The View from Here
FROM THE EDITOR

If you’ve ever wondered how we put together an issue of the quarterly, read on:

First one has to find content. We seldom get articles sent to us, so we consider the season, and set off to find some relevant material. Our first stop now is social media. It is the wave of the future. The Primula Lovers Page on Facebook always has lots of postings. I sometimes feel the quarterly is very old technology, but it does still have its uses. We usually find some photos and leads to material for the next APS quarterly issue.

Now we move on to contacting people for permission to use the material. This takes a couple of weeks, but most everyone is very helpful. Next comes laying out the information in the quarterly proof. It is exacting and detailed work, and takes a few sessions to get done. Sometimes we are lucky and more pictures suddenly appear. For this issue it was a flash drive from Calgary, brought to Victoria by a long-suffering husband, with many photos from Jeanie Jones’ recent trip to Sichuan! The drive was copied and returned and we set about selecting some colorful and interesting photos for the APS Primula Lovers Facebook site (including the Pictorial Dictionary) and use of the slide library. Does 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 1 and are delinquent January 1. Submit payment to the treasurer.

Advertising rates per issue
Black and White:
Full page: $100
Half page: $50
1/4 page: $30
1/8 page: $15
Color:
Half page: $150
Full page: $300
Back Cover: $450
Contact the treasurer for details.
If you want to see some spectacular pictures of Primula sieboldii, have a look at Penny’s Primulas - the holder of the UK National Collection.

Penny’s Primulas is the trading name for Staddon Farm Nurseries. The nursery is a small, family-run business, established in 1996. Penny and Melvyn will be your key contacts for processing your orders. Their North Devon nursery is not generally open to the public, but if you email them with a request, they will try to find a time for you to visit.

In Autumn 2013, Staddon Farm Nurseries was awarded National Collection status for Primula sieboldii Japanese cvs., by Plant Heritage, a UK charity whose aim is to preserve the diversity of garden plants in the British Isles.

Among Larry Bailey’s old papers was this two-page handout from a meeting in 1984(?) of the Washington State chapter. Looking further, I realized this was two pages from the 1948 APS Quarterly (vol. 7, no. 3, page 13 & 14). This intrigued me as a useful document for Primula growers, but what does it really tell us? I sent a note to John Richards, and he replied:

The chromosome number gives us very important information as to the evolutionary relationships of plants, and will also give us a guide as to whether plants will hybridize or not. If you have my monograph, you will see I give the chromosome number of every species for which it is known, and discuss it in great detail at both the species and sectional level with regard to evolutionary relationships. The chromosome number gives both the base number and the level of polyploidy. For instance, plants with a diploid count of 22, 44, 66 have the base number 11 and are diploid, tetraploid or hexaploid respectively. They may well be closely related, but will be unable to make fertile hybrids if crosses...
Building a National Collection... one plant at a time

MERRILL JENSEN

In the late summer of 2011, I attended a plant collections symposium sponsored by the American Public Gardens Association (APGA). Plant geeks from all across the world descended on Quarry Hill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen, California. As the manager of a very young public garden, I was ready to sit and learn from the masters of plant collections what it would take to build and document our growing collection of Primula. I had some very encouraging conversations with Pam Allenstein, Manager of the North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC), now the Plant Collections Network (PCN). I informed her about our founder, Caroline Jensen, and her love for Primula, and how I had embarked on a quest to find as many species and cultivars as possible. She suggested that we consider undertaking the work necessary to receive National Collections status in order to give our collection formal recognition. I already had one of the PCN’s basic requirements met, a plant collections and acquisitions policy, which I had drafted and our Board had approved earlier that year. Over the next year, I completed the rest of the requirements to apply for national accreditation which included an on-site visit to verify the accuracy of our plant records and labeling. In the fall of 2012, almost two years to the mark of drafting our collections and acquisitions policy, the Jensen-Olson Arboretum (JOA) joined an elite group of North American public gardens holding a nationally accredited collection.

During the spring of 2007, my first at JOA, I watched as Caroline’s Primula beds erupted with a range of species and cultivars I’d not been exposed to before. My previous experience with the genus had been limited to observing racks of wilted, garishly-colored, disposable polyanthus at box stores which did little to capture my attention. When the thousands of Primula that Caroline had planted began blooming, consisting of 36 species and cultivars, it was apparent to me that I needed to educate...
myself about the genus. Thankfully, she had in her library numerous books on the topic and my soon-to-be go-to reference, John Richards’ monograph. Another invaluable tool to which I refer almost daily is Pam Eveleigh’s website, Primula World. This visual reference has helped me on numerous occasions in sorting out Caroline’s unlabeled species.

