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 of the genus *Primula* in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about *Primula*.

Contents

President’s Message ........................................... 3
Germinating Seed by Alan Lawrence .............................. 5
by Joan Hoeffel .................................................. 6
Vintage Bits Selected by Michael Plumb ......................... 7
Vikeland Gardening by Elfrida Nord ............................. 8
Responsibly Dealing with Garden Pests by Ruth Anderson ........ 10
Grow Some Saxatile *Primulas* in a Crevice garden by Joyce Carruthers .......................................... 12
*Primula parryi* - Two Perspectives by John Richards ................ 15
by Rob Staniland ............................................... 16
Interspecific Crosses in the Genus *Primula* by Jay Lunn .............. 25
Dividing *Primula* – Cultural Information for Growers ............. 28
Chapter Reports 2008 ............................................ 31
Biographies of Candidates ...................................... 36
New Members ..................................................... 39
Officers of the Chapters ......................................... 39

Credits: Photos and text reproduced with permission.

Front Cover: *P. veris* in Elfrida Nord’s garden in Norway. See article on page 8

Special Note: the color photos in this issue are due to a kind donation from the B.C. Primula Group.

Primroses

The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Volume 67 No 1 Winter 2009

Primroses

©American Primrose Society 2008

American Primrose Society  Winter 2009

President’s Message

LEE NELSON

Hello,

By the time you read this we here in the northeast will have ended our outdoor garden activities and be settling in for the long winter. This is the time of year when I read my garden journal and note all the ideas that I’ve made, and what I want to try for the coming year. It’s also time to renew subscriptions and pay dues. I hope that by now you have all renewed your APS membership, and have remembered to check the APS website for the seed exchange list. Members wanting a seed list who are without computer access will need to contact Jacques Mommens PO Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546, USA. We really do appreciate your willingness to download the seed list off of the website, www.americanprimrosesociety.org. This allows the society to save a substantial amount of money, and in many cases gets the list to you quicker.

And please don’t forget to mail in your ballots. It really is important that we all participate in the affairs of the society.

The executive committee and board have really been working hard on your behalf. As with all organizations many unsung heroes are busy behind the scenes making sure that things run smoothly. During my tenure as president I have come to rely on two members who really do have our society’s interests at heart. Michael Plumb, our efficient secretary and the treasurer Jon Kawaguchi. My thanks to both of these dedicated members for all their hard work.

As you can see from their activity reports, our society chapters have also been busy. Belonging to
a chapter is a great way to meet, share and learn from others who are interested in Primula. If you live in an area that doesn’t have a local chapter, why not consider forming one? I’d be happy to help you get started and what better way of promoting primroses in your area.

I’d especially like to thank Diana Cormack of the Doretta Klaber Chapter in Philadelphia, PA. Hope Punnett, chapter chair has had to resign and Diana has offered to fill in until a replacement for Hope is found.

Thanks also to Jane Guild and the editorial committee for putting together a really good Fall Quarterly. Again, I invite you to join in and send in articles, questions or inquiries. Let’s join together and really share our ideas and knowledge about garden experiences we’ve had while growing Primula.

In my last letter I asked that you write and tell me about me about how and when you divide your Primula. Joan Hoeffel, from upstate NY, shared her knowledge about garden experiences we’ve had while growing Primula.

The New England chapter is busy planning for the National Show to be held at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, Mass. Mark your calendars for the fist weekend in May 2009, and watch for details in the spring issue of the Quarterly. This promises to be a great show, so plan to join us for informative lectures, a garden and nursery tour and of course the opportunity to enter your prize-winning primroses. I look forward to seeing you there.

Lee

---

**Germinating Seed**

**Ellipso Pot Germination**

**ALAN LAWRENCE**

At the First APS Round Table “Raising Primula From Seed”, (see Primroses Vol, 62 No. 1) Herb Dickson recounted a unique method of germinating *Primula* seed developed by Marge Edgren. This involved moistening some paper towel, placing the seed on the paper and sealing it in a sandwich bag until the seed germinates. I found this fascinating; no big pots of seed compost taking up space, no fungus gnats getting in amongst the yet-to-germinate seedlings, easy to stratify in the refrigerator. Brilliant! *Primula* seeds are surface germinators, all they need is light and moisture, everything else is nicely packaged in the seed; they don’t need soil/compost etc, until after they have germinated. As I said – Brilliant!

So I tried it, and it worked pretty well, but the freezer bags I used were the only problem, they tended to fall over easily, and an occasional teacup accidently placed on top did not do the seedlings any good at all. Then one winter evening up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as we unwrapped the delivery of take-out ribs and fixings, there went to the internet and found “Ellipso” 2 inch by 2.75 inch oval pots with lids guaranteed not to leak. I ordered the minimum order – 500 pots and lids.

I was well into planting all sorts of old and unlikely-to-germinate seeds in these before the rootlet problem surfaced. All that was really needed was to have a moisture retentive layer in the bottom of the pot which would not cause rootlet damage when the seedlings were removed. Solution – vermiculite, although I am now switching to coir. So here’s my current refinement of the original technique:

1.Presoak the seeds for 4 hours in water, or GBA3.
2. Cover the base of an Ellipso pot with vermiculite (or coir) and saturate with water. Number the pot with a permanent marker, and record planting information.
3. Drain seeds from 1. and distribute on surface of vermiculite.
4. Snap on lid, and place under grow-light. Stratify in refrigerator if necessary.
5. Once the seeds have germinated they can easily be removed from the vermiculite. I remove them with a plastic plant label at the cotyledon stage and place them on a growing medium. Although probably not

---

**Thank You!**

The following have made generous donations to the American Primrose Society during 2008 – these donations keep our society running, and we are grateful for them.

BC Primula Group
Jay and Ann Lunn
Barbara Wetzel
George Wickstrom
Vicentine Sette
Linda Bailey

---

**Ellipso Pot Germination**

**ALAN LAWRENCE**

At the First APS Round Table “Raising Primula From Seed”, (see Primroses Vol, 62 No. 1) Herb Dickson recounted a unique method of germinating *Primula* seed developed by Marge Edgren. This involved moistening some paper towel, placing the seed on the paper and sealing it in a sandwich bag until the seed germinates. I found this fascinating; no big pots of seed compost taking up space, no fungus gnats getting in amongst the yet-to-germinate seedlings, easy to stratify in the refrigerator. Brilliant! *Primula* seeds are surface germinators, all they need is light and moisture, everything else is nicely packaged in the seed; they don’t need soil/compost etc, until after they have germinated. As I said – Brilliant!

So I tried it, and it worked pretty well, but the freezer bags I used were the only problem, they tended to fall over easily, and an occasional teacup accidently placed on top did not do the seedlings any good at all. Then one winter evening up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as we unwrapped the delivery of take-out ribs and fixings, there were these two little transparent plastic pots with snap on lids; one with extra sauce, one with coleslaw. I turned them upside down to contain my germinating seeds on these pots, washing them, and reusing them to contain my germinating seeds on these pots, washing them, and reusing

---

**Ellipso Pot Germination**

**ALAN LAWRENCE**

At the First APS Round Table “Raising Primula From Seed”, (see Primroses Vol, 62 No. 1) Herb Dickson recounted a unique method of germinating *Primula* seed developed by Marge Edgren. This involved moistening some paper towel, placing the seed on the paper and sealing it in a sandwich bag until the seed germinates. I found this fascinating; no big pots of seed compost taking up space, no fungus gnats getting in amongst the yet-to-germinate seedlings, easy to stratify in the refrigerator. Brilliant! *Primula* seeds are surface germinators, all they need is light and moisture, everything else is nicely packaged in the seed; they don’t need soil/compost etc, until after they have germinated. As I said – Brilliant!

