Primroses
Quarterly of the American Primrose Society
Volume 62, Number 3, Summer 2004

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: Stand of P. veris and P. sieboldii in the garden of Ann and Jay Lunn, Hillsboro, Oregon. Robert Tonkin Photo

Back Cover Photos: Top: Ann’s front porch
Bottom: April Boettger’s pot of Dodecatheon at the Gig Narrows Show. Robert Tonkin photo

Primroses
EDITOR/GRAPHIC DESIGN
Robert Tonkin
3155 Pioneer Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 463-1554
primroses@gci.net

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
Judy Selker
Bar Edvardsen
Ed Buyarski

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President’s Message
Summer Greetings from Alaska. Well folks, I don’t think I’ve ever enjoyed rain as much as last night. I hate to complain but after eight days in a row over 80 degrees, we were ready to do a rain dance! That is more days of 80F than have happened in any Juneau summer. There was even some thunder and lightning, which is extremely rare here in Southeast Alaska. The muskeg ponds are dry and mud cracked while the moss is crunchy. Primroses and a lot of other plants in our gardens have wilted or are dying. Occasional rain is forecast for the next week but it will take a lot to bring our soil moisture levels back to normal and stream levels up so our salmon can spawn. Of course this weather has really slowed the multiplication of our local slug population as a bonus. Meanwhile, the Midwestern US is unusually cool and wet to balance our heat!.

I did just harvest the first seeds of Primula rosea but will be curious to see how other plants mature seed under these conditions. Bees and other pollinators have been very active in our sunshine and I’ve picked my first blueberries at least a week early. I do hope that many of you can save lots of seeds for the APS Seed Exchange to make Jacques and his helpers work hard. Having access to the Seed Exchange has been so important to many of us to expand our garden’s plant palette. That’s why I especially enjoy seeing wild primroses in my travels. Above Juneau this summer,
Tacoma Chapter Show
By Candy Strickland

The Tacoma Primrose Chapter staged its 54th Primrose Show April 15th thru April 18th, 2004 at the Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup, Washington, in conjunction with the Tacoma Rhododendron Society’s show and other plant and animal exhibits.

The Fairgrounds report that 100,000 people attended the Fair. We are pleased to know that so many passed through and admired our offerings.

The Chapter benched 86 entries, way down from years past, but it is impossible to convince the weather to cooperate with our show dates. The 86 entries were provided by a total of six exhibitors. We have lost many of our growers over the years to death, age, and moving away.

Weather conditions this year did not help the plants. Either some bloomed too early or were not in season. There were a few Julies, no denticulate or sieboldii, and not many polyanthus or acaulis. Auricula were not quite ready and of course the candelabra were much later. This is too bad because so many folks have no idea of the beauty of them.

The show table held a huge plant of a deep red poly with a yellow star center, a very upright and strong plant. Cy Happy’s beautiful deep red Julie with the yellow eye took Best in the Julie hybrid section.

Ian McGowan swept the auricula with his Best Alpine Auricula, a light lavender outside with a deep lavender inside and pale yellow center. It had seven flowers on one stem. His Best Double Auricula Seedling was a pale yellow with four blossoms on a very strong stem and had a faint white edging. His Best Named Auricula was an olive green outer edge with black-white and then a yellow center, eight blooms on a strong upright stem. The Best Self was a lovely purple outer with a white center, also eight flowers on a strong stem. Ian’s Best Alpine also took the Best in the Primula Section of the show.

Dr. Roger Eichman had a very wide variety of entries. He took Best in Gold Lace with a seven bloom upright beauty. His acaulis polyanthes and Best Jack in the Green was a fuchsia colored Julie with a mass of flowers both in acaulis and polyanthus and Jack in the Green features. His hose-in-hose was a sturdy true yellow with many blooms. The garden auricula was a plum colored flower with a bright yellow center and his Best in Hybridizing was a purple poly crossed with yellow x blue Cowichan. The purple predominated. The Best Brightest Garden Auricula was a bright yellow sturdy plant.

The remaining “Bests” were taken by Thea Oakley. She had a Best Acaulis called ‘Blue Sapphire’ which was the talk of the show. If we had had it placed on the Sale Table we would have been swamped. Her Best in European Species was a P x Pubescens ‘Harlow Carr’, white flowers on an upright stem. The Best Asian Species was a beautiful P. sieboldii named ‘Musashino’ in shades of pink and lavender. Her Best Primulacea was an Androsace sempervivoides, tiny pink flowers, very floriferous. Her Best Growers Exhibit was the again the Blue Sapphire, six plants in a container, all each like the other and a mass of flowers. Thea was awarded Sweepstakes.

I believe I would not be remiss in stating that in all of our 54 shows our member Cy Happy III has had an active part. He’s been in a lot of shows and has shown and hybridized a good many plants. Even though he has been battling bad health he is still in there, growing and showing.

