



Primroses

The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Winter 2021

Vol. 79

No. 1



Primroses

The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Volume 79 No. 1

Winter 2021

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 Elizabeth Lawson	3
Climate Change and the <i>Primula</i> Collection™ by Merrill Jensen	7
Behind the Scenes at the Seed Exchange by Maedythe Martin.....	11
A New Image Resource.....	19
Barnhaven, Propagation and Castles by J Mitchell and L Lawson	21
John Rea, Historical Notes by Maedythe Martin.....	22
Planting a Seed by Dean Wiegert, Secretary	24
APS as ICRA <i>Primula</i> Update by Patricia Hartman	25
2021 Spring Election	
Minutes November 22, 2020	28
New Members	31
Officers of the Chapters	31

Credits: Photos and text reproduced with permission.
Front cover: A picote garden auricula originally from John Kerridge seed from the 1990s. Photo by Maedythe Martin
Back cover: *Primula veris*, an oxslip, growing in BC Primula Group member Jane Mitchell's garden and blooming in December 2020 in Vancouver, BC
Clipart Images by OpenClipart-Vectors from Pixabay

OFFICERS

President (to spring 2021)
Elizabeth Lawson
115 Kelvin Place
Ithaca, NY 14850 USA
president@
americanprimrosesociety.org

Vice President (to spring 2021)
Mark Dyen
132 Church Street
Newton, MA 02158 USA

Secretary (to spring 2021)
Dean Wiegert
3708 E Norport Dr
Port Washington, WI 53074
USA
secretary@
americanprimrosesociety.org

Treasurer Jon Kawaguchi
3524 Bowman Court
Alameda, CA 94502 USA
treasurer@
americanprimrosesociety.org

DIRECTORS - to spring 2021
Amy Olmsted,
421 Birch Road
Hubbardton VT 05733 USA

Ed Buyarski
P.O. Box 33077
Juneau, AK 99803-3077 USA

DIRECTORS - to spring 2022
Julia Halderson
Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 292
Greenbank, WA 98253 USA
membership@
americanprimrosesociety.org

Pat Hartman
17060 Island View Drive
Juneau, AK 99801 USA

Janice Anthony
291 Hatch Rd.
Jackson, ME. 4921 USA

DIRECTORS - to spring 2023
Lucy Coles
3 Penny Meadow Lane
Hopkinton, MA 01748

Primroses
Editor
Jane Guild
2546 Wentwich Road
Victoria, BC V9B 3N4 Canada
editor@americanprimrosesociety.org

Editorial Committee
Maedylthe Martin
Judith Sellers
Michael Plumb

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

© American Primrose Society 2021

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 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 creditor.

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to Primroses, Seed Exchange privileges, password to the members' only section of the APS website (including the Pictorial Dictionary).

Dues for individual or household memberships, per year, are as follows:
US - \$30
Canada - \$32
International - \$38
World-wide digital-only - \$25
Membership renewals reminders will be sent out 30 days before expiry.

Advertising per issue:
Black and White:
Full page \$100
Half page \$60
Quarter page \$30
Eighth page: \$15
Color:
Half page \$150
Full page \$300
Back Cover \$450
Contact the Treasurer for details

The View from Here

ELIZABETH LAWSON

It is still winter as I write, but we have made it into 2021 where new plans are afoot. A friend in the UK who follows primroses sent me an article about Italy's primrose-themed COVID-19 vaccination plan. The Stefano Boeri Architetti firm along with many specialized consultants has proposed 1,500 pop-up vaccination pavilions in the shape of a primrose that will be placed in Italy's major piazzas. Thoughtfully designed for disassembly and reassembly, these timber-framed structures are solar-paneled and constructed with a variety of recycled and recyclable materials.

An important part of the vaccination campaign is the slogan "Italy is reborn with a flower." Many of the articles about the design refer to the choice of the "humble" primrose as symbol of hope and renewal. In a press release Boeri Architetti salutes the primrose as the first flower "to blossom after the long winter and announce the reawakening of nature and the arrival of spring... This flower is the element that will link every aspect of the campaign....It will be clearly visible from above as large versions of it will be printed on the pavilion roofs, side walls and information totems." The firm has released striking images showing their projections of the bright-pink primrose-roofed pavilions glowing in Italy's most iconic settings. I think I can say for all of us at APS that we congratulate Boeri et al. for honoring the



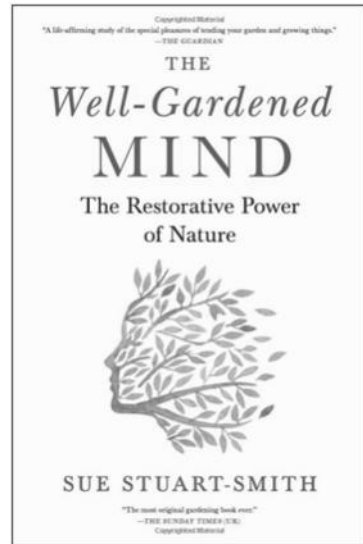
primrose in this important campaign.