As a compulsive plant collector, I welcomed the new challenge of tracking down and raising as many new species as possible. The seed exchanges of the American Primrose Society, the North American Rock Garden Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club were the logical first stops on my quest. In no time, the young collection had grown to 65 species and cultivars. The search went further afield as I contacted botanical institutions around Europe, plant collectors working in the Himalaya and specialty growers around the U.S. It was soon clear to me that there were a lot of misidentified plants being propagated and shared. The biggest frustration with assembling a large, diverse collection has been in finding seed of a much desired species, then waiting 2 to 3 years for it to flower only to find out you’ve been growing yet another P. japonica. With some species (P. pulverulenta and P. burmanica in particular), it took three tries to get the real thing.

The following (in no particular order) are some of the newer ones in the Collection that have been a pleasure to obtain and successfully grow.

- **P. flaccida** – This is the plant that fueled my desire as a collector. My original accession from Chiltern Seeds in the UK was a hit. It was the one plant in the collection that our PCN reviewer really wanted to see in person. Our second accession was wild-collected in China by the fine folks at Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend, WA. These plants are truly ethereal with their pyramidal, white-mealy spikes that seem to glow on overcast days.

- **P. warshenewskiana** – I probably obtained this one more for its name (that rolls off one’s tongue) than for its stature. It reminds me of a smaller version of P. rosea with petite flowers. I have this growing both in a pot and in the ground.

- **P. pinnatifida** – A member of Section Muscarioides, this small-flowered plant appealed to me for its very non-Primula foliage which is narrowly-lobed. Seed for these was obtained from The Himalayan Garden & Sculpture Park in Grewelthorpe, UK.

- **P. pulverulenta** – Like a P. japonica on steroids, but even better with its abundant silvery-white meal on the stems. Easy to grow (at least in Juneau) it self-sows and is making a nice colony. It is the largest of the candelabra-types with flower spikes that grow to 3 feet tall.

- **P. burmanica** – A member of Section Proliferae, that seems to do so well in Juneau. Seed for this came to us from Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. It is closely related to and resembles P. bulleyana.

- **P. grandis** – An unusual and very un-primrose looking flower on this member of Section Sredinskya. Previously, taxonomists had it in its own separate genus, but new DNA studies place it firmly within Section Primula where it is closely related to P. veris and P. elatior. Be warned; it’s very un-Primula looking flower does not appeal to all.

- **P. woronovii** – A Caucasian ‘species’, it is considered a subspecies of P. vulgaris. It has been a reliable bloomer, but has yet to set any seed here in Juneau.

- **P. ‘Midnight’** – A delightful, deep purple polyanthus from Barnhaven that has its roots in some of the original crosses made by Florence Bellis in the 1930s.

- **P. ‘Irma’s Gold’** – A Jensen-Olson Arboretum original, I believe. Found growing in the back of one of Caroline’s original plantings, this bright yellow Juliana-type has proved its worth to be elevated to cultivar status. I hope to register it in the near future.

This journey in working with plant collections started while I was working as one of the horticulturists at the Idaho Botanical Garden in Boise. It wasn’t until I moved to The Oregon Garden in Silverton and worked under the tutelage of Keith Wooliams, a plant collections master from the UK, that the true value of collections was imparted to me. Curated living collections provide opportunities for research, conservation and education. They also provide a source of accurately named germplasm to share with scientists, growers and enthusiasts. With practice and persistence, we will continue to find new sources of seed and continue to grow the collection here at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum. So, with one plant at a time, a collection quietly grows…
'American Beauty' is alive and well
One of the finest auricula selfs raised in the Pacific Northwest by Beth Tait is listed by Sequim Rare Plant Nursery. It is a strong clear red, a stunning plant, and Roger Pierce reports that he does have it in stock. There are other interesting auriculas listed on his website at: www.sequimrareplants.com

Derek Salt’s Website
We have to report that Derek Salt in England, of double auricula fame, has moved his website with his picture galleries to Facebook.

For full-color effect of these fantastic doubles, just click on Photos from Derek’s FaceBook page.

