President’s Message

LEE NELSON

Hello Everyone,

I think it’s safe for me to say spring has arrived, or will have arrived by the time you read this. For those of us here in the North East it has been a cold winter and apart from a couple of short warm spells, the Primula were under a thick snow cover for most of the winter. While our winter climate prohibits outside gardening, there is much that can be done inside, starting in early January, when all the seeds that I ordered start to arrive. All are sown immediately and the species that require stratification are placed under fluorescent lights in the basement. The auricula seed from the APS seed exchange did so well that I now have 40 plants in 3 inch pots. Mid March they will be gradually hardened off and join the pots that are germinating on the patio. So even here in the frozen north, gardening can be a year-round activity.

This will be my last letter to you, in May, at the national show, I will hand the gavel over to our new president.

It has been an interesting experience. I have met, spoken and exchanged emails with many of you.

I have been impressed with the networking that takes place behind the scenes: the officers, board members, our editor and webmaster, the membership chair and all those people that work behind to scenes to ensure the prosperity of the society. To all of them I say ‘Thank You’ for making my job as president easier.
I have one last request of you. We are trying to gather all of the society trophies. Our goal is to create a trophy inventory and store them in one central place. With the help of Ed Buyarski and Cheri Fluck we have compiled a list of what we have so far.

If anyone can shed light on trophies that you have or know about, I’d appreciate hearing from you.

Cheri Fluck, the society’s Quarterly librarian still has several sets of back issues of the Q for sale. Contact Cheri for details; cheri44@comcast.net. These back issues contain a wealth of information with articles written by many of the founding members of the society. Preserving the history of the society is important, and we thank Cheri for her efforts in this endeavor.

Lastly, I want to draw your attention to the disclaimer following my letter, regarding the Book Library.

I landed in paradise 18 years ago, and now I am living in the northeast corner of Washington State, USA. I can drive to British Columbia, Canada, in little more than an hour; it is the same travel time to Idaho. It is a beautiful spot where I am, and of course I think I have the best piece of land around. I look down a fairly steep rocky bank to the Little Pend Oreille River (a very small one, shallow but swift most of the year). The area is in the Selkirk Mountains that run south from Canada. The elevation is 3,000.87 feet. Seed catalogs list me in zone 5, but I rather think I lean to the end of zone 4. My place covers nearly 5 acres.

On the far side of the river there is a fairly good-sized open flattish area that is very wet before it goes straight up a wooded hill (firs, spruce, pine, larch, aspen and a couple of cottonwoods) to border on the Little Pend Oreille Game Refuge. There are underground springs that pop up here and there and for the first ten years the area didn’t even dry out in summer. I don’t venture there without my muckin’ boots on; or without a douse of Ben’s insect repellent – it’s a mosquito heaven. Haven’t tried to cultivate that area but it has possibilities for P. japonica and other bog plants.

I don’t have much of a ‘garden’ per se; most of the area is natural woods and wildflowers, and I like it that way. One of the reasons I fell in love with this place is I found my favorite campanula, the Scottish Harebell, C. rotundifolia, blooming at the doorstep the day I first set eyes on this property. It appears to grow wild. I think it was fate that brought me here.

I have visions of turning this place into “Primrose Hill,” the name of the lane in Knottingly, Yorkshire, England, where my grandmother was born. At this point in time, though, I think I’m too old to venture it. Years ago I bought Gertrude Jekyll’s book, Wall, Water and Woodland Gardens just because it was about English gardens – or then again, maybe it was fate. Several years after moving to eastern Washington, I opened the book and said to myself, “Wow, I’ve got it all right here!” That’s when I personally joined APS. But it was the last chapter of that book, all about Asiatic Primula that got me going again, thanks to Miss Jekyll.

I must drive a good 17 miles to the nearest town of Colville. There is one nursery in town that carries a good variety of perennial plants, but nary a Primula. (Of course, Walmart leads the pack with giant acaulis.) I have gotten some rockery plants from the local nursery; some survived but some didn’t. So I have resorted to buying seed. The first batch was had in 1999 from Thompson & Morgan. I got packets of Primula malacoides, Cowichans, P. denticulata, P. veris, a package of mixed hardy Primula species, and Auricula – Douglas Mix. Other species were later acquired as plants in Homer, Alaska, at Fritz Creek Gardens, while visiting my oldest daughter. (I thought if they grew...
I was planting the Primula seedlings and plants in my “woodland garden” amongst the natural vegetation, ripping up spots of kinnikinnick in a patch of young pines, fir and larch, until I learned (much too late) that where THAT grows, nothing else will – due to very poor soil. After a few years of watching everything I had moved there struggle and barely survive, I moved them to a different location and that made a world of difference.

