Hose-in-Hose and Jack-in-the-Green. These were widely planted during the 16th century; I can imagine the arrangement of leaves behind the blooms appealing to the Tudors. An interesting form of the Jack-in-the-Green is Jackanapes. This is the “Franticke” or foolish primrose described by Parkinson in his Paradisus of 1629. The green calyx is striped with the same color as the flower.

Barnhaven played a large part in the conservation of the Elizabethan primroses. In the late 1940s a Captain Hawkes from Cheshire sent Florence Bellis some seed of the Jack-in-the-Green, and Hose-in-Hose from plants in his garden. Florence was intrigued and worked a few of them onto her Barnhavens. The colors improved and she carried on in a small way, as they had limited appeal in the 1950s and 1960s. “Strictly for the nuts,” she said.

In about 1972 Jared Sinclair, who was by now carrying on the good work of Barnhaven, noticed an interest in conservation was beginning to be fashionable. He began by crossing the Hose-in-Hose with the Jack-in-the-Greens and vice versa, and as he put it, “all the weirdos began to appear eventually.” We are indebted to Mr. Sinclair for all his hard work and dedication. It is thanks to him that these lovely antique plants are back in circulation.

In 1988 I sent for my first Barnhaven catalog. I was intrigued by the section “Elizabethan

Drifts of old-fashioned primroses and polyanthus in Jacqueline Giles’ garden.
Barnhaven Elizabethan Primroses continued

Primroses" written by Mr. Sinclair. "Called anomalous primroses by the sages, many of these curiosities so dear to Tudor hearts are allegedly gone with the dodo but here they are coaxed back to life by way of dogged perseverance and fearful expense," he wrote. From that packet of seed I had every type of Elizabethan oddity that he named.

Two years later I collected and sowed my own seed; flowering time was like Christmas, wondering what was coming next! Two-thirds of my plants were of the antique mode in lots of lovely colors.

It is best to keep all plants for an extra year, as I have found they sometimes change form year to year. Last year I split into six plants a rare Pantaloons. Only three flowered as Pantaloons the following spring; the other three went back to being plain polyanthus. I am hoping they will have a change of heart this year. One of my original Barnhaven plants started off as a Jack-in-the-Green, a lovely soft lemon and apricot color, the next year it became a Jackanapes and last year it sported a double flower.

A very feathery type of Jackanapes has now appeared in my latest batch. I am hoping that it is going to bring me the Feathers or Shags type. It is best to keep all plants for an extra year, as I have found they sometimes change form year to year. Last year I split into six plants a rare Pantaloons. Only three flowered as Pantaloons the following spring; the other three went back to being plain polyanthus. I am hoping they will have a change of heart this year. One of my original Barnhaven plants started off as a Jack-in-the-Green, a lovely soft lemon and apricot color, the next year it became a Jackanapes and last year it sported a double flower.

All types of Elizabethan primroses can be primrose or polyanthus form, but most are polyanthus. The names are also historic curiosities but are worth preserving.

Jack-in-the-Green
Also called Jack-in-the-Pulpit. The name of the leader in some old English dances. Buds like moss roses opening into flower held by a ruff of leaves instead of the normal calyx.

Jackanapes
Possibly takes its name form a striped coat which was fashionable during the 17th century. Like the Jack-in-the-Green but the calyx is striped with the same color as the flower.

Gallygaskins
An old name for wide breeches. The flowers have an abnormally large or distorted or ribbed calyx.

Hose-in-Hose
This is an old name for stockings. A fashionable gentleman in Tudor times would wear two stockings, one inside the other. The outer one having the top turned back. The Hose-in-Hose has two flowers, one held inside the other.

Pantaloons
Striped breeches worn by the Tudors. Hose-in-Hose blossoms with a striped flower at the back.

Jackanapes-on-Horseback
With a bunch of leaves sprouting from the stem beneath the flowers.

It would be lovely if, in these modern Elizabethan times, these charming plants could again enjoy the popularity they deserve.

My garden will be open on 17 April 1994 under the National Gardens Scheme.


Growing Auriculas – My Way

by Dorothy Springer

Although the Vernales are my passion and interest, I have always been intrigued by the Auricula clan.

Years ago, having been put down quite thoroughly on several occasions by the powers of the auricula world in this area, I decided I would quietly develop my own system of growing.

Frankly, I was scared to death of auriculas! Scared to divide, scared to water or not to water. Scared to fertilize or not. Scared to use this soil mix or that. Just plain scared to grow them at all! I really got started when I began successfully growing some of the European species and their hybrids.

Put off by the many recipes for soil mixes I finally sat down one day and listed the requirements for growing auriculas. Good drainage: that meant sand or grit. Moisture-retaining: add some peat moss or leaf mould. Loam: all the recipes called for loam. Now where does a city dweller with terrible garden soil find loam? Potting soil will have to do. Since the potting soil already contained peat moss and pumice I cut down on the amounts of peat and grit. Add a little superphosphate and some steamed bone meal, toss in a little crushed charcoal to keep the soil sweet, store for about three months to age and then start potting.

I've also found that a standard potting soil of good grade with the addition of a little more pumice or grit will work just as well without all the fuss of mixing and storing.