Meanwhile I have continued my reading of Sue Stuart-Smith's *The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature* (2020). Her thesis is that the work of gardening in the natural world both mimics and supports the “gardening” going on in the brain, particularly when damage has occurred, in the form of illness, abuse, addiction, and war, for example, or the loss of loved ones and livelihood in a pandemic. In one particularly affecting chapter called “War and Gardens,” Stuart-Smith describes how chaplain John Stanhope Walker created a garden at

the Somme, where one of the most horrific of battles occurred. One million men, of the three million present, were killed or maimed during the 141 days of the Somme offensive. Walker wrote home that while few wanted to attend his sermons, “The garden is really gorgeous and the sides of the tent are down so the patients just gaze out at it.” During a walk on newly captured territory after the British had advanced, he found outside a German dugout “auriculas, shrubs and roses in tubs, window boxes and flower pots” that had been tended right in the midst of fighting.

In her discussion of horticultural therapy, Stuart-Smith weaves in many stories that should not be forgotten. The term used in WWI for soldiers suffering from war trauma was neurasthenia or shell shock,

perhaps now categorized as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Arthur Brock, a doctor at Craiglockhart Hospital, (seen left) outside Edinburgh, a place where soldiers in WWI were sent to

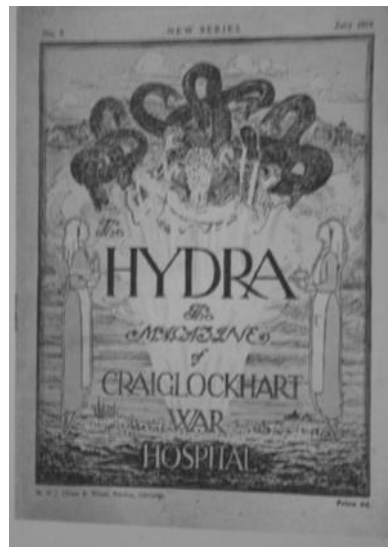


By Brideshead - Own work, Public Domain

recover from shell shock, advocated his own brand of nature cure for disengaged patients rather than the usual bed-rest-and-milk-diet cure or electric shock therapy. This meant tending a garden, walking in the Pentland Hills, studying local botany and geology in order to compose a Regional Survey, writing for the hospital magazine, and lecturing at the Field Club. Brock used the myth of Antaeus as inspiration for his treatment. Antaeus was a giant of great strength who could only be defeated when his feet were lifted off the ground, a secret that Hercules discovered and used to defeat him in a wrestling match. Brock didn't approve of "picture houses" where movies offered distraction from reality. He wanted his patients' feet on the ground literally and mentally.

Wilfred Owen (1893–1918), often named the greatest poet of WWI, spent a year at Craiglockhart from 1917 to 1918 recuperating from shell shock. He had been thrown into the air by a mortar bomb and lay unconscious on the battlefield for two days. By all accounts the year at Craiglockhart offered him the chance to heal enough to complete a lasting body of work. Patients received the following encouragement to write for *The Hydra*, the hospital magazine: "We notice many officers standing about doing nothing. Next time you have nothing to do, go and write something. It will probably be printed, and there is a certain amount of satisfaction in seeing one's efforts in print." In addition to the poems he wrote for *The Hydra*, he gave a lecture to the Field Club titled "Do plants think?" in which he described a plant's responses to environmental stimuli as analogous to a sensory system. Owen recovered at Craiglockhart and returned to the front, only to be killed a week later at age 25. Glen Art, a Scottish charity that supports veterans, released this press release in 2017:

Glen Art in partnership with The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and The Wilfred Owen Association have teamed up to create an incredibly poignant garden at this year's Gardening Scotland to



A preserved cover of "The Hydra" magazine, issue 9, July 1918 photographed by [Stephencdickson](#)

commemorate the CWGC's centenary and that of Wilfred Owen's stay at Craiglockhart in Edinburgh in 1917. The 'One Hundred Years of Remembrance' garden is a first for the CWGC at the Gardening Scotland show and was designed by the Commission's very own Gardener Caretaker First Class, Robert Ross and will be built and created by veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from Glen Art. (<https://www.glenart.co.uk/gardening-scotland/>)



Siegfried Sassoon (May 1915) by George Charles Beresford

Owen was fortunate in that last year to find a mentor at Craiglockhart, poet Siegfried Sassoon (1886–1967), also being treated for shell shock. Sassoon shared literary connections with the younger man, and their poems appeared together in *The Hydra*. Both faced criticism for finding war unbearable. Unlike Owen, Sassoon survived a return to the front and lived a long life. His poem below seems to describe the promise of next year's primroses from this vantage point:

Another Spring

Aged self, disposed to lose his hold on life,
Looks down, at winter's ending, and perceives
Continuance in some crinkled primrose leaves
A noise of nesting rooks in tangled trees.
Stillness — inbreathed, expectant. Shadows that bring
Cloud-castled thoughts from downland distances.
Eyes, ears are old. But not the sense of spring.

Look, listen, live, some inward watcher warns.
Absorb this moment's meaning: and be wise
With hearts whom the first primrose purifies.

Siegfried Sassoon



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE NATIONALLY ACCREDITED *PRIMULA* COLLECTION™

MERRILL JENSEN

In the fall of 2010, I began the process of turning the nascent collection of *Primula* growing at the newly formed Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau, Alaska, into a National Collection for the genus. Before taking the position as Arboretum Manager in 2007 and moving to Alaska from the Lower 48, I had relegated primroses to the category of “disposable” annuals purchased at the big box stores. I was pleasantly surprised to see the diversity that Caroline Jensen (no relation to me), our founder and benefactor, had planted.



Mixed primroses at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum, taken by Becky Carls.

