

Primroses



Spring 2004

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Primroses

Quarterly of the
American Primrose Society
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The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in Primula together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden the genus Primula in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about Primula.

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Cover Photo: *P. bella*, grown by April Boettger from seed brought back from China by ARGS in 2001. Photo by Pam Eveleigh

Back Cover Photos: Top: blue self 'Oakes Blue' and red self 'Scorcher', both photo's courtesy Derek Telford

Primroses

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All photos are credited.

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Manuscripts for publication in the quarterly are invited from members and other gardeners, although there is no payment. Please include black and white photographs, slides or color prints if possible. Send articles directly to the Editor at the addresses above or email articles and pictures to primroses@gci.net. Articles composed in Word or another word processor are greatly appreciated. Please communicate with the Editor regarding electronic image requirements. APS reserves the right to use submitted articles and pictures for other official APS uses.

Advertising rates per issue: full page, \$100; half page, \$50; quarter page, \$25; eighth page and minimum, \$12.50. Artwork for ads is the responsibility of the advertiser, and camera ready copy is appreciated. Submit advertising to the Editor. (Graphic artwork help is available.)

President's Message



It's Spring! For some of us, the first Primulas are blooming and many more are budding. In colder areas, you may have seedlings growing under lights or for those who believe in the natural way, seeds are under the snow getting some invigorating stimulation. Crisp clear nights and sunny days in Juneau are making snowdrops bloom in my

garden and causing blueberry buds to swell. Wild mallards are visiting my ponds looking for nesting spots but I haven't seen a robin yet. During some of my garden cleanup I've even found a few slugs to sacrifice to the plant gods.

Have you sent in your ballots yet? Are you making lists of plants to divide and share or new ones to try or even existing plants to grow better? Get out to the shows and plant sales and don't forget to mention the Primrose Society in casual conversations about great plants to grow in our gardens.

I'm looking forward to visits to gardens and nurseries in Seattle, Portland and Victoria, BC this spring and will drop off membership cards and past quarterlies to help recruit new members. Referrals to our fine website also helps others to learn more about our favorite genus.

Our Editor is appealing for regional assistants to help produce the Quarterly and to train as his replacement. Please help us find qualified people who can make "Primroses" an even better benefit to our members and advertisement for our Society.

Ed Buyarski

From the Editor

By Robert Tonkin

This issue of *Primroses* marks three years of efforts by this Editor to keep the sixty-two year tradition of common sense primula gardening moving in a positive direction. In the last three years we have brought the production price of *Primroses* down over thirty percent. This was accomplished by moving all layout, scanning, and photo retouch work "in house". We have purchased new and upgraded existing software to provide the Editor with the tools needed to do the job. Articles and photos have come from well known as well as new members in an effort to further our mission, which you will find printed on the inside front cover.

The finances of the Society could not be better. Treasurer Julia has done an outstanding job of accounting for our finances, as well as maintaining a constantly changing membership list. We have doubled our bank account reserves in the past three years. The Society has in excess of two years of ongoing operating expenses set aside, well beyond the one year recommended for nonprofits.

Primroses can always be made better, but alas, we all have day jobs, careers, families, and of course our gardens and greenhouses to tend to. The American Primrose Society, unlike other plant societies similar to ours, operates on a 100 percent volunteer basis.

Your current Editor has embarked on a professional education endeavor that will last for the next three years. I need much more dedicated time to complete this task than what I currently have. So... with mixed emotion I have informed our Board that Volume 62, 2004 will be my last as Editor. I will assist the Board in whatever way I can in their task of finding our next Editor, making the transition as smooth and professional as possible over the next six months. I will remain an active member.

I have recommended that the new Editor already possess proficiency with one of the common page layout software programs for either the PC or Mac. Adobe Pagemaker is being used now, but others may work if the candidate is proficient in its use.

I have recently renegotiated our printing pricing schedule under very favorable terms with Alaska Litho here in Juneau. Should a new Editor wish to revisit this arrangement, I'm sure the Board would have an open mind. Labeling envelopes, stuffing and sorting each issue for mailing under the US Postal Service Periodic rate structure is a job unto itself, one which a new Editor may not wish to take on. I have, and will continue to make suggestions to the Board on the most cost efficient method for production and distribution of our Quarterly.

If you have an interest in becoming the Editor of *Primroses*, either call or email President Ed or myself for further information. Getting good content should be the responsibility of every Chapter and every member. Hopefully the Board will encourage each Chapter and Group to identify a Regional Editor who will work to

acquire good content for our new Editor. The responsibility of obtaining good content, doing the software layout work and distribution of each issue should be borne by as many dedicated individuals as possible.

Your Judging Committee is in the process of updating our Judging Rules and Standards. The three previously Board approved documents are printed in this issue for membership review. It has been many years since these documents were updated. The Judging Committee is now undertaking this task. What can you do to help in the process?

1. Vote your ballot from last issue and mail it to our Secretary by mid April. The Judging Committee is in need of authority, through our bylaws, to update and work with the Board to ensure we have a set of rules and guidelines that are readily available, easy to understand and implement.
2. Make suggestions for improvements and needed changes to these documents. Any member can suggest changes, either through direct communications, preferably in writing, to the Judging Committee, the APS Board of Directors, or your local Chapter or Group President.
3. Become a judge. The requirements are to have passed an open book test and to have judged three shows as a Junior Judge. The Judging Committee Chairperson, Rosetta Jones, should be contacted if you have an interest.

A number of recommendations for revision are currently being discussed within the Judging Committee. Once the outcome of the ballot election is determined, discussion among the Judging Committee completed, including input from the membership, the Committee will formalize a list of recommended revisions and submit them to the APS Board for approval. Once approval has been completed we hope to have the final copy printed and put on the APS Webpage for any member to access.