Henry Pugh news
Henry Pugh’s website seems to have disappeared, but you can still find pictures of his amazing doubles on the NAPS Midland and West website: www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk/galleries/show_fancy_auriculas.html

More Double Auriculas
There is a new website address for Richard Austin’s previous 2 websites which are now combined at the address below. Lots of good Primula and Auricula pictures on this site, especially Double Auriculas and Southern Section plants, plus good information. www.doubleauricula.com

Interview with Jodi Mitchel from Barnhaven
A fascinating interview with Jodie Mitchell of Barnhaven Nurseries can be found on Fabrice Chollet’s blog called Shade Plants. It will take a bit of work to view, however, as it is in French. If you load the site in Google Chrome, or any other browser that will translate for you, it gets easier. Navigate about halfway down the page to find the box on the right-hand side for Labels, and click on Barnhaven. It will take you to a listing of Barnhaven related articles. The first is the interview. www.jardinedefamille.fr/blog_plantes-ombre/

Tass Kelso
We are sad to report that a Primula expert has passed away this year. Sylvia ‘Tass’ Kelso was a North American Primula specialist and published papers on the species to be found in the US and Canada. For more information go to these two online sources.
www.legacy.com/obituaries/gazette/obituary.aspx?pid=180303646
cnhpblog.blogspot.ca/2016/07/remembering-dr-sylvia-tass-kelso.html
Donating & Ordering Seeds

The 2015-2016 APS Seed Exchange list of available seeds will be on the APS website in late December, with a link to Instructions and a printable Order Form. Members may also request a printed copy of the List, Instructions and Order Form by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Amy Olmsted 421 Birch Road, Hubbardton, VT 05733

And remember:
it’s not too late to send in your seed donations!

In the USA send seed to:
Amy Olmsted 421 Birch Road, Hubbardton, VT 05733
Send seed in Canada and outside North America to:
M. Martin 951 Joan Crescent, Victoria, BC V8S3L3 Canada

Left: seed pod of Primula sonchifolia taken by Jeanie Jones on her trip to Sichuan. See article on page 21.

Opposite: Judith Seller’s seed cleaning setup, note the necessary cup of tea!

Exciting Perennial varieties from seed

Left: seed pod of Primula sonchifolia taken by Jeanie Jones on her trip to Sichuan. See article on page 21.

Opposite: Judith Seller’s seed cleaning setup, note the necessary cup of tea!

Exciting Perennial varieties from seed

Left: seed pod of Primula sonchifolia taken by Jeanie Jones on her trip to Sichuan. See article on page 21.

Opposite: Judith Seller’s seed cleaning setup, note the necessary cup of tea!
Cy Happy at 94

NOTES FROM MARTY BENKE

This year a number of members of APS have been in touch with Marty Beneke, Cy Happy’s daughter to take away some Primula things. He has moved to a care home and the house he lived in is being cleared out. Marty writes:

“Dad is 94, born July 5th, 1922. He was born and has stayed on the Gravelly Lake estate most of his life. His mother, Marjorie A. Sayre, purchased her Gravelly Lake bungalow (left) in 1916 before she was married to Cyrus Happy Jr., Cy’s father. It is amazing to think his mom, my grandmother, bought it 100 years ago.

She was a big reason dad became interested in primroses. She grew them and there are beautiful teacup prizes for her winning plants, too. I can't remember which birthday it was that they gave him a little greenhouse of his own on the 6 acres of gardens, where he spent his time raising his primroses and auriculas.

As a little girl I always knew where to find him: in the greenhouse, with the wonderful smells of peat moss and fertilizers. Every once in a while he’d let me touch one and feel the dust. So pristine and beautiful were the green ones with black and yellow centers.”

Michael Plumb, the webmaster, has posted an article on Cy on the APS web page:

www.americanprimrosesociety.org/about-us/aps-people/cy-happy

Marty continues:

“Thank you again for your passion and dedication to including this article [on the website.] He is a national treasure. I’ll show him the article today. I’m sure he will be amazed, delighted, and honored.

It is a pleasure working with you and Roger Eichman [who also collected some material from Marty.] I’m so busy trying to organize his house and prepare it for the estate sale and house sale that it’s nice to take time to think about his and the estate’s history.