I was hooked! And as a compulsive plant collector, I set out to find as many species and cultivars as possible that would grow in Juneau’s near perfect cool, maritime climate for their cultivation. During that acquisition process, I attended a plant collections symposium hosted by the American Public Gardens Association. I met the Plant Collections Network’s (PCN) manager; she encouraged me to apply for national collections status.

Caroline had approximately 30 species and cultivars in place when I arrived in 2007; by the time National Collection status was awarded, I

had approximately 65 under cultivation. In the following years, that number climbed to over 200. That number could have been substantially higher if all the seed that I brought in had germinated, or had been correctly identified and labeled. It took multiple tries to get both *P. pulverulenta* and *burmanica* into the Collection.

To accommodate the ever-expanding Collection, new bed space had to be created. I selected an area that I thought would be good for new species, but soon found out that Mother Nature had other ideas... The last two years in Juneau have seen radical departures from what has been considered “normal” weather conditions. In 2019 Juneau experienced its hottest, driest year on record. I had to irrigate the Arboretum for 50 consecutive days to keep the collections alive. Well capacity allows for only one hose to run at any given time, so...it takes 4.5 days to water the Arboretum. If a plant was flagging due to hot, dry conditions and was still 3 days away from its next watering, it just had to wait its turn. Many of the Sino-Himalayan plants suffered as a result. Watering a temperate rainforest for that successive number of days was inconceivable even just a few years ago. Many of the plants that showed problems with those drought conditions either failed to emerge in 2020, or did not bloom at all. In fact, one of our largest swaths of *P. japonica* failed to flower this year. Other non-blooming species during 2020 included *P. aurantiaca*, *beesiana*, *bulleyana*, *capitata*, *chionantha*, *cortusoides*, *firmipes*, *hoffmanniana*, *ioessa*, *jesoana*, *lutea*, *polyneura*, *pulverulenta*, *rushyi* and *waltonii*. The species that did not survive the hot



Flagging *Primula alpicola* in the heat at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum

summer conditions were *P. apoclita*, *cernua*, *concholata*, *deflexa*, *flaccida* (one of my favorites...), *geraniifolia*, *halleri*, *longipes*, *macrophylla*, *maximowiczii* (short-lived anyway...), *prolifera*, *violacea*, and *watsonii*. The unusual heat of 2019 also affected the quantity of seed I was able to provide to the annual APS Seed Exchange. It was the poorest seed-collecting season during my tenure at the Arboretum.

2020 was the exact opposite of 2019. Juneau was one day short of the wettest summer ever recorded. One could count the number of dry days from the beginning of June to the end of August on 2 hands... This long, wet stretch also affected the quantity of seed set due to the lack of pollinators. Despite the unusual weather, some species didn't seem to mind. *P. matthioli* (seen right in the Piatra Mare Mountains, Romania by [Xulescu g - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0](#)) and *vialii* didn't seem fazed and produced an abundance of seed. The cause of that is worthy of further study.



As early as 2016, our winter weather began to change. No longer was the snow adequately deep to serve as winter mulch, nor was it in place for the entire season. As some of the climate models suggested, Southeast Alaska's winters are forecasted to be warmer and wetter. We also are experiencing more freeze-thaw cycles during the winter months in periods with no snow on the ground. The past couple of winters, December has been warm and mild, with plants either not going dormant or breaking dormancy and beginning to grow, only to be hit with single digit temperatures a few days or weeks later. Covering high value plants for the winter with either spruce boughs or burlap bags does lend some winter protection, but that has shown to be inadequate when temperatures fluctuate between 45F/7C and 0F/-17C over a day or two. One of the species that has suffered the most due to that cycling is *Primula juliae*. Historically, we have had robust,

beautiful, blooming mats of these; now, they are greatly reduced and barely flower.



**Plant
Collections
Network**

AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

So what will all this mean for the Collection? Good question! Diversity will certainly be affected as well as the ability to collect and share seed from the existing Collection. Perhaps the focus will shift to the core species with adding more cultivars (a shift which would sadden the plant geek in me). Another possibility for the Collection is to collaborate with other public gardens that are in similar climatic zones, to form a multi-site, accredited collection. Other national collections successfully follow this PCN-allowed arrangement. Examples of these are the oak, maple, and magnolia collections. Institutions across Canada and Western Washington are possible partners to the Arboretum for this venture. Having a source of backup plant material is also an option. Local growers with different microclimates could have plants available for replacing ones that have perished on site at the Arboretum.

Botanophilia LLC

For people who love plants!

*Specializing in a range of
interesting plants for shaded
gardens, including Primula.*

www.iloveshadeplants.com

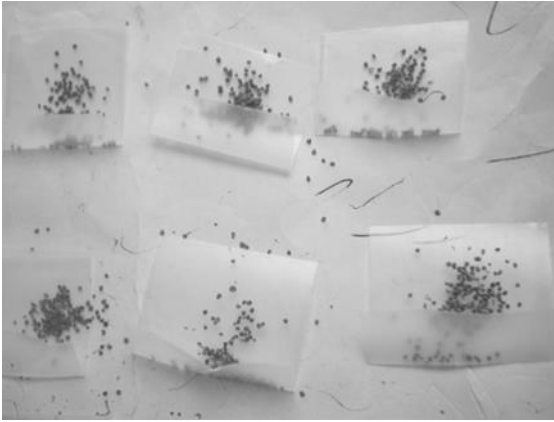
That all, of course, will be up to the new Director of the Arboretum. After 13 ½ years at the helm, I am retiring in December 2020 and moving back to Oregon to enjoy different pursuits. It has been the job of a lifetime to have had the opportunity to start a new public institution from scratch, assemble a Nationally Accredited Plant Collection™, and learn how to chase bears with a leaf-blower. I wish the new Director, Ginger Hudson very well and hope she will enjoy advancing the Collection to the next stage.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE SEED EXCHANGE

MAEDYTHE MARTIN

Have you ever even given a thought to how the seeds get into the little packages that come to you in an envelope from the APS seed exchange?