This "Judging Rules & Standards" issue will hopefully encourage all members to become active in their local shows and in the show process. As somebody famous once said, "all politics are local". So is the case with our Society. Your local Chapter and Group is where our Society will grow from. Local shows provide the opportunity to educate more recent members and to recruit new members. It is in everyone's best interest to have a set of rules and standards that are easy to find, easy to interpret, and fair to all participants. The enclosed documents are what we use now. Hopefully through the dedicated work by our Judging Committee, our Board, and you the member, we can improve upon them. We don't anticipate a great deal of change, but we are hopeful of making them better known to the membership. Take the time to welcome the new member to the joys of benching their garden plants. Clerk a show, set up some tables, make refreshments, help clean up, and spread the love of primula through local shows as well as *Primroses* and our web page.

STANDARD RULES AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

for the National American Primrose Society approved by American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society, Inc. Board, Adopted 8 October 1988

1. The local club sponsoring the show must be affiliated with the APS.
2. The show must be designated as a national show by the APS board of directors.
3. A national show must be open to the public for two days or more to include a week-end and close no later than 6 P.M. on final day.
4. Entries must be accepted in clay and plastic pots. Other types of pots may be accepted to encourage entries by air express from far away members.
5. Entries from members living more than 100 miles from the show must be accepted on the morning of the show.
6. Entries in the arrangement classes should be accepted up until on hour before judging is scheduled to start.
7. The show will include, besides the individual plants for benching, a decorative section for arrangements, an educational display, and at least one planted display to show the use of the type of primula featured by the show.
8. In a national show the novice and junior entries will be judged separately.
9. Admission, except required tax, will be free to members of the APS upon display of their paid up membership card.
10. Trophies must be engraved to include at least - APS national show, the year, the award and the name of the winner; except when the trophy is of a material or construction not suited to engraving. In lieu of the engraving a certificate with the same information that would be engraved on the trophy and signed by both the president of the sponsoring society and the president of the APS will be presented to the winner. The winner of any perpetual or revolving trophy will be presented a similar certificate with the trophy.
11. All primula plants in competition are to be judged as garden flowers by accredited APS judges, except show auriculas, alpine auriculas, and gold-laced polyanthus must be judged as show flowers by accredited APS judges.

12. Decorative displays and arrangements may be judged by the standards of the area in which the show is held.

13. Any time there are three or more entries of one type or color of primula not included on the schedule a separate class can be created for them. A separate class may be set up for any entry not on the schedule if the show committee so desires. (This is useful when a new color break, new form, or new hybrid is first exhibited.)

14. Points for figuring sweepstakes winners are: Blue Ribbons - 3 points; Division Champion - 5 points; other special awards not Division Champion - 5 points; Best plant of two or more divisions - 10 points; best plant in show - 15 points. Only when a tie exists will red ribbons (2nd place) be counted; then they will be 2 points each.

DEFINITIONS

NOVICE - One who has never won a blue ribbon award on a primula plant in a show.

JUNIOR - Age limits determined by the local society and published in schedule.

SEEDLING - A plant grown by the exhibitor from seed and displaying its first season's bloom, not more than three crowns, and with at least three open pips; except in the show auricula, alpine auricula, and gold laced polyanthus class, a seedling is a plant that has not been named - and it does not have to be raised from seed by the exhibitor, but the source of the plant must be identified.

BORDER ALPINE - Auriculas grown for garden plants that are predominantly alpine in character but having flaws such as pin eye, farina on pips or leaves, or notched or pointed petals that prevent it being benched as a alpine auricula; it shall conform to show auricula in all other aspects (one crown. one umbel. at least 5 pips etc.)

GARDEN AURICULA - Any auricula grown for a garden plant that cannot be placed in any other established section or class for competition.

SHOW AURICULA, ALPINE AURICULA AND GOLD LACED POLYANTRUS - Plants that conform to the APS accepted minimum standards of the type for benching in a show.

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY**Recommended Judging Scores for Primulas 1976/1977****GARDEN POLYANTHUS**

Flower (50)	
Color—clear, rich	15
Substance	15
Size of blossom	10
Clear eye	5
Thrum eye	2.5
Fully opened blossoms	2.5

Plant (50)	
Umbel—full, symmetrical	10
Stalk—sturdy, round, tall	20
Foliage—healthy, symmetrical	20

ACAULIS PRIMROSE

Flower (50)	
Color—clear, rich	15
Good texture	15
Fully opened blossoms	10
Size of blossoms	5
Clear eye	2.5
Thrum eye	2.5

Plant (50)	
Floriferousness	15
Florets not hidden	10
Foliage—healthy, symmetrical	25

JULIANA HYBRIDS

Flower (50)	
Color—clear, rich	15
Rare color—new or unusual	5
Eye—clear, small: or none	5
Substance—substantial	10
Form—symmetrical	10
Thrum eye	2.5
Texture—luminous, silky	2.5

Plant (50)	
Floriferousness	20
Foliage—miniature, with root stalk similar to P. Juliae.	20
Cultural excellence	10

**SPECIES AND OTHER TYPES
NOT COVERED BY EXISTING POINT SCORES**

Free from disease and damage.	20
Full bloom, good color	30
General condition	50

For Seedlings

Judged on individual merit and point scored according to section scores.

Addendum: When several plants are in close competition and the score ties, some additional characteristics to be observed are: Rose Crown (embossed fluting circling the mouth of the tube), the most unusual color which is the most difficult to obtain, greatest depth of color, most beautiful or unusual eye, Fragrance, Floriferousness, comparative strength of stalk, condition of umbel, most perfect foliage.

**AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
Recommended Judging Scores
for Show Plants and Garden Auricula
1976****ALPINE AURICULA (Thrum Only)**

Pip, round, flat unnotched	10
Color, rich, shading to edge	20
Center, round and clear	15
Tube, round, edge level with pip	10
Anthers, dense, curved in	10
Size, substance, condition	10
Stem and footstalk	10
Foliage	10

SELF SHOW AURICULA (Thrum Only)

Pip, round and flat	20
Color, solid, no shading	15
Paste	20
Tube, round, edge level with pip	10
Anthers, dense, curved in	5
Size, substance, condition	10
Stem and footstalk	10
Foliage	10

EDGED SHOW AURICULA (Thrum Only)

Pip, round and flat	20
Body color, round, dark	15
Paste	20
Tube, round, edge level with pip	10
Anthers, dense, curved in	5
Size, substance, condition	10
Stem and foot stalk	10
Foliage	10

FANCY SHOW AURICULA (Thrum Only)

Pip, round and flat	20
Body color, bright, may flash	15
Paste	20
Tube, round, edge level with pip	10
Anthers, dense, curved in	5
Size and substance	10
Stem and footstalks	10
Foliage	10

POLYANTHUS, GOLD OR SILVER LACED (Thrum Only)

Lacing—narrow, even, to center	30
Body color	10
Center, round, gold, sharp	20
Anthers, dense, curved in	10
Size and substance	10
Stem and footstalks	10
Foliage	10

GARDEN AURICULA

Flower (50 points)	
Color, clear	15
Substance	15
Open Blossom, flat or ruffled	2.5
Size	10
Clear center	15
Thrum	2.5
Plant (50 points)	
Umbel	10
Stalk	20
Foliage	20

BORDER ALPINE AURICULA

Flower (50 points)	
Color, clear, must be shaded from dark to light	15
Substance:	15
Open Blossom, flat or ruffled	2.5
Size	10
Clear center	15
Thrum	2.5
Plant (50 points)	
Umbel	10
Stalk	20
Foliage	20

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
Recommended Judging Score Points for Double Auriculas 1977

CLASSICAL DOUBLE AURICULA

Flower (60 points)

Outer tier of petals flat, appropriate size for truss and plant	10
Inner tiers overlaying and reducing neatly toward center	10
Must have at least two tiers of petals plus petals covering tube. Excessive tiers of petals (6 or more, which spoil formality) would be a fault	20
Petals should be round (not notched), flat and have good substance	10
Color—clear, shaded by alpine standards or solid (being more formal)	
Pip—In dark colored pips, the light center must be at least partly obscured by petals. All pips should be the same color. If meal is present it must be fine and not detract	10

Truss and Plant (40 points)

Truss well balanced (not one sided) and above foliage	10
3 uniformly double open pips (at least)	10
Stem and Footstalks rigid, Guard leaf small	10
Plant healthy and displaying itself well	10

POINTS FOR OTHER DOUBLE AURICULA

Judging should follow that of Garden Auricula except for these points:

Flower

5 uniformly Double open pips of the same color	10
Tube should be obscured by petals and light eye, if any at least partially obscured	5
Pip—ideal form would be a full 1/2 ball	5
Stem & Footstalk must be able to support truss and pips well	10

Standard of Excellence for
DOUBLE ACAULIS & DOUBLE POLYANTHUS
1977

Flower (25)

Unusually beautiful color and petal detail, including yellow & white	10
Fully double. Also, unconfined by calyx keeping it budded	10
Size of blooms	5

Plant (25)

Acaulis stems sturdy, stiff, holding blooms above foliage, proudly, or Polyanthus stalks sturdy, holding a compact umbel proudly erect	15
Floriferousness at time of showing; and leaf signs as to health and having wintered outdoors until show time	10
(i.e. All double acaulis are floriferous, and polyanthus generally more so than singles, in their vain attempt to set seed.)	

Doubles

Based on a thinking-through of hybridizing goals for a garden flower whose beauty is enjoyed at a distance as well as at close range.....

A fair judgment can be made if we take into consideration the fact that substance seems to be native due to the procedure necessary to produce them; that there is no eye, or no thrum or pin consideration. Foliage is almost sure to be healthy because maiden plants are usually shown. However, if foliage is unhealthy, floriferousness will not measure up to the 10 points allotted in this tentative offering. But, I do believe that signs of outdoor wintering should be favored over the perfect-leaved plant which appears to have been wintered indoors, or for any length of time before showing. I base this on the fact that double primroses and polyanthus are garden plants and not show plants such as Gold Lace, Show and Alpine Auriculas which are bred for bench points.

Consequently, this proposal is based on 50 points instead of 100 to eliminate confusion and expedite a more true assessment, perhaps, than a more complicated one based on an elaborated 100 point score. (George Glenny, the 19th Century authority on Gold Lace, scored Gold Lace on 6 points which was the score used in England, perhaps still is. See January, 1946 Quarterly, page 44.)

GENERAL JUDGING OF PRIMULAS **ADOPTED, OCTOBER 1985, BY A.P.S. BOARD**

Read the Schedule carefully.

Have a copy of Point Score. Scoring used only when plants are in close competition.

* POINT SCORE: 85-100 Blue, 80-85 Red, 70-80 White

Look for substance, texture, floriferousness, a well-balanced plant, pleasing to the eye. Foliage should be healthy, free from disease, pests, and not over fertilized.

Three plants of the same color, to a class, unless schedule states otherwise.

Pots with exposed tags to be corrected before judging.

Look for clean clay or plastic pots.

Take off five (5) points for a dirty pot.

You do not decide that a plant that is easy to grow doesn't deserve your best judging or a trophy.

When judging your own plants, be more discerning.

When a plant needs to be turned or moved, ask a clerk to do this. Do not touch any part of the plant yourself.

There is to be no re-judging after a set of judges have judged the show. If a major fault is discovered before judging is complete, a plant may be re-judged by a majority of judges.

Once a plant is on the trophy table, it stays there. A majority panel of judges pick the trophies.

Bamford Trophy: Only edged show auriculas are eligible.

Stakes are allowed on show auriculas only. Stakes should be small, neat and inconspicuous. No cotton. Stake to be below the umbel.

Exhibition plants to show one umbel, others may be tied down out of sight, with the exception of Gold Lace.

Exhibition plants judged on majority of pips, not just one pip.

We are getting a lot of species in our shows and we don't all grow or know them. Plants can vary in appearance. Carefully judge the entire plant.

Plant must be in owner's possession six months before plant can be entered in show.

When several plants are in close competition and the scores tie, some additional characteristics to be observed are: Rose crown, most unusual color, greatest depth of color, most beautiful or unusual eye, fragrance, floriferousness, strength of stem, conditions of umbel, most perfect foliage.