So I tried it, and it worked pretty well, but the freezer bags I used were the only problem, they tended to fall over easily, and an occasional teacup accidently placed on top did not do the seedlings any good at all. Then one winter evening up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as we unwrapped the delivery of take-out ribs and fixings, there went to the internet and found “Ellipso” 2 inch by 2.75 inch oval pots with lids guaranteed not to leak. I ordered the minimum order – 500 pots and lids.

I was well into planting all sorts of old and unlikely-to-germinate seeds in these before the rootlet problem surfaced. All that was really needed was to have a moisture retentive layer in the bottom of the pot which would not cause rootlet damage when the seedlings were removed. Solution – vermiculite, although I am now switching to coir. So here’s my current refinement of the original technique:

1. Presoak the seeds for 4 hours in water, or GBA3.
2. Cover the base of an Ellipso pot with vermiculite (or coir) and saturate with water. Number the pot with a permanent marker, and record planting information.
3. Drain seeds from 1. and distribute on surface of vermiculite.
4. Snap on lid, and place under grow-light. Stratify in refrigerator if necessary.
5. Once the seeds have germinated they can easily be removed from the vermiculite. I remove them with a plastic plant label at the cotyledon stage and place them on a growing medium. Although probably not
necessary, I make a shallow depression in the growing medium and cover the rootlet.

That’s it. Very compact, and it works well for me. It allows me to play with all sorts of (simple) experiments most of which bear few results. In my germination records I am up to pot number 103! If anyone would like to try a few Ellipo pots send me an email and I’ll send you ten or so. After all I’ve 397 pots not doing much at the moment.

Foolproof Method for Germinating Seed, Particularly *Primula sieboldii*

JOAN HOEFFEL

This is an absolutely foolproof method for germinating primrose seeds -- all species -- that I have developed in areas with winter cold. *Primula sieboldii* does very, very well with this method in New York State, Zone 5.

As early as late January and as late as early March, dampen fine soil-less germinating mix (I use Premier brand granular Pro-mix) with warm water and let sit overnight so that it is damp, but not at all soggy. I use 4 1/2” plastic pots, wash them with soap and hot water and pour boiling water into the pots just before planting.

1) Fill the pot firmly with damp germinating mix (I use Premier brand granular Pro-mix) that it is damp, but not at all soggy. I use 4 1/2” plastic pots, wash them with soap and hot water and pour boiling water into the pots just before planting.

2) Sow primrose seed on the damp mix and press into the mix with the back of a teaspoon (check the teaspoon so that no seed adheres to it)

3) Wrap the pot securely with a long piece of plastic wrap (go around twice) and secure sides with masking tape (top flap on side down last)

4) Put pot outside where it gets no sun and is on a draining surface (I put my pots in a webbed plastic tray on top of another tray that is upside down

5) Watch for germination in April, May or June. Leave plastic on for several weeks after germination

6) Gradually let air into the pot by making holes in the top of the plastic wrap and remove wrap entirely after several weeks

7) I keep my seedlings in the shade where they germinated, water only to keep them slightly damp and I use only water (no fertilizer)

8) Plant out into a shady holding garden with rich soil when the weather cools in late August or early September

9) Plant in permanent spot the next year

Note: My pots are out on a north-facing porch all winter and get snowed on, etc., but if you have a cold breezeway that doesn’t get warm on sunny days ... that would be OK too.

I do all my seeds by this method and I grow perennials and alpines as well as primroses. I usually have 80-95% germination of the 50 to 70 pots I put out. I have had hundreds of P. sieboldii germinate in a pot by this method, but if I get really poor germination, I do believe it is the manner in which the donor collected or stored the seed.

Using Bricks to Germinate Primrose Seed

Mrs. Denna M. Snuffer, Bay City, Oregon

I found that seeds in a flat had to be kept damp at all times, but not wet. That meant in hot weather that they must be moistened several times a day. If I missed and the soil dried just the least bit, I was lucky to get any plants at all. I also had to put up with doing all the watering by hand and no matter how careful I was the seeds would be disturbed or I would get just a little too much dirt on them and they just would not sprout.

I will try to describe the method we use at the Bay City Primrose Gardens. We select a common red brick and place it in a pan that will permit the brick to stand in water about one half inch deep. When the brick is well saturated we cover the top of it with one quarter inch of garden soil. We do not sift this soil but we are careful not to have it lumpy. We smooth the soil gently by light pressure and we let it stand until the soil is well moistened. We use as many as one hundred seeds per brick or just a few to sprinkle on the top of this damp soil. After we have placed the seeds we sift sharp sand very lightly over them but we do not cover them with sand or soil. Then we place this pan in some part of the house where the sun will not get at it. As soon as the seeds start germinating the pan should be moved to get more light, near a window or in the greenhouse. We do not cover these seeds with anything at any time. By this method we get faster germination and more plants per packet of seeds than any method we have ever used.

As soon as the third leaf shows we transplant to flats. We lift any of these plants by just taking hold of a leaf and lifting it off. If the root does not seem robust enough for transplanting stick the plant back on the brick in a toothpick hole. In case we cannot be with these plants every day it does not matter for our pan will hold several days’ supply of water, and water does not have to be added except when it gets low. If we have to leave the plants on the brick longer than the three-leaf stage we add some liquid fish fertilizer to the water in the pan to feed the plants so they will not get too leggy. This should be about the same strength that one uses to water young plants in flats. Most of our bricks will show sprouting in seven days. We use fresh soil for each planting, but the same brick is as good as new after a good scrubbing with soap and a brush. At Bay City we have primroses in bloom all year around and we also plant seed every month in the year. We produce fifteen hundred plants from five bricks.

I hope I have not made this method sound complicated because it is the “lazy easy way” to start your primrose plants.
In 1997 my sisters and I were suddenly faced with an inherited little farm, named Vikeland, in Northern Norway. This 40 acre property was purchased by my maternal grandparents in 1910. It was inherited by our bachelor uncle in 1959. The waterfront property is located about 60 miles south of the Arctic Circle on Sjonafjord, with the nearest shopping at Mo i Rana, 44 km (27.3 miles) away.

When our bachelor uncle died at age 88 it was clear we were the next of kin and the fact that we were Americans did not matter. The buildings were very much in need of maintenance and the once special garden was totally overgrown. Our uncle was a well-known gardener in the area. He traveled widely, studied plants and introduced new plants into the area. Plants, which include asparagus and Japanese iris from seeds sent to him from his sister (my mother) in the United States still thrive. Oral history credits him with being the first to introduce rhododendrons that far north in 1952. Some of the rhododendrons, still thriving in the garden, are from 1956. There are also many old rose bushes in the garden.

Since I am interested in the Norwegian culture, my relatives over there, and gardening I have found it very satisfying to spend my summers at Vikeland. I tend to go there mid-May and return about October. Plants that need special winter care will not make it under these circumstances. I practice organic gardening. I get aged sheep manure from my neighbor, all the seaweed I can haul up in buckets from my beach and I have plenty of pruning materials to chip up and turn into compost. I actively exchange plants with my neighbors, relatives and a garden club plant exchange.