Several years ago my son-in-law made me a couple of moveable cold frames from kitchen windows he had replaced. I put the transplanted seedlings in them until I found a spot to plant them out. A lot of them remained in there too long. The slugs found them and devoured quite a few before I got to town to buy slug killer. I finally planted the survivors out in October that year. Very few are surviving today. Crown rot has been a minor problem because of soggy conditions during the late spring run off. Last year, I found a cylinder of fungicide powder on sale, and sprinkled it about. That helped tremendously in the recovery of Primula denticulata, which I had planted under the eaves of the log cabin, directly below the drip line.

My main problem, though, is browsing deer. My youngest daughter sent me a little paperback one Christmas called Outwitting Deer. It says the only real deterrent is a 7 ½ foot high fence! The book included a section on plants deer do not really like, and primroses were listed there. Last spring the buds were just beginning to color: the next morning when I looked they were gone; just munched off. Those whitetails especially liked the Alaskan plants. I hate fences and have tried spraying with a concoction from a recipe the nursery gave me. The spray solution was 1 T. Ivory liquid, 1 T. oil (I used Wesson), to 1 gal. water (basic Safer’s soap), and an egg (for the deer – apparently they don’t like eggs). It rained soon after applying and then I got distracted with some other emergency. The deer had a nice dinner.

I subscribe to Garden Gate magazine. One issue had an article on interesting garden paraphernalia such as using crutches (medical supply store variety) under tree branches to prop them up. I was thinking I might start collecting bird cages to put over my plants but found them fairly expensive. I would need quite a few. The past five years I tried something different every year. I made some “cages” from a roll of rabbit wire 4’ high, rectangular mesh 2” x 4”, about 18” in diameter and laid them horizontally to cover more territory. Stuff is starting to come back through the wire and, because most are small species, the deer can’t get at them inside the hoops.

Oh well, I keep trying! Perhaps one of these years I’ll have it all figured out. Mean time I keep thinking of Gertude Jekyll and “Primrose Hill”, and dream I am beginning to accomplish what I set out to do nearly twenty years ago.

SCARIFYING SEEDS FOR IMMEDIATE GERMINATION

Paul Van Allen

I was raised on a farm in central Oregon and at that time alfalfa was just becoming known as a hay crop. The farmers, however, were having trouble with poor germination of seed so a process known as scarification, which is just plain scratching, was tried and found to solve the problem. This same process has been applied to many other seeds with more or less success.

So after waiting a year for some choice Primula seeds to germinate, I tried scarification and had the seedlings up in twelve and fourteen days. The way I accomplished this scarification is by taking a pane of glass about fourteen inches square and placing it on a smooth surface. Then on this piece of glass place a sheet of double O sandpaper, sand side up. Pour the seeds on this sandpaper placing a similar piece of sandpaper on top of the seed rough side down and on top of this another pane of glass or a hard, smooth board. Taking hold of the top paper and board I move them around with a circular motion for a minute or so thus breaking or scratching the hard coating of the seed...

...I have had good success with the following varieties using this method: Auriculas, Florindae, Rosea, Juliae and the Munstead Strain of seed from England. I believe that the bugaboo of old Primula seed can be licked using this method – anyway it hasn’t failed me yet and I use it on all seeds that have hard or shiny exterior coatings.
In the fall of 2008, we contacted the PyungKang Botanical Garden in Korea to find out how they were using Primula. This was their response:


I am a gardener at the Rock Garden in PyungKang Botanical garden. The PyungKang Botanical garden is very famous especially because of the rock garden with rare plants that live in the high mountain area in Korea. We have quite a big collection of Primula. Before I joined the garden management team, I used to work with the plant propagation team. While I was working in the plant propagation team -- collecting, planting, hybridizing -- I was so fascinated by Primula. In Korea we have P. sieboldii, P. modesta var. fauriae, and P. jesoana. It was so great and interesting to discover that there are so many different kinds of Primula. Since then, I read “Primula, Revised Edition, Richards, A.J. (2003?). Also, I did research about institutes or associations related to Primula.

While I was doing research, I found the American Primrose Society.

In Korea, the research for only one kind of plant is not really active, and we don’t have many good resources. The booklet you sent me, Primroses, is so helpful.

In early spring we have so many beautiful P. rosea and P. denticulata in the botanical garden where I work. And, later P. japonica and P. sieboldii blossom, too. All the flowers make such a beautiful flower heaven. Other than those two flowers, we collect 20-30 different kinds. As you suggested, I would like to spread the word about PyungKang Botanical garden in Korea through an article about Primrose with pictures. I will try to email you the article as soon as possible.