Remember, a primula show is not a standard show. All plants are judged on their own merit.

Companion plants - do not compete for best plant in the show.
Fasciated stem - deduct ten (10) points.

Pictorial Examples of Judging Standards

Photo's #1 and #2 Page 15: two Gold Laced Polyanthus, commonly known as a GLP, are shown. Photo #1 exhibits uneven grounding and a less than circular eye. Compare this plant with the near perfect photo #2 received from Lawrence Wigley in the UK, exhibiting near perfect lacing and very circular eyes.

Photo's #3 and #4, Page 16 compare two fancy auricula. Photo #3 exhibits much less than a circular eye, ground shading that extends well beyond where it should toward the leaf edge, crowding out the green petals. Compare this plant with a fine example of a fancy in photo #4, exhibiting the proper proportional attributes of the auricula noted in the point system and literature.

Photo's #5 and #6 Page 17. Two garden auricula. Photo #5 defines an example of an eye that is ragged as compared with photo #6, showing beautiful uniform color as well as a symmetrical eye.

Photo's #7 and #8 Page 18 Here two alpine s are presented for comparison. Photo #7 exhibits shading that is uneven, an eye that is not truly circular and somewhat undersized in proportion to the entire pip. Photo #8 shows a near perfect light centered alpine A vril , grown and photo d by Ken Bowser , named for his wife.

Photo's #9 and #10 Page 19 repeat the same theme as #7 and #8, but in the reverse, where the eye in #9 is much larger than what it should be. The petals also show large gaps between them and are not flat and symmetrical as exhibited in photo #10.

Photo's #11, #12, and #13 Page 20 all show examples of flowers not likely to be given a blue ribbon. Photo #11 is a poor example of a double, #12, besides being a pin, suffers from a ground covering most of the petal, and #13 exhibits an eye less than round and shading less than the desired uniformity found in photo #8.

Photo's #14, #15, #16 and #17 Page 21 give us the ideal for a blue ribbon, the makeup of which are discussed in the judging point systems. All are excellent examples of what judges are looking for to place a blue ribbon upon.

Photo s #1, #3, #5, #7, #9, #11, #12 Ed Buyarski. Photo #2 Lawrence Wigley. Photo s #14, #15, #16, #17 Ann Lunn. Photo s #8 and #18 Ken Bowser. Photo#13 Robert Tonkin, the remaining photo s are from the APS archives.



Photo #1

Photo #2





Photo #3

Photo #4



Photo #5

Photo #6





Photo #7

Photo #8



Photo #9

Photo #10





Photo #11

Photo #12

Photo #13



Photo #14 Caroline's Dorothy, C. Jensen



Photo #15 Garden Auricula, Paul Dick

Photo #16 P. Saxatilis, Cheri Fluck

Photo #17 Polyanthus Hybrid, Cheri Fluck



Standards of Excellence for Garden Polyanthus, Garden Auriculas, and Juliae Hybrids

By Florence Levy

Florence Levy, founder of the American Primrose Society, wrote this "Standards of Excellence" in 1946. The standards are still the same, and it is appropriate that we reprint this now as a reminder to keep them high. (Reprinted from the A.P.S. Quarterly, page 44, Vol. 3, No. 3, out of print)

In considering the standards of excellence for Polyanthus and Auriculas it must be remembered we are dealing with Garden, or Border, varieties as opposed to Florists', or Show flowers. The two types are entirely different in form and color, and bred and grown for different purposes. Show Auriculas, though not quite so neglected in the past few decades, are making a more rapid return to popular cultivation.

Garden polyanthus and garden auriculas, then, must be viewed with garden merits in mind rather than the florists' standards base on precision of form, the prime requisite of show flowers which are developed solely for competition on the show table. Everyone knows the garden polyanthus and garden auricula, but perhaps not all are certain as to their good points. The scores for judging will serve to guide the grower, not only in material suitable for shows, but as to the plants best kept in the garden, for the finest individual specimens naturally produce, in mass, the best effect. Since the average cultivator is not acquainted with the standards of excellence for show polyanthus and show auriculas, these rules are also given as the most effective way of outlining the difference of form and the purpose for which each type is developed.

The strict rules for Florists' Polyanthus are based upon precision of line, purity of color, and restrained refinement. The ground color must be one rich uniform shade of red, or black, which is laced or edged with yellow-preferably a clear unvarying lemon-gold-around the edge of the petal striking down through the petal's center to meet the golden eye, which must be of the exact shade as the lacing (see photo #2, page 15...Ed). The lacing must be exquisitely smooth and of even width throughout, laid on with great precision and without blemish. The center, or eye, in addition to being the exact shade of the lacing, clear and unvarying, must be absolutely circular and as wide as possible. The mouth of the tube should be slightly raised above the level of the eye and should be filled with bold anthers up to the surface with the stigma almost sessile below. All of the flowers, or pips as they are called, should be equally and fully expanded, perfectly flat and round, and scalloped on the edge. This is only a bare outline which omits embroidered details and many of the fine points. George Glenny, a voluminous writer on the subject of Florists' flowers in England during the last century, has scored the Gold Laced, or Show Polyanthus, as



Photo #17 Ed's Edible Landscaping Potluck Dish from the 2003 Banquet Dinner

Photo #18 #13 Terry Mitchell with Auricula Theatre in UK show 2001



follows: (a) Strong straight stem, 4 to 6 inches, 1/2 point. (b) Footstalks of pips just long enough to bring all together in a compact symmetrical whole, 1/2 point. (c) A truss of not less than five well expanded flowers, 1 point. (d) The center pure, without stain, and uniform with that on the edges, 1 1/2 points. (e) The lacing thinly and regularly laid on round each segment, cutting down to the center, 1 1/2 points. (f) The ground color red or black, un-shaded, and dense, 1 point.

It will be noticed that no points are given for thrum-eyed blooms, the type with visible anthers. The reason is simple enough. Florists had decreed against pin-eyed, and cultivators hustled them off to the compost heap as soon as the form became apparent, even absolute perfection on all other points being unable to save them. Consequently it was understood that only thrum-eyes were acceptable.

