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**

The View from Here by Alan Lawrence .............. 3
The Revenant Primrose by Carol Zvyatkauskas. .......... 7
Root Aphids by Ann Lunn .............................. 8
The 2016 American Primrose Society National Show by Rhoddda Porter ............................... 9
APS Trophies Awarded ................................. 10
Continuing Experiences with _Primula elatior_ subspecies _palisii_ by James L. Jones ...................... 12
New England Chapter Show 2016 by Cheryl Wilson 21
Winners at the 2016 New England Primula Show ... 24
The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas Book Review by Maedythe Martin ................................. 25
VIRAGS Show, 2016 .................................... 26
Minutes .................................................... 27
Officers of the Chapters. ................................. 31

**Notes**

Front Cover: Prize winning acaulis entered by Roger Eichman at the National Show. Photo by Rhoddda Porter.

Back Cover: Judith Sellers' prize winning double bronze auricula "Forest Pecan" at the New England Show. Photo by Matt Mattus.

**Primroses**

Editor
Jane Guild
2647 A Deville Road
Victoria BC V8B 3R9 Canada
editor@americanprimrosesociety.org

Editorial Committee
Maedythe Martin
Judith Sellers
Michael Plumb
Alan Lawrence
Jen Hopefild

Editorial Deadlines
Winter issue - October 15
Spring issue - January 15
Summer issue - April 15
Autumn issue - July 15

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 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

For all ads, please use 300 dpi digital image files.

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 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

For all ads, please use 300 dpi digital image files.

Like most _Primula_ enthusiasts, I manage to kill a surprising number of seedlings. For some, who are trying to grow plants of show quality, this is intentional as the show standards are quite rigorous and few plants reach the required standard. But for me it is accidental and quite frustrating. Most of the plants that are subject to my accidental slaughter are Asiatics in Section Sikkimensis, plants which I find very attractive and which just seem unwilling to survive here in the Upper MidWest.

For the last couple of years I have been trying to grow _Primula waltonii, Primula toessia_ and _Primula alpiola_, all very attractive members of Sikkimensis with bell-shaped flowers. As I obtain fresh seed, germination is not the issue; and plants grow well indoors through the summer, indoors because the summers here are hot and dry and not good for young _Primulas_. It is in the fall that the mass extinction occurs. Whether I plant them out, or continue to grow them indoors, all of them seem to just curl up and die. Very disappointing, and so far I have not found the reason. I will continue trying.

Another of my interests is germination. Some species of _Primula_ are difficult to germinate, especially if the seed is mature and has gone into secondary dormancy. One technique for good germination in some species is to sow green seed. Green seed is collected when the seedpod just turns brown and the seed inside is still green. I have tried this technique with good results with _Primula vulgaris_ and its many hybrids, _Primula veris, Primula elatior_, and garden
auriculas. This is fine if you raise your own seed, but if not, what then? I have been researching the literature for recommendations on getting those difficult seeds to germinate and decided to put some of these to the test. I had a stack of Primula x auricula hybrid seed, just ordinary garden auriculas, so decided to use these. It was probably a poor choice but here's how it went:

The pre-sowing treatments tested were:
- 4hr cold water soak
- 20 minute hot water soak (twice) followed by 3hr cold water soak
- 4hr soak in 5ppm GBA3 solution
- 4 hr soak in homemade smokewater
- 4hr soak in 3% hydrogen peroxide
- 15 second blast in microwave followed by 4hr cold water soak.

16 seeds for each treatment were sown in the same seedpot so all were subject to identical conditions. After 6 weeks, here are the germination results:
- Cold water  78%
- Hot water  81%
- GBA3  69%
- Smokewater  75%
- Hydrogen peroxide  75%
- Microwave  94%

These results are not statistically significant, and this was probably because the seed was too fresh and too willing to germinate. However, looking at the slight trends, the heat pre-treatments, hot water and microwave gave the better results and also started germination a couple days earlier than the others. Perhaps I should repeat this with seed which is a couple of years old. Now where can I plant 96 garden auriculas before the fall mass extinction arrives?

Pam Eveleigh has recently visited Utah to see North American Primula in situ. Check her blog to read all about it: http://primulaworld.blogspot.ca/2016/04/primula-specuicola-in-utah.html (April 2016)

The Revenant Primrose

CAROL ZYVATKAUSKAS
(CURRENT OWNER OF THE BARNHAVEN BARN PROPERTY)

When the APS National Show is held in Portland Oregon (every other year, lately) the proximity to Gresham, Oregon, where Florence Bellis had her Barnhaven nursery means we find more current information on the former Barnhaven property. In 2012 the then-owners of the property turned up at the show and we learned the property was for sale again. This year, the new owner, Carol Zyvatkauskas, arrived at the National Show with some plants she had found on the property. Here are her thoughts about living on this historic site.