I am so sorry that I am writing in Korean. My English is not good enough to write a letter.

P.S. Happy New Year!

Jane Baldwin of Anchorage, AK sent us this note about reading through old quarterlys and starting seeds. We really appreciate feedback from our APS members, and like to pass it on!

I’m a relative novice at primula seed starting, but I am currently on a euphoric wave having successfully started fresh seed from my garden in October under lights in my garage and I didn’t want to miss my first go at the APS seed exchange list.

As an aside, I’m relatively new to APS (about 2-3 years) and I excitedly await each issue of Primroses. I recently ordered the set of back issues from Cheryl Fluck and am reading my way back (cover to cover) through the issues and just finished the year 1980 this morning. So much incredible information to digest! I especially enjoy the different articles from people about their various ways of growing, soil/growing medium mixes, seed starting and hybridizing efforts and methods and their various successes as well as analyzing their failures.

They contain an amazing amount of primula growing history! My box of past quarterlys is messy - a zillion ‘stickies’ stuck on pages that I know I will want to go back and reread!

Reading through the collection of back issues of the Primroses amounts to a self-study course on growing primroses.

Today (January 3rd) it is 23 degrees below zero in Anchorage. As I gaze out my window, I am thankful for the 2-foot snow cover, but I am also terribly impatient for spring. The primula seedlings started from fresh seed in my garage under lights in October now have two sets of true leaves. A few left over divisions of a P. juliae hybrid (or should that be P. x pruhoniciana?!) too small to survive outside are now giving me some cheeky flowers in the garage, too. I will run out of growing space long before I can safely move them outside. Yet I anxiously await receiving my APS seed exchange order and plan to start more! This week’s “to-do” list includes buying a big baker’s rack on wheels and more fluorescent lights. . .
Two New *Primulas* from China

MAEDYTHE MARTIN WITH CLAIRE COCKROFT, and with excerpts from an article by John Richards

Keen *Primula* enthusiasts will go to serious effort to find the plants in their natural environment. And the dream of capturing new species on film sends them travelling to the centre of distribution: eastern Asia. In June 2007 Quest Tours set out on an ambitious trip to China and Tibet. APS member Claire Cockroft and her son, Dennis Hodge were on this trip, which also by good fortune included *Primula* expert John Richards. High in the Sichuan mountain passes, they did find and photograph amazing *Primula*, some already known, and some that turned out to be new species. John Richards has kindly given his permission to use his descriptions of the trip and the plants. If you want to read his article, see the reference at the end.

“We stopped approximately 1 km south of the [Tuer] Pass by some large boulders among which was growing an attractive *Primula* in section *Muscaroides* Balf. f. We were struck by the ovate, scalloped petiolate leaves that were thickly plastered with farina underneath, the glabrous farinose scape and the relatively large infundibulariform flowers of an attractive pale lilac-blue. At the time, this plant was identified tentatively as *P. aerinantha* Balf. f. & Purdom. However, on our return it became clear that it differed from that species in a number of regards. A careful search of the herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) which holds representative material of the species described in this section, revealed no close match. It became clear that our material resembled the plants cultivated by Stella and David Rankin, of Kevo Garden Plants nursery from material collected in 2000 (SDR1868) and 2002 (SDR3047, 3078, 3088). Although these plants had not been identified previously, they had been given the working name ‘Chinese’ bellidifolia’ (*P. bellidifolia* King is the only member of this group to be found, not in China, but in the eastern Himalaya.) Nevertheless, this material was regarded by the Rankins as potentially representing a new species, and it is clear that the material under discussion has quite different leaves and larger flowers than *P. bellidifolia* and was previously unknown.

Latterly, similar plants were photographed independently by John Birks in 2004, and by Josef Lemmens in 2005, ‘between Kangding and Litang’, i.e. on the Gaer, Jianziwan or Kazira passes. This species is now known from five different locations, all in southwest Sichuan.”

John Richards’ detailed botanical description of *Primula lilacina* follows in his article in *The Plantsman*.