In addition to the original primula and auriculas found in the garden, I have tried with some success the following:

- **P. cortusoides** – Started with three. One has reappeared and bloomed for three years.
- **P. rosea** – A struggle to keep them alive. Have transplanted 3 times to find better growing conditions for them.
- **P. waltonii** – Doing great in two colors.
- **P. bulleyana** - New this year. Bought two plants and only one of them bloomed.
- **P. clarkei ’Johanna’** - Bloomed well the first year and seemed to tolerate drought conditions fairly well.
- **P. florindae** – Doing great and multiplying.
- **P. x dinyana** (Alpeprimula or alpine primula) - new plant this year, did not bloom.
- **P. minima** – Took about three years before it bloomed.
- **P. vulgaris** – Doing fine.
- **P. reptans** – From plant exchange, bloomed after transplanting to new location.
- **P. veris** – Disappeared after two years.
- **P. auricula ’Finn’** - 4-5 years old, has not bloomed.

I have done my best to recreate the garden originally developed by my uncle with very satisfying results. The garden is once again visited by relatives, friends and strangers.

Elfrida Nord lives in Juneau, Alaska during the winter months and lives and gardens in Norway in the summer.
Responsibly Dealing with Garden Pests

RUTH ANDERSON (Transcribed by Maedythe Martin)

With over 30 years of gardening experience in West Vancouver, B.C. Primula Group member Ruth Anderson has made some observations about keeping pests at bay as well as keeping the environment safe for helpful garden predators and downstream fish. For the November meeting she reported on four regular activities everyone can take in their own garden to reduce pests, and also looked at the products available at a local nursery for pest control and reported on their effects on the environment.

Location is very important in managing pests in your garden. Good air circulation around plants helps maintain a healthy environment in which to grow your plants. Natural rainfall washes the plants, and good garden hygiene – removing dead leaves and debris – keeps the plants healthy and clean. In my experience, it is the unhealthy plant that attracts the pests. I recommend a flashlight in the evening and an inspection on your hands and knees to identify the pest that is eating your plant in the summer. Any place where you have organic material decomposing in an area in your garden is the place where the slugs or sow bugs will congregate. If this is away from your plants, they will have fewer chewed holes in them. Be sure any compost you spread in your garden is very well decomposed.

Most hedges, especially evergreen ones, have the dreaded vine weevil in them in summer. Just shake the hedge to see the weevils fall onto a piece of white cloth spread underneath them, if you don’t believe me. I have also found that the use of peat seems to encourage weevils, as well. One sure way to kill the weevil larvae in the soil of pots is to stand them in water up to their necks overnight.

Soon after moving into my current house, I was out one night with a flashlight, doing this very inspection I advocate, and knocking the weevils out of the hedge at the edge of the property. I was suddenly aware of something right beside me, and looked up to find a police cruiser slowly moving along. A vigilant neighbor must have seen my flashlight! The police officer asked what I was doing, and when I explained I was a professional gardener, he wanted me to show him exactly what I was doing. After fitting my key into the lock on my front door, and showing him my license he was satisfied and left, but I found him back two or three times over the next few weeks in the evening to ask advice for his own garden.

The sow-bugs in my garden will eat the tender growing tips of plants as well as the fine feeder roots. They love damp, and will be found wherever pots come in contact with the soil. Catching a few and smashing them seems to be good bait for catching more. This might be a way to trap them, if you can find some dead bugs.

I have also found that if you put a pot infected with mealy root bug or root aphids into a watering tray to soak up water, the infection will spread to other pots in the tray. All of this just reinforces my theory that controlling your garden environment is critical to managing pest in your garden.

But if you have garden pests such as slugs (everyone does!) what can you do to capture them and get rid of them? I looked at the pesticides available at the local nurseries with the following comments. Products that have methaldehyde really work, but they also kill ground beetles, which actually eat slugs and sow-bugs. A safer product is one containing iron, but when you put this out, it gets moldy and ineffective fast. To keep it dry, put it in a pot you have tipped on its side, so that the product will remain dry longer. And change it often. Nemaslug is a newer product that contains nematodes to infect and kill slugs but this has to be used at over 50 degrees F; to be effective. It might be worth trying. Copper wire or copper circles are said to set up an electric charge the slugs don’t like, but small slugs seem to be able to work their way through the curly wire despite its effect. Beer works as well as any yeasty mixture to attract the slugs, but the container has to be below the level of the ground so the slugs actually fall in and drown.

For earwigs and cutworms there is a product that contains carbaryl, but it is very poisonous to fish. As I am part of a group of stream protectors I am very aware of what runoff can do to the small fish in streams. This is a large part of why I prefer methods other than the application of chemical pesticides for dealing with garden pests. Damp newspapers are a haven for earwigs, and dying leaves or flower petals also draw them like a magnet. Disposing of these traps full of earwigs early the next day will eradicate a lot of them. More cutworms are found in gardens that have artificial light, I have found. I believe the reason is the moths being drawn to the lights at night, which then lay their eggs in the area. But by clearing debris from the base of the plant you will find the cutworms and can remove them by hand in the daytime. At night they are up in the plant and if you shine your trusty flashlight up under the leaves you will find them.

The chemical preferred for many difficult to eradicate pests such as woolly root aphids or mealy root bugs is imidachloprid and there are pesticides that can be obtained that contain this chemical — which works really well. But it has a very long life in the environment and kills stream invertebrates and small fish. If you use it in a closed environment such as a green-house ensure there is no run off at all. It is so poisonous to fish I can’t condone its use myself.

Aphids are another inevitable pest in most gardens, and the sprays and chemicals to treat them often contain pyrethrin. While this is a natural pesticide, it is toxic to small fish, so natural or not, ensure there is no run-off of any kind if you use it.

It is important to look at the bigger picture when dealing with pests in your garden. Are a few pests worth killing small fish in a nearby stream? Diligence and constant care in your garden will make a big difference to keeping pests down in number, and some of the old tried and true methods, like drowning slugs in beer or catching earwigs in damp newspaper do still work. Attracting birds to your garden can help keep down bugs and caterpillars, but birds can be a hazard as well if they choose to attack your plants, which they sometimes do. It is a trade-off. Have a care for the impact of your garden chemicals on the environment before you spend money on them.
Grow Some saxatile Primulas in a Crevice garden

JOYCE CARRUTHERS

About 15 years ago I decided to spend part of the year in the Czech Republic (Czechia), that Mecca of rock gardens and rock gardeners. I entrusted my garden in Victoria to a fisherman friend, also a gardener, but soon discovered that the majority of my remaining Primulas would have to be donated to willing friends. How I wish that I could have had a crevice garden at that time, to keep the plants safe and happy at home with virtually no care at all. My very big old Chinese granite rice mill used as a trough with tufa blocks, near the north wall of the house, was the only place where some Primula x pubescens, P. marginatas, a few smaller silver saxifragas and some P. aliiionii hybrids survived in drilled holes and crevices.

A few years ago my friend Zdenek Zvolanek built three relatively small outcrops for me, all with an eastern aspect and with ninety degree rock outcrops for me, all with an eastern aspect. Zvolanek built three relatively small holes and crevices.