It is not by magic, but there are a number of elves at work putting the seeds into the envelopes. Donors, some of whom are most generous, send the seeds in an envelope with literally thousand of seeds in some of them.

To send you the 50 or 100 seeds for you to grow, the seeds have to be divided up. Amy Olmsted, the seed exchange coordinator does the bulk of the work, but I help her with the seeds from Jeanie Jones in Scotland.

I find the easiest way for me is to divide them into little folds of wax paper. I think Amy puts the allocated amount into glassine envelopes, but I don't have a supply of them. And I do have wax paper, which can be cut into 1 inch squares. I am able to concentrate to do about one package a day, but I do this all





of November, and they all get done eventually, ready to send out to keen growers when they send in their orders.

The amount to go into the individual packets depends on the number of seeds sent by the donor. Candelabra plants are usually very generous with their seeds (seen left), so a pinch of seed is usually about 100 seeds. Think of the grand array of pastel *Primulas* you can get from a packet of *P. beesiana*. Pink, lilac, orange sherbet and pale yellow will show up if you plant the seeds (see facing page, bottom). For my own hand pollinated auriculas, I try to put 10 to 12 into individual packets,

as I only get one or two seed pods per plant, and so seeds are much fewer in number. I figure if you can get two plants, you can produce your own seed in a couple of years.

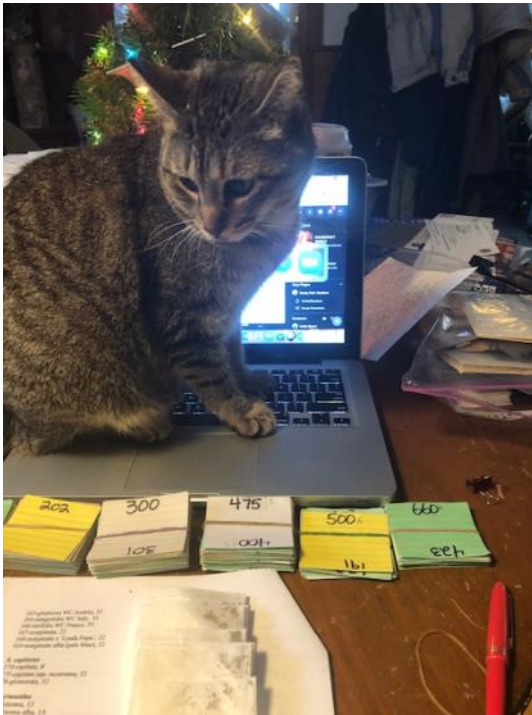
The APS seed exchange is a unique way to get a wide array of *Primulas* for not a lot of money. Some seeds are purchased, such as those from Barnhaven. They are precious and expensive, but you can just conveniently order them from APS and once you have a few plants, you have your own supply of seeds. The seed exchange depends on donations from growers of many of the species and garden varieties of *Primula*. Perhaps next year, as well as ordering your own supply of seeds, think of saving seeds your plants late next spring and sending them to the seed exchange for others to enjoy as well.



Amy Olmsted's cat, Daisy, helping out



2020-2021 APS Seed Exchange



Amy
Olmsted, our
faithful Seed
Exchange
Co-ordinator
compiles
seed orders
at home
with the help
of her cat
Daisy.

“Think of the



grand array of pastel primulas you can get from a packet of *P. beesiana*. Pink, lilac, orange sherbet and pale yellow will show up if you plant the seeds”

Hand-pollinated seed from named Fancy Show auriculas like 'Deal', seen here, may only contain 10-12 seeds.



**Exciting
Perennial varieties
from seed**



PRIMULA vulgaris ssp. sibthorpii

Jelitto

STAUDENSAMEN · PERENNIAL SEEDS · GRAINES DE PLANTES VIVACES

Production · Breeding · Seed Technology

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

Phone (502) 895-08 07 · Fax (502) 895-39 34 · <http://www.jelitto.com> · maryv@jelitto.com

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

Phone 01149-5071-98 29-0 · Fax 01149-50 71-98 29-27 · www.jelitto.com · info@jelitto.com



We Asked...

What are the *Primula* you've photographed that are your favorite?

Liz and George Knowles Answered...

Primula griffithii (left)

Primula sonchifolia (below)





...and *Primula wigramiana*, seen above, and in its native habitat in Nepal, below, both photographed by Liz and George Knowles on one of their treks in South Asia.