This raises the point which today absorbs a disproportionately large amount of attention. It can readily be seen why pin-eyed blooms were rejected in flowers bred to symmetrical precision, but at long range, in the garden, other factors are much more important. However, since thrum-eyes are prettier in close view than pin-eyes—a preference possibly carried over from the florists' dictum—they are given extra points in judging.

From the garden point of view sturdy habit; clear color; substantial texture for greater beauty and insurance against storm damage; size and form of blossom; large, full truss; a stalk strong and tall enough to carry the truss to advantage; and foliage free from disease and pests are the valued properties. On the basis of 100 points, the Society's standard of excellence for judging garden polyanthus gives 50 points to the flower and 50 to plant habit and foliage as follows: Flower-clear color with no muddiness 15 points; substantial texture (not thin and papery) 15; size, must be over 1 inch, 10; clear eye, 5; full opened blossoms when mature, either ruffled, frilled or flat 2 1/2; thrum eye 2 1/2; total 50 points. Umbel, 10 points—full and with short enough footstalks to bring the individual florets into a compact, symmetrical truss. Stem, -20 points—sturdy, round and sufficiently tall to hold umbel well above foliage. Foliage, 20—free from disease and pests, well grown but not stimulated beyond proportion.

Although the garden polyanthus came to be admitted more and more frequently to English show tables, it was a rare garden auricula that ever passed the portals. Garden Auriculas were more apt to be considered something that did not measure up to Show standards rather than a type to be developed for its own particular beauty as we do here. Show auriculas and alpine auricula, though on the increase in America, have so far been shown non-competitively. Both the show auricula and the alpine auriculas are distinct from the garden auricula. Briefly, show auriculas are of four main sub-types: Green-edged, grey-edged, white-edged, and selfs (not edged, the ground color continuing uniformly to the outer rim of the petal with no shading). Each floret appears to be four concentric circles as though drawn by a compass, made up of tube, paste (eye), ground color, and edge. Much more

elaboration of detail is given the show auricula than the show polyanthus, but since space does not permit, only the standard of excellence for show auriculas outlined by the Royal Horticultural Society of England which is considered very simple, follows: The truss to consist of not less than five fully developed flowers, 10 points; the corolla (floret) round, smooth on the edge, perfectly flat, 2 points; the tube yellow or lemon, round, filled with anthers, 1 point; paste smooth, solid, pure white, 2 points; ground color dense, forming a perfect circle next to the paste, 2 points; the edge green, grey-white, or un-shaded self color, 2 points; the stem strong and sufficiently long to bear the truss above the foliage, 1 point.

The type of auricula known technically as the alpine differs from the show auricula by having a perfectly unmealed center, or eye, and the petals are richly shaded from the deepest to the lightest tints of the one color the flower has adopted. The tube of the alpine should follow closely the color of the eye for greater uniformity and, as in all auricula, the mouth of the tube should rise fully to the level of the flower's face. The alpine auricula is divided into two sections, the one with the golden center, which is considered the higher type, and the paler, almost primrose-colored center. Flowers are perfectly flat with smoothly rounded petals and excel in rich, warm shades.

The garden auricula, like the garden polyanthus, is now developed for bedding and, accordingly, the qualities which fit them for this purpose most satisfactorily are given the highest rating. The judging score of 100 points, which almost parallels the standard for garden polyanthus, follows: Flower, 55 points—clear color, 15; substantial texture, 15; clear paste, or eye, 10; thrum-eyed 10; fully open blossoms when mature, may be flat or ruffled 5. Umbel 10, symmetrical and compact; stem 15, sturdy enough to carry the umbel erect, may be with or without meal; foliage 20, healthy, pest free, of good substance, may be with or without meal.

Primroses do not sport as readily as polyanthus and auriculas, therefore no show acaulis have been developed. The best garden form is the one which is most floriferous with blossoms carried well above the foliage. The standard of excellence which follows gives 50 points to the flower and 50 to habit of growth and foliage: Flower-clear color 15; good texture 15; floret well opened 10; size 5; clear eye 2 1/2; thrum-eyed 2 1/2, total 50 points. Form of growth, 25 points - floriferousness 15, florets in full view unhidden by foliage 10. Foliage 25 points, healthy, well grown, free from disease and pests, not over fertilized.

With juliae hybrids, miniature plant form is the desired characteristic. Too many hybrids are first generation crosses between *P. Juliae* or some of its hybrids and acaulis or polyanthus resulting in a large-leaved, medium-flowered plant, which certainly should not be termed a juliana form. There are, however, some very beautiful first and second generation crosses which amount more nearly to reduced Polyanthus with very small eyes, sometimes in complete absence except for rays, of exceedingly rich, glowing colors, and with a noticeable resistance to drought. A

separate classification should be made for this group. But for true *Juliae* hybrids, the more nearly the plant retains the miniature foliage and creeping habit of *P. juliae*, the better the form. More often than not, foliage which is small at blooming time becomes gross before summer is over. Because of the dominant color of *P. juliae*, one which is not easily bred out, purple shades are in the majority, with red, rose and lavender shades second, and blue, yellow and white, third. Although no extra points have yet been allotted the color breaks, those colors most difficult to achieve, this is taken into consideration now that such forms are beginning to put in an appearance. The score for *Juliae* hybrids, or *Juliana* forms, has been kept simple until such time as competition among cultivators demands a more elaborate one. On the basis of 100 points, 30 are given for floriferousness; 25 for miniature foliage as nearly the type of *P. Juliae* as possible; 25 for clearness of color and eye, and 20 for cultural excellence. The standard for the species, *P. Juliae*, is based entirely upon cultural excellence and floriferousness.

How Polyanthus Are Judged

Florence Levy (reprinted from Vol. 4, No. 4, page 60, April 1947)

A series of lectures was given last year in the Central Library, Portland, on the history, development and properties of Show and Garden Polyanthus, Show, Alpine and Garden Auricula, Acaulis, and Juliana hybrids designed as a course in Primrose appreciation and as a school for accrediting judges. Until now, requests for the publication of examination questions and answers have had to be set aside. As a means, however, of acquainting exhibitors in the forthcoming shows with the points on which their polyanthus will be judged, and simultaneously providing a guide in the choice of such entries, fifteen of the twenty questions comprising the examination on garden polyanthus are given herewith. Future issues will carry garden auricula, acaulis and juliana examinations.