A continuation of the granite section is a pavement-style block crevice garden of iron-rich sandstone with sufficient crevices to plant many Haberlea rhodopensis verginale, from a huge old divided plant. Minute seedlings of P. marginata and a few P. albenensis and P. grignensis were also planted here 4 to 5 years ago. Some are now showing fat flower buds and flat leaves where my daughter’s dog has beaten a path to the lawn (they are still healthy and growing), and some fat normal rosettes elsewhere. The P. marginatas here were from seed collected on Mt. Cheiron in Provence, France. (The rest of these seedlings are in small troughs, doing well.) This area is a curve facing north-east. It is interesting to note that rock gardens with an eastern aspect have the advantage of often having dew (even if it is microscopic) on their leaves during hot summer nights/early morning.

When at Mt. Cheiron, I was fascinated by the variety of situations in which P. marginata grew on the whole upper N.E. slopes of the dolomite limestone mountain - outcrops, cool scree, hot scree, true peat bog, under trees in lower scree, cliff crevices, and on actual boulders with no substrate at all, only thin cracks/crevices (here only on the eastern and northern facing positions). The fascination extended to the variety of leaf edges and degrees of farina. I was astounded to see the healthy, luscious beauties in the bog, which was obviously created by a spring, as there was slow movement of water in places. It is one thing to see a small stand of P. marginata, but quite another to see a mountainside of it. The good fortune was that I decided to collect seed (we saw no flowers) from every particular habitat concentrating on the plants that had the best leaf form and most interesting farina distribution and leaf margins. It was a heaven-sent opportunity to bring new vigour to P. marginata, with virus free seedstock. The misfortune was that I did not collect any cuttings. When visiting Mt. Cheiron a few years later the P. marginata mountainside had been converted into a massive Olympic-size ski area with innumerable hotels, ski runs, roadways for machinery, lifts, bulldozed and groomed slopes and other full blown infrastructure. My heavenly peat bog with heather, sphagnum, and P. marginata, etc. had vanished. P. marginata was now confined to the extremities of the “development” (desecration) with some outcrops left for dividers. What good fortune I had collected enough seed to distribute amongst friends and that there are now a number of seedling plants in our collections.

Now why would it be advisable for lovers of certain primulas to build a crevice outcrop or two? Here are some advantages:

1. Crevice gardens allow for a very much larger number of plants to be grown in a small area.

2. They provide excellent drainage whether the original mound is from sand (good in wet areas) or from garden loam with a clay content. The actual rock with snug crevices and the good top dressing provide surface drainage, as on a mountain slope and function as water conservation elements during hot spells, when it is better to use shade mesh rather than water.

3. Well-closed crevices with clay and chock stones or very fibrous rooted plants (dwarf ferns for example) and small sempervivums prevent soil erosion.

4. Roots thrive and reach deep into crevices to anchor themselves solidly adding to the stability of the structure. It is a good policy to shake off nursery mixes and use dry sterilized soil for planting. You can use small funnels and knitting needles to poke the substrate down, watering in between so that there are no air holes. When filling crevices
use extra time and improvise tools to make sure that crevices are really filled with no air pockets.

5. Roots spread out fanwise along deep rock walls and are able to extract minerals they need from the rock. It is not necessary to fertilize frequently and though growth is slower, it is healthier and tougher.

6. Surfaces absorb heat in the winter and eke it out keeping deep crevices warmer so plants are ready to grow early in the spring. There is a better balance of temperatures in the summer as deep-reaching roots extend down to cooler levels.

7. Crevice gardens rarely need watering or weeding and it is usually advisable to use shading during unusually hot periods.

8. Rock surfaces absorb heat which promotes perfect development of cuticle and woody tissues so that plants develop a natural protection from pathogenic organisms (algae, fungi, viruses.) This also discourages sucking and chewing pests.

Zdenek Zvolanek and I grow some of the following in our rock gardens in Prague and I intend to grow many more in Victoria:

*Primula auricula* and its sub-species, varieties and hybrids like *P. x pubescens* (*P. auricula x P. hirsuta*) and *P. x loiseleurii* ‘Coy’.

*Primula marginata* - some clones like ‘Holden Clough’, ‘Boothmans Var.’, ‘Pritchards Var.’, and ‘Napoleon’, *P. marginata* ‘Casterino’ (white) and *P. margaritacea* ‘Linda Pope’ believed to have both parents hybrids. Also *P. x pubescens*, varieties, e.g. ‘Faldonside’, ‘Mrs. J.H. Wilson’, ‘The General’ and ‘Harlow Carr’.

*P. allionii* and hybrids e.g. *P. x miniera* ‘Lismore’.

*P. hirsuta* and hybrids e.g. *P. hirsuta x P. allionii* ‘Ethel Barker’.

*P. allionii* and its hybrids could do well outside here on the West Coast if they are planted in vertical or semi-vertical positions and have northerly or easterly positions in a trough or outcrop, with shade during the hottest part of the day. They do particularly well in large trough crevice gardens.

References:


*Bulletin* of The Scottish Rock Garden Society, the *Rock Garden* (online) “In praise of Rocks” by Z. Zvolanek, January 2003.

*Crevice Gardening* by Zdenek Zvolanek. Alpine Garden Society, (to order: search for publication of the Alpine Garden Society on their web site.)

AGS recent *Bulletins*.

---

**Primula parryi - two perspectives**

---

**Primula section Parryi in North America**

JOHN RICHARDS

There are only about 20 species of *Primula* native to the North American continent. Of these, the eight species classified within section Parryi are the most distinctive. These are mountain plants, each limited to a small area of the Rocky Mountain chain, and they are found nowhere else.

Amongst primulas, the Parry are distinctive in that the vernation is involute; that is the upper surface is curled upwards rather than downwards. This character is only shared by *P. cuneifolia* and its relatives (Japan to Alaska) and *Primula auricula* in the European mountains.

*Primula* first evolved in eastern Asia, and examination of the DNA shows us that *P. cuneifolia* today represents plants that migrated eastwards out of Asia and into North America via the Aleutian and Kurile island chains. This probably happened during an early Glacial epoch. North American descendants of this immigration were cold-adapted and would have spread widely during the Ice-Ages. Here they evolved into precursors of the present-day Parryi. However, when the climate warmed during Interglacial periods, the arctic-alpine Parryi became confined to high mountains (today they are mostly found at altitudes of over 2500 m (8000 ft)).

The effects of repeated glaciation and then glacial retreat on plant evolution has been likened to a pump that causes the distribution of cold-adapted plants to expand and contract several times. During times of contraction, small isolated populations would evolve rapidly to suit local conditions, only to expand again, meeting and hybridising with other previously isolated populations during cold periods.

Theory suggests that such a pump action should speed up the rate of evolution considerably, and many groups of arctic-alpine plants such as the Parryi underwent considerable diversification during the few hundred thousand years of the Ice-Ages.

North America differs from Europe in that the mountain chains run north-south, thus facilitating the spread of new glacially-evolved variants over a wide range of latitude. This is notable in the Parryi, the distribution of which ranges from Guatemala, Mexico and New Mexico (*P. rushy*) to Idaho (*P. cusickiana*) and Montana (northern end of the distribution of *P. parryi*). There are some ‘hot-spots’, notably the mountains of Nevada where *P. capillaris* and *P. nevadensis* are both endemic.