To pot o repot I just center the plant in a clean plastic pot of the correct size for the plant, fill in around the roots with soil, firm the soil and top off with a thin layer of grit, pumice or aquarium gravel to keep down the moss and liverwort that seem to love my plants.

A yellow border auricula, originally grown by Earl Welch, can be brought to perfection using Dorothy Springer's directions.

My other problem is root aphids. This neighborhood abounds in buttercup whose roots are covered with root aphid. I don't know if it is the primula root aphid or whether my auriculas passed the aphid on to the buttercup all up and down the block or if the auriculas acquired it from the buttercup.

To combat this miserable pest, I water in a solution of Orthene as soon as repotting is completed. Then I use it again twice a year, just before spring growth commences and then just before mid-fall. I always add some spreader-sticker to the solution to help cut through the cottony covering of the aphid.

I tried the greenhouse to house the collection. No good. Fuschias, begonias and geraniums being over-wintered in a cold greenhouse do not survive. Auriculas do not want a greenhouse full of those companions and the heat necessary to keep them alive during the winter months.

We have a north-facing deck with a wide overhang on the back of our house. The picnic
Growing Auriculas - My Way continued

table pushed against the house wall and under the overhang provided a fine place to keep the beginnings of the auricula collection. They receive plenty of light and certainly more than

Growing white-edged show auriculas can be intimidating but repay all the effort.

enough good air circulation as the prevailing winds here are from both the north and west. The plants have frozen solid in their pots on many occasions and survived beautifully.

I feed my auriculas in the spring each time they are watered with a diluted 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer and find they are happy on that diet. They are fed this way until late summer. During the winter they are watered just enough to keep them barely damp, usually just two or three times between December and February.

My advice to new auriculas enthusiasts is to read as much as possible, listen to the experts in your area and then come up with your own system using the back-ground information, your knowledge of local growing conditions and your own common good sense. It worked for me!

My problem now is that the auricula collection has long out-grown the deck space, and too many plants on the deck flooring have caused the deck to rot!

SHOW DATES

- Oregon Primrose Society and Valley Hi Chapter: National Show
  - April 9 & 10 - Beaverton Mall
- Tacoma Chapter
  - April 9 & 10 - Lakewood Mall
- Washington State Chapter
  - April 16 & 17 - South Center Pavilion
- Eastside Chapter - Plant sale, no show - Date to be announced

- B.C. Primula Group
  - April 23 & 24 - Southlands Nursery, Vancouver, B.C.
- Alaska Primrose Group
  - May 13 & 14 - Garden Conference and Trade Show, Juneau, Alaska
- Alpine Garden Club of B.C.
  - April 16 & 17 - Pot show, VanDusen Gardens, Vancouver, B.C.
- Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society
  - April 8 & 9 - St. Mary’s Church Hall, Victoria, B.C.

Growing in the Alpine

house and containers

When I think of growing Primula in the alpine house, the first plant that comes to mind is that little gem from the Maritime Alps of France and Italy, Primula allionii. This delightful miniature forms tight mounds of congested rosettes with small, sticky, grey-green foliage.

The plants bloom from late February to early April here at the nursery at Graham. The blooms are very large for the size of the plants — reaching one and a half inches across in some forms and are carried in umbels of two to seven on short stems which rise to just above the foliage. A well grown plant can be a solid dome of color when in bloom. I have had the occasional odd plant produce a light fall bloom as well.

Cultivation of Primula allionii in the alpine house presents no great difficulties. The plant in nature grows in shaded limestone cliffs and crevices; however there is no need to provide limestone if you do not have a convenient source. I find that a mix that contains approximately 50% peat and 50% grit of one kind or another works very well. I generally use an even leaner mix with excellent results.

The plants should never be allowed to dry out when they are in active growth and in bloom and should receive a light dose of fertilizer when growth begins in very early spring or late winter. Many growers insist that the plants can not be top-watered especially in winter; however, I have found that I can top-water on a year-round basis as long as I avoid watering during periods of high humidity and poor air circulation. Molds and fungus are a definite problem with Primula allionii, so use a light hand when watering and pay attention to conditions.

It is important to practice good housekeeping with this plant. Remove all dead and dying foliage before the onset of winter so as to minimize the sites where fungal spores can establish and grow.

The plants can be divided and increased by removing the rooted offsets in late summer or early fall so they have time to establish good roots before the worst of winter hits. Unrooted offsets can also be removed at this time and inserted in sand or grit until they root, a process which generally takes about a month or two. I grow the rooted cuttings on until the following spring before potting into two and a quarter inch pots.

On the rare occasions when I have been fortunate enough to come by seed of Primula allionii, I have had good results when I planted the seed in November. The seed pot was left in a covered but unheated frame until germination took place in April of the following spring. The seedlings were allowed to grow on until early August. Then they were pricked out and planted into two and a quarter inch rose pots to grow on until the following spring, when they were moved to four inch pots.

All of my Primula allionii plants are repotted every year, a practice which results in vigorous, heavy-blooming plants. Fungi aside, the only real pest we have had any problems with

continued on page 18
**News from the Chapters**

**ALASKA**

We had the first of several programs planned, on Saturday November 6, 1993 That program was on auriculas. Attendance was 38 people. We gave out information on books about auriculas and invitations to join the American Primrose Society. Everyone also received a surprise gift from Misty Haffner — a small package of exhibition alpine auricula seeds. Herb Dickson included these extra seeds recently when Misty was placing an order. You can bet that a nice present like that made lots of people happy and made lots of friends for APS.

