

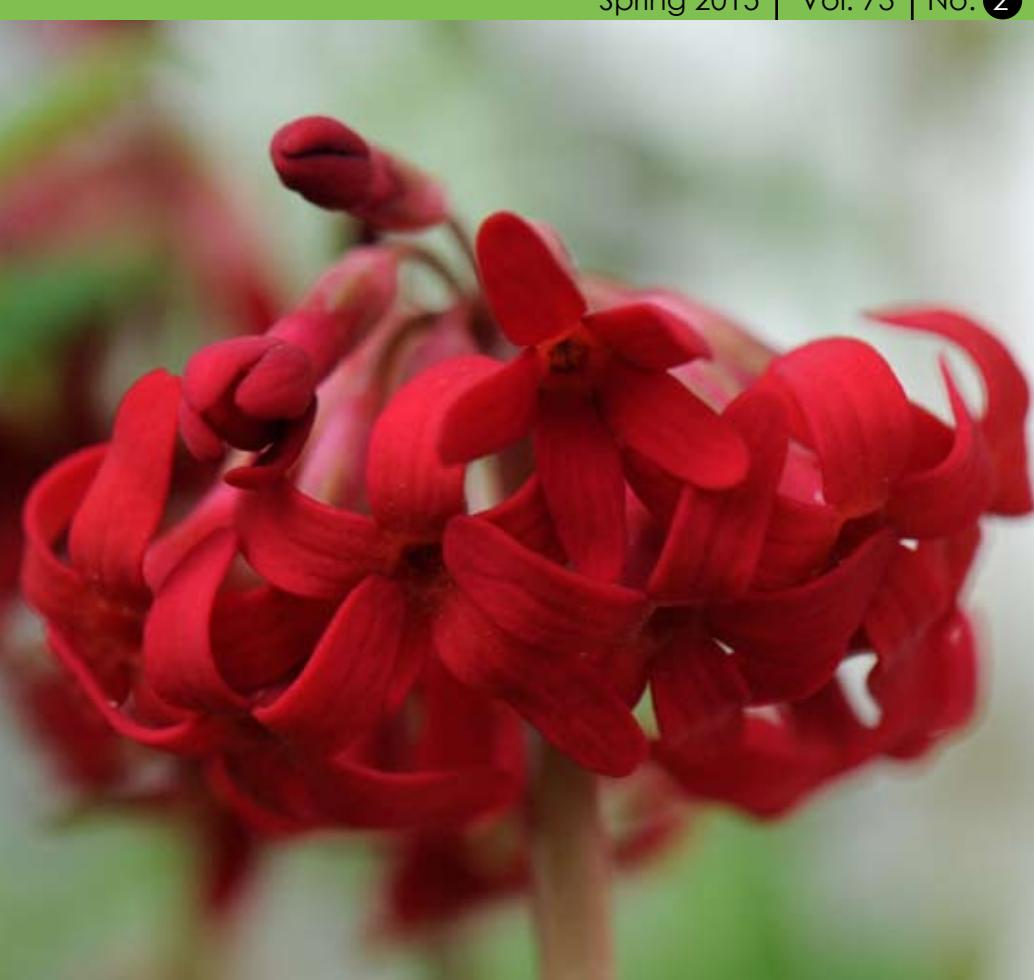


Primroses

The Quarterly Of The American Primrose Society

Spring 2015

Vol. 73 | No. 2



Primroses

The Quarterly of the
American Primrose Society

Volume 73 No 2

Spring 2015

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 by Alan Lawrence	3
How It All Got Started by Kris Fenderson .	5
Curtis's Botanical Magazine	
by Michel Kuwahara	10
Primula in Newfoundland	
by Todd Boland	23
Book Review by Pam Eveleigh	26
What to do - East and West	28
The Auriculas of Spitalfields	29
Minutes 31	
Officers of the Chapters.	35

Credits: Photos and text reproduced with permission.

Front Cover: *Primula maximowiczii* in Newfoundland, taken by Todd Boland.

Back Cover: A scan of Curtis's Botanical Magazine, taken by Michel Kuwahara at Elizabeth C. Miller Library at the Botanic Gardens of the University of Washington in Seattle.

OFFICERS

Alan Lawrence, President
P.O. Box 37
Lake Delton, WI
alanwrenc@mwt.net

Rhondra Porter, Vice President
3604 Jolly Roger Crescent
Pender Island, BC V0N 2M2
(250) 629-6806
rhondaporter@yahoo.ca

Michael Plumb, Secretary
3604 Jolly Roger Crescent
Pender Island, BC V0N 2M2
(250) 629-6806
michaelcplumb@yahoo.ca

Jon Kawaguchi, Treasurer
3524 Bowman Court
Alameda, CA 94502
(510) 331-3337
mogeuра@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Through 2015 . . . Amy Olmsted
421 Birch Road
Hubbardton VT 05733
amy_olmsted@hotmail.com

Ed Buyarski
P.O. Box 33077
Juneau, AK 99803-3077
(907) 789-2299
amprimsoc@hotmail.com

Through 2016 . . . Julia Haldorson,
Membership
P. O. Box 292
Greenbank, Washington 98253
julia-haldorson@ak.net

Merrill Jensen
c/o Jensen-Olson Arboretum
23035 Glacier Highway
Juneau AK 99801
glacierdawg@gmail.com

Through 2017 . . . Cheri Fluck
22675 SW Chapman Rd, Wing A
Sherwood, Oregon 97140
cheri44@comcast.net

Mark Dyen
132 Church Street
Newton, MA 02158
mark.dyen@csgrp.com

Primroses

Editor
Jane Guild
2647 A Deville Road
Victoria BC V9B 3W9 Canada
editor@americanprimrosesociety.org

Editorial Committee
Maedythe Martin
Judith Sellers
Michael Plumb
Alan Lawrence
Joan Hoeffel

Editorial Deadlines
Winter issue - October 15
Spring issue - January 15
Summer issue - April 15
Autumn issue - July 15
©American Primrose Society 2013

Primroses (ISSN 0162-6671) is published by the American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society. All material printed in the quarterly, except as noted, is copyright by APS. No part may be reproduced without the permission of APS. Manuscripts for publication are invited, though there is no payment. Send articles, preferably in Microsoft Word, directly to the editor.

Photographs are credited and used only with the permission of the photographer. Photos submitted to the editor are preferred in 300 dpi digital format but other images can be accepted. Any material used that has previously appeared elsewhere is properly credited and used with the permission of the original publisher and/or creator.

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to *Primroses*, seed exchange privileges, password to the member's only section of the APS web site (including the Pictorial Dictionary) and use of the slide library.

Dues for individual or household membership, domestic and Canada are:
\$25 per calendar year
\$70 for three years
Overseas rates are:
\$32 per calendar year
\$90 for three years.
Membership renewals are due November 15 and are delinquent January 1. Submit payment to the treasurer.