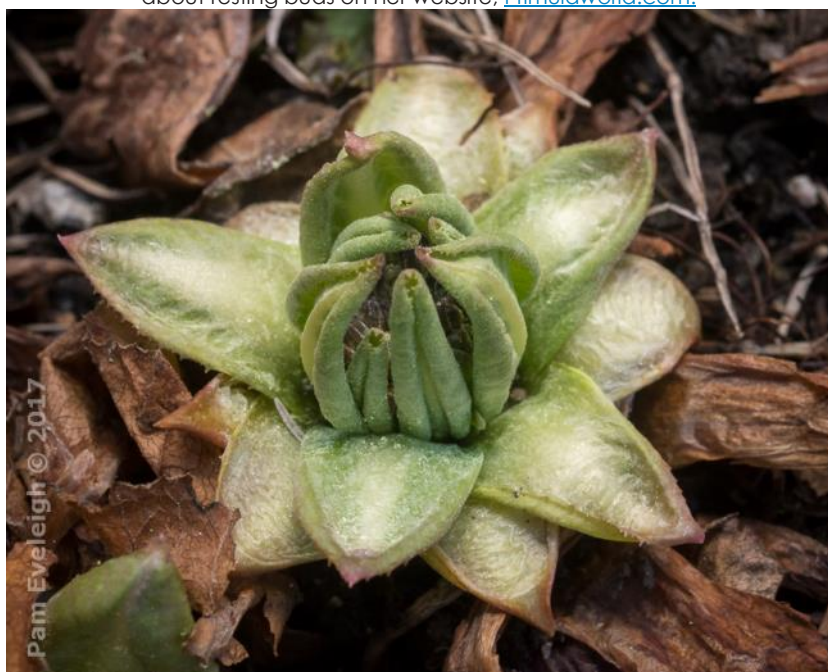
Resting Buds: A Promise of Things to Come

The resting bud is the embodiment of the growth that will be seen in the Spring. *Primula denticulata* is seen here in Amy Olmsted's garden in December 2020.





Silvery resting buds of *Primula frondosa* seen above, in Amy Olmsted's garden. A resting bud of *Primula denticulata* from Pam Eveleigh. See more about resting buds on her website, Primulaworld.com.



A New Image Resource

Our friend, Eduardo Barba, in Madrid, recently made us aware of a “very useful website that joins a lot of *Primulas* old illustrations together”. Plant Illustrations brings together images from free resources around the internet that would take hours to find otherwise. A quick search for *Primula* brings up results like this:



Check out plantillustrations.org/taxa.php?id_taxon=6892
to see all the images of *Primula*.



Newly planted Candelabras from Barnhaven
(above) in the grounds of a local chateau
'Rosanbo' (below).



BARNHAVEN, PROPOGATION AND CASTLES

JODIE MITCHELL AND LYNNE LAWSON

Editor's note: We didn't have quite enough room in the last Quarterly for all of Jodie and Lynne's words, so we have them for you now. Many nurseries and home gardeners are looking at going organic, and it's interesting to hear how our friends at Barnhaven are tackling the challenge.

Because of the last two very hot summers we are having to re-think propagation timing. We used to try and get the majority of plants split in the summer months, but for the double primroses and auriculas this has been proving disastrous. Now we are waiting until September, but it means the plants aren't big enough to be sent out until late autumn, leaving us with a very short selling season.

Pollinating last season was tricky, too. We are in the process of moving to a totally organic production, trying to eliminate all chemicals, so it's a case of experimentation with various concoctions of garlic, fern, seaweed etc., and it's a big learning curve finding out which works with what and when; and in the meantime we seem to be increasing bio diversity in the tunnels. Hence the pollinating was a very sticky business, coping with insects as companions. We are making progress though and despite being more labour intensive and complicated, for us this is the only way to go.

On the positive side, a lot of our customers have also had more time on their hands and we have seen an upsurge in seed sales with people trying the delights of growing primroses from seed for the first time which can be a very rewarding experience.





**Barnhaven
Primroses**

Keranguiner,
22310, Plestin-les-Grèves, France
+ 00 33 (0) 2 96 35 68 41
info@barnhaven.com
www.barnhaven.com

**BARNHAVEN PLANTS AND
SEEDS ONLINE**

One of the largest
collection of
Primula, including
the original
Barnhaven strains
still carefully
hand-pollinated
from rigorously selected plants.

PLANTS SENT BARE-ROOTED TO THE
U.S. WITH PHYTOSANITARY
CERTIFICATE.

JOHN REA, HISTORICAL NOTES

MAEDYTHE MARTIN

Anyone passionate about growing auriculas knows that the British have a wealth of historical material available to them that we in the New World just don't have. I recently came across a great article about one of the first auricula growers in England, John Rea. A member of the Southern Section of the National Auricula and Primula Society (NAPS) had an old book called 'Flora' published in London in 1665. She gave it to Steve and Angela Lobley (Angela was editor of the yearbook at the time) who painstakingly translated the old English into something the NAPS Southern readers could more easily understand. The result is a fascinating article which appeared in the NAPS Southern Yearbook, 2016, p. 71 to 77.

Steve and Angela explain that John Rea, 1605 (?)– 1677, was a keen grower of auriculas and "The 1665 work reveals Rea's huge collection of plants, and reflects the experience, expertise and contacts he must have had to acquire nurture and propagate such a stock. He described himself as a Florist, growing flowers for their own sake, which at the time was a new trend in gardening." Their article continues with excerpts from the 'Flora' book, translated into modern English. Here are a few extracts.

Translated extract from 'Flora' by John Rea dated 1665

Auricula – Bears Ears

"*Bear's Ears* are nobler kinds of cowslips, and well regarded (highly prized) in respect of the many excellent varieties discovered in recent years., differing in the size, fashion and colour of the green leaves, as well flowers. These I will list under their colours namely purple, red or scarlet, yellow or buff colour, snow or milk white, and acquaint you with so many fine varieties in each of them, as maybe sufficient to stock a *florists* garden, and by following my instructions, you may be able to raise new varieties from their seeds."