Cy, we appreciate you!
Report on the American Primrose Society 54th National Show
By Michael Plumb

The show was held in the Mary Winspear Center, Sidney, British Columbia, on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25, 2004. Sidney is not far from the famous Butchart Gardens and the garden city of Victoria, the capital of B.C. At the time of the show a display of arts and crafts was being held in the neighboring rooms, so there were some extra drop-in visitors. Not only that, but a local garden club was selling some choice plants on the sidewalk outside. The weather was kind – bright sunshine, but cool air, something to satisfy both humans and primula.

It was especially fitting that Geoff and Sonia Nicolle had been invited over from Wales, since garden auriculas formed a large part of the show, and Geoff holds the National Collection of border auriculas in the UK.

There was great variety in subject matter for those attending the mini-symposium. Sonia spoke on “Living in Wales with an Avid Auricula Collector”; Maedhythe Martin provided some fine art, showing how auriculas have been portrayed by one ancient and one modern artist: Michael and Rhondda Plumb made everyone feel better about their failures in primula cultivation while (hopefully) providing some useful tips to prevent future disasters; Ed Buyarski gave a presentation on “Primula and Alpines of Alaska”, and showed the audience several plants that can be seen from the Alaskan roadsides; and finally, Geoff Nicolle and April Boettger made themselves available for an informal and very useful question-and-answer session on the Sunday, bringing the show to a satisfying conclusion.

DIVISION I: POLYANTHUS

Section A: Polyanthus
This category had only three entries, all awarded thirds, which was rather disappointing.

Section B: Jack-in-the-Green
Bryan Davies won a blue ribbon with a jack that had dark red petals with a laced edge.

Section C: Poly/Acaulis
This class is designated for those plants which can’t seem to decide whether to grow their flowers directly from their base (acaulis type) or on footstalks attached to a main stalk (polyanthus type). “Garryard Guinivere” won a second prize for Michael and Rhondda Plumb. The pink flowers were past their prime, but the leaves were a lovely coppery green, typical of this delightful garden plant.

Section D: Hose-in-Hose
No plants were exhibited, though the wonderful giant specimens now on sale in certain nurseries may be the cause of a good showing next year.

Section E: Cowichan
Sidney, Vancouver Island, is not far from the original home of the Cowichan polyanthus, yet there was only a white ribbon awarded. The flowers were a lovely ruby, but the eye was too bright and obvious for a typical Cowichan, which should have almost unnoticeable centers.

Section F: Any Other Polyanthus
A fine specimen of gold-laced poly won first in this category. (Since it was a pin-flowered plant, it was placed in this class, as only thrums are accepted in the Laced Polyanthus section of Division V: Exhibition Plants.) Because of the lack of gold-laced polyanthus elsewhere in the show, this was the only plant to give the public a proper idea of what gold-laced plants look like.

DIVISION II: ACAULIS (VULGARIS)

There was only one entry in this entire division: a light yellow double in Section B, which won a red ribbon for Mary C. Norris.

DIVISION III: JULIAE HYBRIDS

It was feared that there would not be any “julies” for the show, but Ed Buyarski saved the day with two plants: a lovely “SnowWhite” and a “Pinkie”.

DIVISION IV: AURICULAS

Section A: Garden / Border Auricula
There were many good entries. The judges had a difficult time choosing the Best in Division from among the plants. It was a pleasure to have Geoff Nicolle, an expert in growing Border Auricula, to join Robert Tonkin and Junior Judge Paul Dick in judging this section. Most of the twenty-four entries were awarded firsts and seconds.

Section B: Doubles
Only one first was awarded. It went to a light pink form with three scapes.
DIVISION V: EXHIBITION PLANTS

Section A: Show Auricula
There were two entries in Class 2 - Green Edge, both from Maedythe Martin: “Geldersome Green” and an unnamed seedling. Maedythe also entered two gray-edged seedlings in Class 3. When they are stronger next year, they should be a “knockout”. In the Selfs (Class 4), Maedythe entered a striking, black self seedling. Unfortunately the petals were “mouse-eared” (dented ends), so it gained a red only. Her yellow self, “Lemon Drop”, had pips of a lovely pure yellow, perfect in shape. Class 5 - Fancies and Stripes, was totally filled with Maedythe’s ten plants, nine of which won blue ribbons! Maedythe is adding to the work of Allan Hawkes and Derek Parsons in developing striped auriculas. Particularly striking were one light yellow and red stripe, and one dark blue and white stripe. Her “Regency Princess” won the Frank Michaud Trophy for Best Named Show Auricula. A purple and white stripe, it displayed twelve open pips!

Section B: Alpine Auricula
In Class 1, Alpines with light centers, there were no firsts. One entry would have done much better if some pips had been removed to give the other flowers room and thus avoid a crowded appearance. Another alpine had flowers with different degrees of shading on each pip, which was regarded by the judges as a fault. In Class 2, Alpines with gold centers, Maedythe Martin won a blue ribbon with a plant showing large, flat, dark red pips.