Advertising rates per issue:
Black and White:
Full page: \$100
Half page: \$60
1/4 page: \$30
1/8 page: \$15
Color:
Half page: \$150
Full page: \$300
Back Cover: \$450
Contact the treasurer for details.

President's Message

ALAN LAWRENCE

After a cold February here in the UP of MI (upper peninsula of Michigan) with little additional snowfall to add to the 150 inches or so for this winter, the beginning of March has been overly warm and sunny. Most of the surface snow has gone, leaving only large dirty snow piles resulting from snowplowing. This lack of snow cover can be a problem at the end of March, which has now turned fairly cold, with nighttime temperatures around 20°F or colder as the earlier warm spell had encouraged many plants to start their Spring growth. In desperation I have shoveled about a foot of snow from one of the snow piles onto a flower bed and hopefully this will provide sufficient insulation for the next two weeks or so, when a warmer than average April is due to arrive.

It's seed planting time again. I use a bare seed germination technique which allows me to plant a large number of small quantity seeds and also allows me to do a number of germination experiments with daily monitoring. In the last couple of years I have experienced an increasing problem with mold affecting the seed surface which sometimes, but not always, kills the seeds. This seems to be more prevalent in wild collected seed than in garden raised seed.

The recommended technique is to soak the seeds for 10 minutes in a 4-5% sodium hypochlorite solution with a few drops of a surfactant, and then rinse a few times in water.

In the US, regular Chlorox bleach is an 8.25% solution, so a 1:1 dilution should suffice, with a drop or two of Tween-20 as the surfactant.

It's time for the Annual Show again. This year, as mentioned in the Winter Quarterly, it's returning to Tower Hill Botanic Gardens in Massachusetts hosted by the New England Chapter. This is always a great show in a lovely setting. I have extracted the RV from its winter snow hole, and now just need to get it serviced and ready for the three day trip through MI, Canada, NY and MA. I'm sure it will be worth it!



Photo Corrections, Winter Issue 2015
“Parallels” by Merrill Jensen, p. 10

The photo on p. 15 of Rae Berry is one that has been in the APS slide library for many years. It was probably taken in the Eagle Cap Wilderness in Oregon’s Wallowa Mountains according to an article about the Berry Botanic Garden in Pacific Horticulture (April, 2002). The photo was likely taken by a traveling companion on the outing that particular day.

Merrill adds, “The photo on p. 18 of the beautiful blue auricula is ‘Chehalis Blue’ which I believe was bred by Herb Dickson. It is one of Caroline’s original plants that has been happily growing here [in her garden] for who knows how long.”



APS National Show: May 1, 2 & 3, 2015
For up-to-date information please visit
www.americanprimrosesociety.com

How It All Got Started

KRIS FENDERSON

In response to Judith Seller’s and Maedyth Martin’s questions about how I became interested in *Primulas* and the genesis of my book, I can relate the following. In the mid 1960s, I joined the American Rock Garden Society and began to attend New England Chapter meetings. It was at one of the very first meetings I attended that I met Alice Hills Baylor who had a *Primula* nursery called Sky Hook Farm on Stage Coach Road in Johnson, VT. After a visit to her nursery, I was hooked and wanted to grow every *Primula* obtainable. While at college, I also had a part time job with Kathellen Gardens, a mail order alpine nursery in Durham, NH run by ARGS member Ruth Manton. At that time, my bibles included Doretta Klaber’s books which, of course, included her *Primroses and Spring*. I continued to be active in the NE Chapter of the Rock Garden Society and eventually became its chair. I was fortunate to become acquainted with some of the legendary growers of that era (including ARGS charter member May Collins of Hingham, Massachusetts) and their gardens and plant collections. I would also attend meetings and shows of the Connecticut Chapter of the Rock Garden Society and again met some of the great luminaries such as Linc and Timmy Foster, Harold Epstein, Dick and Herb Redfield, Ellie Brinkerhoff (later Spingarn), Betty Valentine, Fran Lubera, Joan and Bob Means, Marjorie Walsh, and many, many others. The Connecticut shows were an eye-opener for me. I still remember a breathtakingly beautiful large pan of *Primula hirsuta alba* that Ellie Brinkerhoff grew, and my first Cowichan was a gift from Linc Foster. A number of people in the group had a particular interest in *Primula* and eventually a small independent group of *Primula* enthusiasts formed, holding meetings and even a show in Acworth, NH on one occasion. Among the group, the most important was Ethel Balla from Greenwich, Connecticut. Ethel convinced me to go west with her to the *Primula* shows in the

Pacific Northwest. By then I had also joined the *Primrose* Society. The first *Primula* show truly knocked my socks off; polyanthus in what seemed to be five gallon buckets, and show Auriculas that I had never before seen in real life. Again I was fortunate to meet a lot of the important growers, like Ivy and Orvel Agee, Herb and Dorothy Dickson, Cy Happy, Anita Alexander and many others.

I read voraciously about *Primulas* and acquired many of the classic rock garden works and a number of specialty works on *Primula*, the most important of which were the Pictorial Dictionary and cultural chart produced by the APS.

As my interest grew and my circle of acquaintances broadened, I met the colorful and idiosyncratic Augustus Maverick Kelly from Little Compton, R.I. We shared a mutual interest in dwarf conifers and rhododendrons. A grandson of Texas's legendary early Governor Augustus Maverick, he lived up to his family's reputation for unconventional behavior. He had been a publisher of reprints of classic works in the field of economics. In a conversation he once inquired about republishing some of the older works on *Primula* that were out of print. I was enthusiastic about the idea, and he asked me to suggest several books. I suggested McWatt's *Primulas of Europe* and Blasdale's *The Cultivated Species of Primula*. In rereading those books, I realized that there were some problems with outdated nomenclature that would have to be addressed. I came to the conclusion that it would be a great deal of work and that in the end I would only be an editor of an updated version of someone else's work. In one of my characteristically naive moments, I decided to create my own work. Gus Kelly continued to be receptive, and I began my effort. My first efforts were not particularly successful and were something of a rehash of previous works. I realized that the resources I had at hand were not enough, and I started to use the horticultural library of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. I was provided with a small space on the third floor of the Hunnewell building in a romantic wood paneled study that had not changed since the 1890s. As I delved deeper into my researches, I realized

that what I needed was access to the botanical libraries of Harvard, located across the river in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Members of the staff in Jamaica Plain very kindly facilitated my access to those libraries; it was an alternative to shipping needed volumes back and forth between the two libraries.