It seems that the forerunners of the present-day Parryi did not stop in North America. It is clear from the DNA and other evidence that the 22 species we classify in *Primula* section Auricula, and which are found today in the European mountains (principally the Alps), evolved from the Parryi. We must suppose that the surge eastwards continued during Glacial periods, perhaps via Greenland and Iceland, and possibly involving long-distance transport over seaward. Today, the Auricula species which most resemble the Parryi are those that occur furthest east, the Bulgarian *P. deorum*, *P. carniolica* from Slovenia and the Croatian...
P. kitaibeliana. The resemblance between *P. deorum* in particular and *P. parryi* can be striking. So, North American enthusiasts of the ‘Auriculas’ can gain some satisfaction from the knowledge that these plants were, way way back, originally American!

**Seeing Primula Parryi in the Heart of its Range**

**ROB STANILAND, CALGARY, ALBERTA**

In July 2003 I had the opportunity to take my wife and daughter to the NARGS “Rush to the Rockies” meeting in Denver/Breckenridge Colorado to experience the greater plant diversity than we see in our glacier-scoured province. The upland, alpine landscapes and flora were beautiful and a highlight of the hikes was the return walk off East Boreas pass when we dropped off the somewhat dry granitic slopes (at about 11,800 feet a.s.l.) into a narrow swale of springs feeding a small, rocky creek. The brilliance of the dark pink *P. parryi* stood out from a distance, complimented beautifully by the pure white of *Cardamine cordifolia* (large mountain bittercress). The *Primula*’s relatively large size (for a *Primula*) and robust, erect leaves (10-25cm) make it a dominant feature at stream’s edge. Other plants associated with the *Primula* included *Caltha leptosepala* (mountain marsh marigold) and *Rhodiola integrifolia* (roseroot), all characteristic of moist ground.

Despite being in full sun, the ground and water were icy cold and the *Primula* was restricted to the immediate streamside and areas that looked likely to stay permanently moist. I had assumed I should not mimic my working life of digging holes to check soil and rooting conditions, so must just assume this was a situation of peaty and silty, cold, noncalcareous soils.

Alfred Russel Wallace, in his 1891 essay following a trip to the area (Gray’s Peak) during an American lecture tour, described a similar experience: “…we had passed the timberline at about 11,500 feet…we discovered some of the chief gems of the alpine flora…. Along the borders of the stream, fed by the still melting snows and with its roots in the water, were fine clumps of the handsomest American primrose (*Primula Parryi*), its whorled flowers of crimson purple colour with a yellow eye….”

I should’ve at least run my fingers into the soil, and would’ve liked more time to prepare photographs—at least time to get my tripod off my daypack. The hikers were on a schedule, it seems, that didn’t include pausing for more than a few moments. I managed a few handheld shots with the old OM1 and Fujichrome 100 film (that my teen daughter claims I had “jacked” from Gwen Keleidas), then had to run to catch up.

Despite its obvious beauty there seems to be some reluctance to assign horticultural merit to *P. parryi*. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* (Hitchcock and Cronquist 1973) comments that it is “not satisfactory ornamental plant”, and I have seen references to an “ill” or “carrion” odour. Perhaps it is not considered by some as dainty enough for a *Primula*. I enjoyed the smells by the stream in Colorado and have planted seedlings this year in my moraine/bog, and along my artificial creek where *P. parryi*’s size will be an advantage. Pam Eveleigh has grown it locally in her pseudobog, so I have high hopes for success and enjoyment.
Seeing *Primula parryi* in the Heart of its Range

Showing *Primula parryi* in its natural habitat, from alpine landscape to creekbed.
Facing page, clockwise from top left: Elfrida’s house, pond, backyard seating, *P. cortusoides*, *P. bulleyana*, backyard with fruit trees.

This page, clockwise from top left: *P. x juliana* white, *P. x juliana* pink, *P. elatior*, *P. denticulata* lavender, *P. cortusoides* pink.

**Vikeland Gardening**
Joyce and Zdenek have created a terrific crevice garden in her backyard in Victoria. Colorful alpines top the upright layers at one of the ridges. The bright *P. marginata* was collected for its good leaf form by Joyce from a dolomite limestone cliff on Mt. Cheiron in extreme S. E. France. Cuttings of both a pin and thrum form have meant there are now seedlings growing in Victoria and available to APS members. Unfortunately the site is now threatened with development and there is no knowing when this fine location could be landscaped away, primulas and all!

The white form of *P. hirsuta* has settled happily into a crevice by a rock and the tiny *P. allionii* 'Archer Form' is found in a crevice in Joyce and Zdenek’s garden in Prague.

Japanese species *Primula* are mentioned in Jay Lunn’s article on interspecies crosses. The dainty white *P. takedana* was photographed in the U.B.C. Botanical Garden, but was not long lived. Note the interesting leaves on *P. hidakana* -- crosses with these leaves would be a great addition to the *Primula* world. And the tiny gem *P. tosaensis var. brachycarpa* was captured when entered at a British show.
Interspecific Crosses in the Genus Primula and Primula Species and Cultivars in the World

BY JAY LUNN

I received a complimentary copy of the book, *Primula Species and Cultivars in the World,* and other considerations, for the use of some of my photographs that appeared in it. Except for the Preface by Masahiro Shiino (representing the editing committee) and the Preface by John Richards, Emeritus Professor of Botany, University of Newcastle, U.K., most of the text is in Japanese. I do not understand the Japanese language so the use of English to identify photographs is helpful. One section of the book, entitled Primula Cultivars and Breedings in Japan, contains a portion called Interspecific Crosses in the Genus *Primula* Species (pp. 124-128).

In this section, there are photographs portraying the crossings of:
- *P. sieboldii* × *P. kisoana;
- *P. jesoana* × *P. sieboldii;
- *P. sieboldii* × *P. jesoana;
- *P. kisoana* × *P. jesoana;
- *P. saxatilis* × *P. jesoana;
- *P. saxatilis* × *P. obconica;
- *P. kisoana* × *P. takedana;
- *P. saxatilis* × *P. takedana;
- *P. saxatilis* × *P. tosaensis* var. *brachycarpa*;
- *P. takedana* × *P. tosaensis* var. *brachycarpa*;
- *P. filchnerae* × *P. sinensis*;
- *P. jesoana* × *Cortusa matthioli*; and
- *P. sieboldii* × *P. obconica*.

From what I have read in the past, *P. filchnerae* was not thought to be in cultivation, however, that appears to be a mistaken assumption. The photographs appearing in this section of the book show flowers, parent plants and the resulting hybrids. The photograph that shows the flowers of the cross between *P. saxatilis* and *P. kisoana* (a white form) is very impressive! It appears to portray the cross of these two species as having larger and fuller petals, smaller eye and darker color than the *P. saxatilis* itself. The hybrid plant is more compact with shorter flower stalks than either of its parents. A photograph of *P. ‘Thirty-one’,* the result of the cross between *P. filchnerae* and *P. sinensis* also looks very nice. The photograph of this plant is fairly dark, but it is obvious that it is a very floriferous hybrid and may have bronzy colored foliage. This hybrid was backcrossed with *P. filchnerae* and *P. sinensis* to produce an interesting, but smaller in all respects, plant.

I noticed that they did not show a cross between *P. polyneura* and *P. kisoana*. I attempted this cross in 2006 and sent the resulting seed to the APS 2006-2007 seed exchange (items no.177 and 178). I believe that this is a viable cross, since both of these species are reported to have a chromosome number of 2n = 24, and the seeds that resulted from my work appeared to be viable. I did not have absolute control over the pollination process, so I don’t know if some insect may have been in competition with me.