Another *Primula* – a startling black color not usually found in *Primula* flowers – was also documented on the Quest Tour. Claire tells me that the group botanized on the Zhedou Pass for almost 3 days because a landslide blocked the road they were to take toward their next destination. The first day was spent trekking around the top of the pass. On the second day, the bus dropped them at the top of the pass and they hiked down, cutting across the switchbacks and periodically meeting up with the bus. John Richards had indicated there might be a “black” *Primula* in the area, but Claire and Dennis found it difficult to see against the gray and black boulders but finally spotted a number of these interesting plants. Dennis and Claire continued their trek downwards and below the road they were finally able to find many more plants in fine flower. Each plant grew as a single flower.  Each plant grew as a single flower. The first day was spent trekking around the top of the pass. On the second day, the bus dropped them at the top of the pass and they hiked down, cutting across the switchbacks and periodically meeting up with the bus. John Richards had indicated there might be a “black” *Primula* in the area, but Claire and Dennis found it difficult to see against the gray and black boulders but finally spotted a number of these interesting plants. Dennis and Claire continued their trek downwards and below the road they were finally able to find many more plants in fine flower. Each plant grew as a single specimen. Claire remembers they weren’t clumped together. All were growing at the base of rocks in full sun where they could gather extra heat and shelter.

Growing near the *Primula* were *Rhododendron rufescens*, *Meconopsis pseudointegrifolia* and *M. henrici*, *Androsace euryantha* and *Primula sikkimensis*. John Richards continues about *P. euprepes* in his article:

“Really black flowers are unusual in the plant kingdom, so it was a great surprise to receive photographs in 2006 taken by Josef Lemmens (numbers 1906-1920) and Rosi Zschummel from the Zhedou Pass, west of Kangding, Sichuan. These depicted a member of the *Primula* section *Crystallophlomis* (Rupr.) Feder. subsection *Maximowiczii* (Balf. f.) Smith & Fletcher with truly black flowers.

Most members of this subsection have reflexed perianth segments that are frequently narrow and are typically purple or yellow. In *P. maximowiczii* Regel. and *P. tangutica* Duthie, flower color can vary from deep reddish-purple to red, orange and peach colored, even within a population, while yellow, purple and parti-colored (purple tube, yellow limb) flowers are recorded for *P. advena* W.W. Smith. The Zhedou plant also differed from most of its relatives by perianth segments that were short, rounded and spreading, not reflexed.

At the time, I suspected that these...
photographs concerned an undescribed taxon, so I was delighted when I found this plant on banks above the road to the east of the summit of the Zhedou Pass (30 04’ N, 101 47” E) west of Kangding, on 12 June 2007, growing at 3,800 – 4,100 m altitude. When I searched the herbarium of RBGE, the best match I could find was material collected by F. Kingdon Ward (5817) in 1924 from 3,600 – 4,000 m on the Nyima La. This pass is located between Kongbo and Pemako east of Tsela in south-east Tibet at 29 37’ N, 94 47’ E, i.e. some 600 km to the west of the Zhedou Pass. Kingdon Ward described the flowers on the Nyima La plant as ‘dark chocolate’ in color.

This collection was used as the type of *P. maximowiczii* var. *euprepes* Smith, which was said to differ from *P. maximowiczii* by ‘occasional farina on the basal scales, the thinner and conspicuously dentate leaves and in the calyx being moved to the middle’. This was an unexpected nomenclatural combination, particularly as *P. maximowiczii* itself is a plant of southern China, from the provinces of Shensi, Shansi and Chihl. Smith himself states ‘it is far removed geographically from [maximowiczii] and may prove to be distinct’ and Fletcher (1975:204) admits ‘[it]… might well have been described as a new species.’ …

We now know that ‘euprepes’ differs from *P. advena* in several other characteristics as well as flower color, having longer, more slender calyces with acute calyx teeth which equal the calyx tube, and single whorls of flowers … Also the calyx, pedicels and upper part of the scape are lightly farinose, much more so than stated in the original description; as far as can be seen from the herbarium material, only the base of *P. advena* var. *advena* is farinose, although the yellow-flowered var. *argentata* W.W. Smith is a much more mealy plant.

Consequently, I propose raising var. *euprepes* to specific rank for the first time.” John continues with a full botanical description in his article.

This dark chocolate brown to black flowered *Primula* is indeed a novelty and the enthusiastic species Primula grower immediately wants to know, where can I get seed? John mentioned that seed was collected in 2007, so plants may now be in some collectors’ gardens. If they are able to grow on the plants we can hope seed will be distributed more widely in the near future.

The tour at altitudes over 4000m and up to 5000m was grueling and altitude sickness took its toll. The Zhedou Pass is in the area that suffered greatly from the 2008 earthquake and there the hills are steep, the gorges are very deep, and the rivers could be raging torrents that turn brown with sediment. The tour was fortunate that members were able to photograph these two interesting *Primula* species found in these high mountain passes and let us get a glimpse of these exotic, unusual plants.