The transition to Cambridge was a major watershed and a great factor in the final nature of my book. After some time I was given access to the stacks of one of the premier botanical libraries of the world, became friends with some of the foremost botanists in the world, and was able to examine thousands of herbarium specimens of *Primula*. One of the great fringe benefits was brown bag luncheons with the senior botany faculty and occasional seminars with visiting botanists from all over the world. Harvard has one of the largest and most comprehensive herbaria in the world, housing duplicate and original collections from all parts of the globe. There in the cabinets were specimens collected by all the great plant collectors, George Forrest, Joseph Rock, the French missionaries in China, Kingdon-Ward, as well as early collectors in the American west. It was a memorable and moving event when I first held in my hands the type specimen of *Primula japonica* collected by Charles Wright on the first American botanical expedition into Japan in the mid 1850s. In looking through the collections, I recognized that there were many previously unidentified type specimens. Eventually I was given the title Research Associate of the Grey Herbarium and began the process of labeling those previously un-annotated specimens.

Another very interesting aspect of this time period was that it encompassed the seismic shift in the way plant taxonomy was being done. For centuries methods had relied on physiological comparisons of plants (hairs, glands, seed coats, vernation patterns, relative proportions, etc.) and were gradually being supplemented by data from pollen, chromosome studies and aided by multivariate analyses. But the real shift came when DNA and cladistic analyses became the fundamental base for plant systematics (indeed, all biology), a process that I watched happen.

While at Harvard I became acquainted with Elizabeth B. Schmidt, the editor of Harvard's prestigious botanical journal, *Arnoldia*. By this time my book had taken on a more botanical cast and it was clear that it was not something that would be produced by Gus Kelly. I began some negotiations with Timber Press which were not particularly encouraging. A sticking point was that I wanted and needed the editorial help of Elizabeth B. Schmidt, something they were not willing to accommodate. In yet another fit of reckless naiveté I decided that I would publish the book myself using the publisher of Harvard's botanical journal, Allen Press in Lawrence, Kansas. Elizabeth Schmidt's editorial standards were invaluable and uncompromising to say the least. I am eternally grateful for the tremendous amount I learned from her. In those dark ages I also had to make a choice between getting a new typewriter or experimenting and learning word processing on a computer. Of course I chose a new typewriter! I thought that I could never learn the computer skills necessary to complete the book in any reasonable length of time. Remember these were the days of DOS operating systems and black and white screens. So the whole book was produced on an old fashioned typewriter, not a word processor! At the same time, I approached a good friend with the idea that she might help with botanical illustrations. I offered to pay for a course in the subject for her and then decided to join the course as well, which I thoroughly enjoyed; as a result I did the illustrations myself.

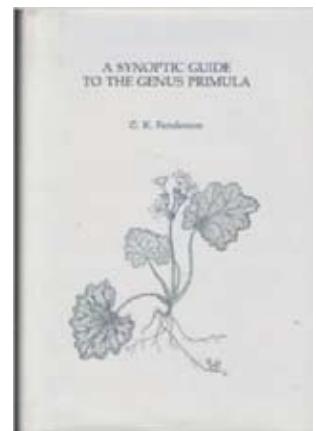
Falling under the spell of the botanical faculty at Harvard, I first audited courses they were offering. In the post-partum days after the book finally saw light, I realized that I was hooked on botanical research and suffering withdrawal symptoms. To feed those cravings, I went on to enroll in the masters program in biology at Harvard which gave me great pleasure. With that accomplished, reluctantly, at age 50, I decided that a complete career change and the PhD program was not a realistic option.

My book appeared shortly before John Richard's monumental tome. I was thrilled, as his was a book produced with the financial

and institutional resources unavailable to me; it was a book I would have loved to have written and continues to be one of my bibles. It was a terrific treat to meet and get to know John Richards at a New England *Primula* show. Another work on *Primula* also appeared about the same time, and I was somewhat disappointed to discover that much of my work on type specimens was included (together with a few identifying errors) without attribution or acknowledgement of my contributions. On a more positive note, it also has been a great pleasure to have made the acquaintance of another botanist who works on *Primula*, Dr. Sylvia "Tass" Kelso, at the 50th anniversary of the American Primrose Society where we were both speaking. As a result of our shared botanical interests, she and her husband George have become close and long term friends. I am embarrassed to admit that I did not become aware until relatively recently of Pam Eveleigh's tremendous contributions to the genus. Once again it is something I would love to have done! In a matter of moments after first corresponding with Pam, I recognized a very kindred spirit and that we both have a great empathy and understanding of each other's contributions. I look forward to the time I can discuss the current phylogenetic and taxonomic affairs of the genus with her; my wheels are a little rusty now, but I know that time spent with her would get them going again.

What a rewarding road trip has been my journey down the "*Primrose Path*"! It was a pilgrimage with wonderful memories, and one populated by the many friends I met who graciously and generously shared their expertise, insights, advice, and plants with me.

The book, *A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula* is still available through Amazon or from the author. Contact him directly if you are interested. G.K. Fenderson, P.O.Box 188, Acworth, NH 03601 USA or by email hyddude@myfairpoint.net



Curtis's Botanical Magazine

MICHEL KUWAHARA

The Botanical Magazine or Flower Garden Displayed was first published in February of 1787 by William Curtis. It was the first botanical periodical and, since it is still published today, it is now the longest, continuously produced botanical periodical and, quite possibly, the longest running periodical of any kind still being published.

William Curtis apprenticed as an apothecary under his grandfather, but although he eventually acquired his own practice, he did not prosper because he devoted too much of his energy and time to his botanical and horticultural pursuits. He held a position at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, and he produced the publication, *Flora Londinensis*, with descriptions and colored illustrations of plants growing in and around London. The publication sold poorly, but it served to make Curtis a prominent botanical figure of his day. With the support of subscribers, he established a botanic garden. A number of his subscribers urged Curtis to publish an illustrated botanical periodical addressing the needs of the growing number of gardening enthusiasts. Thus, from the beginning, the Magazine was dedicated to "Gentlemen, Ladies and Gardeners" (in the hierarchical society of 18th and 19th century England, you could not be a gardener and a gentleman or a lady at the same time), "to become scientifically acquainted with the plants they cultivate."

The Magazine was successful at once, published monthly in octavo format (approximately 8" by 10"), and sold at booksellers across England. The circulation soon rose to 3,000. Each issue presented three or four plants, with hand-colored botanical prints accompanying each article. Curtis wrote the articles in language accessible to the layman. The articles and illustrations were based on specimens in his collection. These were still early days for the

science of botany – Karl Linnaeus had been dead for less than ten years – and there was considerable dispute over identifying plants. In his articles, Curtis frequently argues with the writings of other botanists over the taxonomy of the species presented, and many of the plants shown in the pages of the Magazine have since been renamed and reclassified. Curtis also provided cultural information on the subjects illustrated.