Our next program will be the premier of our “Wild and Tame Primroses in Alaska” on November 27. We also plan to show the video of Taso Kolso’s talk “Yankeedoodle Dandy” about wild Primroses of North America, given at the APS “Primula Worldwide” symposium.

Our slides of “wild” primroses, although not many in number, include those from southeast Alaska up through the Interior and clean up to the very Arctic Coast between Prudhoe Bay and Point Barrow and out through southwestern Alaska and Prince William Sound, out to the very near end of the Aleutian Islands at Attu. Now that’s coverage, due to the wonderful donors and the APS Slide Library.

Other programs this winter:
- January, third Saturday: Candelabra primroses
- February: Jack-in-the-Green poylanthus
- March, third Saturday: ‘Cowiehan’, Hose-in-Hose
- November program: Primroses in fall and winter.

Other programs, please call Ann Lunn at (503) 604-4582.

**OREGON**

**Oregon Chapter**

Meets every third Friday from September through May at 1:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee Community Club (42nd and Jackson Sts.) in Milwaukee. For more information on meetings and programs, please call Ann Lunn at (503) 604-4582.

**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 p.m. October program: Roy Eaton, owner of a nursery in Duvall, will speak on “How to prepare your garden for winter.”

November program: Primroses in fall and winter.

December program: Christmas party. Bring a garden gift to exchange.

**Seattle Chapter**

Meets four times a year. Contact June Skidmore, President, for information.

The speaker at the October meeting was Steve Dooen on cultivation of *Primula* in the Auricula section.

**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 p.m.

October program: Barry Bailey’s presentation on auriculas, on video, from the “Primula Worldwide” symposium. Note: April Boettger, who

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**Sybil McCulloch**

It was with great sadness that we learned of Sybil McCulloch’s death on September 28, 1993. She was able to provide us with unique historical information on the ‘Cowichan’ primrose’s origins in the Cowichan Valley where her family lived for many years. Always a dedicated and knowledgeable rock and alpine gardener, she had a special affection for primula and her collection always included some gems. She will be particularly missed.

Sybil McCulloch

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**Under the Overhang**

continued from page 17

are root aphids, the bane of the Auriculastron section. I spray my plants every 60 days with a systemic pesticide during the period of the year when the female aphids are active, April to November here in western Washington.

There are a high number of named cultivars of *P. allionii* available in Europe with over a hundred grown in England alone. Many are very similar plants or are selections that are deficient in color or flower form. This is all rather academic to North American growers as very few cultivars are available in the U.S and Canada. The situation is improving as more enthusiasts are trading plants among themselves and the plants are coming into the hands of specialty nurseries for propagation.

Among the cultivars that are available to North American growers I especially like *P. allionii* ‘Edinburgh’ (‘Elliot’s Form’ is the name the plant is circulating under in America) with extra large, violet colored flowers. ‘William Earle’ is a heavy bloomer with large lavender-purple blooms with a small white eye and rather crenate petals. ‘Crowley Var.’ is a smaller flowered form with vibrant orchid-purple flowers with a rather late bloom.

I hope you are inspired to seek out some of these forms and start growing. The bit of extra effort will lead to a great deal of pleasure in the years to come, as this beautiful little jewel of a primula produces its early blooms to melt away the gloom of winter.

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**APS Bookstore**

The Society has a special price on the new Richards’ book, *Primula*, available to members only: $36US plus postage. Send your order directly to Thea Oakley, Librarian.

Older titles that are out of print will be made available if used copies are found. You may want to send a list to Thea with your requests.

Send for a list of all titles presently available.

Thea Oakley

American Primrose Society Librarian

3304 288th Ave. N.E.

Redmond, WA USA 98053

Phone: 206-880-6177

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**Pennsylvania**

**Doretta Klauer Chapter**

This chapter sent out a newsletter January 6, 1994, with the following information:

Seed sowing workshop at Dot Pyle’s, February 5, 1994. Species seeds, as well as Sakata seed ‘Lovely,’ ‘Prominent’ and ‘Pugent’ strains (a generous donation), plus polyanthus ‘Pacific Giant’ strain will all be available.

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**continued on page 34**
Notes from the Editor

PRIMROSES ARE POPULAR
The APS continues to receive letters from interested growers — 20 at a time — due to mention of the society in gardening publications. The December issue of Horticulture included an article, “Auriculas,” by Ann Lovejoy with wonderful pictures of auriculas in Long Torn pots, and sumptuous displays of plants at British shows. Cultural directions for growing show auriculas are included. The first name in the list of sources for auriculas was the APS. Corresponding secretary, Thea Foster, addresses all the envelopes, keeps churning out letters in response to all the inquiries.

The January issue of Horticulture has a piece on growing from seed, and again the APS is mentioned. The society also has calls from a journalist in Baltimore writing an article on primroses for his paper. More letters from would-be growers will follow, no doubt. The society can only benefit from all this new interest and energy from new growers.

