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COVER PHOTO
By June Skidmore,

President’s Report
Greetings from Alaska!
As your new president, I hope I can have a positive effect on this group. First, we need to thank June Skidmore for the fine job she has done in the past three years as President. She has worked hard to keep the Quarterly going over the past six months and she deserves the time off to work or play in her garden. I’ll let her know in a year or so whether I should thank her for recruiting me for this position. I certainly don’t want to be remembered as the first and last President of APS in the new millennium.

It may seem like the Alaskans are taking over but we really are bringing our enthusiasm about a beautiful and versatile genus of plants to the American Primrose Society. Our group and our part of the country is just beginning to learn about primroses — the names and faces which are so familiar to many of you. Attracting new members is essential to our survival and by sharing our enthusiasm and expertise in our own neighborhoods and communities we may entice others to join our group — giving up precious time and energy in our already too busy lives. Offer your friends and neighbors plants and advice so they can enjoy primroses too.

At least here in Juneau, the Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners, and Garden Club are asked to provide speakers to talk to small groups of people about gardening. Those groups I’ve spoken to always get some information about primroses along with other subjects. Let groups like these know you’re available to talk to others.

These are opportunities to spread our knowledge. Since many people just assume primroses are only spring flowers, we have to enlighten them. Be a primrose missionary — go out and spread the word!

I want to hear from you — please call, write, or e-mail me (amprimsoc@hotmail.com) if you have suggestions to benefit our Society. Oh yes, in the next year or so, you’ll probably learn more about growing primroses and other stuff in Alaska than you ever wanted to know! Go Grow Primroses!

Ed Buyarski
Juneau, Alaska
Past President’s Message

When the red-shafted flicker drills away on my metal chimney at 6 a.m. in the morning, hoping to attract a mate, I know that Spring has at last arrived. After a very long, wet winter in the Pacific Northwest, we welcome the season with open arms.

For primrose growers this is probably the most exciting time of the year — when most plants are at their best and the seed planted last year is ready to bloom in its full glory. I always look forward to seeing *Primula marginata* in bloom, a plant that was one of my late husband’s favorites. They are planted in a rockwall, facing west, between large stones where they have excellent drainage. Even without bloom the toothed, mealy leaves look attractive. The popular hybrid *Primula*, ‘Linda Pope,’ with its clusters of white-eyed, clear lavender flowers, never seems to fail.

In a few weeks the national show will be here and it promises to be an exciting event with the addition of alpine plants on display. My term as president ends at that time and I thank the past editor, officers and members of the board, who have helped me in running the organization over the past three years. Their help behind the scenes has been invaluable. I wish the new president and board members every success in the year ahead and a bright future for the Society.

June Skidmore —
Mercer Island, Washington

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Journal Report

By Mary Frey — Kent, Washington

Bravehearts of Primulas

The following poem in the January 1999 *The Rock Garden* of the Scottish Rock Garden Club is fitting for APS members to have embroidered on pillows.

THE SCOTTISH EMBLEM

By Hazel A. Nottingham

O’ flowers of Scotland
Though beauteous you be
There is but one species
That beckons to me

Born of the Machair
Where sea meets the sand
No outsider here
A true flower of Scotland
Brave as the ‘Braveheart’
*Primula scotica*

Most deserving of all

In the same issue, A. J. Leven writes a very comprehensive and clear article about ‘Growing Alpines Under Glass’. Most serious primula growers do have a structure and system for raising fussy plants. Leven warns, however, that this should not be done “unless you have time to look after them”. It’s important to construct the largest that you can afford. The temperature in small structures fluctuates quickly which causes undo stress to plants and most people enjoy growing many flowers. Locate the alpine house on a north-south axis with the door at the south end and keep the air circulating through the house at all times.

Leven offers great instruction for the novice and good reminders for the veteran. Although, finding a “very wide plastic mesh that shepherds use to protect young lambs from winter winds” may be difficult to locate for shading the house.

The article ends telling us that “until you build and use your alpine house you can have no idea just how happy you can be in mid-winter turning pots of *Primula allionii* while the rain batters off the glass outside”. Amen

First Class Acts

The Show Reports 1997-1998 in the December 1998 *Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society* includes two First Class Certificates for primulas. A stunning photograph of *Primula allionii* ‘Anna Griffith’ shows this fourteen-year-old plant with...
Plant Portrait

By Ann Lunn – Hillsboro Oregon

**Primula vialii**

What is it?... You are kidding! That can’t be a primrose.

That is a typical reaction from someone who is seeing *Primula Vialii* for the first time. In truth its appearance is very un-primula like. The 18-inch flower stalk is topped by a tight spike of blueish violet flowers that open first at its base. Even more striking are the unopened buds covered with bright scarlet calyces at the apex of the spike. The overall impression given is that of a small, unusually colored Red Hot Poker.