William Curtis died in 1799 at the relatively young age of 53. The Magazine was briefly taken over by Curtis's brother until, in 1800, John Sims M.D., a member of the Linnaen Society, became the editor. He changed the name of the publication to *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, which remains the name to this day. The articles, written by expert botanists, became more scientific. There was no longer horticultural advice and the magazine began to feature more exotic plants, often newly discovered. One of the criticisms of the Magazine under Curtis had been that it featured mainly hardy plants being grown in the gardens of England, ignoring the many new plants being introduced from South Africa and Asia, many of which had to be grown in glass houses or "stoves," as they were called at the time.

In 1827 William Hooker, Professor of Botany at Glasgow University, became the editor of *Curtis's*. When Hooker was named the first Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in 1841, the magazine began its long association with that institution. From that time, the articles and illustrations were based on specimens raised at Kew.

Hooker – he was now Sir William – was succeeded as editor of *Curtis's* by his son, Sir Joseph Hooker, who also became the next Director of Kew.

In 1883, an index of the first 107 volumes of the magazine was published. Another index was printed in 1904, covering 130 volumes, this time with a history of *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* from 1787 to 1904.

After the First World War, the magazine fell on hard times, and it

nearly stopped publication. In 1921, Henry Elwes approached his friends, Lionel de Rothschild and William Corey, inviting them to join him in buying the copyright of the magazine for two hundred and fifty pounds. The copyright was then handed over to the Royal Horticultural Society. Otto Stapf became the editor and stayed long enough to see Curtis's transition from the hand-colored prints to color printing in 1949.

The Bentham-Moxon Trust took over the copyright of the magazine in 1970, and in 1984 changed the name to The Kew Magazine. When Brian Matthew became editor in 1994, however, the magazine reverted to its original name.

The artwork had always been as important an element in Curtis's Botanical Magazine as the writing. The editors were proud of the contribution that their hand-colored plates made to the science of botany. The principal artist who created the artwork for the

copper plate print had, of necessity, to be highly trained, not only as an illustrator, but botanically as well. He or she (a good half of the principal artists were women) worked closely with the botanists on details of the illustrations, particularly the black and white pop-out drawings that showed flower and plant details. In addition to the principal artists, as many as 30 additional artists were employed to execute the meticulous hand-coloring.

The first principal artist



**Legendary 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 Grèves, France
Tel/Fax: 1133 2 96 35 68 41
info@barnhaven.com
www.barnhaven.com

was Sydenham Edwards. Eventually, however, Edwards had a dispute with the editors and left in 1815 to found a rival periodical *The Botanical Register*. Artists of Edward's caliber were not easy to come by and the magazine suffered by his loss. By now the magazine's many imitators had become serious competitors.

When William Hooker became editor of the magazine in 1827, he brought with him from Scotland a young artist named W.H. Fitch. Fitch was the magazine's principal artist for over forty years, but in 1878, an argument with Sir Joseph Hooker caused him to resign. The next artist, Matilda Smith, created some 2,300 plates for the magazine, between 1878 and 1923. She was made the first botanic artist at Kew and later became an Associate of the Linnaean Society, only the second woman to achieve that honor.

In 1948, Curtis's finally gave up the practice of hand-coloring their plates and changed to a photomechanical process for color printing. The tradition of illustrating the articles with art rather than with photography, however, persists to this day.

Looking at current copies of the magazine, one becomes aware that Curtis's Botanical Magazine has traced the history of the Science of Botany from its earliest days to what it has become today. In the early days of the magazine, botanists were often enthusiasts, like Curtis himself, rather than scientifically trained specialists. When they wrote, they were describing specimens in their own collections, which might have been raised from seed sent by another enthusiast and whose provenance might be doubtful. None of them would likely have seen the plants they wrote about in their natural habitat.

The format of Curtis's has changed little over the years. It is still in octavo format and the main body of each issue is devoted to articles on plants. The articles are now longer, giving details about the plant's native environment, its discovery by scientists, the often convoluted process of naming it and placing it in a family, a sub-family and a genus. There is also an extensive section on cultivation. The principal illustration is a plant portrait rather than a botanical

illustration. The botanical details are given in a separate set of line drawings showing details of plant and flower parts. Accompanying photographs show the plants in the wild or in cultivation along with different varieties or forms and closely related species.

Now being published as a quarterly, the issues open with an editorial and include book reviews and a list of contributing writers, artists and photographers.

The 18th and 19th centuries may have been the golden age of botanical exploration, but new discoveries are still being made today in the 21st. In 2010, Curtis's devoted an article to a newly discovered species, *Primula nghialoensis*. It was discovered in 2008 in Vietnam by Keith Rushforth – now isn't that the perfect name for a botanic explorer? This plant caused some confusion and controversy as it was initially assigned to the order Gesneriaceae, which shows that, even today, in spite of the advantages of modern technology and scientific methods, Botany is still not an exact science. Now confirmed as a *Primula*, *P. nghialoensis* has been assigned to the Section Chartacea.

Before closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Ms. Martha Ferguson, Information Librarian at the Elizabeth C. Miller Library at the Botanic Gardens of the University of Washington in Seattle. It was she who introduced me to Curtis's Botanical Magazine and who discovered the website biodiversitylibrary.org which has digitized the contents of the magazine from the beginning to the mid 1920s. I encourage everyone to avail themselves of the wonders contained in this digital archive. It was through Ms. Ferguson that I was privileged to peruse some actual early copies of Curtis's. How amazing to see the beautiful drawings and the delicate and subtle hand-coloring of 200-year-old prints. Particularly interesting were the double-fold, pullout illustrations (this is something that you will not experience in the digitized versions) that are almost twice the size of the standard prints.



Curtis's Botanical Magazine

Left: *Primula acanalis*. Though a well-known and common species, its depiction in this plate is a perfect example of the delicacy and subtlety of coloring that the artists were able to achieve.



Right: *P. stuartii* is a handsome species from the mountainous regions of India where so many of our Asian Primroses originated. It is described as perfectly hardy in England. One wonders why it is not more commonly cultivated today.



Left: *P. decora* is interesting because the species simply doesn't exist. The accompanying article says that it is closely allied to *P. villosa* and *P. glutinosa* but there is no plant today with that name.



Right: *P. fusilla* and *P. petiolaris* are shown in a fine example of the way in which the artists were able to arrange a complex composition that depicted two species in full color with a number of pop-out botanical details in black and white. The name *P. fusilla* is no longer accepted. This species is today called *P. primulina*.

Left: *P. villosa* var. *Nivea* is shown, first of all because it is such a beautiful illustration, but also for the fact that, while there are numerous references to this plant made in the 19th century by various botanical publications, including *Curtis's*, no references to it seem to exist from the 20th and 21st centuries. The plant white form seems to have disappeared.