Excerpts are from the article:

Two new Primulas from China:
*P. euprepes* and *P. aerinantha*

This page: The amazing black *Primula euprepes* found at the base of rocks by the road in the Zhedon Pass.

Facing page: *Primula aerinantha* was found growing amongst boulders in the Sichuan mountains.
Editor’s Picks from the 2009 APS Photo Contest

Photo: Becky Carls

Photo: Becky Carls

Photo: Barrie Porteous

Photo: Becky Carls

Photo: Bobby Lee Daniels

Photo: Barrie Porteous

Photo: Becky Carls

Photo: Becky Carls

Photo: Barrie Porteous
Perennial Seed. Beautiful. Useful. Native... To the Planet.

Primula chionantha subsp. sinopurpurea
On a trip to China in 2005 Dieter Zschummel, well-known collector of genus Dionysias, found a tiny Primula, which was later identified as Primula kialensis. It appears that there is not yet sufficient information about successful cultivation of this Primula. Here are his notes about finding it and perhaps the first attempt of anyone growing it anywhere. This article was sent to the Prague Rock Garden Club for publication, and Joyce Carruthers passed it to the APS for publication because of the exceptional beauty of the species and its newsworthiness.

The mountains of SW-China and parts of Tibet are a paradise for Primula enthusiasts. When we visited Wolong in Sichuan, famous for the Great Panda, and went up the road to the Balang Shan Pass, we came across many interesting plants. Amongst them were ten species of Primula. One of the most fascinating species was new to us: it turned out later to be Primula kialensis. This species is a member of the section Yunnanensis; the section is named after Primula yunnanensis, well known but difficult in cultivation. P. yunnanensis is common in the Yulong Shan Mts.

Primula kialensis is a small plant with serrate leaves, both leaves and flower stems to about 5 cm long. The flower stalk carries one to eight rather large flowers of a good pink. There are two subspecies of P. kialensis. In subspecies brevituba the corolla tube is scarcely longer than the calyx; we found the subsp kialensis in which the corolla tube is about twice the length of the calyx. Primula kialensis was growing along the road at about 3500 m in cool and shady crevices of limestone boulders, together with small mosses. Several plants together made tight green cushions.

It was in the Hailuogo area on the east side of the highest mountain in Sichuan, Minya Konka, where another location was found near a path made for tourists which led to a glacier. Here again the altitude was around 3500 m and the site was rather shady and damp in June.

Experiences with the cultivation of this beautiful dwarf Primula are few at the moment. Small plants from 2006 grew rather quickly to flowering size in 2007, flowered very well in March and made seeds. A few weeks after dividing the healthy-looking cushion the plants died suddenly within a few days with no apparent reason. Fortunately there are still seedlings to have another try.
George Forrest - The Right Grit for a Collector

BARRIE PORTEOUS

There can be little doubt that, as a young man, George Forrest never considered a career which would take him to strange and distant lands and ultimately, if not to fortune, then certainly to fame. After four of his siblings died in infancy the remaining family moved to the Scottish town of Falkirk, just outside Edinburgh, where seven more children were born, the youngest being George. He would have certainly had a fairly good education, as did all Scottish children, thanks to the “Act for Setting Schools” passed in 1696. Promoted by John Knox and finally brought into law after his death, the Act has more to do with the devious than the enlightened for Scotland was staunchly Calvinist and dreaded any possible return to the “bad old days” of Catholicism. To insure that this never happened, virtually every Scottish child was educated so that they could read the Holy Scripture for themselves. With a literacy rate estimated to be as high as 75%, the Scots were ideally positioned to take a vital role in the establishment of the British Empire on which, it was said, the sun never set.

Over the years George developed a great love of natural history and spent much of his leisure time bird watching, collecting butterflies and studying plants. In 1898, when he was 25, Forrest was fortunate enough to inherit the sum of £50 from a wealthy uncle and, like so many Scots before and since, took off for the colonies, in this case, Australia. He visited relatives, tried sheep farming and even spent time in the gold fields of New South Wales. Adventures there and in South Africa, where he stopped on the way home, toughened him up and instilled a sense of self-reliance that would serve him well for the ordeals that were yet to come.