Aside from specific characteristics of the individual flowers, the leaves give away its true relationship. Formed in a loose rosette, the soft, hairy, broad lance-shaped leaves look very much like those of other species in the Muscarioides section. At maturity, the dentate blades shaped leaves look very much like those of a small, unseasonably colored *Primrose*.

*Primula vialii* is a deciduous species that loses its leaves in the fall, leaving no visible resting bud above ground during the winter. Growth begins later in the spring than most *Primula* species, even as late as April or early May in the Pacific Northwest. Understandably, it is late to bloom, usually from the end of June to the end of July.

Native to boggy meadows and damp mixed forests in Yunnan and Szechuan provinces in China, *P. vialii* appreciates well-drained, but moist, humus-rich soil in partial shade. Best results come from growing it in a peat bed. Coming from an altitude of 8,550 to 10,000 feet, it is perfectly hardy. However, it is not long-lived in most gardens.

Some authorities consider it to be monocarpic (flowering once, then dying). Often it will bloom weakly a second time. The best method of ensuring a colorful display year after year is to consistently replace older plants with seedlings. When pins and thurns are planted together in the proper garden conditions, *P. vialii* sets seed freely and often self sows.

There are differing views on the success of dividing a group of rosettes. One source claims *P. vialii* can be propagated in this manner. Another states that most divisions do not survive. In any case, propagation from seed is the best option and less risky.

Delavey discovered *P. vialii* in August, 1888. Surprisingly, Franchet, when describing this new find, did not mention the scarlet calyces nor the red-topped inflorescence. It may be that when the specimens were collected in August, all the flowers had opened and the red calyces had faded or the color had simply paled in the herbarium. Then, in 1906, Forrest discovered a similar plant, but considered the red cap on the spike to be significantly different from the previously described *P. vialii*. Consequently, he gave his species the name *littomana*. Since then, the two specimens have been determined to be the same species and the earlier name takes precedence.

*Primula vialii*, photo by Jay G. Lunn

**Plants of this eye-catching *Primula* are available from several specialty nurseries and seeds may be purchased from catalogs and the APS Seed Exchange. Create a conversation piece in your own garden with a colorful planting of *P. vialii*.**

**Sources:**
- Halda, Josef (1992) *The Genus Primula*
- Swindells, Philip (1989) *Primulas, the Complete Guide*
- Robinson, Mary (1990) *Primulas, the Complete Guide*

**Gardens featured in magazine**

In the April issue of Martha Stewart Living magazine there was an article on Primroses with colorful photographs of a variety of potted auriculas and primulas. The gardens of two APS members living in Connecticut were featured.

Full page pictures of Sydney Eddison's magical garden showed *P. japonica* growing in a creek with *P. acaulis* 'Blue Denim,' *P. kisoana* and *P. veris* planted along the primrose path.

Paul Held's garden featured colorful pictures of his extensive collection of *P. sieboldii*, interspersed with *k. kisoana* and auriculas all happily growing in ideal conditions on the north side face of his alpine scree.

**Sources:**
- Halda, Josef (1992) *The Genus Primula*
- Swindells, Philip (1989) *Primulas, the Complete Guide*
especially if they offer to dispose of the seedling for you!

**Seedlings are tougher than you think!**

It is usually best to transplant small seedlings when they are quite young. I usually do the first transplanting when the individual seedlings have only two sets of true leaves. The first leaves you see when a plant germinates are the seed leaves, or cotyledons. After a brief time, the seedling starts making true leaves. Seedlings are quite durable when handled at this age, and recover quite speedily from all but the worst damage from handling. Often they are tiny little things, and it is tempting to wait until they are bigger, but older plants have bigger root systems and are harder to handle. However, it is possible sometimes to skip this stage of transplantation. If the total population in a four-inch pot is only perhaps, five individuals and if they are not crowded, then I may not bother with the transplanting stage to individual pots or six-packs. I may elect to tear it apart just prior to planting in the garden (preferably at the onset of mild and rainy weather.)

Seedlings which have stretched for light are often hard to handle, so try to give your seedpots ample light and keep them cool in temperature. For most of us this means growing them outside in a coldframe or under plastic. Seedlings are often very tough, and can endure short spells of colder temperature than can the parent plants.