**Perennial Seed. Beautiful.
Useful. Native...
To the Planet.**



Jelitto

STAUDENSAMEN · PERENNIAL SEEDS · GRAINES DE PLANTES VIVACES

Production · Breeding · Seed Technology

USA Office: 125 Chenoweth Ln. · Louisville, KY 40207

Phone (502) 895-0807 · Fax (502) 895-3934 · <http://www.jelitto.com> · maryv@jelitto.com

German Headquarters: P.O. Box 1264 · D-29685 Schwarmstedt

Phone 01149-5071-9829-0 · Fax 01149-5071-9829-27 · www.jelitto.com · info@jelitto.com

The Auriculas of Spitalfields



Above: 'Mrs. Cairns Old Blue'. Left above: close-up of Patricia Cleveland-Peck's auricula theatre. Left below: Patricia in her greenhouse



"They are much more like pets than plants," Patricia admitted to me as we stood in her greenhouse surrounded by seedlings, "because you have to look after them daily, feed them twice a week in the growing season, remove offshoots and repot them once a year. Yet they're not hard to grow and it's very relaxing..."





Left: Gold-centered alpine auricula 'Basuto'



Right: Double auricula 'Piglet' hybridized by Derek Salt

Photos courtesy of The Gentle Author

Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden



Left: *Primula chionantha* subsp *sinopurpurea* June 2012

Below: *Primula japonica* collection July 2010

Photos: Todd Boland





Above:
Primula x Julianna
'Betty Green'
May 2014



Left:
Summer
flowering
scented
Primula florindae
Aug 2011

Photos:
Todd
Boland

Primula at the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden

TODD BOLAND, RESEARCH HORTICULTURIST

Newfoundland is a challenging place for gardening. The first permanent snow generally begins in early December and often the ground is snow-covered into early April. Snow may be deep or only fleeting. Frost heaving in spring is the main stress-factor for plants. Spring is a time when cold damp fog is interspersed with scattered sunny, warmer days that hold the promise of summer. Summer is short and relatively cool with an average temperature of about 20° C (70° F). One or two days each summer may reach 30° C (85° F). The first killing frost of autumn is generally not until mid-October. Rainfall is abundant from September until April while the summer months, at least in recent years, can be relatively dry. Overall, we have the wettest climate of eastern North America.

I have not painted a rosy picture of our growing conditions. As if the weather were not challenging enough, in eastern Newfoundland we have little real soil and what we do have is rocky and very acidic. However, having said all that, if you prepare the soil properly, you can create spectacular gardens. As our summers are relatively short, our blooms are very concentrated throughout June to September. Many visitors are amazed at the exuberance of the floral displays.

Rock gardening is especially suited to our climate. European and Sino-Himalayan alpines do exceptionally well as they dislike hot weather. As it happens, one of the most important groups of European and Himalayan alpines are *Primula*. And that is one group that does very well under the Newfoundland growing conditions.

Primula is one of the main collections within the Memorial

University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden. As of 2014 we had over 80 taxa, grown mainly in our rock gardens, alpine house and Asian garden. Perhaps the most spectacular *Primula* grown here are from the Auriculastrum section. Most of the European alpine primroses seem at home in Newfoundland. Among the collection at the Botanical Garden are *P. allionii* 'Elliot's Variety', *P. pedemontana*, *P. latifolia*, *P. hirsuta*, *P. villosa*, *P. glaucescens*, *P. clusiana*, *P. auricula*, and perhaps my favourite, *P. marginata*, a species that I have bred and from which I have made my own selections. Some Auriculastrum hybrids growing here include *P. 'Freedom'*, *P. 'Clarence Elliot'*, *P. X berninae*, several *P. X pubescens* selections, *P. X seriana* and *P. X venusta*. There are several unnamed hybrids of *P. auricula* as well as 'Rowena', 'Chorister', 'Dale's Red', 'Camelot', 'Matthew Yates' and 'Susannah'.

The *Primula* (Vernales) section also does well here. The newer, nearly stemless hybrids, popularly sold at nurseries between Valentines and Easter, seem to lack the hardiness to survive our winters, but the old-fashioned polyanthus do exceptionally well. Among the species, the Botanical Garden is home to *P. vulgaris*, *P. veris* and *P. elatior*. There are also many old-fashioned polyanthus hybrids, some modern double-flowered types as well as the ever popular *P. X juliana* 'Wanda' and 'Betty Green'.

Perhaps the most popular primrose in Newfoundland is the drumstick primrose, *P. denticulata*. Certainly few other species make as impressive a display. Locally, they peak around mid-May but may open by early April in sheltered sites. Of the many other Sino-Himalayan primroses, we stick mostly to the Cortusoides, Sikkimensis and Proliferae (Candelabra) sections. At our Botanical Garden, they are grown mostly in the Asian Garden or shaded nooks in the rock garden. Among the Cortusoides we grow are *P. cortusoides*, *P. jesoina*, *P. kisoana*, *P. polyneura*, *P. saxatilis* and *P. sieboldii*; in the Sikkimensis are *P. alpicola*, *P. florindae*, *P. secundiflora* and *P. sikkimensis*; and in the Candelabra are *P. anisioora*, *P. aurantiaca*, *P. beesiana*, *P. bulleyana*, *P. chungensis*, *P. helodoxa*, *P. japonica*, *P. poissonii*, *P. pulverulenta* and *P. wilsonii*.

The Aleuritia (Farinosae) section grows well here but is apt to be short-lived and is the most sensitive to the spring freeze-thaw cycle. They require consistently moist soil and will quickly expire if allowed to get dry. For us, they do better in pots in the alpine house where they can be more carefully monitored. Species we grow include *P. algida*, *P. dariaatica*, *P. balleri*, *P. farinosa*, *P. scotica* and *P. frondosa*. Our three native primroses are also from this section and are also grown in the alpine house – *P. laurentiana*, *P. mistassinica* and *P. egalikensis*.

We have grown several primroses from other sections among them *Primula chionantha*, *P. capitata*, *P. rosea*, *P. warshenewskiana* and *P. vialii*. Perhaps the most spectacular and surprising has been our success with *P. maximowiczii*.

Finally we come to the shooting stars, the newest 'primroses'. Among those we grow *P. meadia*, *P. pulchellum* and *P. jeffreyi*.

While we can grow a wide variety of primroses, they are not without their problems. As with most gardeners, slugs and snails are a constant bother. They appear to feed more on the foliage of the large, leafy types but the actual blossoms of all primroses may be devoured. However, our most problematic pests are the larvae of vine weevils. The adult weevils are a bane to rhododendron growers, as they create scalloping on the leaf edges as they feed. The little white 'grubs' of the weevil appear to prefer primrose roots over any other plant. They are a persistent pest for primroses grown in the open but especially troublesome for pot-grown plants. I have lost count of how many times a healthy-looking primrose in the alpine house has suddenly collapsed. Upon examination of the plant, hardly a root was left and many little white grubs were in evidence. Since the Botanical Garden does not use serious pesticides (we use nothing stronger than insecticidal soap), we have to live with this perennial problem. So needless to say, we have lost a few primroses over the years.