A primrose is a humble flower, perhaps you might not even miss it if it disappeared from your garden. Yet what if you found one blooming in the wild woods - far from garden or nursery? What if you knew this wasn’t a native plant struggling against the stinging nettle and encroaching blackberry? What if you suspected that the distinct perfect pink blossoms belonged to a famous strain of primroses developed decades ago in Gresham, Oregon?

By the end of 1966 all the primroses on the Barnhaven estate were gone from American soil. Florence Bellis, the concert pianist turned amateur botanist had sold every plant down to the last leaf. Wanting to keep her progeny from the clutches of commercial nurseries she sent them packing back to England from where the first humble seeds had arrived.

The primroses had begun their American lives back in the Great Depression in the small town of Gresham, Oregon where Florence had turned 5 dollars worth of seeds into a startling new strain of plants. By throwing herself into research and using a unique hand-pollinating technique, the self-taught botanist developed a strain of bi-colored, richly hued, hardy plants. They would be named for the place of refuge she had called home - Barnhaven. As fame and
demand for the plants grew, the former small farm was transformed into a primrose nursery where buyers could select plants from lush beds to have them dug up and potted if they couldn’t wait for the latest seed inventory. The plants might have been enough in and of themselves, but Florence did them one more service. Her enthusiasm for describing the varieties in her seed catalogs eventually led to the founding of the American Primrose Society and so at least ensured some historical continuity for her work.

However, decades of primrose fame did not translate into the sort of financial success that was enough to sustain her. After all, even in their most delightful bloom the primroses were too humble a plant to compete with the glamour of a rose or the notoriety of an orchid. So when her second husband died, Florence shipped off the entire Barnhaven seed stock to former customers in England. Years later Florence chronicled much of her efforts in a book, Gardening and Beyond. It seemed that was the end of these inspirational little posies on American soil except as in reflection. If you were one of the rare Barnhaven primrose hunters you had to get them from France, as even the English couldn’t maintain an interest.

And then there was an unexpected discovery. One freezing cold January morning I was following the coyotes’ trails through the woods on Gresham Butte when I happened across a patch of peculiar shaped leaves and, knowing of the local history, had raised hopes. I returned week after week - for I lived less then a few hundred feet away on the old Barnhaven property. One sun-speckled morning the blooms burst open and revealed themselves as none other than the eponymous primroses. Were these errant garden escapees so hardy that they had survived all these decades untended or had they been deliberately left behind?

I turned back to Florence’s book and reread this, “...When I first saw the loveliness of these Candy Pinks - frosted confections blooming under a sheet of ice in an alder grove next to beds of purest blues - I stood before them crying, the beauty too much to bear.” (p. 149) Later in the fall I would come back to find the tough little primroses still blooming and noted that they were indeed planted between some alder trees. Looking up past the horrid tangle of threatening blackberry bushes I could see bright red apples on trees that had grown to over 100 feet in competition with the Douglas fir and alder. On page 145 of her book is a depiction of the orchard on the hill. The orchard is being subsumed by the forest and perhaps one day the blackberry bushes will eventually crowd out the remaining Barnhaven primroses.

Standing in the spot where Florence must have stood crying over the struggle and the joy of producing those earliest blooms I too was overcome. These weren’t merely garden escapees. Florence had left them behind to become naturalized residents.

Careful to leave a legacy amount in the woods at the edge of the old “orchard”, I lifted a few and brought them back down to Barnhaven proper where they have since proved themselves to be the most hardy, cheerful and storied flowers one could imagine.
Root Aphids: The Bane of Primula Growers

ANN LUNN

Almost since my first auricula, I have been plagued with root aphids. One remedy at the time involved washing the soil off the roots, then spraying or immersing them in an alcohol solution. I killed more auriculas than root aphids with that method.

Since root aphids are surrounded by a wooly, waxy coat, Safer’s Soap might kill them. The effectiveness of that method was poor.

A couple of commercial products were touted to kill soil insects. One, Orthene, I’ve read has very good results, but the odor is so offensive, it is unbearable, not to mention unsafe, working in the greenhouse. The other, Talstar, had very little effect on the overall number of aphids.