The following ten questions pertain to the form of flower:

1. *Why are color and texture of greatest importance?* Because color and quality of color attract and hold the attention both in the garden and at close range; texture gives character and endurance, and adds quality and depth to color.
2. *Why do color and texture take precedence over size?* Size without refinements is coarse and vulgar.
3. *When is size a desirable characteristic?* Size when natural, not forced, and when in proportion to entire plant, adds immeasurably to the beauty provided color, texture and form are present.
4. *When is size unattractive?* When not an inherent factor in the plant, but forced by over-fertilizing. *What are some of the results of over fertilizing?* Color appears

diluted, texture thin, stalk weak, lengthened pedicels cause loose, gangling umbel, foliage excessively large and watery.

5. *When is the eye clear?* When no other color than its adopted shade of yellow or orange is present. *When clouded, or muddy?* When ground color appears to drain or wash back thereby causing discoloration.

6. *What two shapes may florets be?* Ruffled or flat. *From a judging viewpoint is one preferred to another?* No, not in garden polyanthus. Whereas florets of show polyanthus must be flat, shape of garden type may be either and any preference would be purely personal.

7. *There is a shape which is demerited because florets are not shown to advantage, what is it?* Cup-shaped, one that never entirely opens.

8. *Describe thrum-eye and pin-eye.* Thrum-eyed form displays anthers in mouth of tube while in the pin-eyed form the stigma is visible in the mouth of the tube, anthers being invisible below. *Which is the preferred form?* Thrum-eye.

9. *Why are so few points given to the thrum-eyed form in garden polyanthus when show polyanthus (none of which exists in America) are not admitted to entry in English shows unless thrum-eyed?* Because garden polyanthus are developed primarily for garden use and this detail is of no consequence in bedding and border material. Show polyanthus were developed exclusively for close-range scrutiny on the show table and the point fixed by early florists, in time became a dictum.

10. *What part of anatomy governs pin and thrum forms?* The style. A long style projects the stigma above the anthers, the short style confines the stigma within the tube and below the anthers. *When is the pin eyed form objectionable?* When the style is of such great length as to project the stigma beyond the mouth of the tube.

The following five questions apply to plant habit and foliage:

11. *In habit of growth what is of paramount importance?* A stout, sturdy stalk to hold the umbel erect, firm, and well above the foliage.

12. *If you were judging a Polyanthus of exceptional color, texture and size but this particular point was noticeably weak, how should it be considered from a garden and a show table point of view?* If a truss of florets, no matter how fine, cannot be held erect there is little value either at close or long range.

13. *In a Polyanthus, what is the characteristic which gives neatness and symmetry?* A compact truss with pedicels short enough to bring individual florets in close, yet an un-crowded, position. *Which would you consider the better Polyanthus, one with a few exceptionally large blossoms or one with many of lesser size?* The latter.

14. *What part of the plant largely indicates the care given it?* The foliage. *How should this part appear?* Pest and disease free, well nourished but not highly stimulated, neat and compact. (continued on Page 31)

Why Didn't My Entry Get a Blue Ribbon?

By The APS Judging Committee

Your Editor asked some of our more experienced senior judges and exhibitors to answer this question based on their years of judging our shows and benching their plants. While their answers may not have covered every circumstance confronting them on the bench, they were kind enough to pass along some of the more common reasons entrants may have received a red (second place) or white (third place) ribbon instead of the expected blue ribbon, and some thoughts on the process in general.

Judge Ann Lunn in Hillsboro Oregon responded with the following guidance.

“The most common reason for a plant not receiving a blue ribbon is that the exhibitor wasn't fully aware of what the judges (and rules) considered the most important features of the plant. For example: A well-grown, floriferous plant of an alpine auricula was entered. However, the flower petals were not round, the flower was not particularly flat and there was insufficient shading of the colors, the plant would not get a blue ribbon (see photo #13 for an example). The judging rules state that the characteristics given above are worth up to 35 out of 100 points. Since a blue ribbon requires 85 or more points, the judges could well deem the exhibited plant does not reach the blue ribbon point. This is the reason every exhibitor should have access to a set of judging rules!”

“The second most common explanation is that the exhibited plant was not adequately groomed. Grooming means to remove all dead or diseased leaves, flowers that are past their prime, clean both the plant and the pot; in other words, to present the plant in its best possible light. Even though the plant's features may be almost perfect, the poor presentation will overwhelm the good points. For example, you enter your dog in the dog show. Even though the bone structure, form and posture are perfect, if the coat is dirty and matted that will be what impresses the judges first.”

“There are point scores for all types of primula. However, even with those, competent judges still might disagree on the importance of a particular feature. The final outcome may add up to enough points to warrant only a red ribbon. This is particularly true of those characteristics that account for 20 or more points. For Gold or Silver Laced Polyanthus, the lacing around the edge of the petals is worth 30 points. If the form of the lacing is not perfect, one judge might award the flower 20 while another thinks it earns only 15 points.”

“Big is not always the best. I remember one of the first Primrose shows I attended. There were many beautiful big pots of polyanthus and acaulis. However, the best plant in the show was a diminutive, but perfect plant of *Primula modesta alba*. On

closer examination, there were flaws in the other plants that you would not notice unless you looked closely - as the judges do.”

“Finally, judges are not infallible. They do miss things on occasion.”

“The best thing an exhibitor who asks the above question can do is to have the judge for that section explain the features he or she was looking for and how the particular plant may not have measured up. This process should be a learning experience for both, not a contentious one.”

Judge Dorothy Springer in Tacoma Washington writes:

“Before beginning to judge the sections of a primrose show assigned to me I like to check the exhibits in each class as the judging team comes to it. I look to see if the entries in each class have been benched properly in that class according to the show schedule. I then count the number of entries in each class and give the total of each to the clerk, after which I ask the clerk to check each entry tag to make sure it is closed so the exhibitor's name is not visible.”