The *Primula* genus is full of plants which are, in nature, like little carpet-baggers. They actually like disturbance, and many have breakaway roots that are so brittle that they break off at the slightest trauma. These will easily grow new roots. I am not suggesting that the breaking off of roots is a good thing. I always try to retain as many roots as possible, but you may as well be prepared. This group includes *P. capitata*, all of the candelabra species, and also *P. vialii*. There are probably a good many more. It is a bit hard on your nervous system to handle these until you get used to their roots breaking off, so I suggest for your first practice pot you try one of the easier ones, such as *Primula vulgaris*, or one of the Wandas. Once you get used to a bit of success you will see that when they are little, the species with breakaway roots do fine if you give them a week or so in humidity and moisture to generate some new roots.

**Soil moisture is the key**

The single most important issue in handling healthy seedlings is how moist the seed pot is when you go to work with it. If you get the moisture right, then it is easy to tease, even the most crowded seedpot apart and ensure living results. The correct moisture is just barely, but uniformly. If you lift the pot, you would certainly not notice that it is heavy (or if you use a lot of grit, be sure to consider its relative weight). The pot should seem to be in need of watering, but not desperately so. No seedlings appear to be wilting. It is also advisable to pick a time when the weather is mild and cool, maybe even rainy. It is also important that the seedlings not be infected with aphids, because they may not survive the shock of transplanting if something is working to dehydrate them. Sometimes a hand lens is useful in detecting little critters.

Be sure to be prepared to pot all the seedlings at once, or to steel yourself to toss the rest. It is my experience that once the seedlings have been broken up, it is difficult to keep the leftovers alive.

**The Modus Operandi**

Turn the seedpot upside down and pop the contents out of the pot into your hand. This takes some practice to do without breaking seedlings, but try to cup your hand a bit, and remember that it’s not possible to make an omelet without breaking eggs. For purposes of this discussion, I am using a four-inch hard plastic pot. The soil should be just moist, and you may see some fine roots on the outside of the soil mass. If the bottom of the pot is full of roots, make a mental note that perhaps you should have gotten to this one sooner. No matter, if the soil is OK, those roots will come out fine. I usually break the soil mass into four equal parts, and set three parts aside. I gently squish and roll the soil mass on the last part of its side, trying not to damage the leaves, until it starts to fall apart. Then it becomes a simple matter to gently take a seedling by its leaf and ease it out of the mass. Usually they come out in great shape, and I simply tuck them into a plastic six-pack recycled from last year, or into the correct sized band. Even if many of the roots broke off, given a little time in shade and humidity, they will regenerate. I have easily gotten 200 viable seedlings out of a four-inch pot, so I know my method works. If your soil is too dry or too wet, the roots will stick to the soil and will be even more likely to break off.

Some kinds of damage are easy for a seedling to recover from, and those include loss of a leaf or some roots. That is why I suggest that you handle seedlings by their leaves. The loss or crushing of the main stem or central part of the plant is very likely to be fatal, or at least will invite attack by fungus. This is where those stretched seedlings have problems—they are long and brittle and hard if not impossible to handle without breaking. Do not use tweezers or similar apparatus to handle seedlings, and please do not ask me why the...
FIRST THINGS cont. from page 9

procedure is called “pricking out.” I have no idea. If you wear glasses to see closely, then you will need them for this, and if you need glasses and don’t wear them, I wish you luck but fear you are due for disappointment.

Time for coddling

After you have pulled all the little ones apart and placed them in their new homes, and gently firmed the soil, you need to be sure to water them (preferably from the bottom to avoid dislodging roots to begin with), and then keep them in the shade and humidity for at least 24 hours (the most precarious period). In my experience, the first 24 hours are critical, and seedlings, like emergency room patients (once a nurse, always a nurse), are likely to be in shock. This is the time for special coddling. I actually use the misting system in my home-built greenhouse to provide necessary humidity. If I didn’t have that, I would place them in the shade after thorough watering, put a piece of Reemay over them, and mist them a couple of times a day with a fine misting rose on the end of a garden hose. If they weren’t too damaged by transplanting, they should start to grow soon.

If you believe the seedlings were infected by fungus or aphids, be sure to use an appropriate drench or spray to correct the problem. Most Primula species love to be transplanted, and often will double their size in a week. If you have a seedpot of unhappy and dwindling seedlings, often the best cure is to transplant into fresh soil.

When the seedlings have grown into their new pots is a good time to move them into the garden. If you see a few tentative roots coming out of the bottom hole, that will tell you that the plants are ready for a new home. Primula species really like growing in a sort of a mat, so be sure to plant them in groups of three to five or more.

Quality ingredients ensure success

if you feel tempted to save some money by making your own seed mix, think twice. It is advisable to pasteurize soil for seedlings, and most people who mix soil wind up with very inferior results. Before I am attacked by the vast legions of serious compost-making, soil-mixing gardeners, let me say that it can be done well, but is a lot of work, and I am happy to trot off to the local garden store for a bale of Fison’s #1 (found at better garden centers), some grit and some pumice.