Section C: Laced Polyanthus
Exhibitors bemoaned the fact that all their gold-laced had finished flowering. M. and R. Plumb entered a weedy specimen, the only entry, which showed just three pips, one of which was faded. It was felt that at least one plant should represent the category to the public, though in retrospect it may have been better to leave it out!

DIVISION VI: SPECIES

Section A: Auriculastrum
In Class 1, Marginata, “Kay’s Blue” with its long leaves gained a blue ribbon, while “White Lady” followed with a red. Both were entered by Maedythe Martin. The three species auricula entered in Class 2 showed how variable this species can be. One plant had tubular flowers on a long stem, serrated leaves, and farina. Another was low, with flat pips and neat, smooth-edged leaves. The third had pale flowers, a long stem and huge leaves. In Class 3 (Pubescens Hybrids) there were four entries, of which “Apple Blossom”, covered in lovely light mauve flowers, won a red. Class 4 (Any other) was won by Maedythe Martin’s P. venusta, which had dark red-purple flowers with heart-shaped petals and a white eye.

Section B: Aleuritia / Farinosa
P. laurentiana was the only entry, and took a red ribbon for Ed Buyarski. Although the plant itself was very fine, it had only one flower open.

Section C: Primula / Vernales
A beautiful P. elatior meyeri was displayed in Class 1. Though it was a small plant, it held up ten scapes! With its profusion of blue-purple pin flowers, it won a blue ribbon for Bryan Davies. There were three lovely entries of P. veris (cowslips) in Class 2, the smallest of which won a blue for Bryan Davies because of its fresh leaves and fine balance. Representing P. vulgaris in Class 3 was a single entry, a large pot of the species primrose. This plant won the Rae Berry Trophy for Best Species. Some may consider it fitting that the best species in show was the common primrose herself.

Section D: Denticulata
There was only one entry, a dark red with four heads and three more developing.

Section E: Proliferae / Candelabra
This section was won by Bryan Davies’ P. japonica.

Section F: Crystallophlomis
Ed Buyarski showed a P. brevicula grown from seed collected during the Alaskan Rock Garden Society China expedition in 2000, but the lovely blue flowers were not quite open, so there was no prize.

Section I: Cortusoides
In Class 1 (Sieboldii), there were some phenomenal entries. “Mary Henderson” was a real eye-catcher, with her delicate pink, rounded petals. “Musashino” made an enormous show of light pink petals with darker veining on their faces. Jim Hoffman’s fantastic entries showed the full, amazing potential of P. sieboldii, and made everyone want to rush out and grow this wonderful species. A special thanks is owed to Jim for placing enormous bowls of P. sieboldii around the show room just for decoration! In Class 2 (Any Other Cortusoides), S. Lee’s P. geranifolia stood out because of its luminous fuschia-coloured flowers and healthy, bright green leaves. But a P. polynelira, though rather small and delicate for this species, was still attractive for the health of its foliage.

Section K: Any Other
April Boettger’s P. viallii (Section Muscarioides in the world of Primula) gained a blue. This unusual plant goes by the name of the “orchid primula” in some garden stores, probably because no one can pronounce its botanical name!
DIVISION VII: SEEDLING CLASS

There were few entries in Section A, Polyanthus, which was a bit disappointing.

Section C: Juliae Hybrids
Bryan Davies showed an interesting little plant with purple flowers and a yellow eye.

Section E: Garden Auricula
A small border auricula seedling belonging to Michael and Rhondda Plumb(actually Rhondda's) won the Herb Dickson Award for Best Picotee Auricula. It had neat cream petals blushing into a distinct mauve edge.

Section F: Alpine Auricula
April Boettger won a blue ribbon with a burgundy gold-centered alpine seedling.

Section G: Show Auricula
There were three entries. A promising striped auricula from Bryan Davies won a second. The striping was not quite even, but this is just its first year.

Section I: Double Auricula
Maedythe Martin won a blue ribbon with a rust-coloured double. Bryan Davies entered a purple with a light dusting of farina which wasn’t double enough for the judges, but who knows what this seedling will produce next year.

Section J: Any other
A pink P. japonica was the only entry, and won a red.

DIVISION VIII: GREENHOUSE

No entries for Sections A-D (P. malacoides, obconica, sinensis or x kewensis).

Section E: Any Other
Ed Buyarski entered two P. verticillata, one of which gained a third. They were rather small, and the flowers had recurved petals. But this species, which comes from the mountains of Yemen and western Saudi Arabia, is difficult to grow well.

DIVISION IX: ODDITIES AND RARITIES

Maedythe Martin won Best Anomalous Primrose with a green-edge hose-in-hose auricula carrying three huge pips nearly two inches across the limb. The green parts of the pips were flecked with some farina, and there was lovely white lacing around the edge of every petal. She also entered “Francesca”, the green-flowered polyanthus.