Back home, aged 30 and living with his elderly mother and three unmarried sisters in the small town of Lasswade, Forrest’s life was about to change. While fishing one day at the Gladhouse reservoir he happened upon some very ancient bones which he gave to John Abercrombie, the secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Abercrombie then mentioned the find to Professor Isaac Bayley Balfour, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, a man who would play a pivotal role not only in Forrest’s life but in the careers of other plant hunters. Shortly after, Balfour offered him a...
The industrious and steady man. “He is a strongly built fellow and seems to be of the right grit for a collector.” Bulley immediately hired him and so the career of George Forrest, the world’s greatest plant hunter, began. Little was known of Yunnan in the early 1900s. Today, we recognize that, while it takes up a mere 4% of China’s land mass, Yunnan possesses 50% of its flora, making it just about the best place in the world to find new species of almost everything. Some information had been sent back to Europe by Abbé Delavay which hinted at the botanical riches to be found. The area is unique in that four of the world’s great rivers, the Mekong, the Salween, the Irrawaddy and the Yangtze flow parallel to one another separated only by deep gorges and towering mountain ranges. Forrest’s journey began by taking a ship to Bombay, a train from there to Madras, crossing over to Rangoon in a dirty, overcrowded steamer, taking a train to Mandalay in Burma (where the flying fishes play) and finally a paddle steamer up the Irrawaddy to Bhamo, close to the border with China. After recovering from his ordeals, Forrest, who spoke no Chinese or Burmese, managed to organize his expedition and pushed on to the treaty port of Tengyueh in Western Yunnan. His luck held, for within a few days he had the good fortune to meet the acting British consul, George Litton.

Litton was Britain’s eyes and ears on that part of the Chinese empire. Within a short time the two men became firm friends and Forrest would later describe him as the “best friend ever I had,” commemorating Litton by naming Primula littoniana, since changed to Primula vialii, in his honor. He spoke Chinese, had travelled extensively and offered to accompany Forrest on a trip to Tali (Dali), a mere 200 miles away as the crow flies but, in reality, a journey of several weeks. It was here, six months after leaving home, that the real adventures began, although Litton and Forrest would make several other trips together before Forrest headed off on his own, with baggage train in tow, to Lichiang (Lijiang) and the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain beyond. Today, this journey from North America takes around 24 hours and, upon arrival, it is possible to play a round of golf on the local course, situated a mere 10,171 feet above sea level and, at 8,458 yards, the longest in the world. Back then, in the summer of 1906, Forrest had no clue that what started as a successful expedition would end in disaster and death.
In spite of being warned, his travels took him ever closer to the border with Tibet, whose population had rebelled against Chinese occupation, and who were intent on slaughtering locals and foreigners alike. Forrest and his companions were hunted and many perished, suffering horrific deaths, for their pursuers were cannibals. Over the next eight days he was trapped in a valley by Tibetans and their ferocious mastiffs, ate no food, and slept little. He removed his boots so that he couldn’t be tracked but stepped on a bamboo spike which drove clean through his foot. He finally managed to escape by climbing over a mountain pass where he spent 2 days and nights at an altitude of 14,000 to 17,000 feet with few clothes to keep him warm. To make it all the more terrible, Forrest was told that Litton had died of malaria. Surely any of us, subjected to such experiences, would have fled China, locked ourselves in the bedroom and never come out again. Thankfully, he was made of sterner stuff and led six more expeditions before dropping dead of a heart attack at the age of 59, undoubtedly worn out by a lifetime of physical and mental stress. His grave is unmarked but located on a hillside above Tengyueh.

There is little point in listing all of Forrest’s introductions since a quick trip to Google will reveal most of them. He received the Royal Horticultural Society’s Victoria Medal of Honour in 1921, the Veitch Memorial Medal in 1927 and was elected a Fellow of the Linnaean Society in 1924. He collected 31,000 plant specimens, discovered 1,200 species new to science which included 309 new species of rhododendron as well as 5,375 numbered collections of rhododendrons and introduced more than 50 species of Primula. Not a bad legacy for a man with the right grit. Anyone wishing to find out more about the life of George Forrest can do no better than to read Brenda McLean’s two excellent books, George Forrest, Plant Hunter and A Pioneering Plantsman: A K Bulley and the Great Plant Hunters. Other useful references are How the Scots Invented the Modern World by Arthur Herman, The Plant Hunters by Charles Lyte and The Search for George Forrest’s Grave by Sir Peter Hutchison from the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society V. 53, no.1 page 8.

Another source of information on the intrepid botanical explorer George Forrest is the monograph by the Royal Horticultural Society from 1952: the title page and frontispiece are pictured here, showing the man himself.
American Primrose Society
Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting
February 1st, 2009

The meeting was held online and by telephone. It opened at 2:10 pm, Pacific Time.