These directions are specifically tailored to the handling of primula species, but with a little adaptation, they are good for many other plants as well. Remember, everybody who does anything experiences difficulties, so try to take them in stride. I am certain that if you learn from your mistakes, and keep on striving, you will find growing from seed to be an incredibly rewarding facet of gardening!

For further information contact Ilse Burch at (tiburch@halcyon.com).
masses of pale pink blooms. It looks more like a hydrangea head than a primrose. There is obviously no root problem or any other deficiencies in this gorgeous plant.

The other winner is P. x meridiana, a hybrid between P. allionii and P. marginata. Although these plants grow in the same vicinity of the southern French Alps, only rarely have wild hybrids been found because they flower at different times. This sub-shrubby, semi-cushion forming plant has vivid violet-purple blooms without an ‘eye’.

Two other primulas are champions. P. ‘Ice Cap’ is a hybrid between P. appenina and P. hirsuta, both white forms. This plant ‘is a tough, free-flowing, easily grown plant’ that has bloomed consistently for five seasons. P. specuicola is a North American native endemic to the Colorado River in SE Utah, near Bluff City. The seeds for this victor were collected by Sally Walker from the San Juan River gorge and sent to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 1989.

The plant boasts lightly scented, lavender-violet blooms with a yellow eye. It is treated as a biennial.

**Titles and Ticks**

If you are suffering from insomnia, read ‘Primula nona—A 1 1/2 Year Struggle for Recognition’ in the December 1998 The New Plantsman. Yvette Harvey and Susyn Andrews of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew discuss the nomenclature of this Himalayan species and its various name changes. These include P. edgeworthii, P. pulverulenta and P. saxicola. The authors conclude that these names will be reduced to synonymy.

A new primula is briefly mentioned in the October 1998 Plants: A Journal for Plant Enthusiasts and its photo is included in the February 1999 issue. Primula ‘Francisca’ was discovered in Portland, Oregon by Bob Brown of England’s Costwold Garden Flowers. It is described as a “curious large green flowered primula with crimped flowers” and named after Francisca. Can anyone in the APS identify Francisca and then write or e-mail me so that she can be properly recognized?

Finally, if you practice organic gardening and wonder what to do with the many bugs you encounter, than rush out and buy Man Eating Bugs: The Art and Science of Eating Insects by Peter Menzel and Faith D’Aluisio. This beautifully illustrated book takes the reader on a fascinating trip around the globe and depicts people eating creepy crawlers. From crispy crickets and guacamole in Mexico to fire roasted tarantulas in Venezuela, this book will satisfy all bug eaters. From crispy crickets and guacamole in Mexico to fire roasted tarantulas in Venezuela, this book will satisfy all bug eaters. Alas, no recipes are included. Mary Frey’s email address is (mlfrey@aol.com).
American Primrose Society

At the Shows, 1985 to 1995

American Primrose Society shows have a history as long as the society, and continue to this day. Every spring, members bring their cherished plants to show them to each other and the public. Each show is a highlight of the season. This article will survey the national shows from 1985 to 1995 and will then look at the plants that appeared at all the APS shows, including the national and other shows. The first table outlines the national show sites for the years 1985 to 1995 and other facts. (Table 1)

The national show rotates, hosted by a different chapter each year. Over these ten years it has taken place in malls most of the time, with one show at the Center for Urban Horticulture. A shopping mall gives good public exposure, but can be hard on the plants if it is sunny and warm. The public is indeed general, not particularly plant oriented, which over took her. Exceptional color photographs of primroses are a strong drawing card for the society, and a colorful display by June and the late Brian Skidmore was held at the national in 1991. The symposium, "Primula Worldwide," held in 1992, had a special display mounted by the Royal Horticultural Society-a history of primula in cultivation. The large display boards showed text and illustrations of primroses from the Renaissance to today.

regualrs who come to see the primroses get used to coming to the same place. Seems to me there has always been debate over where to hold the shows.

The number of entries in the national show appears to be about 200 to 250. I am surprised by 551 entries in 1985. I do believe that APS shows through the 1950s and 1960s were larger than current shows, and this number may be an indicator of how much.

The grower's exhibit class of six plants of one kind is never very well represented but it is interesting to see that there is almost always one entry. The plants have ranged from species, such as Primula mistassinica in 1992 to Julianas, such as 'Little Gem' and 'Early Girl'. Garryards, gold-laced polyanthuses, and the greenhouse plant, Primula malacoides, show the range of material that is also displayed at the shows. The grower's who make an effort to enter this class are to be commended.