While looking for a product to help eliminate scale from orchid leaves, I found a product by Bonide called Systemic Houseplant Insect Control. It is a granular product containing 0.22% Imidacloprid and its protection lasts about two months. While cleaning up the plants in early spring, I look for root aphids around the crown or on roots around the edge of the pot. Tip the plant out of the pot to check for aphids at the edge of the soil. A spoonful of granules is then spread around the top of the soil and mixed in. The pot is topped off with a bit of new soil and watered well.

I have used the Bonide product for three years and rarely find any aphid infestations. Since plants without visible pests are not treated, those infestations may come from previously untreated plants.

Monterey makes a liquid formulation with 1.47% Imidacloprid that is meant to be diluted and poured around the base of the plant. This product affords a one-year protection. However, it is mainly used for trees and shrubs in the ground, so the amount used on container plants would have to be calculated. However, since it has a higher percentage of active ingredients, it is more toxic to humans and bees.

There are a couple of biological controls using predator mites and nematodes, but since I have not used them I cannot comment on their effectiveness.

Meantime, I will continue to use the Bonide product and enjoy “almost” root aphid-free plants.

Disclaimer:

Please read the pesticide label prior to use. The information contained in this article is not a substitute for a pesticide label. Trade names used herein are for convenience only; no endorsement of products is intended, nor is criticism of unnamed products implied.

Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Pay attention to the risk indications and follow the safety precautions on the label.
The 2016 American Primrose Society National Show

RHONDDA PORTER

The APS held its 2016 National Show in Portland, Oregon on April 8th, 9th, and 10th. Once again the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon hosted us at Hortlandia, their annual spring show and sale. In addition to seeing all the lovely Primula that members had been growing, most of the nurseries selling at Hortlandia, except for the vendors of cactus, clematis, and bonsai, had some Primula hidden away in their displays.

Apart from meeting up with other Primula people, part of the fun in attending a national show held in conjunction with an event such as Hortlandia, is the opportunity to meet with people coming to buy plants. They naturally stop by the APS show tables to look and this gives us an opportunity to introduce them to some of the many primroses that they could be growing but probably have never heard of or seen before.

Certain Primula always seem to attract people’s attention. Doubles of all kinds and striped auriculas were once again among the favorites. Two doubles were identified as being of particular interest to many visitors: a rather strange looking, unnamed, yellow-green double auricula from Derek Salt’s seed, and ‘Lincoln Chestnut’, a fluffy brown double raised by Derek Salt in England. There were two especially nice stripes, a show stripe from Maedythe Martin’s hybridizing program called ‘Tasket’ and a garden stripe entered by Jay and Ann Lunn.

In addition to the reliable older double acaulis, ‘Dawn Ansell’, the newer double primroses from the Belarina series are beginning to appear on the show bench. One of the series which competed at the show was ‘Pink Ice’, a lovely plant with blooms that had an almost frosted look. One of my favorite plants at the show was a lovely little pale pink acaulis exhibited by Roger Eichmann.

Among the more spectacular displays were the large bowls of *P. sieboldii* in full flower. There was ‘Musashino’, a pale pink with a darker reverse, ‘Junko’, a pale fuchsia pink with a darker reverse, and ‘Mariko’, a frilled purple pink with a slightly paler reverse. Fortunately for visitors who saw the prize-winning *P. sieboldii*, a number of nurseries were selling some excellent named varieties. I admit to having purchased four, to add to my growing collection. I find that in our garden, *P. sieboldii* naturalize quite easily. Since they naturally go dormant in summer, they don’t need the watering and attention that most other Primula need during a hot, dry summer.

One unexpected event during the show was the amazing weather. One does not usually expect sandal and tee-shirt weather at the beginning of April, but that is what we had. Temperatures in the mid-seventies required some emergency shopping for those of us who came expecting rain and cooler temperatures. Fortunately, Portland is a wonderful place to shop and clothing emergencies are easily dealt with!

Congratulations to the 2015 and 2016 Service Award Winners:

Dorothy Dickson Service Award 2015 – Alan Lawrence
Dorothy Dickson Service Award 2016 – Michael Plumb
Continuing Experiences with *Primula elatior* subspecies *pallasii*

JAMES L. JONES

The description of *Primula elatior* ssp *meyeri* in Maedythe Martin's article (APS quarterly, Spring 2016) was reminiscent of my experiences with *P.* ssp *pallasii* (I reported on this plant in the APS quarterly four years ago). Effectively, subspecies *meyeri* comes across as suitable for a rock garden environment and I think the same can be said for *P.* ssp *pallasii*.