Board members present: Linda Bailey (Director), Rodney Barker (Director), Mary Jo Burns (Director), Mark Dyen (President, New England Chapter), Julia Haldorson (Director and Membership Secretary), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Marianne Kuchel (Director), Lee Nelson (President), Michael Plumb (Secretary), Judith Sellers (Vice President)

Also present: Joseph Phillip, Chairman of the 2009 National Show

1. The Minutes of October 25, 2008 - Accepted as presented (Judith / Marianne)

2. Treasurer's Report (Emailed before the meeting)
   - Total liabilities and equity as of December 1st, 2008: $24,156.93
   - Income less expenses October 1st, 2008 to December 1st, 2008: $4,222.19
   - Income less expenses January 1st, 2008 to December 1st, 2008: $1,471.86
   - The gain for the 4th quarter was mainly due to advertising income, membership dues, and donations from the membership and the British Columbia Primrose Group.
   - For Year 2008, 55% of the revenues received were from membership dues. The remaining 45% came from Quarterly sales, advertising income, Seed Exchange income, and donations from chapters and individuals.
   - Donations are still a vital source of funding.
   - The Treasurer’s report was accepted unanimously (Michael / Rodney).

3. Committee Reports
   - Seed Exchange (winter 2008 – spring 2009)
     Orders are still coming in. A small profit is expected.

   Primroses Quarterly
   - Website
     The advisory committee to Jane Guild consists of Jon Kawaguchi, Phyllis Petrovich, Joseph Phillip and Michael Plumb.
     Basic aims are to make the website more interactive, informative and attractive.
     Previous idea of an “Expert Chat” on the web failed to attract many participants.
     Jane and Julia are working on a new password system for an expanded membership-only area.

   National Show (May 1st – 3rd at Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston, MA)
   - Lee will send Ed a reminder to ship trophies and the awards list to the Show Chair.
   - MOTION (Rodney / Judy): That nominations for the Dorothy Dickson Award be solicited from the membership through a notice in the New England Chapter’s newsletter which will be sent to all members, the successful nominee to be announced by April 28th. Carried.
   - Good progress being made in show preparation (advertising, hotel bookings, judging, etc.)
   - Matt Mattus is preparing a show flyer which can be sent to members by email to print and use for advertising. ACTION: Judy said that Matt will send the flyer to Jane to post on the website as soon as it is ready.

   Membership
   - New members do not currently receive a free packet of seed unless there is any remaining from the Seed Exchange.

4. Chapter Reports
   - MOTION (Judith / Linda): That as the East Side Chapter has failed to comply with constitutional requirements for chapter status (no financial or membership reports), it be dissolved as a chapter of the APS. Carried unanimously.
   - ACTION: Lee will draft the letter to Thea Oakley informing her of this decision.

5. Business Arising and Old Business
   - Smith Barney investment account
     - This has been closed by the bank (The APS was given no choice). The money is now in a checking account.
     - MOTION (Rodney / Judith): That the funds from the Smith Barney account remain in a checking account for the time being while the Treasurer looks into possibilities for future investment. Carried.
     - Jon (Treasurer) said the funds could be split into different terms.

6. New Business
   - Request to increase the Editor’s honorarium from $350 to $400 per issue of the Quarterly
     - Maedythe Martin made the request on behalf of Jane Guild.
     - MOTION (Judith / Rodney): That the vote be postponed to the next meeting pending further information. Since this motion failed, the following motion was represented.
     - MOTION (Rodney / Marianne): That the Editor’s honorarium be increased to $400 per issue. Carried.

   Ballot for Secretary and Treasurer
   - These positions were left off the current ballot by mistake.
   - MOTION (Michael / Marianne): That the New England Chapter include a complete ballot for Secretary and Treasurer in their show newsletter which is being sent to all APS members. Carried.
   - Michael expressed his thanks to the New England Chapter.

   Disclaimer concerning book sales
   - Background: To prevent fraud and preserve the good name of the society, it was previously decided to end all sales of books contracted in the name of the APS.
   - Lee will have a disclaimer with the same wording posted in both the Quarterly and on the website.

   “Twins” Program
   - MOTION (Judith / Michael): That the “Twins” Program be discontinued. Carried.
   - Existing “twins” will be encouraged to continue their relationship.

   Technical improvements to communication at APS meetings
   - MOTION (Rodney / Judith): That a technical committee be established to investigate ways to improve communication at APS meetings. Carried.

7. Adjournment (Rodney / Judith) at 3:50 pm Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Plumb, Secretary
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:
Mr. Bobby Ward
Executive Secretary, NARGS
PO Box 18604
Raleigh, NC 27619-8604

Make checks payable to
North American Rock Garden Society

https://www.nargs.org/info/smembership.