There follows sections on Purple, Fire Red Coloured, Yellow and

White Coloured Flowers. I have for years read and admired the Reverend Oscar Morton's folio of auricula plates, (*The Auricula, it's History and Character*, Ariel Press, London, 1964) and remember his reference to 'Mistress Buggs fine purple' auricula, and here in the excerpt from Rea we get the original reference. The Lobleys sprinkle their article with old plates of auricula flowers from Phytanthoza Iconographia, 1737, which give the reader some idea of what these auriculas of the time might have looked like.

In the next section, **Cultivation – Propagation**, the excerpts describe the cultivation methods in use in those days. "The Bears Ears must be planted in a place that is a little shaded from the scorching heat of the sun. The soil made very rich, stiffened with sand and well rotted Neats-Dung..."

The raising of varieties from seed follows next. "The raising of varieties from seed is a secret few are well acquainted with, and it is to be performed with something more than common diligence, according to the following rules. After the flowers have died and the stalks begin to grow yellow, you may observe in the top of that little round seed vessel a small hole, and then you can be assured the seed is almost ripe..." All this advice is still useful for auricula growers today.

Rea next gives us notes on seed starting methods and mixes and when to start the seeds. In a final sentence, Rea offers some further advice, "Now above all things you must be sure to get the seeds of good flowers, for from these springeth all your hopes..." One must remember hand pollination had yet to be discovered and practiced.

This is a rare and precious glimpse into the past history of the auricula and we are grateful for Steve and Angela Lobley for making it more widely available to modern day auricula growers.



PLANTING A SEED

DEAN WIEGERT, SECRETARY

Why join a single plant society or any plant society? The Internet, Facebook, Instagram, and other on-line platforms all seem to provide the modern plant enthusiast with benefits once available mainly through plant societies. There is any number of websites giving advice and information on growing just about anything. Online plant forums offer virtual camaraderie and a chance to chat and share pictures of your favorite plant. So what can a plant society offer that these other platforms can't? In-person plant shows would be one thing, I suppose. But with a pandemic preventing gatherings as I write, I'm not sure that is a selling point. The truth is, I don't know the answer to my question.

I joined the American Primrose Society (APS) to connect with other *Primula* growers. I am in my mid 50s and have a certain sense of nostalgia for a time that existed before I came of age, when people's attention spans seemed longer, life seemed less hectic, and plant obsessed people met others in person to show and tell. That nostalgia also factors in my enjoyment of a physical publication, like *Primroses*, focusing on my own plant interests, the genus *Primula*.

But I recognize that if APS and other single-plant societies don't adapt and change with the times, then it may be only a matter of time before they disappear altogether. If you're reading this, it seems you must be interested in, and care about, the Society. If you have ideas about how to carry the society forward into the 21st century, then now is the time to act. If you are younger than I am, and you embrace technology more than I do then maybe you have ideas for stimulating membership growth. Maybe you have ideas about what the society **could** be but that it currently **isn't**. Teach us all how to expand and improve our society. Do not be shy.

To those reading this who are my age or older, whether or not you can offer anything new and innovative, we need you too. This is your society. Write an article for *Primroses* or send in some pictures of your *Primula*, your seed starting, or your plant division. Produce some content for the website. Are you good at networking? Can you work with or lead a group and form consensus? Read the descriptions of the board duties on the website; consider offering to help wherever the board may need help. Nominate someone to the board or stand for

election yourself in the spring election. Even if you think you have no other skill than growing great plants, the society can benefit from your commitment.

Maybe you think you're too busy and don't have time to contribute. People who get things done are usually busy people. This society is only going to be as good as the effort we put into it. Contact the board, ask what you can do, share your ideas, share your interests, tell us about your experience and skills, tell us what you'd like to learn more about. Bring your ideas for ways to move the society forward. Please write me at secretary@americanprimrosesociety.org to discuss any of these ideas. I look forward to connecting with members who feel the call to be more involved.



APS AS ICRA *PRIMULA* UPDATE

PATRICIA HARTMAN

In the Summer 2020 quarterly, I was invited to write “The View from Here” and let my fellow APS members know about the APS Boards decision to pursue becoming the International Cultivar Registration Authority or ICRA for *Primula*. I am pleased to say that the application has been submitted and forwarded to the Special Commission for review. Please refer back to the above mentioned quarterly for details about what the APS Committee is working on in order to fulfill the goal of becoming the ICRA for *Primula*. Hopefully perhaps by the next quarterly or this Spring we will have heard about the status of our application. I'm sure most of you know that due to the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide things are a little slower than all of us would like. If you are interested in getting involved with this project or you have a *Primula* cultivar you might want to register, please email me the “type” of *Primula*, such as *P. auricula* (5) or *P. juliae* (2), along with the number you might have to register. At this time, the committee would only be looking for the type of cultivars and number you might be able to submit in the near future. Hopefully 2021 will be the year that we get this off the ground and up and working. Please watch for updates in the quarterly and on the website as they become available. Happy New Year to All!

Patricia.hartman4@gmail.com



2021 SPRING ELECTION

The Spring 2021 Election will open on February 1, 2021 and will close on March 15, 2021. For general information on the society's elections, including information about board positions and on nominating candidates, login on the APS website, choose 'Members' from the main menu and click on 'Elections'.