DIVISION X: HYBRIDIZING

The entries in this division were all types of auricula. There were three borders from Bryan Davies, and one pubescens and a semi-double mauve and white striped auricula from Maedythe Martin.

DIVISION XI: DECORATIVE

Bryan Davies entered a beautiful little bonsai-like composition containing a tiny cowslip (P. veris), a species auricula, a small blue border auricula and several rock garden plants.

DIVISION XII: OTHER GENERA IN PRIMULACEAE

April Boettger entered two lovely Cortusa in Section B. A Cyclamen hederifolium from S. Lee displayed striking foliage in Section D, Cyclamen, not in flower, but did not win a prize. Under Section E, Dodecathion, there was a real show-stopper, a large bowl containing three giant Dodecathion medea about 18 inches tall supporting a mass of flowers in the peak of bloom. There was no question that this would be Division XII Champion. Congratulations to April.

DIVISION XIII: GROWER’S EXHIBIT

Bryan Davies received a blue ribbon in Class 1 (six plants of the same species in one pot) with six border auricula seedlings.

DIVISION XIV: FOLIAGE PRIMULA

There were some P. marginata on show. It was good that exhibitors made the effort to enter these attractive plants, but they looked a little tired, perhaps due to the early, hot spring in this part of the world.
American Primrose Society - Summer 2004

APS NATIONAL SHOW TROPHIES

The awards are listed in the order presented in the show schedule. Note that some trophies were not awarded.

The Ivanel Agee Award for Best Hybrid Julie was given to Ed Buyarski’s “Snow White”.

The Rae Berry Trophy for Best Species went to Michael and Rhondda Plumb for their Primula vulgaris.

The Frank Michaud Trophy for Best Named Show Auricula was awarded to Maedythe Martin’s striped show auricula “Regency Princess”. It carried an abundance of red-and-white striped pips.

The Herb Dickson Award for Best Picotee Auricula went to Michael and Rhondda Plumb’s border seedling (cream flowers and mauve edge). The growers believe that the plant is actually descended from Herb Dickson’s picotee strain.

The Novice Award went to Bryan Davies (Yes! He was a novice, but not any more.)

AWARDS GIVEN BY THE VICTORIA PRIMROSE GROUP AND THE BC PRIMULA GROUP

Best Garden Auricula was S. Lee’s thrum-eyed seedling, showing two scapes of frilly, delicate light pink flowers.

Best Anomalous Primrose was won by Maedythe Martin’s green-edge auricula for its huge, green-edge hose-in-hose flowers.

Best Polyanthus went to April Boettger for her plant with semi-double flowers of a rich, ruby red.

The prize for Best Species Grown from Seed by the Exhibitor went to a P. geranifolia from S. Lee. It was stunning – bright fresh leaves evenly spread over the edge of the pot, from which rose a long, erect stalk carrying beautiful dark pink flowers.

Best Tea-Cup Sized Primula was awarded to Michael and Rhondda Plumb for a dainty pubescens type. The prize, appropriately, was a teacup and saucer decorated with primroses!

The Show Chairman’s Trophy went to Maedythe Martin for her “Green Meadow”, a green and yellow fancy with clear white paste.

Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society Spring Show, 2004
April 16, 17, 2004 Victoria, B.C.
By Gwendolyn Toland

The VIRAGS spring show was a great success this year. As always there were a large number of entries in the primrose classes, with some very nice plants shown. There were a total of 90 pots, with 79 of these entered specifically in the primrose classes.

There were two first place exhibits in the Saxatile class. Primula x pubescens, “Rufus”, and P. x pubescens ‘Apple Blossom’. ‘Rufus’ was the smaller plant of the two, but it was beautifully displayed, and the flowers were so unusual with their brick red petals, a nice contrast to the yellow eye. The only species shown in this class was Primula hirsuta. It is a much smaller plant in all of its features than the hybrids, but still very lovely with bright pink flowers. The tiny red hairs on the leaves are barely visible, but make the leaves feel a bit sticky. Thus the name “hirsuta”.

Section B, Three pans, had an interesting entry showcasing the breeding efforts of one of our members, Maedythe Martin. Pan number 1 contained Primula x pubescens ‘Wharfedale Bluebell’. Pan number 2 contained Primula marginata ‘Allen Jones’. In pan number 3 was an unnamed seedling from this cross. The seedling’s flower has beautiful lavender petals with a silver edge, and a white eye, giving it a clean, neat and lovely appearance.

There weren’t very many entries in the class that includes P. hirsuta alba, due to the unseasonably warm weather we have been experiencing this year! Nice for us, not so good for the cool loving plants!

We had a nice show of Asiatic primula to make up for it though. Very interesting were P. geranifolia, and P. kisoana. Both of these plants have the most un-primula like foliage that you could imagine. If you were to see them without their flowers you might have a difficult time recognizing them as primula at all. P. geranifolia has dark, magenta flowers and large, soft leaves resembling Pelargoniums, without the zonal markings. P. kisoana has similar, even larger leaves, and soft pink flowers in clusters at the top of slender stems.