FAR NORTH GARDENS
This favorite source of primrose plants has contacted us again. You may want to write for a catalog: Far North Gardens, P.O. Box 126, New Hudson, MI 48165. They have a wide range of lovely primroses and the catalog has been a delight to read for the many years it has been coming out.

SEED SOURCE
June Skidmore has forwarded the latest catalog of alpines and primula seed from Field House Alpines, for whom she distributes. The section on primula is extensive and reports of great germination and sturdy plants growing from the seed are widespread.

A GARDENING CRUISE
A recent letter tells of a five-day Trans-Atlantic cruise on the Queen Elizabeth II from New York to London in August this year. The five days will be filled with lectures, seminars and presentations on gardening by Horticulture magazine lecturers, and representatives of public and private gardens of England, France and the United States. For information write to: Valerie S. Brown, Set Sail Baltimore writing an article on primroses for his paper. More letters from would-be growers will follow, no doubt. The society can only benefit from all this new interest and energy from new growers.

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From the Mailbox

January 1994,
Dear Editor,
I enjoyed the fall APS bulletin. Since I am the only one listed in Montana, I am writing a few lines about primrose growing.

Lima is 6,300 feet high and last year it froze every month of the year. It is normally dry there, but last summer was an exception. The primroses loved the cool weather and bloomed more in summer than in spring.

I had several polyanthus in alkaline, well-drained soil in full sun. They were covered with flowers. I broke them up and put then in rows for future plant sales.

I have a primrose border on the north side of the house. In this border are three Primula parryi, grown from the seed exchange seed, which bloomed this year. They have leaves a foot long. Aphids got over the sepal, just over the seed capsules. I put a stop to that and the few seeds which developed were scattered near the plants.

A couple of small P. sieboldi type plants bloomed for the first time. Someone wanted to buy them, but I need them for seed production. The auriculas did best out away from the house. In the border are three Primula parryi, grown from the seed exchange seed, which bloomed this year. They have leaves a foot long. Aphids got over the sepal, just over the seed capsules. I put a stop to that and the few seeds which developed were scattered near the plants.

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I gave one special treatment in a pot and it bloomed.

I have a seed list of hardy mountain plants. A few are sun-loving dry-lay rock garden types. The list is free and I will sell or trade seeds. Write to John Roden, Box 211, Lima, MT 59739. (Look for John’s ad at the back of this issue.)

Thanks now,
John Roden, Lima, Montana

From the Mailbox

January 11, 1994
Dear Editor,

Congratulations! The fall 1993 Primroses is fantastic! The color picture on the cover is not only beautiful, but beautifully reproduced. I
From the Mailbox continued

loved the photographs, and to see the wonderful variations of Primula sieboldii encourages me to try growing them. In response to your “Notes from the Editor,” I think it is very worthwhile spending extra dollars on both color covers and inside color photos. How often? Every issue should have them!

I’m not usually one for writing letters, but I guess I should tell you a bit about Calgary and primrose growing here. Calgary is 100 km east of the Rocky Mountains. We are often the recipient of winter Chinooks, warm winds that can turn a -20 C morning into a +10 C afternoon. There are usually several feet of snow in the mountains, while in Calgary we frequently struggle with no snow cover and temperatures that can go below -30 C. We have cool summers and most summer nights the temperature drops quickly enough that we seldom sit outside after dark.

Almost all of my primulas have been grown from seed from the APS and rock garden society exchanges, and therefore some won’t be true. Currently I am growing Primula halleri, P. vialii, (it’s been with me four years now), P. frondosa, P. sinopitlaus, P. pavenina, P. glaucenscens, P. kisomana, (should flower for the first time this year), P. veris, P. elatior, P. denticulata, P. marginita, P. saxatilis, P. auricula, P. alpicola, P. florindae and P. sikkimensis. All of these have proven hardy here and I hope they survive the massive garden rebuilding I have planned for this summer. I am looking forward to hearing from you in the near future. I would be very grateful if your would give me a mention at your Chapter and APS shows. I would like to hear from anyone as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. P.J. Szytloka
63 Bastlefields Lane, Hobeach nr. Spalding,
Lincs. England, PE12 7PG

Notes from the Editor continued from page 20

by Lydiane Kyte. The Medieval Garden, by John Harvey might be of interest to those primula growers fascinated by its early history. Write for the catalog to: Batsford, 3 Bakers Mews, London, England W1M 1DD.

Hazel Wood, specialist in secondhand and antiquarian gardening books has sent a list to the society. Here’s a source for the fine books on primroses and auriculas printed in England in the 1940s and 1950s by authors such as Genders. Books on other florists flowers, such as the carnation, are also listed. The holdings are extensive, and she will also undertake book searches.

The list will be held by the society’s librarian, Thea Oakley, or you can write directly to Hazel Wood at: Hazel Wood, Antiquarian and Secondhand Books, 27 Woodfield Drive, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, England DE11 0DE.

RYVOAN
Please contact the editor. There is no return address, how can I contact you? Please send a note at once; very interested in further correspondence.