The special displays at the national show are often educational in nature, attempting to capture new primrose enthusiasts. Ruth Houston was a regular at the educational displays from 1985 until ill health took her. Exceptional color photographs of primroses are a strong drawing card for the society, and a colorful display by June and the late Brian Skidmore was held at the national in 1991. The symposium, "Primula Worldwide," held in 1992, had a special display mounted by the Royal Horticultural Society-a history of primula in cultivation. The large display boards showed text and illustrations of primroses from the Renaissance to today.

Herb Dickson put on a display of soil mixes appropriate for different primrose species and varieties-a useful and informative display. You could actually feel the different materials in the containers and see plants growing in the mix recommended.

The national is one of three or four shows. In the past, each chapter had a show, and they would span three or four weekends through April. The spring season would continue to unfold, and later plants, such as the auriculas, would appear at the later shows.

Judging of the plants is by committee - there are often three or four judges who confer. There are as many blue ribbons as there are premier plants - this is different from some shows where there is a clear first, second and third. Best plant in show is clearly defined, and the list of show winners is found in Table 2. Whatever the result of the judging, there are always interesting plants to be admired.

The plants - Primroses

Over this period, the primroses at the shows reflected the history of the society and the strength of its growers. Julianas abounded in the 1950s and 1960s with many new plants being introduced. Some of these varieties are with us still. The Pacific Northwest, even the North American continent, for Julianas will grow in colder climates than at the coast, has a great number of named Julianas. Many of these are not found in Britain, and are the work of American hybridizers in the 1950s.

A Juliana hose-in-hose, a plant not often seen, appeared in 1987, shown by Flip Ferrilli at the Tacoma show. It may have been 'Wanda' hose-in-hose which is certainly still in cultivation. A winner for Ann Lunn on the 1991 show was the small Juliana hybrid, 'Mary's Gold'. This plant was named by Don Keefe after his wife Mary, and is a reliable perennial. It tests the theory that the modern primrose strains from Japan and other sources, grown primarily for spring color, will last more than one year. Peter Atkinson, well known for interesting new hybrids, showed his 'Woody's Wendas' in 1993. These have the familiar creeping rootstalk of Juliana, but are pastel colors.

Rosetta Jones' superior double acaulis can be found regularly on the prize-winner's table at shows. The deep rose double which won at the Tacoma show in 1990 is, I believe, the one that Rosetta has now had micro-

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SHOWS cont. on page 16
propagated and is called 'Rosetta's Red'. Many of the prize-winning polyanthus were the ones with ruffs or puffs, flowers within flowers or frills of green - the anomalous primroses. These primroses, variations of the wild plant, were brought into walled gardens in the Middle Ages in England and Europe as they were discovered. Gally-gaskins, like the one shown by Larry Bailey in 1986 and the one by Mary Baxter in 1991 have, according to Roy Genders in Primroses and Polyanthus, an inflated calyx and a ruff of leaves under each blossom. The effect, we are told, resembles the frilled ruff of the same name, worn beneath the knee in court dress.

Fine Jack-in-the-Greens, with the ruff of green leaf tissue around each flower, are regularly seen. Rick Lupp from Mount Tahoma Nursery won at the national in 1990 with a deep red Jack, Don Keefe won at the Eastside show in 1991 with a wine red one, and Peter Atkinson won at the national show in 1991 with his white one. Cy Happy introduced a refined hose-in-hose, 'Emily' at the 1989 at the national show. This has a pale greenish-yellow blossom, a flat face and refined ruffles.

Gold-laced polyanthus, the florist's flower with the fine golden lacing around and down the center of each petal, originated in the late 1700s in England. Florence Bellis at Barnhaven in Oregon grew some seed from England during and after the war, and established the Barnhaven strain. To the hobbyists, for the records are not complete for every year, and there is also a tendency not to record names. I hope this will be remedied at future shows!

There is no need to repeat the names from the chart, but the show sets and alpines are seen most frequently. The plants that first appeared on the North American continent - at Cowichan Station on Vancouver Island in the 1930s. Florence Bellis at Barnhaven gave us the first improvements on the original, and new colors continue to be added to the array. An almost black flower, so dark was the red, a variation on the classic dark red won a first for Mary Baxter in 1993 at the Eastside show. However, in 1989 Herb Dickson won best plant in show at the national with a spectacular tangerine-colored form, one of the new colors. The orangey color, sometimes called apricot, set against the dark leaves typical of the Cowichan, must have been a treat to see. The unusual but now more regularly seen yellow Cowichan hybrid won for Ann Lunn at the 1994 national. It was raised from Barnhaven seed.