I retained a few of these seeds, but did...
not plant them until this past winter (2008). Nothing has yet germinated from this sowing. I use a peat-based seedling mix that I do not normally sterilize, so moss grows rather heavily by the end of summer following the sowing. Thus, this seed pot is now covered with moss and there is no evidence that anything ever germinated in it. The moss tends to discourage future germination, although we have had plants (not necessarily primroses) grow through this green blanket in the second or third season after sowing, so I haven’t given up on them yet. I encourage members who obtained some of this seed and were successful in growing it on to share the results of this interspecific cross with the rest of us.

Half of this book’s 256 pages consist of (more than 600) beautiful color photographs of primroses. You probably won’t find it for sale at a bookstore in the Western World, although you might find it at your library, especially if it serves a fairly large Japanese community. Even if you cannot read the text, it is well worth the effort to locate it at your local library and look at the wonderful photographs.


The Neglected North American Primula Species
This issue has some handsome photos of *P. parryi*, not one of the most appreciated North American species of *Primula* but one of which I could find some relatively recent photos taken by Rob Staniland of Calgary. If there are any readers out there who have taken photos of any North American *Primula* species in the last few years, please let me know or send them to the editor if you would. Jay Lunn has been the APS member reporting on these for years, and feels his material is getting out of date, even though his photos are a very beautiful record of our North American *Primula* heritage. We would certainly welcome any recent reports and photos from anyone who has some.

Seed List On-Line
Remember to look at the list of wonderful seeds available from the American Primrose Society seed list on the web site: www.americanprimrosesociety.org. The list was posted some time in December, and you can order by printing the form from the website. There are undoubtedly some interesting things left. Do have a look.

Support Your Advertisers
In compiling the article on when to divide your *Primula* I had a chance to look at the web sites for some of our advertisers in the APS quarterly. These have some very interesting plants listed and it is worth your time to check out the web sites. The advertisers in the quarterly help to defray the cost to you, the members, as well as notifying you of current sources of *Primula* plants.

You can make a difference
There have been times in 2008 when the board discussed having a black and white only issue as a way of cutting costs. We have avoided this, primarily due to the kind donations from the Juneau and New England chapter donations. The color photos in this issue -- the pages readers always turn to first -- are sponsored by the B. C. Primula Group. Thanks goes to them.

The color pages cost about $400 per issue, and any donations specifically to keep them coming will be most gratefully acknowledged. Any amount would help. Thank you!
Dividing Primula –
Cultural Information for Growers

In the last issue of Primroses, the President asked readers to respond with information on dividing your Primulas. Three small questions were posed:

When do you divide your plants?
How often do you do this?
Which species do you find need dividing most often to preserve them?

She had one reply from New York State. I was also able to canvas two nurseries: one in Oregon and one in Maine. This gives readers some idea of what growers in different parts of the country do to keep their plants alive and well.

~Maedythe Martin

JOAN HOEFFEL,
PRIMULA GROWER, NAPLES, NY

I live in the Bristol Hills in the Finger Lakes area of New York State. We are hardiness zone 5 with unpredictable winters -- no snow, too much snow, frequent thaws, bitter cold, windy, warm all winter ... it’s a grab-bag. I grow many species of Primula and have a most enviable crop of open pollinated seedlings year after year. They just appear!

I never divide my primroses unless there is a reason to propagate a plant, such as a beautiful color, double flower, an unusual stripe or a picotee form. But if I am going to divide a plant, I dig it up in its entirety, shake all the soil off the roots, carefully pull the plants into plantlets (sometimes requires a small cut) each with a crown and roots, trim the roots to about 3” and plant back into humus-rich soil. I do this anytime: spring, summer or fall, when the plant is not in flower. Some of my oldest plants are huge round clumps that flower profusely. Our whole acre of garden is filled with many, many species of primroses and they are in flower from March until August and September. If I have time, I give the plants a top dressing of well-rotted manure early in the spring. It’s kind of hit-or-miss, but it works for me.

RICHARD MAY,
EVERMAY NURSERY, MAINE
www.evermaynursery.com

First, I have to warn you that I am most interested in Primula species. Most of these are best grown from seed. The plants seem more vigorous and less prone to the build up of disease, and it is less costly to grow lots of plants this way. Finding good seed is always a challenge. Even some of the best seed houses of Europe routinely (and, I think, innocently) send out the wrong seed. I do not grow many of the PP. elatior, veris, vulgaris, or the Juliana hybrids although I do grow all the species. Again, I grow these species from seed. When I do divide the hybrids, I do so right after blooming. I regularly divide the PP. marginata, allonii, and the auricula hybrids. It is important not to be too greedy in dividing these -- especially the P. allonii. A very small piece may not make it. Therefore, I would recommend dividing every other year or every third year. The P. marginata are easier to divide and seem to like it.

The P. auricula like to be pot-bound to bloom better and therefore, if in pots, should probably be done every second or third year. I give all the last three species and hybrids fertilizer, water, and a lot of sun in the spring but keep much drier and shadier in the late summer to fall. P. forsteri ‘Bileckii’ is a great little plant. It is easy to divide after flowering and should be given good light through out the summer. I give P. marginata more light than the P. allonii hybrids. All these things seem to keep the plants happy and blooming well for me.

URS BALTENSPERGER,
EDELWEISS PERENNIALS NURSERY
CANBY, OREGON
www.edelweissperennials.com

We re-pot all of our Primula in November into December. This way they all get cleaned and old foliage is discarded. We also have to treat for root aphids, for which we add Marathon to the soil. If some don’t divide easily,
they’ll go into larger pots as stock plants for the following year.

As far as planting them outside, ‘Vulcan’ a red auricula, has been in the same spot for over four years without re-planting and it looks great.

Legenday Barnhaven seed - still carefully hand-pollinated from rigorously selected plants. We also send bare-rooted plants to the USA.

11 rue du Pont Blanc
22310 Plestin les Greves, France
Tel/Fax: 00 33 2 96 35 68 41
info@barnhaven.com
www.barnhaven.com

Chapter Reports 2008

B.C. Primula Group

The first meeting of the year, in January, was spent planning the APS national show to be held in Victoria in conjunction with the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society show. Jacqueline Bradbury, president of VIRAGS came over from Victoria for the meeting to help with organizing a venue, planning a bus tour and discussing logistics. The group also identified some possible speakers to contact. All this was orchestrated by the joint show stewards, Michael Plumb and Rhondda Porter. The last few packets of seeds were distributed to group members at this meeting.

The March meeting found us admiring many lovely pots of the early blooming P. allionii and hybrids, brought by Rhondda Porter. More planning was made for the Group’s sale and display held in conjunction with the Alpine Garden Club of B.C. show in April at the VanDusen Gardens in Vancouver. This was followed by a discussion of further details to be clarified for the APS National Show. The portable auricula theatre will be available and Rhondda has found a source for award rosettes.

A discussion of cultivation issues followed. A suggestion for the treatment of botritis and moss is to mix Head and Shoulders shampoo, which has zinc in it, at the rate of one tsp. per gallon of water and apply to plants.