Primula Seed Sources
Compiled by Marie Skonberg, Alaska

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES THAT OFFER SEED EXCHANGES WITH PRIMULA SEED

American Primrose Society
Addaline Robinson, Treasurer
9705 S.W. Spring Crest Drive
Portland, Oregon 97225

Alpine Garden Club of BC
Joy Curran, Membership Chairman
RR#1 B38 Bowen Island, BC
Canada V0N 1G0

American Rock Garden Society
Jacques Mommaerts, Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 67, Millwood, N.Y. 10546

Dansk Primula Klub
J Vagn Jensen, Danmarksvæj 43B
2800 Lyngby, Denmark

Matsumoto Sakurasho & Primula Club
Kazu Hara, Secretary,
9-21 Miyata Matsumoto, Nagano 399 Japan

Northern Auricula and Primula Society,
Midland and West section
P. G. Ward, 61 Lawson Close,
Safford, Bristol, England BS18 3LB

National Auricula and Primula Society,
Southern section
L. E. Wigley, 67 Warnham Court Road
Carshalton Beeches
Surrey, England SM5 3ND

The Alpine Garden Society
The Secretary, AGS Centre
Avon Bank, Penshore
Worcestershire, England WR10 3JP

The Rock Garden Club Prague
Eva Hanzlikova
Paseurova 5, 14200
Praha 4, Czech Republic

The Scottish Rock Garden Club
Mrs. J. Thomlinson
1 Hillcrest Road, Bearsden
Glasgow, Scotland G61 2EB

COMMERCIAL SOURCES FOR PRIMULA SEED AND PLANTS (MAIL ORDER)

A Pheonix of Primula
244 Westside Highway
Vader, WA 98593

Albiflora Inc.
P.O. Box 24
Gyotoku, Ichidawa, Chiba 272-01 Japan

Arrowhead Alpines
P.O. Box 857, Fowlerville, MI 48836

Barnhaven Primroses
Langerhoud, 22420 Plouzelambre, France

Bijou Alpines
26121 150th Avenue East
Graham, WA 98338

Brenda Hyatt Auriculas
1 Toddington Crescent, Bluebell Hill
Nr. Chatham, Kent, England ME5 9QT

Carroll Gardens
P.O. Box 310, Westminster, MD 21157

Chehalis Rare Plant Nursery
2568 Jackson Hwy., Chehalis, WA 98532

Chiltern Seeds
Bartree Stile, Ulverston, Cumbria
England LA12 7PB

Chris Chadwell
14 Parlaunt Road, Slough
Berkshire, England, SL3 8BE

Collector’s Nursery
602 N.E. 162nd Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98684

Colorado Alpines, Inc.
P.O. Box 2708, Avon, CO 81620

Cravens Nursery
1 Foulds Terrace, Bingley, West Yorks.
England BD16 4LZ

Daystar
Litchfield-Hallowell Road, R#2 Box 250
Litchfield, ME 04350

Dorington Nursery
Main Road, Wrangle, Boston, Lincs
England PE22 9AT
Primula Seed Sources continued

Edrom Nurseries
Coldingham, Eyemouth
Berwickshire, England TD14 5TZ

Ernst Bentry
Pottsfach, P.O. Box 1127-D-3510
Hann, Munden 1, Germany

Field House Alpine
June Skidmore, 6720 W. Mercer Way
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Gardenimport Inc.
P.O. Box 760, Thornhill, Ont.
Canada L3T 4A5

G. Ghose and Co.
Townsend, Darjeeling, India

Goodwin & Son
Goodwin's Road, Bagdad South 7407
Tasmania, Australia

Heronswood Nursery Ltd.
7530 288th St. NE, Scottsdale, PA 15683

Holden Clough Nursery
Dept. ARG5, Holden, Bolton-by-Boydend

Clitheroe
Lancs., England BB7 4PF

Inshriach Alpine Plant Nursery
Aviemore, Inverness-shire
Scotland PH22 1QS

Jelito Staadensamen
Porsfach 560 127 D-2000
Hamburg 56, Germany

Jim and Jenny Archibald
Bryn Collen' Ffostrasol, Llandysul
Berwickshire, England TD14 5TZ

Karmic Exotin Nursery
Box 146, Shelburne
Ont., Canada L0N 1S0

P. Kohli & Co.
Park Road, Srinagar, Kashmir, India 190009

Lamb's Nursery
101 E. Sharp Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202

Mary's Plant Farm
2410 Lanes Mill Road, Hamilton (McGonigle) OH 45013

Milaeger's Gardens, 4838 Douglas Avenue
Racine, WI 53402

Mojnic Pavlica
P.O. Box 95, 64101 Novy Jucin
Czech Republic

Mt. Tahoma Nursery
28111 112th Ave. E., Graham, WA 98338
Nature's Garden
P.O. Box 574, Seo, OR 97374

Geo. W. Park Seed Co. Inc.
Cokesbury Rd, Greenwood, SC 29647-0001

Plant World
St. Marychurch Rd., Newton Abbot
S. Devon, England TQ12 4SE

The Primrose Path
RD 2 Box 110, Scottsdale, PA 15683

Rainforest Gardens
13139 224th St. RR#2, Maple Ridge, B.C.
Canada V2X 7E7

Rosetta Jones
E. 170 Donon Place, Shelton, WA 98584

Russell Graham, Purveyor of Plants
4030 Eagle Crest Road NW
Salem, OR 97304

Sahin, Zaden B.V. Postbus 227
Gerald Doustna, 32400 AE Alphen a/d
Rijn, Holland

Sakata Seed Americ Inc., P.O. Box 880
Morgan Hill, CA 95038-880 (wholesale only)