There was one entry of Primula sieboldii ‘Pretty Boy’. The flowers are pendulous, almost bell shaped on their stems, and a nice shade of pink. It is a named form from Japan. A very pretty plant indeed. We were also lucky to have in the display some huge pots in full bloom of P. sieboldii ‘Mary Henderson’ and ‘White Snowflake’. ‘Mary Henderson’, a selected seedling of his own raising, was entered by Jim Hoffman and won the Dr. Charles A. Watson trophy for Best Primula in Show.
The class Primula subsp. Primula (formerly called Vernales) had some nice exhibits this year. A pan of *P. elatior* won first place. There was a beautiful pot of ‘Garryarde Guinevere’ shown that received a first prize placement. It was absolutely covered in blooms. This plant belongs to Katherine Jones, and was the winner of the Barton Trophy for best Primula x polyanthus.

2004 was also a good year for the *P. auricula* hybrids. There were quite a few exhibited. First place went to a blue garden hybrid, unnamed. It has sturdy stems, crispy leaves and many small, lavender flowers. Another interesting entry had a very smoky look with quite a bit of meal on the flowers. There were also a couple of entries of ‘Dusty Double’ a plant which originated with our only member from the USA, Cy Happy. One pan in particular had very nice large flowers.

There were also some collections of 3 pans in this section. The first prize went to a group of plants that were entered by Maedythe Martin. Every one was well grown, sturdy, and fresh looking. The flowers were doubles, one pan pale yellow, called ‘Emily P’; one pan bright yellow, and the third one was lavender. The last two were grown from seed obtained from Peter Ward in England through the APS seed exchange. This entry also won the trophy for Best Three Pan Entry in show.

I personally love the show auriculas. They have the most unusual flower colors and textures. They are fascinating in their variety. We had a few entries here, but not too many were up to the British Standards I’m afraid. We did have one entry that received a first prize, entered by Maedythe Martin. Congratulations! In the alpine auricula class, the first prize went to ‘Tally-Ho’. The flower petals were a flat, rich red in color.

In the general section of the show there was an interesting exhibit of 6 pans of Primula. It showed the development of *P. auricula* from species to garden hybrids, even double flowered types. This was entered by Maedythe Martin and received first prize in its class. There was a species auricula with narrow bright yellow bells, a selected form of the wild auricula, two yellow garden hybrids and a yellow double.

This year we had a very special display of Primula not entered in the competitive part of the show. As some of you may know, long-time VIRAGS member, and avid Primula grower Tony James passed away this past winter. He had many, many plants in his garden. He loved ‘Striped Victorians’, the gold-laced polyanthus, the hose-in-hose primroses, as well as show and garden auriculas. A favorite was a pale blue garden auricula he grew, now named ‘Tony’s Blue’. His collection represents over 10 years of growing these plants. The Primula Group of VIRAGS has kindly taken on the care of much of his collection, primarily Maedythe Martin, Jaqueline Bradbury, and Mirka Vintr. They brought the most beautiful of the collection to the show this year as a fitting tribute to a much-missed friend.
Tacoma Show: Left, Dr. Roger Eichman Garden Auricula
Right: Striped Auricula grown by Ian McGowan. Both photo's Robert Tonkin
Below: National Show Hall, Sydney, B.C. Robert Tonkin photo

National Show: Left, 'Orwell'  Right 'Arundel' Bottom Left: 'Regency Princess'
Bottom Right Dark Self all grown by Maedythe Martin  Photo's Robert Tonkin
National Show Sydney BC  Left: Dodecatheon Right P. sieboldii Photos Robert Tonkin
Below: New England Show Paul Held's P. Sieboldii Display  Judy Sellers Photo

New England Show  Judy Sellers Photos
New England Chapter's Mary and Ralph Irwin, Judy Sellers and Elaine Malloy

Juneau Chapter Show Left: Red Cowichan Ed Buyarski Right: “JayJay” Judy Hauck

Juneau Show: Left “Garryard Guenivere” Right: “Gina” Judy Hauck
Bottom Left: P. forestii Ed Buyarski Bottom Right P. cachmiriana Bobby Lee Daniels

All Photo’s Robert Tonkin
Left: GC Alpine Seedling
Right: "Argus" both grown by Robert Tonkin
Bottom: Garden Auricula Table Juneau Show
All photos: Robert Tonkin

Top: Geoff and Sonia Nicolle National Show Speakers
Bottom: Maedythe Martin, Dorothy Springer, Rosetta Jones and Ed Buyarski
APS Lifetime Achievement Awards
By Robert Tonkin

Three longtime members of the American Primrose Society were recognized at this years National Show for Lifetime’s of Achievement to the Society. It was with sincere gratitude that these three women were recognized for their decades of service to the Society. A brief mention of each follows and reflects but a small sample of their achievement.