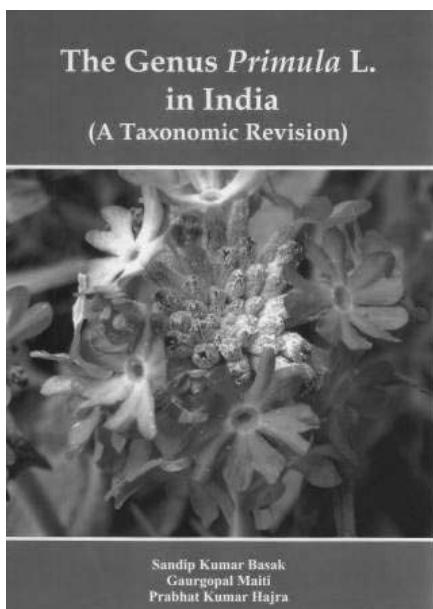
If you are ever in Newfoundland from mid-May to late July, then I invite you to visit our Botanical Garden to view the *Primula* collection, not to mention the over 2000 other taxa growing here!



Book Review

PAM EVELEIGH

A new *Primula* book has been published in 2014 on the 106 species of *Primula* in India. I must admit, I was thrilled to find out about this new book and eagerly anticipated its arrival at my doorstep after ordering from Vedam Books. It now is available through other book sellers such as Koeltz Scientific Books. The price is over \$120.00 US.



The book's contents evolved through a PhD thesis of one of the authors, Dr. Sandip Kumar Basak, and the material is broken into chapters: introduction; historical background; materials and methods; gross morphology; pollen micro-morphology; seed morphology; systematic treatment; classification and discussion, with the bulk of the contents contained within the systematic treatment. Unfortunately there is repeated material in the introduction, historical

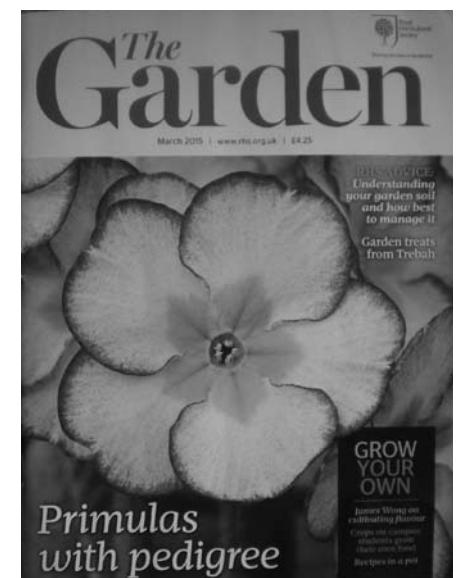
background and discussion, and these chapters would have benefitted from better organization. Even in the chapter on gross morphology we find oddities such as farina characteristics listed under "Habitat". Description is repeated at the Genus, Subgenus, Section and Species levels and each species description is so detailed that the sheer amount of material presented makes it difficult to deduce which characteristics are most valuable. The black and white

line drawings presented for each species are exceptional. Generally, the taxonomy follows J. A. Richards. The authors present six black and white SEM images and the description of pollen for 15 species but there is no interpretation of the data. Similarly, 173 black and white SEM images of seeds are shown, and the characteristics for 59 species and subspecies are described. Near the back of the book are 95 images of nomenclatural type herbarium sheets but they are usually of small thumbnail size and almost all of such poor quality that little useful information can be discerned. Given that very high resolution herbarium scans are available freely over the web from herbariums such as Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Kew, the British Museum and Paris; it is puzzling why the authors didn't print better quality images. It seems this rich source of information was neglected in this study.

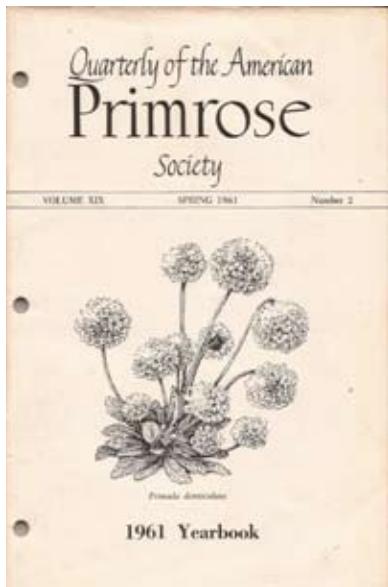
This book is worthwhile for those who are involved in more serious study of *Primula*, and could be useful to those who are interested in identifying species encountered while traveling.



The March 2015 issue of the RHS magazine "The Garden" has a new article on Barnhaven with many colorful photos of the lovely Barnhaven flowers. "All from Her Last Five Dollars" by Val Bourne traces the history of Barnhaven from its beginning with Florence Bellis to the current owners, Lynne and David Lawson. Find a copy to read, if you can.



What to do - East and West



Three-quarters of all back issues of the quarterly are now on the APS website in PDF files. This excerpt from the 1961 Yearbook tells us how to prepare for the upcoming growing season in both the East and the West.



To see these articles, and many more, members can log in to the APS website at www.americanprimrosesociety.org.

The Auriculas of Spitalfields

BY THE GENTLE AUTHOR

*This fascinating piece only came to our attention because the Gentle Author posted some pictures on the Facebook Primula Lovers page. The most interesting things show up there. Here is a piece re-printed from his blog that captures the historic fondness the auricula inspires in us, and reminds us of the wonderful book on the history of the auricula that Patricia Cleveland-Peck wrote a few years ago: *Auriculas Through the Ages* (Crowood Press, 2011).*

In horticultural lore, auriculas have always been associated with Spitalfields and writer Patricia Cleveland-Peck has a mission to bring them back again. She believes that the Huguenots brought them here more than three centuries ago, perhaps snatching a twist of seeds as they fled their homeland and then cultivating them in the enclosed gardens of the merchants' grand houses, and in the weavers' yards and allotments, thus initiating a passionate culture of domestic horticulture among the working people of the East End which endures to this day.

You only have to cast your eyes upon the wonder of an auricula theatre filled with specimens in bloom – as I did in Patricia's Sussex garden last week – to understand why these most artificial of flowers can hold you in thrall with the infinite variety of their colour and form. "They are much more like pets than plants," Patricia admitted to me as we stood in her greenhouse surrounded by seedlings, "because you have to look after them daily, feed them twice a week in the growing season, remove offshoots and repot them once a year. Yet they're not hard to grow and it's very relaxing, the perfect antidote to writing, because when you are stuck for an idea you can always tend your auriculas." Patricia taught herself old French and Latin to research the history of the auricula, but the summit of her investigation was when she reached the top of the Kitzbüheler Horn, high in the Austrian Alps where the ancestor plants of the cultivated varieties are to be found.