There are five board positions up for election, the President, Vice-President, Secretary and two Director positions. Candidate biographies are available on the APS website. To vote in the Spring 2021 election, your membership must be current.

You may cast your vote in one of several ways. You may vote online at the APS website by visiting the Elections page and following the voting instructions. You may print your own paper ballot from the website and send it to the Secretary as indicated on the ballot. You may request a paper ballot be sent to you from the Secretary, and return it within the guidelines below.

If you would like a paper ballot, please contact Dean Wiegert, Secretary, by one of the following methods:

Email: secretary@americanprimrosesociety.org

Postal Mail: Dean Wiegert, 3708 E. Norport Dr., Port Washington, WI 53074

Deadline for requesting a paper ballot is March 6, 2021.

Deadline for mailing paper ballots and online voting is March 15, 2021.

For President (1 year): Elizabeth Lawson

Elizabeth received her BA in English Literature from Bryn Mawr College, an MA in Botany from the University of Texas at Austin, a PhD in Plant Biology from Cornell University, and an MFA in Nonfiction from Southern New Hampshire University. She has worked at Kew Royal Botanic Gardens and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and completed a decade of work each for the Botanical Society of America and the Ecological Society of America, and completed her career with another decade of work in the Writing Department at Ithaca College, where she taught a number of writing courses, her favorite being 'Writing as a Naturalist'. She now writes as a naturalist at www.elizabethwinpennylawson.com, and has written a book about primroses for Reaktion Press' Botanical Series. It came out in 2019 and is called *Primrose*. She first met primroses while working in the Decorative Department at Kew, where she potted up several hundred *Primula obconica* and came down with a horrible case of stinging hives from the top of her head to the bottom of her that could have ended her love of

primroses, but did not.

For Vice-President (2 years): Mark Dyen

I have been a gardener for several decades, an interest inherited from my mother who nurtured the addictive nature of growing or buying interesting plants that make beautiful flowers (if you let them). I've been a member of the New England Chapter of APS for many years now, first joining in an attempt to figure out how to get my Thompson and Morgan seeds to germinate (Solution: Get seeds from the seed exchange), and have gradually expanded my interest to include more varieties, and to judging the show entries. While I am still a mixed success at propagation, I am a champion proselytizer for the genus, and do my best as a board member to move the agenda along and reach key decisions. I would be happy and honored to continue in that role.

For Secretary (2 years): Dean Wiegert

I joined the American Primrose Society in 2013. I have served as the society secretary since 2019. I am an estate gardener in S.E. Wisconsin by profession and a *Primula* hobbyist at home. I am convinced that the genus has something for every northern gardener and plant enthusiast. I attended my first National Show in 2017, I have contributed to the quarterly, *Primroses*, and I have helped with the indexing project for the quarterly.

For Director (3 years): Susan Haddock

I have had a lifelong passion for gardening, and studied horticulture and later botany as an undergraduate. I have been a member of APS since 2015, but have been growing *Primulas* for much longer. I am also a member of North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS), and the National Auricula and Primula Society, UK (NAPS). I grow many *Primulas* and auriculas from the APS, NARGS and NAPS seed exchanges, and have written articles for the APS quarterly, and the NAPS ARGUS publication and their newsletter. My home is in southeastern Michigan, and my personal goal regarding APS is to increase the APS membership in the Midwest. To that end, I give *Primula* talks to various gardening groups in the region.

For Director (3 years): Joshua Piper

My name is Joshua Piper and I have been a *Primula* enthusiast for many years. I live in Sequim Washington, near the beach of the beautiful Olympic Peninsula (zone 8b). Apart from being an avid gardener, I run a landscape contracting company and a mobile sawmill in partnership with my beautiful wife. We built our own home on 5 acres in the forest, and I have been sneaking *Primula* into the landscape every chance I get.

For Director (3 years): Amy Olmsted

Amy Olmsted is a long-time member of American Primrose Society. Many of you may know her from the work she has done running the Seed Exchange program for the past several years. Amy has worked in the nursery field for four decades, and is currently the chief horticulturist for Rocky Dale Gardens in Bristol, Vermont. She lives with her husband and their three cats in a cottage among her personal gardens on the shores of a small lake.

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

The meeting was held online. Quorum and start at 6:03 pm EST.

Board members present: Elizabeth Lawson (President), Mark Dyen (VP), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer/Webmaster), Dean Wiegert (Secretary), Jane Guild (Editor), Julia Haldorson (Director, Membership Secretary), Amy Olmsted (Director), Pat Hartman (Director, President of Juneau Chapter), Janice Anthony (Director), Lucy Coles (Director)

1. Approval of the Agenda (Janice/Jane)

2. Approval of the Minutes of August 16, 2020 (Jane/Pat) as presented.

3. Treasurer's Quarterly Report (emailed prior to the meeting)

Income less expenses July 1st to September 30th, 2020: (\$324.47) (loss).

Income less expenses January 1st to September 30th, 2020: \$387.47 gain.

Total Liabilities and equity as of September 30th, 2020: \$30,127.79

Motion (Dean/Jane) to accept the treasurer's report. **Carried.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of August 16th, 2020

A. Report from ICRA (International Cultivar Registration Authority) Committee regarding budgeting of expenses.

A report was emailed prior to meeting. The application for APS to become the ICRA for *Primula* is currently in review by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). The ICRA committee suggests adding \$3,000 to the 2021 APS budget for start-up costs in anticipation of APS becoming the naming authority for *Primula*.