Rosetta Jones attended her first primrose meeting in 1942. That was the Washington State Chapter. I asked her when she joined National, but she told me she simply could not remember. After sticking with it for some time Rosetta became the Chapter Secretary. A few years later she opened a nursery, mostly just perennials, as she related you couldn’t make any money selling primroses.

Rosetta started hybridizing doubles as the result of the “sad plants with weak stems that would fall over when you picked them up.” Working with what she called “junk” seed she kept at it, crossing the best with the best. It was six years before she took her first double to a show. And the rest is History as the saying goes. She began selling seed of her doubles in the 1970’s and her seed is still very sought after.

Rosetta is now known around the world in hybridizing circles for the work she has done with doubles. She continues her work to this day, with the hope of producing a double juliae. (Editor’s note... Rosetta has accomplished this task and was proudly showing pictures of the plant at National. I will attempt to get a copy for the Fall issue.) You will find her work and writing a “must read” for hybridizing doubles.

Maedythe Martin has been involved with the Canadian Group here and in Victoria for decades. She served a number of years as Editor of Primroses, for which I personally am eternally grateful. Maedythe never fails each and every deadline to ask me what the next issue will involve and always commits to writing an article. She is a knowledgeable grower as well as shower, and a gifted and articulate writer. She is currently the President of the British Columbia Primrose Group as well as being not only this years National Show host, but also the host of innumerable shows over the years.

Dorothy Springer joined the American Primrose Society in the mid 1960’s. She served in various offices through the 1960’s and 1970’s; most notably she was also the Editor of Primroses for over five years in the 70’s.

Dorothy’s fancy is the juliae’s. She has written extensively on the subject in many issues of our Quarterly. She is also the holder of the APS Juliae Register, a historical record of named and unnamed Juliae’s over the decades.

And last but not least, she is, next to Rosetta, the most experienced judge in the Society, having judged not only countless APS shows but judges for the American Society of Garden Clubs.
New England Chapter Show
By Elaine Malloy

Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Massachusetts, was the delightful setting for our New England Chapter show, May 1st and 2nd, 2004. Seven States Daffodil Society's show added further interest to the weekend. Over the two days 1279 visitors attended; 800 Saturday and 479 Sunday.

Kris Fenderson judged all 162 entries bench by 10 exhibitors. Carefully, he pointed score each one. Over many hours, Marsha Kilpatrick, Mark Dyen, Rodney Barker, Mary Irwin and Elaine Malloy clerked for Kris, tabulating scores and placing ribbons.

'Colleen O'Brien', a lovely Juliana hybrid originally introduced by John O'Brien of Juneau, and entered by Elaine, was judged Best in Show. Attendees selected 'Sirrius', an auricula shown by Judy Sellers, the Best in Show choice. Judy also won the sweepstakes award.

Mary Irwin's decorative Irish theme 'Pot of Gold', with species yellow p. vulgaris representing the gold, was Kris' favorite. Vermonter Marianne Kuchel won five blues out of six novice entries, and a jubilant Susan Schnare from New Hampshire received a Novice blue for an unnamed beautiful Juliana hybrid. Marge Campbell Bauer won with a p. sieboldii she had thrown on the compost heap because she thought it was dead. Yes, it surprised her in all its glory when spring returned!

Educational features included Charles Tuttle showing APS slides (via the new CD) to passersby, Arlene Perkins’ album of garden photos and Paul Held erected an impressive standing display of P. sieboldii (sakurasoh) with a flat of seedlings nearby. Richard May presented a talk identifying primulas that bloom later than the early May date of the show, as well as elusive primula species.

Primula plant sales were brisk and supported by Richard May, Judy Sellers, Amy Olmsted Ward’s Nursery, Arlene Perkins and Mary Irwin. In addition, sales of books and Quarterlies all nicely boosted our chapter funds.

Frequently at meetings Alex Malloy serves as auctioneer, but he pitched in here, setting up the divisions and classes, selling plants, covering the membership table and helping with every need. New members Matt Mattus and Joseph Philip provided amazing and caring help packing up and moving out.

Our show was a grand affair enjoyed by many gardeners including youthful newcomers with fabulous enthusiasm. We certainly look forward to hosting the National Primrose Show in 2005!

Greetings from the New England Chapter
by Marge Campbell

Busy schedules and unusual weather did not prevent us from holding our spring meeting. We met at the home of Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks in Massachusetts and, in spite of the heat (92 degrees in the shade), the attendance was good.

When we last met at this location, also in May, we carried umbrellas and walked under 2 inches of slushy snow. Those of you who don’t know New England should know our “motto”— if you don’t like the weather just wait a minute.

Members were enthusiastic and excited about meeting, perhaps because the New England Chapter had recently had its second annual Primrose Show at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boyleston, MA and it was very successful. Our plans are going forward for the APS National Show, which the New England Chapter will host at the same location in May of 2005.