The American Primrose society has its own distinctive classes that have grown up over the years as exhibitors or show chairmen saw the need for them. Oddities and rarities bring out some unusual plant material. John Kerridge brought the green petalled primrose now called 'Francesca' to the 1991 show where it attracted attention. A green polyanthus won for Sally Cadranell at the 1991 Eastside show, and Rick Lupp entered a similar plant at Tacoma in 1992.

The class I wonder about, and even would like to see eliminated, is the one for polyanthus plants. Polyanthus growers are all familiar with the tidy, low-growing acaulis primrose that suddenly shoots up a polyanthus stem. Rather than have a class in which to show, and thus encourage these, I would like to see them given no particular attention, feeling they are neither "fish nor fowl." If the plant has merit, through color or form, it could be used as a parent to achieve a plant that is either an acaulis or a polyanthus.

**The plants - the Auriculas**

Garden auriculas, thanks in large part to Herb Dickson, have been a main feature of APS shows for decades. Some of the color breakthroughs Herb has achieved are truly notable. The clear red garden auricula that won for him at the National show in 1991 is one of his great plants. The Picotee strain that he introduced is gaining popularity and more growers are showing plants raised from Herb's seed. Winning auriculas for Herb have ranged from blue-violet, pink and white, bright yellow to his pale yellow and lavender picotee, winning the best auricula award at the 1991 national show.


An admirable class in the auricula section is for brightest garden auricula. This rewards the grower for a bright, clear color and, not surprisingly, was won by Herb Dickson often over this period.

Double auriculas are strongly represented by Rosetta Jones, from her own hybridizing. Rosetta's 'Frosty', a green and lavender mix, has been admired since it won best double in the Washington State show in 1987. Rosetta has also won with her brown strain, 'Brownie' and 'Son of Brownie' and now others in shades of rust, taking awards in 1992, 1993 and 1995. An interesting double was exhibited by Herb Dickson in 1989. It had pale green white flowers fading to pink. Wish I'd seen that!
Show Auricula 'Snow Lady' - Show winner, photo by Orval Agee

Orval Agee in Oregon had kept some of the green-edged show auriculas going, and won with a seedling in 1990.

So far I have surveyed the shows, and the primrose and auricula plants. Other sections of the shows worth reviewing are the species and the hybridizing section, both areas where numerous awards are made. However, species primula are not my area of expertise and hybridizing will have to wait for another time.

It might be noted that show reports in the quarterly are never greeted with enthusiasm, first of all by those that are buttonholed to write them, and secondly by readers who find the endless lists of winners and plant names boring. But without these records there is a piece of history missing. The list of show winners is the bones of the piece, but the descriptions of the plants in the show reports provide flesh to make a reality of the event. I look forward to many more APS shows and the fascinating reports of those attending and admiring the entries.

Genders, Roy and Taylor, H. C., Primroses and Polyanthus, Faber and Faber, London, 1953

Wigley, Lawrence, "J.J. Keen and the centenary of 'Argus'," Yearbook, National Auricula and Primula Society (Southern Section), 1995, p. 37-44.

TABLE 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Best Plant in Show</th>
<th>Exhibitor</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>'Mary Zach' (OR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>'Anna Francis' (E)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>'Argus' (OR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>'Mary of Doone Hill' (N)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>'Gleam' (N) 'Mrs. Hecker' (E)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>'Mary Zach' (N) (T)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>'Mary of Doone Hill' (VI)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Genders, Roy and Taylor, H. C., Primroses and Polyanthus, Faber and Faber, London, 1953

Wigley, Lawrence, "J.J. Keen and the centenary of 'Argus'," Yearbook, National Auricula and Primula Society (Southern Section), 1995, p. 37-44.
Prim and proper primrose pronunciation

By Lew R. Micklesten – Seattle, Washington

This article inaugurates a feature we expect to include in each quarterly bulletin. We hope that these notes will be of interest to those who may feel unsure of the pronunciation of their favorite species of primrose and perhaps to those who have wondered about their meanings. We shall follow closely the pronunciation and notation found in Gray’s Manual of Botany, in The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture, by L. H. Bailey and elsewhere. This system provides a kind of American standard pronunciation for botanical terms. Please note that this standard may not agree with that practiced in the United Kingdom. Also, this is only a recommended standard. Usage in the mouths of speakers usually prevails in language; so you may have accepted a pronunciation different from that specified in these notes.

Scientific botanical terminology is made up of Latin words, Latinized Greek words, Latinized words from other languages, Latinized personal names, and Latinized place names. The accent in all such words follows the accentual pattern in Latin; i.e., the accent may fall on the penultimate (or next to last) syllable or the antepenult (the third from the end) syllable. Which of these two syllables is accented is, in principle, a very simple matter: if the penultimate syllable is long or short can only be determined for sure from Latin or Greek dictionaries, but we will tackle these problems as we meet them in the various names of species.