In terms of appearance, the leaves of *P.* ssp *pallasii* are low and round; the flowers a lovely soft yellow, borne abundantly on upright stalks. In my earlier report I said it was deciduous, but since then I have found that a plant brought into my cool greenhouse remained green and active enough to give me a fine head start on dividing it in the spring. This is very handy, in the absence of seed production. In any case, it comes into growth and flower early, promptly establishing a presence in the garden.

Perhaps because of its small size and compact habit, and also because of its arid home ground in Russian Siberia, I treated it as a crevice grower in the beginning. First, I tried it in a dry but shaded crevice. That worked, and, as the single plant increased readily over time, I edged divisions further and further into bright, dry locations, with encouraging results.

And now, the ultimate test for the plant is developing, like it or not, for one of the front-runners. It sits at the top of a north-sloping crevice, where it is well-exposed to sunlight. It did well, growing and flowering nicely during April, but then along came May. The whole month has seen unusually dry conditions, which have only gotten worse as the weeks go by. In the face of this dry weather, the plant did have periods of drooping, quite apparent only yesterday. But just a bit of rain overnight was enough to revive it. So yes, I think *P.* ssp *pallasii* can also be termed a rock garden *Primula*, though this is not necessarily its most effective location.

There has been another learning experience here for me. I got the seed from the Reykjavik Botanical Garden under the name *Primula elatior* ssp *pallasii*, but the International Plant Name Index didn't list that as an accepted name, though it did consider the name *Primula pallasii* a valid one. At that time, I assumed that was conclusive, to the extent that when I exhibited it at an APS show that was what I called it. That did not go over at all well, though the why of it was never explained at the time. Happily, a recent communication from Pam Eveleigh has brought enlightenment: it's the Russians who call it a species while many western taxonomists go no further than subspecies. Now I know that IPNI is not necessarily Holy Writ, and that I came perilously close to being a fellow traveler!
Ian Christie from Scotland, was flown out for a couple of talks, as well as a round table where members could discuss cultivation tips and tricks face-to-face with him. He seemed to enjoy our greenhouse but I felt rather inferior compared to this well-known plantsman!

Comments and photo (below left) by Matt Mattus

Primula from Wrightman Alpines, which mail orders many rare species across North America. A great source for many alpine and border auriculas, as well as some show types, and other alpine plants (right).

A very pretty polyanthus which I think was named ‘Roselyn’ [ed: ‘Dark Rosaleen’] had striped flowers (left) - comments and photos by Matt Mattus.

‘Dark Rosaleen’ was bred by Joe Kennedy in Ireland.

Prize winning plants and trophies on display (above right).

Alpine auricula ‘Sirius’, entered by Judith Sellers won Best Plant in Show (right).

Photos by Judith Sellers.

‘Arlene’s Yellow’, a Polyanthus type entered by Amy Olmsted, which she named after Arlene Perkins, a well known primula grower - photo and comment by Matt Mattus from his blog, Growing with Plants (right).

‘Arlene’s Yellow’, a Polyanthus type entered by Amy Olmsted, which she named after Arlene Perkins, a well known primula grower - photo and comment by Matt Mattus from his blog, Growing with Plants (right).

Lifetime Achievement awards presented to Matt Mattus (above) and Chris Fenderson presenting the award to Rodney Barker (seated) for their outstanding service to the American Primrose Society. Thank you!

Photos by Judith Sellers
American Primrose Society
National Show 2016

Colorful show bench containing examples of Primula from simple polyanthus to named auriculas (left).

Prize-winning double auricula grown from Derek Salt’s seed, shown by Ann Lunn (below).

APS President Alan Lawrence braved the drive from Michigan to attend the National Show (above).

Emma Elliot holding her Best Plant in Show, named Primula sieboldii ‘Misako’ (right).

APS display featuring the old copper pitcher, the Bamford award (below left and right).

Rarely seen striped garden auricula, grown by Ann Lunn (above).

The new owners of the Barnhaven property, Carol Zyvatkasas and her husband, shown with Jay Lunn (right).
Derek and Pat Salt have introduced some wonderful double blue auriculas in the last few years and have more seedlings to come. The best two (shown above), ‘Poachers Sky’ and ‘Poachers Lady’ are from Pat’s breeding, and both have won best double seedling at the NAPS Northern Cheadle show.