When the meeting had been adjourned we held, as always, our plant auction. Our always persuasive auctioneer, Rodney Barker, made us all feel that we “MUST have this plant” and, therefore, we had another very successful auction. Following the auction we toured the spectacular gardens of Marty and Jan. Among the very wide variety of flowers were beautiful large groupings of their very own named varieties of P. sieboldii. Despite the heat, we were reluctant to leave these gardens, feeling perhaps, that we must take it all in quickly before we are gone and not knowing when we’ll be there again.

We look forward to seeing all of you primrose lovers at the National Show in 2005. We should have a good turnout for the show as we had over 1000 spectators visit our show this year. See you all soon!

Left Center Photo: Kris Fenderson, "The Lone Judge", Alex Malloy Photo
Right Center Photo A Variety of P. Sieboldii in Jan & Marty's Garden
Juneau Chapter Show  
By Kerri Tonkin

This year’s local show was held in conjunction with the biannual Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Gardening Conference in Centennial Hall, Friday May 14th and Saturday May 15th. The unusual sunny warm weather in early Spring meant we had fewer visitors to the conference this year than in conferences past. The warm weather also brought fear to most exhibitors, expecting plants destined for the bench to be past their prime by show time.

As the time drew nearer to judge, it was a pleasant surprise to see the tables fill up with entries. By the time judging started Saturday morning, the tables were filled with entries from seasoned growers and showers as well as a nice showing from newer Chapter members.

One notable difference from previous years was the absence of pots filled with Julie’s and Poly’s that member Cheri Fluck benches every year. She was truly missed at the show. Newcomer Judith Hauck saved the day in the division with a well grown pot of ‘Gina’ that took both Best Juliana and Best Vernales trophies.

Best Polyanthus was awarded to Ed Buyarski for a beautiful pot of red Cowichan. Ed also made his expected species showing by winning Best Species with a pot of P. forestii. Ed also took the Duane Buell Memorial Garden Auricula Trophy with a purple garden auricula, along with Best Foilage won with a pot of P. verticillata.

The John O'Brien Best Denticulata Trophy was awarded to BobbyLee Daniels with a nice pot of P. cachmiriana. Most P. denticulata were past prime at showtime and many of us were concerned we wouldn’t see any on the bench this year. Bobby Lee also took Best in Primulacea Division with a pot of Dodecatheon pulchellum.

Best Novice Trophy went to plant vendor N. Whiterock from Haines with a gorgeous very large pot of a pink garden auricula. She could have named about any price for the plant after it came off the bench.

In the Exhibition Auricula Division Robert Tonkin took the division ribbon with a handsome pot of ‘Argus’. Best of Show, chosen by both CoChairs of the show, went to Robert Tonkin with a pot full of yellow garden auricula. No edged plants were benched.

Literature was sold, questions were answered, people came and people went commenting on the beauty of the genus and the unbelievable range of “pretty flowers” on the tables. Four or five new members were signed up and many more were drawn a bit closer to becoming new members.

We wish to thank everyone who stepped up to the plate to help put on another great show. Judges, Clerks, booth attendants, cleanup, photos, advertising, errand runners, and anyone else who took the time from their busy schedules to lend a hand; Thank You One and All!

Juneau Chapter News  
By Robert Tonkin

At our most recent meeting John O’Brien gave a slide presentation from Harry Leighton, auricula grower from England. Harry sent us slides from various UK auricula shows. Vice-President Lee Powelson called the business meeting to order at 11:10 am. Treasurer Paul Dick reported that the Chapter had $2,851.98 in the bank. The April newsletter included a schedule of divisions and classes for the Juneau Show in addition to a set of rules. Dorothy Springer was offered as a possible judge for the Chapter show. Lee Sandor moved and Sue Nielson seconded to pay airfare plus conference fees, between $350-$400 for Dorothy. The membership approved. Julie has reported our Spring plant sale netted $1906, $1866 from direct plant sales and $40 from 60th Edition sales. Despite “lively discussions” at recent meetings over plant sale do’s and don’t’s, our receipts were right in line with last years figures. We also garnered 5 new members. Recent events included a planting of the new flower beds in the center of downtown Juneau by Chapter members (see picture of Juneau Library and new beds below). The City of Juneau has agreed to let the Juneau Chapter of the APS care for this showcase flower bed which is viewed by tens of thousands of tourists coming off the cruise ships every year. Our Chapter picnic will be held July 17th at the home of Paul Dick. Regular meetings will resume this fall at the Mendenhall Library conference room.
2003-2004 Seed Exchange

Last winter we received 228 orders and distributed about 6000 packets of seeds. Demand was high for primulas rarely offered in recent years but the old standard favorites were still the best sellers. The most sought after item (58 requesters) was double auricula donated by Angela Bradford (Barnhaven), followed by show auriculas, striped auriculas, double polyanthus, hose-in hose and Jack-in-the-Green polyanthus, Pr. reidii. (at least 40 requesters for each of those.) Rare and/or unusual species had fewer requesters but were sold out too.