Now we do not pronounce the consonants and vowels as they were presumably pronounced in Latin. They are Anglicized according to our American speech. The consonants with very few exceptions offer no problem. The long vowels are pronounced as in cake, evil, kite, vote, and rule. The short vowels are pronounced as in cat, egg, kit, pot, and sum. Note that neighboring sounds may change the quality of these basic long and short vowels. If you accent the word properly, paying attention to long vowels in the penultimate syllables and short vowels elsewhere, and pronounce the word as you would any word in English, you should get it right.

The notational system mentioned above is very simple: an acute accent mark (') is used over a short vowel, and a grave accent mark (') is put over a long vowel. I will say more about rules for accentuation and length of syllables later.

We have to contend with only one genus, Primula. The penultimate syllable -ul- is a diminutive suffix in Latin and is always short; therefore the accent falls on the short antepenult. We now take up a few specific epithets chosen for the rules of pronunciation and accentuation they represent.

P. al'gida: The penultimate syllable here contains the suffix -id-. This suffix bears the meaning “relating to,” or “characteristic of” and is always short. The stress, therefore, is on the antepenult syllable. The adjective a'lgidus means “cold” and is formed from the verb a'lgeo, algeré, “to be cold.” The feminine form a'lgida is used to agree with the feminine noun Primula. This species belongs in the subgenus Aleuritia and the Section Aleuritia. The word Aleuritia is composed of the Greek word aleuron, “flour, meal” and the suffix -it'ia- that forms abstract nouns denoting qualities. The ending -ida consists of three syllables. The penultimate -i- is short, and the accent is on the antepenult -i-. In accordance with our usual pronunciation of the -ti- plus a vowel combination we may say ‘a-lu-ri-sha.’ One can expect plants in this subgenus to be farinose.

P. ellisiae: In this instance the specific epithet is the Latinized form of an English family name, Ellis. This plant was discovered in 1901 by Miss C. Ellis, and she introduced it into cultivation in 1915. Since her name ends in a consonant and since she is a female, the Latin ending -ia is added to Ellis. In order to specify that she discovered the plant her Latinized name is put into the genitive case, ellisiae; so P. ellisiae means “Ellis’s Primrose.” Note that the diphthong -ae, the sign of the possessive case, is always pronounced as the -e- in evil. The -i-

primula - photo by June Skidmore

immediately preceding the -ae, is short and the accent is on the short antepenult. From other examples to be introduced later you will see that the vowel -i- or -y- plus consonant plus vowel plus vowel is always short. As we frequently do in English, we pronounce she -s- in ellisiae as the -s- in pleasure. This plant is found in the subgenus Auriculastrum, section Parryi. Auriculastrum consists of two elements: the familiar Auricula, meaning “little ear,” and referring to the shape of the leaves and the ending -astrum, a pejorative suffix that in this case refers to “wild” plants as opposed to “cultivated” plants. The accent is on the suffix -astrum. Even though the -a- in -astrum is short, the presence of -s- before the two following consonants creates length in the penultimate syl-
Letters from Members

Mary Kordes from Allouez, Michigan writes:

What an exciting surprise to have my auricula photo chosen to appear on the cover of the Fall issue of Primroses. Thank you so much! All of the auricula photos in that issue are so beautiful - such gorgeous colors. It is heart-warming to know so many gardeners all over the globe are enjoying this wonderful plant. Many of my auriculas are grown from Herb Dickson’s seed, and I treasure them. I find that, while we are part of Michigan, being close to Lake Superior - just above Wisconsin on the Keweenaw Peninsula - modifies our climate. We do have a few hot days in our zone 5 summers, but our normal 36-48” Lake Superior snowcover allows us to grow many zone 6 plants.