Other of Derek Salt’s double blues come from the old double purple ‘Walton Heath’ as the basis of this line, such as seedlings 2, 3, 4 and 5 (shown right). Seedlings from this line have been started this year in North America by two APS members.
Novice visitors to the primrose show at Tower Hill Botanic Garden on April 30 were heard gasping at the variety and range of colors of the primroses lining the benches in the bright corridor leading to the Orangerie. “I had no idea there were so many different ones. I just knew the ones from Stop & Shop,” said one woman. Another asked, “Are these hardy?” She added that the supermarket ones never overwintered for her.

The color ranges were incredible: dusky blues, butterscotch doubles, deep burgundy ones and, of course, the stunning auriculas with their distinctive margins.

Judith Sellers of New York state benched dozens of gorgeous plants and won several awards including Best of Show and the Richard Redfield Award for ‘Sirius’, an Alpine auricula that featured a rich yellow background with paler yellow edge and center rim of burgundy. She brought the plant back from England in 2002. Sellers said she grows her auriculas in the windows of a small northwest facing room, heated only by an adjoining basement wall. She adds fluorescent lighting in February and March.

Susan Schnare of New Hampshire was first runner-up and won the Elaine Malloy prize for Best Garden Grown Plant with a yellow hose-in-hose.

Matt Mattus of Massachusetts was second runner-up with ‘Barnhaven Red’ acaulis. Third runner-up was Amy Olmsted of Vermont with ‘Lois Lutz’, a wanda juliae type, and Judith Sellers took fourth runner-up with ‘Stromboli,’ a double auricula. Best
Newcomers to the world of Primulas who assume that yellow is the basic color would have been surprised by Christie's photos. In addition to $P. \text{tangutica}$ with deep red reflexed flowers and $P. \text{maximowiczii}$, a red Candleabra type with drooping flowers, there were startling sky blues varieties. $P. \text{odontocalyx}$ and $P. \text{x 'Arduaine'}$ were gorgeous. $P. \text{wollastonii}$ looked almost like a bellflower in deep blue. (Photographs of these same species on Pam Eveleigh's website, however, reproduced as much deeper blue, almost purple in some cases.)

His last group of slides was of show $P. \text{allionii}$ specimens including 'Wharfedale Ling', 'Lismore Yellow' and 'Clarence Elliott'. Some of these were so covered in low flowers that the leaves were completely obscured and the plant filled the entire pot with stunning color.

Christie also showed photographs of his garden and nursery with sturdy “shelters” or greenhouses for winter protection of show plants. In some photos the ground was saturated with rain and he explained many of his alpines are grown in troughs to prevent root rot. “We need to raise the beds so the plants can survive,” he said.

There were several photos of crevice gardens under construction, some with chunks of peat blocks cut with a chain saw, others with thin sheets of rock artfully arranged, between which delicate alpines would find root hold in the gravel mixture. His final plant slide demonstrated how the nursery foils voles by covering over-wintering pots with “fleece” known to Americans as poly row covers. He said he was grateful he doesn’t have to worry about chipmunks since they are an American phenomenon.

He concluded his presentation with beautiful pictures of the sky over Scotland, including some taken by his 10-year-old grandson.

Christie gave a second lecture on Sunday and participated in the Round Robin discussion Sunday morning.
The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas

by Jodie Mitchell and Lynne Lawson

REVIEW BY MAEDYTKE MARTIN

Herself, a novice with primroses 20 years ago, Lynne Lawson began working at Barnhaven in France as a pollinator. Now she and her daughter own Barnhaven Nursery. Their experience in running the nursery for over 15 years (on Lynne's part, at least) gives them the knowledge and insight to write a new book on Primula.

The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2016, starts with some ideas for using Primula in the garden. Many colorful pictures from gardens all over the world illustrate these ideas. Primula in the garden, in pots or displayed in spring on the steps of a ladder suggest pleasing and practical uses for many of the 450 species and hybrids available to the Primula lover.

Organizing the genus into groups helps clarify the care different Primula species need. The next section 'Understanding Primroses' talks about the history and origin of many Primula and their introduction to gardens. And once you are hooked and want to grow all different sorts of Primula, the middle section of the book, '100 Primulas for the Garden' provides details about many of the plants available to today's enthusiasts. One detail of information about the origin of each plant really appeals to me.

The experienced Primula grower will find many old favorites in this 100 along with new introductions and some curiosities, like the listing for Primula sieboldii 'Nankinkozakuw' a plant seldom seen. Hybrids and species are included.