Photos of Gravelly Lake estate, and Cy on this page, provided by his daughter Marty Beneke. Photo of Cy on facing page, bottom, from the APS Quarterly.
Merrill’s new introductions

Clockwise from top left: *P. flaccida*, *P. pinnatifida* foliage, *P. pinnatifida*, *P. pulverulenta*, *P. warshenewskiana*

See article page 7

Clockwise from top left: *P. grandis*, *P. burmanica*, ‘Midnight’, Irma’s Gold’, *P. woronovii*
Jeanie Jones in Sichuan

This page:
P. amethystina
P. muscaroides
P. blinii

Facing page:
P. melanatha, P. laciniata
P. palmata
P. palmata habitat and tufa pools
In June 2016 I joined fifteen other people from the Alpine Garden Society to travel to Sichuan in Western China to photograph wild flowers. My two main loves are *Primula* and *Meconopsis* and I was not disappointed. I saw the following twenty *Primula*:

- *P. amethystina var. brevifolia*
- *P. cernua*
- *P. conspersa*
- *P. laciniata*
- *P. melanantha*
- *P. munroi ssp. yargongensis*
- *P. muscarioides*
- *P. orbicularis*
- *P. secundiflora*
- *P. sikkimensis*
- *P. sonchifolia*
- *P. stenocalyx*
- *P. tangutica*
- *P. violacea*
- *P. wilsonii*

Some years ago I had bought *P. melanantha*, but it did not survive my wet Scottish winter, so I was thrilled to see it in flower with its velvety black petals.

*P. laciniata* (see right) was most interesting with very unusual spiky leaves and numerous pale lilac flowers.

*P. tangutica* came in many colors, but I was disappointed not to see the yellow form.
The Muscarioides Section plants were the most difficult to sort out and I am very grateful to Pam Eveleigh of Primula World and Professor John Richards for all their help.

P. sikkimensis (below) is an old favourite, having seen it in on my first visit to Asia in Yunnan, China, then acres of it in Bhutan, including the lovely pale version P. sikkimensis var. hopeana. It was also in Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh in India.

I have now seen over 80 Primula growing in Asia and fifteen of these I had never seen before this tour. The challenge now is to try to acquire seed and not only germinate it, but grow it on to flowering size and to see the plants flowering in my garden.

Photo Caption Correction, Summer issue 2016:
Jay Lunn (right) with friends Stan Gibson (a potter, left) and Dr. Terry Laskiewicz (center), holding Stan’s pot with an auricula Terry grew from APS seed at the APS National Show.

Membership List

JULIA HALDORSON, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership in the American Primrose Society runs on the calendar year and includes four issues of our journal “Primroses”; the first issue being Winter, on to Spring, Summer and with Fall, the last issue for the year. As we are at the end of the calendar year, renewals for 2016 are due around November 15, 2016.

You can use PayPal to renew on the APS website, the membership application form found there or use the renewal form tucked into the Fall issue of “Primroses”. Submit payment to our Treasurer:

Jon Kawaguchi
3524 Bowman Court
Alameda, California 94502 USA

Please renew today using these easy steps:
• Check out the Membership List in this issue of “Primroses” to see if your membership expires in 2016.
• If your membership expires in 2016 - go to the website to renew either by using PayPal or the membership application form; or use the form found within the Fall issue of “Primroses”. (please note: Canadian members should not use Canadian checks. Our bank charges us $10US for each Canadian check we deposit. International Money Orders can be deposited without a fee.)
• Submit your renewal to our Treasurer on or around November 15, 2016.

Questions about your membership?
Contact me at julia-haldorson@ak.net.

USA
Alabama
2016 Ann Katholi 315 Poinciana Dr Homewood AL 35209
2016 Suzanne Forster 1020 P St Anchorage AK 99501
2016 Robbie Frankovich P.O. Box 1001 Girdwood AK 99587

Alaska
2016 Jensen- Olson Arboretum c/o Merrill Jensen 23035 Glacier Highway Juneau AK 99801
2016 Jane A. Baldwin 4907 Roger Dr Anchorage AK 99507
2016 Gretchen Blanchard 3177 S Tangass Hwy Ketchikan AK 99901
2016 Mary Jo Burns 5580 Grand Teton Loop Anchorage AK 99502
2016 Robert L. Daniels P.O. Box 20511 Juneau AK 99802
2016 Paul Dick 2906 Blueberry Hills Rd Juneau AK 99801
2016 Gina Docherty 14051 Fejes Rd Anchorage AK 99515
2016 Dixie Weiss 3220 Foster Juneau AK 99801
2016 Elana S. White P.O. Box 476 Kodiak AK 99615-0476
2016 Suzanne Merriman 3513 W 79th Ave Anchorage AK 99502
2016 Kris Mund P.O. Box 34356 Juneau AK 99803
2016 Darcy Damrau Steck 2697 Channel Dr Juneau AK 99801
2016 Carmel Tyver 2030 Patriot Circle Anchorage AK 99515

Questions about your membership?
Contact me at julia-haldorson@ak.net.
American Primrose Society
Minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 31, 2016

The meeting was held online. Quorum and start at 6.14 pm, EDST.

