

Primroses



Vol. 48

Summer, 1990

No. 3

Editor's Committee:
Larry A. Bailey, Editor
Thea Service Foster
Don Keefe
Pat Foster



P. Capillaris

In this issue

Brian Skidmore 1928-1990.....	71
by Pat Bender	
Primula 'Orpha Salsman'	72
by Jerry Flintoff	
Seeding My Way.....	74
by Thea Service Foster	
Primula Capillaris the Little Gem of the Ruby Mountains	75
by Jay G. Lunn	
Primulas at the Berry Garden.....	78
by Will Simmonds	
The National Primrose Show.....	81
Tacoma Primrose Show	82
Oregon Primrose Show.....	84
Eastside Primula Show	85
Plastic Garden Sprayers.....	88
by Joe Dupree	
Points on Growing Julianas.....	90
by Dr. John Kerridge	
An Update on the Barnhaven Cowichans	91
by Don Keefe	
Brian Skidmore	93
by Larry Bailey	

PRIMROSES (ISSN 0162-6671) is published quarterly by American Primrose, Auricula and Primula Society, 6620 N.W. 271st Ave., Hillsboro, OR 97124. Second-Class postage paid at Hillsboro, OR and additional mailing offices.

On the cover

Cover illustration is a botanical drawing by Jay G. Lunn, Hillsboro, Oregon (See story on page 75)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PRIMROSES, 6620 N.W. 271st Ave. Hillsboro, OR 97124.

BRIAN SKIDMORE 1928 - 1990

by Pat Bender
Lake Forest Park, Washington

On August 10th, 1990 we lost a mainstay of the American Primrose Society when Brian Skidmore died of a malignant melanoma. In death, as in life, Brian set an example for us all. Up to the very end, he was concerned more for others than himself. His brave and calm acceptance of his illness was an inspiration.

At his memorial service, we learned of Brian's birth in Derby, England, his mathematics scholarship at Cambridge University, his military service in North Africa, and of meeting his permanent 'blind date', June.

When Brian and June moved to Seattle in the early sixties, they had not been planning a permanent residence in the United States. Brian became an engineer and executive at Boeing Aircraft. Their children, Steve and Sarah were born here.

Brian became very active in promoting soccer in the area, and became an ardent salmon fisherman. A touching moment at the memorial service came when Steve told of their many early mornings fishing together on Lake Washington. How lucky his children were!

And how lucky Brian and June were to have each other. Their's was a wonderful marriage, with no regrets. June is as remarkable as Brian, and her courage through what must have been the most difficult situation a wife could face was truly inspiring. We can all feel fortunate to have known Brian and to know June.

As treasurer of our society, and as a noted auricula breeder Brian set a standard of excellence to which we can all aspire.

PRIMULA 'ORPHA SALSMAN'

by Jerry Flintoff
Seattle, Washington

Hybridizers, horticulturist, and gardeners have not been using the versatile Woodland group of primulas to any great extent in recent years. With few exceptions (outside of the countless variants of *P. sieboldii*) primulas in the section *Cortousoides* are being forgotten by most gardeners. These primulas in the Woodland group, so-styled by Blasdale, Klaber and others, are ideal for areas of the garden subject to shade, drought and neglect.

Early in this century (see *A.P.S. Bulletin*, v. 16, No.2, p. 43, 1958) the Lemoines of Nancy, France produced several hybrids of *P. sieboldii* and *P. polyneura*. This productive and talented hybridizer and nurseryman team of father and son introduced the popular hybrids 'La Lorraine' and 'Nancy'. These cultivars are presumably extinct; nurseryman, at any rate, no longer list them.

In the 1970's the late Orpha Salsman, who gardened in South Seattle, Washington, crossed *P. sieboldii* and *P. polyneura* to produce seven or eight seedlings. Most, she stated, were given away to friends. The only cultivar from these seedlings that can be traced in the Seattle area is usually grown as "Orpha's *sieboldii* hybrid."

This plant from Orpha's seedlings is more or less intermediate in leaf shape between the two parents. In common with the Lemoine hybrids, it tends to keep its leaves during summer, rather than disappearing quickly with the advent of summer heat as in *P. sieboldii*. The florets are flat like many of the forms of *P. polyneura* and are of a rosy purple color. Also, like the Lemoine hybrids, this cultivar does not produce seed and is apparently sterile. It often flowers, but shyly unless grown in very rich soil or fertilized several times during the growing season.



Primula polyneura

photo by Larry A. Bailey



Primula x 'Orpha Salsman'

photo by Larry A. Bailey

* * *

Orpha Salsman was a very active member of the American Primrose Society, a fine gardener and a devout lover of primroses and Pacific Coast irises. She was very successful in hybridizing these. Orpha also hybridized several dwarf bearded irises. The name *Primula* 'Orpha Salsman' is proposed for this unusual and beautiful hybrid clone of *P. sieboldii* x *P. polyneura*.

Editors note: The staff of the Quarterly welcomes APS members to submit proposed names for unique clones or strains of Primula. When proposing a name, please submit a description of the plant, explaining its unique merits, background, origin of the proposed name, and a clear photograph(s) of the plant to the Editor for publication in this Journal.

SEEDING MY WAY

by Thea Service Foster
North Vancouver, British Columbia

Until my ventures into hand pollinating got underway most of my primula seed was from club exchanges and seeded when received in the Spring.