American Primrose Society
Spring 2009

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society
Midland & West Section

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk

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to: The Honorary Treasurer, Roger Woods,
44 Tansey Crescent, Stoney Stanton,
Leicestershire, LE9 4BT United Kingdom.

New Members

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Joyce Casetta P. O. Box 693 Millbrook, New York 12545 U.S.A.
Ann Csete Hawthorne Hill, 8 Cassidy Rd Hermon, New York 13652 U.S.A.
Joe Davidson 7, Wordsworth Ave Westlea, Seaham County Durham, England SR7 8JP U.K.
Vicki Demetre 12026 – 25th Ave NE Seattle, Washington 98125 U.S.A.
Page Dickey 23 Baxter Rd North Salem, New York 10560 U.S.A.
Olena Erickson 8319 Kedvale Ave Skokie, Illinois 60075 U.S.A.
Nobuyuki Hayakawa 2 Jyo 1 Chome I-18 Kitano Higachi Takasu-cho, Kamikawa-gun Hokkaido 071-1222 Japan
Jan Holcomb 18003 – 22nd St Ct E Lake Tapps, Washington 98391 U.S.A.
Katrina Kerr P. O. Box 403 Seabeck, Washington 98380 U.S.A.
Jean MacKenzie 281 Main St Brewster, Massachusetts 02631 U.S.A.
Jennifer Niemi 36 Elm St Jefferson Pines, RR #6 Kingston, Nova Scotia B0P 1R0 Canada
University of Minnesota Libraries Serials Records 301 – 19th Ave S, 170 Wilson Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455-0438 U.S.A.
Victoria Primula Group c/o Yvonne Rorison 15 Beach Drive Victoria, British Columbia V8S 2L3 Canada
Carol Vonderhoie W10751 Wildwood Way Pouyette, Wisconsin 53955 U.S.A.

2011 Expiry
Sydney W. Eddison 65 Echo Valley Rd Newtown, Connecticut 06470 U.S.A.
Yoshiyuki Miwa 21 Tohkadomo, Nagashima-cho Kuvana, Mic 511-1146 Japan

Overseas membership £7.50 ($10.00 US)

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society

SOUTHERN SECTION

The National Auricula & Primula Society - Southern Section was founded in 1876 by and for enthusiasts who raised and exhibited Auriculas, Gold-Laced polyanthus and other primulas.

The Annual subscription is £7.00 (UK) for single or family membership, Overseas £8.00. Members receive an illustrated Year Book and a Newsletter - Office, containing interesting articles on growing and raising Primulas together with their history and cultivation.

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

NORTHERN SECTION

Please consider joining the National Auricula and Primula Society - Northern Section. Overseas memberships are some of the best ways to learn more about your favorite plants. Benefits include publications and more. Write: Mr. K. Leeming, 3 Dairbank Drive, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 4JR

Overseas membership £7.50 ($10.00 US)
Please make checks payable to NAPS.

www.auriculas.org.uk

OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTERS

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

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

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

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
Plan now to attend the 2009 National Primrose Show which will be held near Boston, at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden, located in the quaint New England Town of Boylston, Massachusetts.

We have arranged an exciting schedule of activities for the weekend, including a Q & A session led by Lynne Lawson of the world famous Primrose seed company, Barnhaven Primroses, and auditorium presentations by David Lawson and Richard May. Enjoy judged benches of Primula, private garden and nursery tours, Primula vendors and seed sales, a banquet with APS President Lee Nelson as our speaker, other fine meals, and excellent accommodation at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Worcester. Of course, there will still be time for you to explore the beautiful gardens at Tower Hill, socialize with fellow gardeners, shop and relax.

Tower Hill Botanic Garden was just voted the North East’s premier Botanical Garden by the New York Times, and the registration fee for the APS show includes your three days of admission (a $30 value). The Seven States Daffodil Society Show is also on display at Tower Hill on Saturday. Plan a long weekend in New England, and take in the Green Mountains of Vermont, the rocky coast of Maine, the history of Boston or the theaters, art and culture of New York City which is only 3 hours away.

$45.00 – THE VERIS PACKAGE
3 Day Show Access, Presentations, Saturday Lunch at Tower Hill’s Farmhouse

$80.00 – THE AURICULA PACKAGE
3 Day Show Access, Presentations, Saturday Lunch, and Gala Banquet

$120.00 – THE GOLD LACE PACKAGE
All of the above plus Friday Garden and Nursery Bus Tour

Please contact <josephp525@charter.net> for more information

All registrants will be invited to dinner at Joe and Matt’s home on Friday night.