The ‘Growing and Propagating’ section helps the Primula grower with cultivation techniques and covers soil, pests and propagation. A list of Primula which have received Awards of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society in England is a wishlist of some of the best Primulas. A final touch encourages us to make a spring tussy-mussy of primroses or try primrose pancakes!

A list of sources of plants rounds out this delightful and helpful book and may direct enthusiasts to find the plant they must have. There is also a list of gardens in each of a number of countries where one can see Primulas growing. And you might find like-minded Primula lovers in a list of societies across many countries.

Winners at the 2016 New England Primula Show

NOTES BY JUDITH SELLERS

There were 122 plants benched by 13 exhibitors at the New England Primrose Society Chapter Show held from April 29-May 1, 2016. We were very pleased to have Ian Christie join Mark Dyen and Kris Fenderson as judges this year. Deborah Wheeler and Marion Stafford served as clerks, keeping the process running smoothly along the benches.

The names Rodney Barker and Matt Mattus are very familiar to anyone who has attended a New England Show or been a member of the APS. Their dedication and excellent services to the Chapter and the Society during the past decade or more earned them each a lifetime achievement award.

Thanks to all those who helped make this such a successful Primula show weekend at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston Massachusetts.

Best in Show Richard Redfield Trophy: gold centered alpine auricula, ‘Sirius’ exhibited by Judith Sellers

Elaine Malloy Trophy for Best Garden Grown Plant and 1st Runner Up for Best in Show: yellow hose-in-hose polyanthus, exhibited by Susan Schnare

2nd Runner Up for Best in Show: red Barnhaven acaulis, exhibited by Matt Mattus

3rd Runner Up for Best in Show: juliana hybrid, ‘Lois Lutz’, exhibited by Amy Olmsted

4th Runner Up for Best in Show: double auricula, ‘Stromboli’ exhibited by Judith Sellers

Best of Species Division: white P. sieboldii exhibited by Pierre Bennerup

Best Seedling in all Divisions: fancy and striped red ground auricula exhibited by Marianne Kuchel

The Plant Lover’s Guide to Primulas by Jodie Mitchell and Lynne Lawson

REVIEW BY MAEDYTKE MARTIN

Herself, a novice with primroses 20 years ago, Lynne Lawson began working at Barnhaven in France as a pollinator. Now she and her daughter own Barnhaven Nursery. Their experience in running the nursery for over 15 years (on Lynne’s part, at least) gives them the knowledge and insight to write a new book on Primula.

The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2016, starts with some ideas for using Primula in the garden. Many colorful pictures from gardens all over the world illustrate these ideas. Primula in the garden, in pots or displayed in spring on the steps of a ladder suggest pleasing and practical uses for many of the 450 species and hybrids available to the Primula lover.

Organizing the genus into groups helps clarify the care different Primula species need. The next section 'Understanding Primroses' talks about the history and origin of many Primula and their introduction to gardens. And once you are hooked and want to grow all different sorts of Primula, the middle section of the book, '100 Primulas for the Garden’ provides details about many of the plants available to today's enthusiasts. One detail of information about the origin of each plant really appeals to me.

The experienced Primula grower will find many old favorites in this 100 along with new introductions and some curiosities, like the listing for Primula sieboldii ‘Nankinkozakuw’ a plant seldom seen. Hybrids and species are included.

The ‘Growing and Propagating’ section helps the Primula grower with cultivation techniques and covers soil, pests and propagation. A list of Primula which have received Awards of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society in England is a wishlist of some of the best Primulas. A final touch encourages us to make a spring tussy-mussy of primroses or try primrose pancakes!

A list of sources of plants rounds out this delightful and helpful book and may direct enthusiasts to find the plant they must have. There is also a list of gardens in each of a number of countries where one can see Primulas growing. And you might find like-minded Primula lovers in a list of societies across many countries.
BC Primula Group member, Ruth Anderson travelled to Victoria for the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society annual show April 8 and 9. Here are some of her impressions.

Class 45: Saxatile or European Primula: A Primula × pubescens (1st - Yvonne Rorison) Filled the pot with 6 pips, some still to come - it was gorgeous.

Class 46: an 8 inch pot stuffed with the brilliant blue Primula marginata ‘Alan Jones’ (A. Sutherland - Brown) and I believe it was a tie with another (entered by J. Harvey) P. marginata hybrid with lovely toothy leaf margins.

Class 60: Judy Borgman displayed an amazingly whorled double purple auricula, the buds giving no indication of the mature flower at all. It was hard to believe all those petals were in that bud!