Sakata Seed Corporation
P.O. Box Yokohama Minami No. 20
Yokohama, Japan 232

Salt springs Primroses
2426 W. 47th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V6M 2N2

Seedalp Switzerland
P.O. Box 282, Meyrin, Geneva, Switzerland

Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery
Dept 1, 2825 Cummings Road
Medford, OR 97501

Southwestern Native Seeds
P.O. Box 50503, Tucson, AZ 85703

Stokes Seed Co.
Box 1308, Buffalo, NY 14240

Thompson & Morgan, Inc.
P.O. Box 1308, Jackson, NJ 08527-0308

Andre Vette
Rte 1, Box 16, Fisherville, VA 22939

Milan

Primrose Seed Sources continued

Edrom Nurseries
Coldingham, Eyemouth
Berwickshire, England TD14 5TZ

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Lancs., England BB7 4PF

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P.O. Box 574, Seo, OR 97374

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St. Marychurch Rd., Newton Abbot
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13139 224th St. RR#2, Maple Ridge, B.C.
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Sakata Seed Corporation
P.O. Box Yokohama Minami No. 20
Yokohama, Japan 232

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2426 W. 47th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
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Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery
Dept 1, 2825 Cummings Road
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Rte 1, Box 16, Fisherville, VA 22939

Milan

Seed Exchange List
American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society

The seed list made it out early this year. The reasoning behind this was to give the membership an early start on planting the seed which will allow you to get the primula seedling out to the garden earlier, which will give them a better survival rate over next winter. The result of this will be more primula growing in everyone’s garden.

There is something magical about growing primula from seed. Every tiny seed that is planted with loving care is a miracle within itself. It is alive, in a dormant stage just waiting for the perfect moment to erupt from the seed coat, to become a part of our world as a beautiful primula. The excitement of watching this happen is one of the ultimate highlights in a grower’s life. I can only compare it to the first primula blossom in the early spring. It is so delightful, so stimulating, so impressive, I love it.

With every seed order that I fill, I get this visual picture in my mind of what the end result of these tiny seed will be. Believe me, it is a colorful image.

The seed list comes to you from a circle of people with a love for primula. First there are the donors, who grow the primula, wait until the right moment to pick the pods, clean them, then send the seed to me. I receive the seed and take care of it. The seed names are what make the seed list and with the help of some very special volunteers is printed, put into envelopes and mailed to you. The membership send in their orders, they are filled, the seed is planted, grows, blooms, sets seed, the seed is sent in to the A.P.S. seed exchange. This wonderful cycle continues, all with love for primula.

The seed list can only get better. I am asking all members to write me with any comments, complaints, or suggestions on how we are doing with the seed list. All will be seriously considered to make our seed exchange better.

If you haven’t yet sent in your seed order, please do at your earliest convenience. I want to keep those colorful images in my mind, thank you.

Marie Skonberg,
Seed Exchange Coordinator

The Society extends a great vote of thanks to Marie for coordinating the seed exchange this year. She’s done a great job. The variety and extent of the list are impressive, and she deserves a big round of applause from all of us!

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SEED EXCHANGE

The APS Seed Exchange is open to all members in good standing.

The seed is listed first by Primula Section, then by species or cultivar name. Both G. K. Fenderson’s book A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula and The American Primrose Pictorial Dictionary have been used for classification and spelling.

The number of seed per packet will vary according to the amount of seed available. Unless otherwise stated, there will 10 seeds per packet. However, some may be available in a lesser quantity and will be listed as limited seed.

Mail your order as soon as possible. Orders from this list will be filled until March 31, 1994. At that time, a Surplus Seed List will be available. If you wish to receive a copy of that list, check the box on the order form and enclose a long, self-addressed stamped (or one international reply coupon) envelope with your order. Orders from the Surplus Seed List will be filled until May 15, 1994. Orders will be filled in the sequence they are received, with donor orders being processed first.
**Seed Exchange continued**

We offer no guarantee that the seed you order will grow. However, the seed is stored under refrigeration to maximize viability.

We attempt to verify botanical and cultivar names used, but can not guarantee that the seeds are true to name. Single quotation marks indicate a named hybrid clone, the seeds of which may not come true to type.

Abbreviations and symbols used in the Seed List are as follows:

- **HP** = hand pollinated
- **OP** = open pollinated
- **col.** = collected in the wild

Contributions to the 1995 Seed Exchange are welcome until October 31, 1994 at which time the Seed List will be compiled for 1995. All contributions of seed should be mailed to:

Marie Skonberg, P.O. Box 70, Ouzinkie, AK 99644.