Our biggest difficulty the last two years has been drought. All water levels in our area, including lakes and streams, are at least 18” below normal. We water our gardens, but can’t possibly water deeply enough. I also had a problem with meadow voles destroying many of the auricula and Lewisia plants in that garden two winters ago. They had taken up residence in the dry-laid rock wall backing the garden. Though we enjoy feeding wild birds in our yard, we felt the voles were attracted to seed the birds dropped. We’re now leaving bird feeding to our neighbors. We placed several packets of D-con deep in the rock wall in fall, where the birds can’t find it, and had no plant damage last winter. We had over 300 garden visitors this summer - quite good for our rather remote area. Those who come to see the primroses are excited to see so many colorful blossoms so early in spring. I wrote an article on primroses for our local newspaper in the spring of ’97, listing the APS address. I’m hoping to spur more interest in our area. While I’m writing I’ll include photos of two plants, looking for an opinion on identity. (My only interaction with expertise is with my books!) I purchased the lavender-pink primula at the Primula Worldwide Plant Sale in Oregon in 1992. In the frenzy of those first few minutes of the plant sale, I was attracted to the shiny leaves of the unmarked seedling. The lady in charge of the table assured me it was a primula (I was - and still am - a novice) and, yes, it was hardy. She didn’t offer a species name and I was too excited with the crush of my first plant sale experience to ask. Comparing the drawings in Doretta Klaber’s Primroses and Spring, I think it’s P. glaucescens. Do you agree, or could it be something else? The other photo is a plant I grew from APS seed in 1997, and labeled as P. florindae. I set it, in its pot, into the cold frame in fall, mulching with sawdust as the seedling was small. Well, come spring it didn’t look anything like it’s florindae seedling mates, and I was astounded when I found it budding. Using Richard’s book, Primula, I’ve ID’d this one as P. ioessa. Do you agree? The leaves are sharply serrated, the leaf blade extends nearly to the base of the petiole, and the hanging-bell blossoms are deliciously scented. I was thrilled! It’s now planted in the garden and I’m looking forward to spring.

Primula glaucescens (?), Purchased 1992 – photo by Mary Kordes

Dear Editor,

Members of the Alaska Group were recently treated to scenes of English Show Auricula Primroses.

Mr. Harry Leighton of the National Auricula and Primrose Society, Northern Section, of England, sent over a program which showed many of the leading Show Auriculas, plus some other kinds of Primroses.

Viewers were very interested in seeing these slides, and humorous comments in the descriptive typed list, several times brought laughter.

English Growers have been the leaders in growing and showing the Show Auriculas, and their ancestors, for a very long time; the history going back several hundred years.

Nina Sinnott from Stanwood, Washington writes:

Since using the following spray on

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potted auriculas, other primroses and greenhouse plants. I've noticed very little root aphid infestations or other pests. I usually spray in the late afternoon, or early morning and repeat after a few days using a 1-quart pump spray and keeping the mix agitated. I thoroughly wet the whole plant, upper and lower leaf surfaces, and spray the soil around the neck of the plants, especially the auriculas. The Maxi-crop Sea weed or Kelp fertilizer is a foliar feed as well as an insect repellent and gives hardness in winter, too.

**LETTERS cont. from page 23**

**PRIM & PROPER cont. from page 21**

urable. The section name comes from the family name of Charles C. Parry, an American botanical explorer of the last century. Since he is a male and his name ends in a short -y-, a long -i- is added to form the genitive case of a masculine noun; and the combination means “of Parry.” The word is accented on the antepenult and is pronounced “pa’ir-i-eye.”

P lut’eola: This specific epithet is a Latin adjective luteolus but in the feminine form to agree with Primula. It is formed from the word lutum or “weld (a plant yielding a yellow dye)” plus a diminutive suffix -eol, so that the compound seems to suggest itself because of our discussion of P. lute’ola. Note that in deo’rum we have the same two adjacent vowels, but the accent is on the second vowel in this case. Here the penultimate syllable is accented because it was long in Latin. The ending -orum- with a long vowel, it is long (even though it may have been short in Latin). The “o” in -o- is short, and the stress must fall on -o-; however, the -o- in this case is pronounced long in our Anglicized form. The subgenus here is Auriculastrum again, but the section is Oreophlomis. The latter word is composed of two parts. The first part is a Greek word o’ros, “mountain,” but it appears in the shape of oreo- from the genitive form o’reos. The second part of the word represents the Greek word phlomis, “Jerusalem sage (a woolly plant),” which in turn is related to phlo’mos, “mullein.” The -o- in phlomis is short, and we find the accent on the antepenult syllable in the compound word. The combination seems to refer to woolly plants of the mountains. Again we expect a farinose plant.

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**GARLIC BUG SPRAY**

3-5 cloves garlic
Few drops Tabasco hot pepper sauce
1 tsp. Maxi-crop fertilizer, or kelp
1 tsp. dish detergent
2 cups water

Combine ingredients in a blender or food processor and mix at high speed for 3 minutes. Strain through a fine strainer, or nylon, reserving garlic bits in a jar with a tight fitting lid. Pour strained liquid into sprayer and make up to 1 qt. with water. Add water to reserved garlic bits and store in refrigerator.

**LETTERS cont. from page 23**

**PRIM & PROPER cont. from page 21**

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TOP: *P. marginata* 'Kesselrings' var

RIGHT: *P. vialii*, photo by Jay Lunn (see article page 6)

BELOW: *P. minima*