Last year, we received seeds from only 41 sources, a sharp decrease from previous years. An unusual season and generally poor seed setting may have been the cause. Whatever it was, we are very grateful to those who saved and sent seeds last year. It may be unfair to select just a few names, but we would like to extend a special thank you to Ed Buyarski, Pam Eveleigh, Rick Lupp, Derek Salt, Ian Scott, Judy Sellers and Barnhaven Nursery whose generous support has once again added much lustre to the seed exchange.

Two persons made contributions of vital importance: Ruby Chong and Richard Austin. They were the collectors who gathered all the seeds contributions from sources outside the USA and obtained the necessary phytosanitary certificates.

2004-2005 Seed Exchange: Advice to Donors.

1- What to send: primulaceae only. Which means primulas, of course, but also cortusas, hardy cyclamens, dodecatheons, omphalogramma, soldanellas. Please send CLEAN seeds in good sealed envelopes properly labeled. Identification should include the species, the color, a name if the seeds come from a named form or hybrid; location if collected in the wild; “HP” if the seeds resulted from hand pollination. Please make sure that the identification is correct. Among other things make sure that the plant from which you have collected seeds IS what you thought it was when you acquired it.

2- How much to send? At least 50 seeds of any given kind, except for very rare seeds. The reason is that we try to put at least 10 seeds in every packet we distribute. Occasionally we may put 6 or 7 for very rare items for which we had only one source. We do not like to include in the seed list items for which we know that we cannot possibly satisfy more than a couple of requests. We do, of course, again for rare seeds: we shall list Pr. dickiena any time, but we shall ignore a donation of 20 seeds of Pr. japonica magenta.

3-When to send seeds? In September or October. Ideally the regional collectors should have received the seeds by October 31, 2004. Keep in mind that obtaining phytosanitary certificates is done in a single operation and takes time.

4-Where to send seeds? Rules established by the USDA in recent years may be changed by the end of this year. However, to be safe, we shall consider that they will still be in force throughout 2004. To enter the USA legally seeds must be accompanied by a suitable phytosanitary certificate. Two APS members will obtain such certificates and be our collecting agents. Canadian donors please send seeds to: Ruby Chong, 6870 Union Stret, Burnaby, (BC) V5B 1X5. Donors outside North America, please send to: Richard Austin, 10 Forestside Gardens, Poulner, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 1SZ, UK. Donors from the USA, please send to: APS, PO Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546.

If you have questions about these procedures and the seed exchange please send them to APS, c/o J. Mommens, PO Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546, USA; or e-mail to: mommens@advinc.com.

Thanks in advance for your seed contributions: it is for a good cause.

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Board Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2004


OLD BUSINESS Minutes from February 2004 meeting were approved. There were no comments on minutes or Treasurer's report. Robert T. suggested it would be beneficial to have each Chapter designate a reporter or Regional Editor to provide content on their Chapter activities for both the Quarterly publication and the webpage. It was asked if the 60th issue is being reprinted. Ed replied that this is being done currently.

NEW BUSINESS: Election Results: Diana reported the ballots received elected Paul Dick and Arlene Perkins for our Board. The Bylaws amendment stating there shall be a Judging Committee and outlining their responsibilities passed unanimously. A total of 19 ballots were received by the Secretary. Seed Exchange Report and comments: Mary Kordes brought up Jacques' concern about the two-tier payment system for next year's seed exchange. Mary K. stated he is concerned there will be confusion. Ed said this was discussed extensively and we are going to let things go a year before bringing it up for changes again. Developing a Virtual APS Chapter: Diana P. would like to develop a virtual APS Chapter for those members too distant to belong to nearby Chapters or Groups. She will submit a short letter to the Board indicating her desire and providing a means for people to contact her if they wish to be involved.

Continued from page 1
Primula cuneifolia seems to be blooming more prolifically than ever-perhaps because of the sunshine. During recent trips to Haines and Gustavus, only white flowering forms of Primula egaliflora were found in several locations that I hope to revisit for seed collection. Only 75 miles up the Haines Highway in British Columbia, only about 25% of the same species were white flowering and the rest were lavender last summer.

We are in a search for a new Quarterly Editor so I would appreciate hearing from any of you who have desktop publishing skills and are willing to work with Robert to learn to produce this fine magazine.

I have enjoyed visits this past spring with Jay and Ann Lunn in Oregon and Rhondha and Michael Plumb in British Columbia and of course the terrific National Show in Victoria put on by the BC and Victoria Primrose groups. Maedythe's husband says never again! The Juneau Chapter Show was also a success; see the report in this issue. As always, we would like to see reports from your gardens for the Quarterly. Ed Buyarski
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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