**Members ask why we print the seed list in the quarterly. It's so you can look back to find what was number 252 in 1988 and find the name once you have grown the plant.**

### SEED EXCHANGE LIST

#### SECTION AURICULA

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>clusiana</td>
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<td>clusiana col. Austria</td>
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<td>glutinosa</td>
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<td>latifolia</td>
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<td>palmairi</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>70</td>
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<td>*nivalis var. colorata, col.</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<td>Auricula, petite hybrids</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<td>x juliana, mix</td>
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<td>Wanda Hybrid, pink w/red eye</td>
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| 129 | Acaulis, Pageant, bicolor mix | [D24] |
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### SECTION OREOPHLOMIS

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This seed list is printed here for historical reference.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS 1994 SEED EXCHANGE

The APS Seed Exchange Committee wish to personally thank all of you who found the time and energy to grow the primula, hand pollinate, collect and clean the seed, then package it up for mailing to the APS Seed Exchange. This is indeed a labor of love for primulas and for the American Primrose Society. We would not have this Seed Exchange for the membership if it were not for you, the donors. Thank you for your support and for your contributions of seed!

DONORS

D1 John O'Brien, Sr. Alaska
D2 Dr. John Kerridge Alaska
D3 Misty & Rick Haffner Alaska
D4 Angela Bradford (Barnhaven Primroses) Canada
D5 Rosetta Jones Alaska
D6 Herbert Dickson Washington
D7 Maedylthe Martin Canada
D8 Bodil Leamy Canada
D9 Nancy Goodwin Washington
D10 Jay/Ann Lunn Oregon
D11 Caroline Jensen Alaska
D12 Ivo Benes Czech Republic
D13 Beatrice McDonald Massachusetts
D14 Thea Oakley Washington
D15 Vasco Femili Washington
D16 Darren Pederson Washington
D17 Mary Baxter Washington
D18 Renee/Dennis Oakley Canada
D19 Plant World England
D20 Keith Sellars England
D21 Ernie/Marietta O'Byrne Oregon
D22 Norbert/Inna Markert New York
D23 Janice Anthony Maine
D24 Sakata Seed California
D25 Marie Skonberg Alaska
D26 Jelitto Staudensamen Germany
D27 Charles Oliver Pennsylvania
D28 Peter Atkinson Washington
D29 Esther Chernikoff Alaska
D30 Karen Schellenger Minnesota
D31 Teresa Richardson Washington
D32 Elana White Alaska
D33 Lucille Nelson Alaska
D34 Dr. Roger Eichma Alaska
D35 Martha McKinney Alaska
D36 Karen Bourdukofsky Alaska
D37 Dr. Horst Georgi Germany
D38 Thea Service Foster Canada

COMMERCIAL SOURCES

(Purchased seed)

C1 Field House Alpines England
C2 Colegrave Seed England
C3 Sahin Holland
For this issue Thea Foster has some observations culled from the National Auricula and Primula Society (Southern Section) Yearbook.

The National Auricula and Primula Society (Southern Section) has produced an exemplary 1993 Yearbook. Editor R.H. Barter has filled it with an abundance of good material so it has been necessary to choose just a few of the articles to review. We recommend them all to primita and auricula fanciers. Several other pieces are of interest to APS members and could be reviewed later when spaces allow.

AURICULAS OF 300 YEARS AGO

It was a fortunate day for auricula growers when the late Dr. Ruth Duthie made the chance discovery in London's Lindley Library of two volumes of various garden flowers compiled between 1704-1714. In the first volume there were eight pages devoted to auriculas of the day located in a German doctor's garden. Editor R.H. Barter has reproduced 66 realistically drawn flowers in black and white — with numbered descriptions which are very clear — making the original plants easy to visualize. Society member Ken Saint has carefully translated the 'somewhat archaic' German descriptions and Allan Hawkes has penned an excellent thoughtful preface.

Present day growers of border and garden auriculas will be amazed to see the 280 year old sketches as they depict flowers remarkably like the ones on plants we might expect to raise from a modern packet of mixed seed. There are purples, violets and leather color, rose, orange and red shades. Out of the 66 only one was distinctly yellow! This may cause us to reconsider past theories of auricula genetics. Calling all experts in this field!

Another amazing phenomenon is the large percentage of striped flowers — 15 in all. Today we would expect to have to sow a large packet of striped auricula seed from one of the good specialist hybridizers to produce results of that sort.

Seven of the flowers shown were described as red — from light red to highly red, blood red, crimson and dark red. Several are described as having a "satin-like sheen." Over ten years ago some Douglas seed produced for me hand-somely distinctive reds, with a very glossy texture. I crossed them with other good reds, also from Douglas seed, but lacking the shine. A number of satiny ones have resulted. I am now reminded to pursue this line once more.

How did that extensive and fascinating collection of auriculas come to exist almost 300 years ago, in what appears to be such obvious defiance of accepted modern theory of their color genetic heritage? For auricula people this revealing study is our version of looking back to the origins of the universe — but we need a horticultural 'Hubble' to help us!

Certainly we would be most grateful if some learned geneticists out there would put all their intuition and collective knowledge to use in an effort to unravel this fascinating puzzle! Maybe someone can "out-Biffen" Biffen!* * Sir Rowland Biffen, author of the The Auricula (Monograph) 1951.