Board members present: Mark Dyen (Director), Julia Haldorson (Director and Membership Secretary), Merrill Jensen (Director and President, Juneau Chapter), Alan Lawrence (APS President), Michael Plumb (Secretary and Webmaster), Rhondda Porter (APS Vice-President)

A. Approval of the Agenda (Mark/Michael) approved with the addition of discussion of funding for signage at Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau under New Business.

B. Minutes of AGM April 2016 – to be dealt with at 2017 AGM. Michael will send out a second draft of these minutes once comments have been received.

C. Business Arising from the minutes of January 24, 2016, and Old Business

1. Signage for the national primula Collection and Word Garden at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau:
   a. Merrill reported that a grant request for approximately $12,000 will be submitted next week. We should have a response in November. If the request is turned down, the APS-sponsored sign will still be installed, but in a different location at the Arboretum.
   b. Quote for the APS sign is $460, not including shipping to Alaska. Merrill will check on shipping options and inform the board via email.
   c. There are already several drafts for the APS sign (Work still in progress).

2. Application by the APS to become the International Cultivar Naming Authority for Primula:
   a. Alan remarked that he had received little input so far as to what the plant description on the template form should include.
   b. Rhondda noted that Alan's photographic collection of named primulas deals with new varieties only. She suggested it might be easier to describe (register) older, better-known cultivars.
   c. Merrill commented that color description, which is often quite subjective, could be made easier by referring to the RHS Colour Chart.
   d. Alan responded that a good template is still needed. He suggested an online form that gives distinctive characteristics similar to the way species are described in John Richard's book Primula.
   e. ACTION: Alan will set up a prototype form modelled on Richard's species descriptions.

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, who has kindly offered his services in this regard, had not yet been contacted by Cy's children.

D. Treasurer's Report (Emailed before the meeting)
1. Income less expenses April 1st to June 30th 2016: ($832.13)
2. Income less expenses January 1st to June 30th 2016: ($336.83)
3. Total liabilities and equity as of March 31st 2016: $28,013.90
4. MOTION (Mark/Michael) to accept. Carried.

E. Committee Reports
1. Membership (Julia, by email):
   a. Total membership as of July 29 is 265

2. Editorial Committee (Maedythe, by email, plus Alan):
   a. The summer issue is in the mail and up on the website for members.
   b. Alan reminded Merrill to send a list of the National Collection for the quarterly.
   ACTION: Merrill

3. Website (Michael, by email):
   a. Summer Quarterly posted for members
   b. Photos of 2016 National Show posted.
   c. Access codes for website were given to new members as requested.
   d. Appeal for seed donations is now on Home Page.
   e. Michael is filling out past shows in the Photo Gallery, and is asking members to kindly donate any of their photos.

4. MOTION (Michael/Merrill) to accept all submitted committee reports. Carried.

F. New Business

National Show 2017: The board added this to the agenda by unanimous vote (Michael/Rhondda).
   a. Alan and Rhondda asked if Juneau would be willing to hold the show. It would also be an opportunity to view the National Primula Collection held there.
   b. ACTION: Merrill will check with the Juneau Chapter. He himself will unfortunately be occupied with the Arboretum at that time.

G. Next meeting: Provisionally, Sunday, October 23rd 2016 at 6.00 pm EDST. Alan will confirm.

H. Adjournment: (Mark) at 7.30 pm EDST.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Plumb, Secretary
Join the National Auricula & Primula Society
Midland & West Section
www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk

£10.00 Overseas Membership.

New Members
New Members
April 9 - July 14, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Expiry</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Gunnar Bekken</td>
<td>Kesthagen 1, 7290 Storen, Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Dorothy Bennett</td>
<td>1693 White Hills Run, Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1W1 Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Gretchen Blanchard</td>
<td>3177 South Tongass Highway, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Anne-Marie Eischen</td>
<td>428 S LaGrange, LaGrange, Illinois 60528 USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Dale R. Haynes</td>
<td>1253 Crenshaw Road, Eugene Oregon 97401-2002 USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Sarah Mustin</td>
<td>53 Wilber Street, Keene, New Hampshire 03431 USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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