May found us meeting at Mirka Vinter’s house after a tour of her amazing, compact rock and woodland city garden in a town

Doretta Klaber Chapter

The Doretta Klaber Chapter is located in the Delaware Valley; most of our 32 members are from Pennsylvania but we also have members in New Jersey and Virginia. We recently raised our dues to $10 to cover increased costs for rent and speakers fees. We meet twice a year, in the later winter and again in the fall and usually have someone with a presentation of interest to Primula lovers. At our spring meeting we pass out primrose seeds to our members. Most of our seed comes from the Primrose Society or NARGS.

We also have a summer picnic at a member’s house with a plant sale. We hope the seed we passed out in January or February have grown enough to be sold. Members also bring other plants from the Primula family or interesting plants from their gardens. All
the proceeds from the plant sale benefit the chapter.

We also try to have a garden visit to see primroses – early in the spring in the Delaware Valley.

Most of our members are also members of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. Since our chapter is small and we are worried we will not be able to survive much longer we became a special interest group under the DVC-NARGS. Anyone is free to come to our meetings but we ask that people become members to participate in the plant sale and to receive seeds.

Many *Primula* species are not so easy to grow here because of our hot and humid summers and wet winters but our members are dedicated and will try hard to succeed.

We try to get a variety of species for our seed give-away both well-known ones that we know will grow and others less well-known that might work here.

~Diana Cormack, Acting Chair

**New England Chapter**

Our Chapter has enjoyed another successful year centered around the plants we fancy. Membership increased slightly, and we spent several busy days together, dining well, obtaining more plants, sharing Primula cultural information and experiences, and planning for the future.

In January, we met at Matt and Joe’s home for a midwinter tour of the heated greenhouse filled with blooms and scents not often seen. Matt met expectations with a scrumptious luncheon, for which we paid with an hour or so spent planning the 2008 Show at Tower Hill and conducting other Chapter business.

May found us spending the first weekend near Worcester, MA, for our annual Show at Tower Hill Botanical Garden. Complete with stunning plants on the benches, informative and entertaining presentations by Kris Fenderson and Matt Mattus, our annual general meeting, and a banquet at a fine Indian restaurant. The show was a success. To finish on a gracious note, Matt and Joe again provided a grand buffet and a comfortable place to share thoughts and memories with fellow primulaphiles and the joys and woes of growing and showing *Primulas*.

Our Fall meeting was held at Berkshire Botanical Garden. With the business items, including planning the 2009 National APS Show at Tower Hill for the first weekend in May. This completed, we were treated to our first presentation by APS President Lee Nelson. A knowledgeable and amusing speaker, Lee projected digital photos of some very unusual plants at Wisley, some *Primulas* in her garden, and her brilliant front garden poppy field. She even brought at least a half pound of poppy seeds to share, so we can each try to have a summer display worth photographing next year.

The meeting was rounded out by a plant sale and auction, with many taking home named auriculas and species plants from Susan Schnare’s mini-nursery or from other fellow growers’ collections. In addition to sharing anecdotes and pictures from her travels, Lee has continued creating and sending a newsletter to all Chapter members, filed with information about the ongoing activities of the group.

We know that chapter members will have a lot to do between now and May besides grow plants for the benches, but are confident that under Joe Phillips’ guidance our enthusiasm and experience will result in an excellent 2009 National APS Show.

~Judith Sellers, Recording Secretary.

**Tacoma Chapter**

The newsletters of the Tacoma Chapter call members of the re-instated Tacoma Chapter to the meetings held monthly at Candy Strickland’s home, except for summer and holiday months. Members of the group discuss growing *Primula* over a bag lunch, and Jean and Roger Eichmann come down from the northern part of the State. Cy Happy comes when he is able and other members travel some distance to attend. The group would like to find a source for double primula, as the supplier no longer is able to supply plants. If anyone knows of a source, please contact Candy Strickland, Co-President.

~Maedythe Martin (from information sent by Candy Strickland)

**Juneau Chapter**

The Juneau Chapter met on Saturday, October 25, 2008. We compared notes about what grew and bloomed in our gardens this summer: a summer of very cool, rainy weather, although no records were broken (July’s recorded rainfall, however, was 8 inches; two times the normal rainfall.). Primroses in many members’ gardens were happy, though. *Primula denticulata, P. veris, P. sieboldii, P. alpicola, P. japonica, P. florindae* and others all did particularly well. One member who gardens in Gustavus, Alaska (near Glacier Bay National Monument) had *P. egaliksensis* blooming in his garden grown from seed collected in the area.

At the November 22 meeting, Merrill Jensen-manager and caretaker of the Jensen-Olsen Arboretum- will present his thoughts on maintaining and expanding the *Primula* collection in its garden.

In light of facing the long, dark, winter, Chapter President, Ed Buyarski, presented a slide show entitled “Primula A to Z”. It was heartening to see all those lovely plants in bloom, many of which can be grown right here in Juneau, Alaska!

~Julia Haldorson

Juneau gardeners are an optimistic bunch--they need to be after more than 12 inches of rain in October. I’ve planted several thousand spring bulbs in gardens around town and anticipate more sun and less rain next year -- that should be a safe bet! Fuchsias were spectacular on and under my deck and I hope to winter them over for a more impressive show next year.

With the cool wet weather, severe fungus problems attacked peonies, raspberries, and some slow moving vehicles. There were plenty of happy slugs breeding this fall so unless we get a winter with multiple freeze/thaw events, they will be quite a problem in the spring.

~Ed Buyarski
American Primrose Society
Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting
October 25th, 2008

The meeting was held online and by telephone. It opened at 4:04 pm, Pacific Time.

Present: Linda Bailey (Director), Rodney Barker (Director), Mary Jo Burns (Director), Ed Buyarski (President, Juneau Chapter), Mark Dyen (President, New England Chapter), Cheri Fluck (Director), Jane Guild (Editor and Webmaster), Julia Haldorson (Director and Membership Secretary), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Marianne Kuchel (Director), Lee Nelson (President), Michael Plumb (Secretary), Judith Sellers (Vice President)

1. The Minutes of August 2nd, 2008 - Accepted as presented (Judith / Julia)

2. Treasurer's Report (Emailed before the meeting)
- Total liabilities and equity as of October 5th, 2008: $21,894.62.
- Income less expenses January 1st, 2008 to September 30th, 2008: ($2,760.33)
- Revenue from membership fees due in November and December will greatly reduce the losses shown.
- Donations by individuals and chapters and a reduction in the cost of producing the Quarterly may result in an estimated surplus of about $3,000 for 2009.
- The board must still look for ways to reduce costs and increase memberships.
- Donations will still be a vital source of funding.
- Members are encouraged to seek out businesses willing to advertise in the Quarterly.
- The Smith Barney investment account has encountered losses. [See last item]
- The Treasurer’s report was accepted unanimously (Michael / Linda).
- The board unanimously expressed thanks to Jon for his work (Linda / Cheri).

3. Committee Reports
Seed Exchange (winter 2008 – spring 2009)
This is on schedule. Members are encouraged to donate seed. If seed cannot be sent by October 31st, members can send Jacques Mommens a list of what they plan to donate.

Primroses Quarterly
- Quarterly issues mailed in the US were late this time. Members are encouraged to help the editor find solutions by reporting when their issue is late.
- By unanimous vote, the board decided to instruct the secretary to send a letter of appreciation to Maedhyte Martin and Jane Guild for their splendid work in producing the quarterly.

Website
- Judy, Marianne and Michael will help Jane prepare an online questionnaire to solicit ideas from members.