Auriculas were first recorded in England in the Elizabethan

What To Do In The Primrose Garden In The Pacific Northwest-April, May and June

RALPH SALTER, Seattle, Washington

It is difficult to write an all-purpose column that will apply to all growers alike. The positions of one who grows primroses in a large garden or in a border or border section are certainly different than those of a hobbyist who has only a border or a few plants. There are those who grow only hot weather or border varieties. There are those who grow cool weather or border varieties. There are those who grow both cool and hot weather varieties. Some grow them along coast banks, some in the woods, and others in rock crevices or borders. And there are those who grow them in greenhouses and raise the species and show or exhibition sorts of primroses.

This column will attempt to fit the majority, which consists that it will be easier for the smaller grower who has a few plants in a border or border section to follow. Those who are interested can refer to the many articles published in back issues of the Quarterly.

If you have a special method of growing primroses that works well for you, don't change, unless you want to make a change. If you have a method that the world has proved the best, use it.

Somewhat weather conditions vary a great deal from one part of the country to another. In the Pacific Northwest March through the middle of April, or if it is warm enough, the first half of April and March is usually drier. April's work until the first of May. Since this cold weather continues for several months ahead of time, it will of necessity be written to fit the normal year.

In inspiring places to see if they

WHAT TO DO IN APRIL.

April is the month when the majority of primroses are at their peak of beauty. This is the time when we have been anticipating for a year. What is the secret of growing these without fail? There are many ways to ensure their success. First, let me say that the first thing to do is to spread some sharp horse manure or well-rotted manure over the soil. This is the most important thing to do.

Second, the plants must be well spaced.

Third, the plants must be well watered.

Fourth, the plants must be well fed.

Fifth, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Sixth, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Seventh, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Eighth, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Ninth, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Tenth, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Eleventh, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Twelfth, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Thirteenth, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fourteenth, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fifteenth, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Sixteenth, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Seventeenth, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Eighteenth, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Nineteenth, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Twentieth, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Twenty-first, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Twenty-second, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Twenty-third, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Twenty-fourth, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Twenty-fifth, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Twenty-sixth, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Twenty-seventh, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Twenty-eighth, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Twenty-ninth, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Thirtieth, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Thirty-first, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Thirty-second, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Thirty-third, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Thirty-fourth, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Thirty-fifth, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Thirty-sixth, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Thirty-seventh, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Thirty-eighth, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Thirty-ninth, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fortieth, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Forty-first, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Forty-second, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Forty-third, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Forty-fourth, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Forty-fifth, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Forty-sixth, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Forty-seventh, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Forty-eighth, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Forty-ninth, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-four, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-five, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-six, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-seven, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fiftieth-eight, the plants must be well protected from birds.

Fiftieth-nine, the plants must be well protected from insects.

Fiftieth-ten, the plants must be well protected from slugs and snails.

Fiftieth-one, the plants must be well protected from frost damage.

Fiftieth-two, the plants must be well protected from sunburn.

Fiftieth-three, the plants must be well protected from wind damage.

Fift

period as a passtime of the elite but it was in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that they became a widespread passion amongst horticulturalists of all classes. In 1795, John Thelwall, son of a Spitalfields silk mercer wrote, “*I remember the time myself when a man who was a tolerable workman in the fields had generally beside the apartment in which he carried on his vocation, a small summer house and a narrow slip of a garden at the outskirts of the town where he spent his Monday either in flying his pigeons or raising his tulips.*” Auriculas were included alongside tulips among those prized species known as the “Floristry Flowers,” plants renowned for their status, which were grown for competition by flower fanciers at “Florists’ Feasts,” the precursors of the modern flower show. These events were recorded as taking place in Spitalfields with prizes such as a copper kettle or a ladle and, after the day’s judging, the plants were all placed upon a long table where the contests sat to enjoy a meal together known as “a shilling ordinary.”

In the nineteenth century, Henry Mayhew wrote of the weavers of Spitalfields that “*their love of flowers to this day is a strongly marked characteristic of the class.*” and, in 1840, Edward Church who lived in Spital Sq recorded that “*the weavers were almost the only botanists of their day in the metropolis.*” It was this enthusiasm that maintained a regular flower market in Bethnal Green which eventually segued into the Columbia Rd Flower Market of our day.

Known variously in the past as ricklers, painted ladies and bears’ ears, auriculas come in different classes, show auriculas, alpines, doubles, stripes and borders – each class containing a vast diversity of variants. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, Patricia is interested in the political, religious, cultural and economic history of the auricula, but the best starting point to commence your relationship with this fascinating plant is to feast your eyes upon the dizzying collective spectacle of star performers gathered in an auricula theatre. As Sacheverell Sitwell once wrote, “*The perfection of a stage auricula is that of the most exquisite Meissen porcelain or of the most lovely silk stuffs of Isfahan and yet it is a living growing thing.*”



American Primrose Society Minutes of the Board Meeting held on January 25th, 2015

The meeting was held online. Quorum and start at 6.05 pm, EST.

Board members present: Rodney Barker (President, New England Chapter), Mark Dyan (Director), Julia Haldorson (Director and Membership Secretary), Merrill Jensen (Director), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Alan Lawrence (APS President), Amy Olmsted (Director), Michael Plumb (Secretary and Webmaster), Rhondda Porter (APS Vice-President)

Regrets: Ed Buyarski (Director), Paul Dick (President, Juneau Chapter)

A. Approval of the Agenda (Michael/Rhondda) All agreed to add Advertising under Reports and two items under New Business (naming of varieties / pollinators)

B. Minutes of October 26th 2014 – accepted (Rodney / Amy)

C. Business Arising and Old Business

1. National Show:

Amy and Rodney reported that the Show is being planned for Tower Hill Botanical garden for the first weekend in May (Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd). Elizabeth Zander is coordinating with support from several chapter members. John Lonsdale is speaker and NARGS chapters are invited to show alpines. The show is allowing Primulaceae. Harvey Wrightman will be vending along with other growers. Amy assured Alan that the AGM had already been scheduled during the show.

ACTION: Amy will see that a PDF ad is forwarded to Michael for posting on the website.

ACTION: Show organizers will do their best to obtain a good internet connection for the AGM.

2. Nominations:

No nominees have yet come forward. Alan urged the chapters to keep looking. The ballot needs to go out with the Quarterly in early February.

3. Posting Back Quarterlies on the Website:

MOTION (Michael / Amy): That all the back issues of the *Primroses* Quarterly be made available for the public to read on the website, except for the last twelve issues (three years), which are to be reserved for members only. **Carried.**

Michael appealed for help with the index.