BARNHAVEN III

Angela Bradford's chronicle of Barnhaven's adventurous move to France is a wonderful story. Her quite detailed account of the hows-and-whys of the change of location makes good reading. She includes practical notes, such as the seed mix used for her primulas which is always of such great importance to other growers. In the Pacific Northwest, as indeed throughout the entire APS membership, we maintain a continuing pride and interest in the "Barnhaven saga" — the brainchild of Florence Bellis. What a standard Angela Bradford must...
News from the Chapters
continued from page 19
speak on auriculas at the September meeting prepared a useful leaflet on propagation and culture of primroses.
November program: Seed planting program: demonstration and directions for potting up seedlings by Herb Dickson. Cy Happy and Dan Pederson.
Seeds available at the meeting.
December program: Annual Christmas pot-luck dinner.
Washington State Chapter
Meets the second Friday of each month except July and August at the United Good Neighbor Center at 305 S. 43rd St. Renton at 7:45 pm.
October program: Surplus auction. Peter Atkinson told how his hybridization program led to his plant "Celebration." Marie Skonberg from Alaska visited the meeting.
November program: Slide program by June Skidmore on English primrose shows, growers, and nurseries. She also discussed their methods for growing, cultivating and judging primroses.
December program: Annual pot-luck dinner. Information on the 1994 show.
British Columbia Primrose Group
Meets every two months on the third Wednesday, at Southlands Nursery, 6550 Balclava, Vancouver, B.C.
The group met on November 17, 1993, and heard a most valuable talk by Bob Bunn on growing species primula from seed. Bob has raised over 100 species and is willing to share his knowledge.
The group now has a small library of books to borrow. The meeting concluded after a short talk, illustrated with slides, by John Kerridge on standards for exhibiting gold-laced polyanthus.
On New Years Day about 17 of the group paid a visit to Westwind Greenhouses in Richmond. At this time of the year thousands of Primula acaulis are ready for shipment to nurseries and corner stores in the area.
The trip was suggested by one of the B.C. Primrose Group who works at Southlands Nursery where we meet. Renee and I live near the greenhouses, wholesale only, and we offered to pay them a visit and arrange a tour.
We met the manager (he says the bank is the owner)! and spent an hour with him admiring the thousands of gorgeous plants of every conceivable color arrayed row upon row on long tables. These are covered with special mats where drip hoses on automatic timers provide water. The manager receives plugs of seedlings from a supplier and grows them on in 5" pots in the main greenhouse and 4" pots in a slightly smaller greenhouse. In the smaller greenhouse there were 17,000 plants! All plants are watered from below to prevent rot developing. The beautiful condition of the plants showed how well the system works.
We split into smaller groups and wandered down the benches admiring the various colors and the various flower forms. I was particularly interested in any that showed doubling as I am doing a bit of cross-pollinating with this aim in view. Someone found a Jack-in-the-Green and I would have liked to acquire it.
We broke up after an hour and on the way out passed a small shed where trolleys loaded with plants stood awaiting shipment. The scent in this confined area was almost overwhelming. Everyone enjoyed the visit and I was thanked many times for arranging the outing. It had to be early in January as before the end of the month the plants would all have gone. Maybe this field trip would appeal to other chapters.
We continued from page 19
National Auricula and Primula Society
Invites all auricula and primula lovers to join in this old society. Membership includes yearbook.
Northern Section
D.G. Hadfield
146 Queens Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, England
Midland Section
Hon. Sec., Mr. P. Green
Primrose Hill, Bell's Bank, Buckley, Worcs., England
Southern Section
Lawrence E. Wigley
67 Warnham Court Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, England
Matsumoto Sakurasho and Primula Club Invites you to join
❖ Japanese society for lovers of all primulas.
❖ Yearbook, with English summary.
❖ Seed exchange.
Send US $20 in cash, registered mail for one year's subscription (April to March)
Write to: Mr. Kazuo Hara, Secretary
Yoshikawa-Koya 647-51
Matsumoto, Nagano, 399 Japan
The APS Primula x 'Juliana' Registry - Don't Forget
The American Primrose Society Board of Directors decided at the "Primula Worldwide" symposium in 1992 to establish a registry system for the identification of the many Primula x 'Juliana' hybrids, both old and new.
If you raise a new variety you feel is worth naming, write to me for a registration form, making sure to include a photograph.
Dorothy Springer
7213 South 15th St., Tacoma, WA 98465
Wanted
Seed wanted: Mr. Szypitka writes from England that he wants seed of traditional or "Elizabethan" primroses, including all the anomalies: Hose-in-Hose, Jack-in-the-Green, Pantaloons, all of them.
He would also like to correspond with anyone growing these curiosities of the Vernales section. See his letter in the Mailbox column, this issue. His address is, 63 Battlefields Lane, Holbeach nr. Spalding, Lincs., England, PE12 7PG.
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11505 SW Summerville Ave., Portland OR 97219

News Flash! Don Keefe is now coordinating the Round Robin.
Find his address on page 39.

A PLETHORA OF PRIMULA
April E. Boettger
244 Westside Hwy – Vader, WA 98593
1-206-295-3114

PRIMULA LOVERS DELIGHT
– because –
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will begin shipping on April 15, 1994

We are a new mail-order nursery and eventually plan to carry a full range of Primulaceae, including:

Androsace Cortusa Cyclamen Dionysia
Dodecatheon Douglasia Soldanella

However, our emphasis will be on Primula – especially auricula!
We have been most fortunate to have obtained Herb Dickson’s & Larry Bailey’s auricula collections to add to our stock.

Drop us a line with your request and/or ideas.
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Catalog available after March 1 – $1.00
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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 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.

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.