Motion (Dean/Pat) to add \$3,000 as a start-up expense to the 2021 budget. **Carried**
Action Pat will work with Jane on identifying requirements for ICRA database and publication.

B. Update on search for Oregon member to take over society registration duties. APS member Robin Hansen of Coquille, OR, has agreed to become the new Registered Agent for APS as a non-profit corporation in Oregon. Anne Lund has already renewed the registration for 2021 and will hand off the duties for the 2022 renewal.

C. Update on discussion about Spring 2021 elections.

Dean has sent an email to a group of APS members asking for nominations for the Spring 2021 board election. At the time of the meeting, there were no nominations. Dean asked board members to suggest possible candidates.

D. Final remarks regarding changes to constitution.

The filing of the amendment allowing online Annual General Meetings was acknowledged by the Corporation Division of the Oregon Commerce Department on October 7, 2020. Jon has updated the Constitution on the website to reflect this change.

5. New Business

The board discussed the subject of archiving society property. Maedythe has slides, minute books, and other items from Cy Happy that she is asking the board about

archiving. Dean mentioned he currently holds some of the society's trophies that he got from Alan Lawrence's wife. Jane suggested much of the material can be scanned and put onto the website. Elizabeth suggested the board's first decision might be whether only scannable items will be archived. Pat suggested the scanning of items be shared among the board. Jane said pictures of items like trophies can also be archived on the website. Jane said she and Jon can figure out a way of submitting scanned or photographed items to the website. **Motion** (Pat/Janice) To not archive physical items unless someone volunteers to do so. **Carried**

6. Committee Reports

A. Membership (report emailed prior to meeting)

Membership is currently being converted to a 365 day renewal system from the calendar system. Julia will work with Jane to create new membership list/reports from the system. Jon added that the new system will speed the input of membership information and record keeping. Anyone experiencing problems signing into the website or renewing membership online should contact Jon and Jane. Julia added that renewal notices will be sent by the system automatically.

B. Website (report emailed prior to meeting)

Jon continues to learn new tasks in website maintenance and asked anyone noticing something needing updating/attention on the website should contact him directly.

C. Editorial

Jane reminded all that content and pictures for the quarterly are always welcome.

D. Seed Exchange (report emailed prior to meeting)

Amy is still receiving seeds and waiting for the Barnhaven order. Amy reports a good seed list is coming together

E. ICRA – This subject has been covered under 4A (old business) above.

F. Advertising (report emailed prior to meeting)

Elizabeth received an email from member Dorothy Swift suggesting the society offer even smaller ads to prospective advertisers, she shared names of nurseries and seed sources that she uses, and she suggested querying members on nurseries they patronize to sharing that with potential advertisers. Elizabeth will contact additional nurseries, work on an article asking members for favorite nurseries and create a letter aimed at botanic gardens and public gardens. Elizabeth believes growing memberships could be more important than new advertisers and thought public gardens and botanic gardens could perhaps get a listing in the quarterly in exchange for membership.

7. Chapter Reports

A. Juneau (report emailed prior to meeting).

All in-person meetings were canceled due to pandemic restrictions. Pat sponsored an APS membership for the Friends of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum raffle. Seed exchange and membership renewal information will go out and members will be asked about meeting via Zoom.

B. New England

Members did meet for a plant swap and lunch at Bruce Lockhart's garden.

C. BC Primula Group

Maedythe reported via email that the BC group has not met but they will order and distribute seeds.

8. Date of next meeting: February 21, 2021

9. Adjournment: (Pat/Mark) 7:10 pm.



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>.

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society

Midland & West Section

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk



£10.00 Overseas Membership.

to: The Honorary Treasurer, Tracey Pockett,
'Majutora', Longney, Gloucestershire,
GL2 3ST, United Kingdom.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

SOUTHERN SECTION

www.southernauriculaprimula.org

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 (UK) for single or
family membership, Overseas £15.00
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.

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: D. Skinner, Treasurer, Nanny Lane,
Church Fenton, Tadcaster, N. Yorks. LS24 9RL.

Overseas membership £15

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

New Members

October 1, 2020 - January 7, 2021

Year of Expiry	Name		Address
2021	Danielle	Brown-Farrell	10025 North Douglas Hwy, Juneau, Alaska 99801 USA
2021	Regina	Cenu	965 Savage Road, Churchville, New York 14428 USA
2021	Chen	Choo	4292 Henderson Road, Milton, Ontario L9E 0K1 Canada
2021	Gary	Edwards	Meadowview Gardens, 1521 Bowmantown Road, Roseneath, Ontario K0K 2X0 Canada
2021	Kristen	Hahn	1809 Ashburg Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201 USA
2021	Heather	Mathers	6 Dale Dyke Grove, Rawcliffe, York YO30 4UP UK
2021	Jack	McKie	97 Alpha Street, Rochester, New York 14612 USA
2021	Phil	Muller	1101 Karen Way, Mountain View, California 94040 USA
2021	Rochelle	Steinbruckner	833 Summit Avenue, St. Paul Park, Minnesota 55071 USA
2021	Pamela	Yokome	13073 61 Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia V3X 2H4 Canada

Should there ever be a question about your membership, please contact:
Julia L. Haldorson, APS Membership
 P. O. Box 292
 Greenbank, Washington 98253 USA
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

Juneau Chapter
 Pat Hartman, President
 17060 Island View Dr
 Juneau, AK 99801-8357
patricia.hartman4@gmail.com

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