D. Treasurer's Report (Emailed before the meeting)

1. Income less expenses October 1st to December 31st 2014: \$2,132.86
2. Income less expenses January 1st, 2014 to December 31st 2014: \$398.69
3. Total liabilities and equity as of December 31st 2014: \$27,067.42
4. There should be some major savings with the new printer while the quality of the quarterly has already improved.
5. **MOTION** (Amy / Michael): to accept the Treasurer's Report. **Carried.**

E. Committee Reports**1. Seed Exchange 2014-2015:**

- a) Amy reported a current profit of \$85.26. The only future expenses will be postage.
- b) 'Lucky Dip' will start on February 1st, and the Seed Exchange will close on March 1st. **ACTION:** Michael will post a notice to this effect on the website.

c) MOTION (Rodney / Michael): to accept Seed Exchange Report. **Carried****2. Editorial Committee (Maedythe, by email):**

- a) Alan has found a new printer. The quality is very good, and the cost is lower.
- b) No one entered the APS Photo Contest this time. Members seem to prefer posting photos on social media. Rhondda suggested opening the contest to the public.
- c) The winter 2015 issue is now with the printer. It should be mailed in early February.
- d) The Membership List will be included in the winter 2015 issue.
- e) The Editorial Committee expressed their thanks for the contributions from members of articles for the quarterly.

f) MOTION (Rhondda / Amy): to accept Editorial Report. **Carried****3. Website (Michael, by email and on line):**

- a) Three-quarters of all back issues of the quarterly are now on the website (PDF files). Michael asked the board for a decision on how many of the back issues should be made available to the public (See item C3 above).
- b) A species index for volumes 1-34 is almost ready for posting on the website. It is an updated version of the old index prepared by the Baldwins.
- c) Articles from members will be most gratefully accepted for posting on the website, even short articles of two or three sentences, especially if accompanied by a photo, which will be incorporated in the article's page.

d) MOTION (Michael / Rhondda): to accept the Website Report. **Carried.****4. Membership (Julia, by email):**

- a) Total membership as of January 13th is 222
- b) Many members still need to renew their dues for the membership to return to the 2014 level of 301.
- c) Email reminders have been sent out this month, and another round will go out in February.
- d) Michael noted that over 60 people had used PayPal to renew or join since the end of October.

d) MOTION (Rhondda / Rodney): to accept Membership Report. **Carried.****5. Advertising (Rhondda, by email and on line):**

- a) Mail-outs to a number of Primula nurseries and seed companies have been made three times. Some companies which advertise on the internet were

contacted by email.

- b) Colorful Primula post-cards were printed offering a special membership/advertising rate for companies. This offer is on the website, with a dedicated PayPal button.
- c) At the 2014 Show in Portland, all the nurseries which had Primula for sale were given a Primula post-card and a sample Quarterly and told about the special offer.
- d) After the 2014 Show Alan was given post-cards to take back with him for distribution at the talks he gives to plant societies. Amy was mailed some cards to distribute to nurseries in her area.
- e) This fall a final mail-out was made to ten nurseries, mostly in the USA.
- f) Results in general have been disappointing. Most companies have their own websites and rely on internet search engines to reach people interested in Primula.
- g) **MOTION (Rhondda / Amy): to accept Advertising Report. **Carried**.**

F. Chapters

- 1. **New England** held a chapter meeting a week ago and outlined plans for the NE and National Show. Twenty-five of about 40 members belong to the APS.
- 2. **Alaska** held a meeting last weekend. Merrill presented a slide show on sections Muscarioides and Sikkimensis. The next meeting will be on January 17th, featuring Merrill Jensen on the Juneau Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Funds are \$3278; nineteen APS members.
- 3. **MOTION (Rhondda / Amy): to accept chapter reports. **Carried**.**

G. New Business

- 1. **Authority for naming new varieties:** Alan had been asked by a Chinese grower if there was an international agreement on the granting and vetting of names for new varieties and cultivars of Primula. The board was unsure. Alan offered to investigate and consult with NARGS and NAPS to set up an authority for Primula which would conform to international cultivar naming conventions.

MOTION (Rhondda / Merrill): that the APS board support Alan in his efforts to investigate the setting up of a convention for naming Primula cultivars and varieties. **Carried.**

ACTION: Amy will contact NARGS through Matt Mattus.

ACTION: Michael will table this for the AGM in May.

- 2. **Pollinators of Primula:** Alan had also received a request for information on pollinators of Primula. Merrill suggested that the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh might have information. Michael offered to send his notes on mason bees.

ACTION: The board will do research into this.

H. Next meeting: AGM at the National Show in early May. Day and time to be arranged.

I. Adjournment: (Michael) at 7.33 pm EST.

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>.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND 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 - Offsets, 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.

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society

Midland & West Section

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk



£10.00 Overseas Membership.

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

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

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 Daisybank Drive,
Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 4JR
Overseas membership £7.50 (\$10.00 US)

Please make checks payable to NAPS.
www.auriculas.org.uk

New Members January 9 - April 9, 2015

- 2015 Betty Bridges 12602 Reed Rock Rd, Amelia Court House, Virginia 23002-5809 USA
- 2015 Robert Gamlin 99 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053 USA
- 2015 Gregory Greene 1916 Hexam Road, Schenectady, New York 12309 USA
- 2015 Susan Haddock 1540 Roxbury Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 USA
- 2015 Annie Horton 24505 SR 525, Greenbank, Washington 98253 USA
- 2015 Gennesse Langdon 6804 SW Marina Drive, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z2 Canada
- 2015 Patricia Readhunter 126A Park Ave SE, Aiken, South Carolina 29801 USA
- 2015 Katrina Reffett 1620 State Route 1, Greenup, Kentucky 41144 USA
- 2017 Abigail Rorer 16 Oliver St, Petersham, Massachusetts 01366 USA
- 2015 James Sagmiller 2918 NW Taylor Avenue, Corvallis, Oregon 97330-5127 USA
- 2015 Kathleen Waldron 5084 Festival Blvd #2B, Bellingham, Washington 98226 USA
- 2016 Venus Zink PO Box 21911, Juneau, Alaska 99802 USA

Should there ever be a question about your membership, please contact:

Julia L. Haldorson, APS Membership
P. O. Box 292
Greenbank, Washington 98253 USA
julia-haldorson@ak.net
membership@americanprimrosesociety.org

OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTERS

British Columbia Primrose Group

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

New England Chapter

Mark Dyen, Co-President
132 Church Street Newton, MA 02158
mark.dyen@csgrp.com

Juneau Chapter

Paul Dick, President
Box 33077 Juneau, AK 99803-3077
(907) 789-2299
amprimsoc@hotmail.com

Rodney Barker, Co-President
49 Woodcliff Road Newton Highlands, MA 02461
rodneybrkr@gmail.com

Curtis's Botanical Magazine

No. 1

Primula decora

1922



This scan taken at the Elizabeth C. Miller Library at
the University of Washington

Other images available at www.biodiversitylibrary.org