National Show
- This will be held May 1st to 3rd at Tower Hill Botanical gardens, Boylston, MA, near Worcester. The nearest airport is Boston.

4. Chapter Reports
- New England Chapter's proposal to improve Quarterly Finances
Rodney withdrew the motion.
- At Rodney’s request, the Treasurer (Jon) and the Quarterly Editor (Jane) (Quarterly Editor) agreed to check whether each new membership covers the cost of serving the new member with the Quarterly for the term of the membership.
- So far Rodney Barker and Ed Buyarski make up the Nominating Committee. The President will assign more members.

Free APS membership for NARGS Potomac Valley Chapter
- MOTION (Julia / Ed): That a free APS membership be given to the NARGS Potomac Valley Chapter in exchange for a free NARGS membership. Carried.

5. New Business
Smith Barney investment account
- MOTION (Linda / Ed): As this account is not doing well, that it be closed. The motion was tabled by agreement so that the Finance Committee could further investigate and present their report for a discussion and vote at the next board meeting.
- MOTION (Mary Jo / Rodney): That the previous motion be tabled for the next meeting in January. Carried unanimously.

6. Adjournment (Cheri) at 6:10 pm Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Plumb, Secretary
Biographies of Candidates

**JOSEPH PHILIP** is a life long collector of rare plants and fauna, and he is a natural leader. As an active member of numerous plant societies and other groups which he belongs to, he rarely sits on the sidelines, Joe is the sort of guy who gets involved, and who gets others involved, too. His interests are as varied as the genus *Primula*, he is an active member of the Russian Tumbler Pigeon Club of America, and at his home in central Massachusetts, he raises and keeps honey bees, rare waterfowl and numerous rare *Clivia* species in his greenhouse. If that isn’t enough, he also breeds rare show pigeons and nationally winning AKC Irish Terriers. Anyone who has visited the home he shares with Matt Mattus, will attest to the special plant collections, greenhouses and gardens they have created together. Their garden is frequently on the private tours of the National Rock Garden Society, and other plant groups.

In his free time, Joseph can be found expanding his knowledge of *Primula* and other alpine plants which has brought him to hiking the high alps of Switzerland and the Dolomites of northern Italy, photographing and collecting seed. He has been the chairman for the National Primrose Society National Show for three years, and has organized many successful exhibitions at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden, in Boylston, Massachusetts were he frequently volunteers his time.

He has demonstrated a life-long passion and dedication for plants and plant societies, where he is often a very active member, and has taken on jobs from designing websites, to writing newsletters and articles, to organizing task forces and volunteering to chair events such as national shows and garden tours, where he has done everything from , from organizing speakers and luncheons, to planning bus tours. Joseph is a doer, not a follower, and his sense of humor often opens doors rather than shuts them.

**MARIANNE KUCHEL** has been an interested and active participant in the American Primrose Society since moving to Vermont some ten years ago and starting an ever-expanding garden. She is an avid grower of primulas from seed and loves to try different varieties in her Vermont climate. Marianne has a broad interest in horticulture and also grows many varieties of Alpines.

She has a Certificate in Landscape Design from George Washington University in Washington D.C. and a Master Gardener Certificate in Vermont. She has served as President of the Hanover (NH) Garden Club and lectures on primulas in the NH-VT area.

Born and raised in Sweden, Marianne has lived most her adult life in the United States, accompanying her Foreign Service husband to seven postings in Europe and Africa. She has developed gardens wherever she has lived, including tropical and semi-tropical gardening in Nigeria and Zambia. She has been active in many community organizations and activities.

If elected, Marianne would hope to work closely with the entire Board to support APS as a strong and helpful national organization that encourages knowledge and love of primulas. At this junction, it is critical to grow our membership and achieve financial stability in order to meet the information, collection, growing and exhibiting interests of our members.

**ALAN LAWRENCE**, born in England in 1940, obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Liverpool. Spent 40 years in research and development in the Telecommunications industry, working in the UK, Belgium and US, and holds 10 patents in the design of telecoms switching systems. Inherited his love of primroses from his Mother and Grandmother and since retirement in 2001 spends much of his gardening time growing about 15 species of *Primula* from seed. He and his wife Anne live most of the year in South Central Wisconsin, but winter in Big Snow country of the UP of Michigan. He is a past President of the Illinois Mycological Association.
North American Rock Garden Society

Yes, I am interested in a seed exchange, discount book service, slide library, field trips, fact-filled Quarterly, garden visits, and plant sales.
Sign me up!

Membership:
USA, Canada: US$30
Overseas: US$35

Please contact:
NARGS
PO Box 67
Millwood, NY 10546

Make checks payable to North American Rock Garden Society

https://www.nARGS.org/info/Smembership.

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society
Midland & West Section

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk

£10.00 Overseas Membership.

Please consider joining the National Auricula and Primula Society - Northern Section.

Applications for membership of the N.A.P.S. Southern Section should be made to:
The Honorary Secretary, Lawrence Wigley, 67 Wanhan Court Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, SM5 3ND.

OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTERS

New Members

2009 Expiry
Ruth Chaus  P. O. Box 1712  Bellevue, Washington  98009-1712  U.S.A.
Joyce Miller  901 SE 208th Ave  Gresham, Oregon  97030  U.S.A.
Madge Oswald  12001 Audubon Dr  Anchorage, Alaska  99516  U.S.A.
Vibeke Poulsen  Kvislemarkvej 8, Kuislemark  4262 Samved  Denmark
Richard Skinner  597 Montrose Lane  St. Paul, MN  U.S.A.

Should there ever be a question about your membership, please contact:
Julia L. Haldorson, APS Membership
P. O. Box 210913
Auke Bay, Alaska  99821
U.S.A.
membership@americanprimrosesociety.org

Overseas membership £7.50 ($10.00 U.S.)

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society
Midland & West Section

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk

British Columbia Primrose Group
President, Maedythe Martin
951 Joan Crescent  Victoria, BC  V8S 3L3
(250) 370-2951
martin951@shaw.ca

Doretta Klaber Chapter
Diana Cormack, Acting Chair
6635 Wissahickan Ave  Philadelphia, PA  19119
(215) 848-5577
hpunnett@voicenet.com

New England Chapter
Co-President, Mark Dyen
132 Church Street Newton, MA 02158
dyenreisen@rcn.com
Co-President, Rodney Barker
49 Woodcliff Road Newton Highlands, MA 02461
rodney@justice.com

East Side Chapter
President, Thea Oakley
3304 288th Ave. NE  Redmond, WA  98053
(425) 880-6177
theap@netscape.com

Juneau Chapter
President, Ed Buyarski
Box 33077 Juneau, AK  99803-3077
(907) 789-2299
amprimsoc@hotmail.com
http://www.alaskaprimroses.org

Tacoma Chapter
Co-President, Candy Strickland
6911 104th St. E.  Puyallup, WA  98373
(253) 841-4192
Co-President, Cy Happy III
11617 Gravelly Lk. Dr. Tacoma, WA  98499
(253) 588-2585
3,500 varieties.
50 years + supplying growers.
183 new items for 2009.

Jelitto Perennial Seeds
North American Office
125 Chenoweth Ln., Suite 301
Louisville, KY 40207
Phone: 502-895-0807
Fax: 502-895-3934
Contact maryv@jelitto.com
www.jelitto.com