Class 51: I was greatly impressed by a P. bullata var. forrestii. Trunky and looking as if it had been toughing it out in the wild - entered by Yvonne Rorison

Class 53: Bill McMillan had a dark red P. vulgaris x with a slight frost, which I thought was especially lovely.

Now, there is no way I cannot mention the non-competitive display of auriculas put on by Lloyd Gilmore. That display was so large and fragrant, with every plant clearly labeled and perfectly placed to show off those perfect flowers. Wow! The green and black ‘Psyche’ and ‘Gruener Vetliner’ were certainly the most admired while I was present but I think the russety double ‘Chiquita’ took the cake!

The Alpine Garden Club of B.C. was there selling seeds and little Miss ‘Chicquita’ was the most requested seed of all! A lot of visitors were sad to find out it wasn’t going to be that easy - but I am hoping that the next VIRAGS meeting has some new members. Society members were most helpful in answering questions and encouraging all levels of gardeners or gardener-wannabes.

Children were especially encouraged by the members present in the hall. I was touched by seeing John Sheridan give away 2 Cowichans (Dark, dark red beauties in perfect show condition) to two very thrilled girls at the end of the show. I was extremely impressed by how well the show was run. It seems to me that Jacque Macdonald, Show Chair, was never still. The Tea area was such a highlight! And the home baking was delicious and vastly underpriced! Folks came from all over the Island making special trips for the day. I am still not sure if it was for the plant sale or for the chance to really enjoy the plants and plants-people. We had a wonderful time.

American Primrose Society
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on April 24, 2016

The meeting was held online. Quorum and start at 6.07 pm, EDST.
Board members present: Rodney Barker (President, New England Chapter), Ed Buyarski (Director), Mark Dyer (Director), Julia Halldorson (Director and Membership Secretary), Merrill Jensen (Director and President, Juneau Chapter), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Alan Lawrence (APS President), Michael Plumb (Secretary and Webmaster), Rhondda Porter (APS Vice-President)

A. Approval of the Agenda (Mark/Ed) approved with the addition of discussion of funding for signage at Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau under New Business.
B. Minutes of AGM May 3, 2015 – accepted (Michael/Rhondda)
C. Minutes of January 24th 2016 – accepted (Michael/Ed)
D. Business Arising from the minutes and Old Business
  1. Election of officers and directors:
     a. Michael reported that the Membership has re-elected Alan Lawrence as president, Rhondda Porter as VP, Jon Kawaguchi as treasurer, Michael Plumb as secretary. These terms run to the AGM in 2018 (two years). Julia Halldorson and Merrill Jensen have been re-elected as directors. Their terms run to the AGM in 2019 (three years).
     b. Twenty-seven ballots were submitted, including one that was scanned and sent by email (The way of the future?). There were no write-in candidates.
  2. Application by the APS to become the International Cultivar Naming Authority for Primula:
     a. Rhondda noted that Alan has already made a start with his photographic collection of named primulas and encouraged Alan to send this to the website.
     b. Alan remarked that he had received little input so far as to what the plant description on the template form should include. ACTION: Alan will send the prototype form to the board again, to encourage their input.
     c. Rhondda suggested starting with primula that are already named, and seeing how they fit the template. Alan commented that this would be useful to show up any shortcomings with the template form.
     d. Merrill has a new primula that would serve as a test case for the form.
  3. Archival materials to be donated by Cy Happy
     a. Cy is a long-serving member and ex-president who is donating much of his APS memorabilia to the society.
     b. Michael reported that APS member Dr. Roger Eichman has offered to collect the materials from Cy’s relatives and store them until APS members can sort through them.
E. Treasurer’s Report (Emailed before the meeting)
  1. Income less expenses January 1st to March 31st 2016: $494.28
2. Total liabilities and equity as of March 31st 2016: $28,839.38
3. More funds still to come from Seed Exchange.
4. MOTION (Michael/Rhondda) to accept. Carried.

F. Committee Reports
1. Membership (Julia, by email):
   a. Total membership as of April 8 is 253 (273 at May 2015 AGM)
   b. Julia reported that since her report the drop is reduced to 14.
   c. Email reminders have been sent out.
   d. Juneau Chapter (Ed) and the BC group (Rhondda) have been canvassing for new members. The NE Chapter (Mark) will promote membership at their upcoming annual show.
   e. MOTION (Mark/Ed): to accept Membership Report, with thanks to Julia. Carried.