“My last task before beginning to judge is to make sure each plant has its best side facing toward the judges. If not, I ask the clerk to slowly turn the pot so we can make sure the absolutely best side of the plant is toward us as we judge it.”

“Now the judging can begin. Each plant will be judged on its own merit according to APS standards. In other words, the plants do not compete against each other for a first, second or third place ribbon. They are judged individually according to the APS standards of judging.”

“As each plant is judged and the decision made as to the ribbon to be awarded, the designated judge asks the clerk to mark the entry tag, which is still closed and which will remain closed. This procedure continues for every plant exhibited in each class in the show. Currently, a blue ribbon must score between 85-100 points; a red ribbon must receive 80-85 points; and a white ribbon 70-80 points. All point scoring is done according to set regulations determined by APS. (Please note that the APS Judging Committee is at work reviewing show procedures and regulations).”

“I am a firm believer in the notion that not every plant entered in a show should have a blue ribbon to encourage more participation. Nonsense! We are here to encourage the best possible plants to be shown. We all learn by doing. When we don't win the top prize on the first try, we try and try again. I award blue ribbons only when I feel a plant has that outstanding set of qualities that make it a superior plant: fine cultural practice exhibited by a healthy robust plant with strong straight stems, beautiful green clean foliage, excellent color and freshness, among others. Careful grooming and a clean clay or plastic pot goes a long way to help the overall appearance of a plant. Please, no decorated or colored ceramic pots. They only serve to detract from the plants.”

“When all the plants have been judged, the judging teams gather to choose the Best of Division winners. These are chosen from among all the blue ribbon winners in each class and placed on the trophy table. The Best In Show plant is then picked from these Division winners.”

“One final note should be made. After I judge a plant I like to write, or ask one of the clerks to write, very brief comments on the entry tag to explain the reasons for my judging. I well remember my days as a novice and how much I appreciated seeing those comments on my entry tags. I still appreciate seeing them on my tags now!”

Rosetta Jones, APS Judging Committee Chair, passes along this advice:

Exhibitors should learn how to, and then to make sure to, groom plants to be benched. She cites poor grooming as the single most common reason for a plant being marked down in judging points. Rosetta also makes the point that Judges decisions are final. She notes two examples where a plant was judged one day and the next day the plants character changed! In the examples she spoke of, an *acaulis* (defined as a single flower on a single stem) threw a poly (multiple flowers on a single stem) the day after judging. There apparently was much discussion as whether the plant should remain in the class on the bench. In another example a show auricula that was sitting on the plant sale bench was moved (not by the grower) to the bench, as its beauty was determined far too nice not to be shown. It turned out the auricula won top honors, only to throw a pin truss the following morning. In both examples Rosetta stresses the judges decisions are final. The plants are to be judged “as is” at the time of judging.

Maedythe Martin, former APS Editor, long time grower, exhibitor, and show Chair for many a show passes on a few thoughts about the process in general.

“Pondering the topic of judging is not something one does in the course of a normal day. But I have been asking some friends for their thoughts, and there are mixed reviews.”

“The APS shows are judged on a merit basis – that is, each plant is judged on its own qualities, not compared to any other. I believe this is the case with dahlia and iris shows, and probably other species as well. Often there is a point scoring method, and if the plant gains a certain number of points, it wins a ribbon.”

“Most alpine garden shows are judged on a competitive basis, where there is a first, second and third prize awarded in each class. I don’t think there is any middle ground between the two systems. But for each, there are problems.”

“If you want to encourage new show entrants, you want to reward them for bringing a plant by giving them a ribbon. Many APS members tell me that this is one of the

main reasons for maintaining the merit judging standard at APS shows.”

“For experienced growers, getting one of 10 blue ribbons in a class, when you have an exceptional plant, hard to grow, and by chance at its best at show time, find there is no reward here. This grower needs recognition for his or her skill in growing, and the competitive system seems better at rewarding outstanding plants in their class. Otherwise, experts get disillusioned, and interest falls away.”

“I know in some competitive shows, judges are encouraged to present two firsts or seconds if there is a large class with very fine plants. But there are still relatively few ribbons per class. I have been told that in some merit shows there are master growers classes for those with exceptional plants, so that they are judged among other outstanding plants. The grower decides if they will enter the master grower classes, accepting the risks of not being in the regular classes but reaping the rewards if they win. Who would ever have thought there was so much to think about in entering a plant in a flower show?”

“Another aspect of showing is your motivation. It is rewarding to win a ribbon, but in fact, if growers did not bring their plants to the show, there would be no show. After entering shows for many years, I still feel an obligation to get some plants to the show. Remember the Florists Feasts of history in England, where auricula growers would have one day a year to get together with other growers to talk about their interest and compare notes and plants? It is not always to win, but to talk to other keen plant-lovers with a similar interest. Having said that, it is a great disappointment if you bring a plant that you feel has exceptional merit and the judge does not. Another talent to encourage in oneself is to rise above the vagaries of judging (that judges don’t know a good thing when it is staring him or her in the face!) and bring the plant to the show, because you love it, want to show it to others, and never mind if it wins or not.”

“On the whole, I think it is better not to think too much about judging, and just groom some plants so they look their best, take them to your local show, and enjoy the day. If you think about it too much, you’ll never leave the house.”

How Polyanthus Are Judged, continued from page 27

15. *When several plants are in close competition and the score ties, what are some additional characteristics to be observed?* Rose crown (embossed fluting circling the mouth of tube), the most unusual color which is the most difficult to obtain, greatest depth of color, most beautiful or unusual eye, fragrance, floriferousness, comparative strength of stalk, condition of umbel, most perfect foliage.

It was pointed out that the judge greatly influences the destiny of a flower, especially when that flower is in its ascendancy. He guides public opinion and public opinion in great measure governs the trend of development so that the show table, instead of being an end in itself, is a means to a better end.