2. Seed Exchange 2015-2016
   a. Jon reported revenue less expenses as of April 13: $1,021.90
   b. More money is still to come from Anchorage seed sale (Ed: $32) and the upcoming New England show.
   c. Many thanks to Amy Olmsted for her hard work in making the current seed exchange such a huge success.

3. Editorial Committee (Maedythe, by email):
   a. The spring issue is at the printers.
   b. Michael will post the new quarterly on the website for members after the meeting.
   c. MOTION (Michael/Merrill) to accept Editorial Report. Carried

4. Website (Michael, by email):
   a. Notices for the National Show and the New England Show are posted on the Home Page.
   b. Fifty-two (52) people have paid membership dues via PayPal since November 1st, 2015
   c. Seventy-six (76) orders for seed were received via the website, together with 69 payments (seven people may have opted to send a check)
   d. Since its creation in 2010, the 'new' website has received 256,506 hits
   e. The most popular article is 'Grocery Store Primroses', written by Judith Sellers (24,907 hits)
   f. All past quarterlies down to Volume 71-1 (Winter 2013) are available to the public in PDF form on the website. The remaining 12 issues to Volume 74, Issue No. 1 (Winter 2016) are posted for members only.
   g. Michael urged all members to send him feedback on the workings of the website.
   h. MOTION (Rhondda/Ed) to accept Website Report. Carried.

G. New Business
1. Copyright: Alan reported that the copy of Primroses we send to the Library of Congress to maintain copyright is now being destroyed each time by government irradiation (to prevent anthrax?). The LC wants us to pay $85 each time ($340 per annum) to prevent this. Some points raised in discussion:
   a. Does our copyright depend on this? We may have some protection under international copyright law, and new rules are about to be made concerning copyright on the internet.
   b. Our society was formed to spread knowledge of Primula among the public; our mandate is not to keep our knowledge to ourselves.
   c. Why not just keep sending them a copy and not pay? If it is destroyed, isn't that the LC's problem? (Alan: But they have to be able to read it to register it.)
   d. Complimentary Quarterly issues could be sent to other big libraries to be kept on file; e.g., Worcester Botanical Garden and the Massachusetts Horticultural society. In fact, five universities and one botanical garden are members, and so already receive copies.
   e. We publish all the old Qs online for anyone to read and print. So this only affects the last 12 issues.
   f. MOTION (Michael/Jon): that we do not send copies of our quarterly publication to the Library of Congress under their present conditions. Carried, one abstention.

2. Invitation to partner with MyGardenSchool, “the world’s first online gardening school”. They offer financial benefits to our society, our members and website visitors: 10% commission for every course sold to our members or website visitors. They say they will automatically track any sales that come via our channels. There is no cost to us and we would receive the income from our partner program monthly. However, Rhondda had checked their website and made the following comments:
   a. None of their online courses relate to Primula
   b. Unclear who accredits their courses.
   c. The cheapest course is approx. $143US for four 30-minute lectures with optional assignment.
   d. MOTION (Rhondda/Mark): that we not proceed with a partnership with MyGardenSchool. Carried.

3. Request for financial support for signage for the National Primula Collection at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau:
   a. Merrill can have a quote within 15 business days.
   b. Any APS support may lead to a matching grant from other sources.
   c. Merrill envisions a full-color sign about 2 feet by 3 feet, with text and photos.
   d. MOTION (Rhondda/Mark): that the board authorize $500 to support the National Collection. Defeated.
   e. MOTION (Mark/Merrill): that the board use an email process to vote on Merrill’s proposal when it is circulated. Carried.
   f. Merrill is preparing software for the names of all the primulas in the Collection.

H. Next meeting: Sunday, July 31 at 6.00 pm EDST
I. Adjournment: (Mark) at 7.37 pm EDST.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Plumb, Secretary
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.

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/smembeship.

New Members
New Members
April 9 - July 14, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Frances Harte</td>
<td>PO Box 309, Westminster, Vermont 05158 USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Elona Hartjes</td>
<td>3468 Mulcaster Road, Mississauga, Ontario L5L5B3 Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Susan J. Sylvia</td>
<td>41 Westgate Road, Plainfield, New Hampshire 03781 USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Carol Syvatkauskas</td>
<td>935 SE Dowsett Lane, Gresham, Oregon 97080 USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTERS

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

Juneau Chapter
Merrill Jensen, President
23035 Glacier Highway
Juneau AK 99801
glacierdawg@gmail.com

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

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