Reading Your Primroses Envelope Mailing Label

By Robert Tonkin, APS Editor

To assist our Treasurer in her task of keeping an up to date membership list, and to ensure your copy of Primroses continues to show up in your home uninterrupted, please make note of the mailing label on the envelope of your copy. On the name line of each label is the year in which your subscription expires. If you read "Jane Doe 04" on your label, your LAST issue will be the Fall issue (about October) in the year 2004. While we will make every attempt to remind you to renew your subscription by the end of the year, keep in mind you will NOT receive the next, or Winter, issue of the following year without renewing.

In the past we have sent out the first issue of the next volume, also known as the Winter issue, with the hope all expiring subscriptions would renew. The Board desired to save money by sending the Winter issue out to expired members under our USPS Periodic Rate Structure, formerly known as bulk mail. If your renewal is sent in late, meaning after the Winter issue comes out in mid January, our Treasurer mails your missed issue first class postage. The difference between mailing under the Periodic Rate Structure and first class rates is a 500% rate increase. If you multiply this difference by the average 150 members who often forget to renew until January or February, or even late Spring when it dawns on them they haven't received an issue of Primroses for awhile, you can see the cost is significant to the Society.

Subscriptions run on a calendar year basis. If you, or that friend you encourage to join, joins mid year, the Treasurer will mail all previously current year issues out right away. A new member also receives a welcome package of "how to" articles as well as a welcome letter from the APS.

Every issue of Primroses has a membership renewal and new subscription form as its last page with a perforation to ease its removal. Address changes and subscription information inquiries should be made to our Treasurer. Contact information can be found printed on the inside cover. Thank you for helping us keep costs and your membership dues as inexpensive as possible!

Please Vote!!

A reminder to vote and mail your ballot for two Board Members and proposed Adoption of Article VIII to the APS By-Laws to:

**Diana Pederson
APS Secretary
3809 Calvin Drive
Lansing, MI 48911**

Tony James Obituary

It is with sadness we report the death of Tony James on December 27, 2003 at age 90. Tony was a member of the APS for over a decade and an enthusiastic primula and auricula grower here in Victoria. Born in Nottingham, England, he became a mining engineer and served in World War II with the Royal Engineers. In 1950 he moved his family to Canada and was Mines Inspector in British Columbia from 1950 to 1977. He pursued many interests in his spare moments, and had an inquisitive and keen mind. He loved old roses, and then in the 1990s became entranced by primroses and auricula. In particular, he raised some lovely blue garden auricula which one found all around his back yard. the Cowichan polyanthus fascinated him, and he grew many from seed. Tony often won the trophy award for best polyanthus at the Vancouver Island and Rock Garden Society (VIRAGS) of which he was a member for many years. He won the novice award for most aggregate points at the APS National Show in Vancouver in 2002, and also the John Kerridge trophy for best Cowichan Polyanthus. Most recently he began collecting and growing show auricula. He bought a computer at the age of 87, learned to use it, sent e-mails regularly and even joined in many of the primula chat groups on-line for three years until his death. He will be remembered fondly by the gardening community of Victoria and his many friends for his kind, gentle nature and zest for life.

Maedythe Martin

2004 APS Show Dates and Information

2004 APS National Show Victoria BC, Canada April 23 & 24
Show info and links are on the APS Website at americanprimrosesoc.org

Gig Narrow Informal Show and Plant Sale Saturday April 17th,
Contact Dorothy Dwyer at (253) 857-4266 or dwyer80@yahoo.com

Tacoma Chapter Show Puyallup, WA April 15-18
Contact Thea Oakley at (425) 880-6177 or othea@mindspring.com

New England Chapter Show Boyalston, MA May 1-2
Contact Elaine Malloy (914) 533-2661 elaineprim@aol.com

Juneau Chapter Show Southeast Garden Conference May 14 & 15
Centennial Hall, Juneau Alaska contact Kerri Tonkin
at (907) 463-3155 or primroses@gci.net

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Board Meeting Minutes February 28, 2004

Present: Diana P., Phyllis P., Mary I., Michael P., Pam E., Richard A., Ed B., Julia H., Mary K., Robert T. Rodney B. Quorum existed so business could be conducted. **Old Business:** Two tier seed packet fees will start next year. Fees will be determined by the seed exchange manager. This year's seed exchange has completed the first round with 193 orders filled. **Financial Report:** Julia was present to answer questions on the financial report. Mary K. raised question on our balance sheet showing assets didn't match liabilities and equity. It was discovered that a computer error existed from transferring from one software program to another. Robert T. noted that the society now holds 2 to 2.5 times the annual operating expenses in the bank, double the recommended reserves. **Voting:** Chapters should remind their members to vote. A reminder to vote will be added to the website. Ballots and membership forms are on same perforated page in Quarterly. Diana P. will forward membership applications to Julie. **Advertising—Membership:** Chapters pay for their own advertising unless unusually high expenditures are necessary. Michael P. suggested his Chapter advertise in a local gardening magazine. Richard A. is taking "rack cards" to shows in the UK. **Quarterly Report:** There was discussion about reprinting the 60th anniversary issue. Selling extra issues of the 60th Edition that were initially printed brought in \$1500. Diana suggested the issue be reworked and printed as a booklet. Robert T. indicates he has similar goals for the future. Robert T. reminded the Board that a new Editor is needed before the end of this calendar year. **Website:** Pam noted the website is growing in popularity. She has asked members to submit photos of their favorite plants to update the photo gallery existing at the website. **Upcoming Shows:** Tacoma Chapter will hold a show at the Puyallup Fair April 15-18. Gig Harbor Chapter is having an informal show on April 17th at the Gig Harbor Library. New Englands Show will be May 1-2. Juneau May 15th.

National Auricula and Primula Society

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk

Primulas Auriculas Alpines and Shows

<http://www.wilkin94.fsnet.co.uk/>

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The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in Primula together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and the interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden the genus Primula in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about Primula.

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to the quarterly publication *Primroses*, Seed Exchange privileges, Slide Library, and the opportunity to join a Round Robin. Membership renewals are due November 15th and are delinquent at the first of the year.

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