The first harvest of my hybridizing produced unexpectedly large quantities of seed. I recalled the advice of the old great auricula growers that sowing seed fresh gave the best results. At the end of July I did the first sowing of seed that was only a week out of the pods. I was almost unable to believe my eyes when there was germination of one yellow border auricula in three days. The rest of the containers sprouted within ten days. This particular batch of seed was all border auriculas.

The small Auriculastrum such as *Primula hirsuta* (*P. rubra*) or *P. marginata* crosses will be slower to germinate. I still find that even they come faster and more reliably than from stored seed.

Rarely does our Vancouver area have more than a few days of summer temperatures exceeding 80°F. It has only recently been brought home to me what a benefit this usually gentle climate has been to my seed raising program. In July 1990 we launched into a record breaking 45 day period of drought and incessant heat. Many days were up into the 90's F. It was difficult to keep my newly seeded containers damp despite shading. My worry was that sprouting seeds might have been dehydrated and killed off before rooting into the soil. There are now a small flush of seedlings from

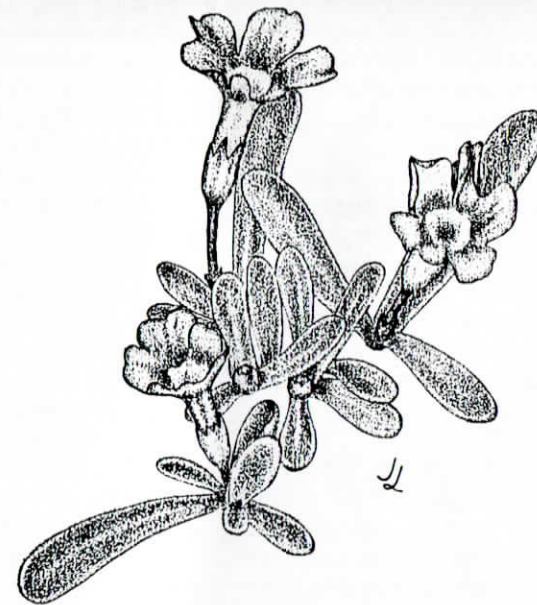
a few crosses but others may have to be resown. Our heat wave was at the same time extremely high temperatures were being suffered in Britain and Europe, exceeding the temperatures we had in our area. My heart goes out to the growers there.

Karen Shellinger mentioned Herb Dickson's Petite Hybrid garden auriculas in her article published in the last issue. Some very attractive plants of Herb's Petite cross came from a sowing of mine. There were two especially interesting seedlings that closely resembled Alpine Exhibition Auriculas, but miniature in size (about one-half to two-thirds the size of standard ones). One was clear ruby-red with deep shading and the other was rose-pink with fuchsia shading.

These Petite Hybrids were crossed in 1988 and have, as might be expected, produced a majority of dark toned offsprings. My desire was to produce small statured pinks. Four very pretty ones bloomed in the Spring, and were used in hand pollinating. The percentage of pinks should rise in their progenies, with the ones with the best centres, colouring and small form selected for future breeding.

Any lover of small auricula forms could have an enjoyable time by trying Petite Hybrid seed. My miniature alpines were most unexpected; others might get delightful surprises too!

Since my first experience of sowing fresh seed, it has become obvious to me that a fortunate combination of temperature, light and humidity must have been in force that particular year. A week to two weeks is a more average time till germination. I always welcome this period because, like many growers, I begin to pay closer attention to containers that have sprouted. This presence of growth is a reminder to take good care to them.



PRIMULA CAPILLARIS THE LITTLE GEM OF THE RUBY MOUNTAINS

By Jay G. Lunn
Hillsboro, Oregon

As early as July of 1942, herbarium specimens of a small unnamed primula were collected from the upper reaches of a small canyon in the Ruby Mountains of northeastern Nevada. Margaret Williams described this "miniature primula" in her presentation to the Fourth International Rock Garden and Plant Conference in April of 1971. The report from this conference was the first published use of *Primula capillaris* as the tentative name for this plant. Noel H. Holmgren and Arthur H. Holmgren adopted the name *P. capillaris* when they published a diagnosis in Latin for this species in 1974. They stated "The epithet capillaris alludes to the delicately small, narrow leaves and thin scapes of the most diminutive primrose in the United States."

This primula bears one or rarely two flowers on a leafless flower stalk less than 2 inches in length. Its corolla tube is yellow and the lobes are bluish-purple aging to violet. A plant may have a single rosette of leaves or crowns with multiple rosettes. The rosettes consist of linear or somewhat wider oblanceolate leaves 0.5 to 1.5 inches long. The flower bud begins to show color while it remains tight in the center of the rosette and is fully open when the flower stalk is mature.

The only known published photograph of *P. capillaris* appeared in the 1979 Spring issue of 'Primroses'. No credit was given to the photographer, but it was a photograph taken by Margaret Williams.

Primula capillaris occurs in only one small site in the Ruby Mountains. Margaret Williams describes this area of less than one quarter acre in size.

During the third week of July, 1989, I traveled to northeastern Nevada in an attempt to find and photograph this little gem of the Primulaceae clan. The final leg of the trip was via a trail that began 2,500 feet below and about three miles from my destination. About two miles from its beginning, the trail ended in a basin with a headwall 1,000 feet high separating me from the subject of my search.

While scrambling up this last barrier I investigated prospective plant sites, photographed *Lewisia triphylla* and stopped occasionally just to catch my breath. After reaching a gentle north facing slope at the 10,000 foot (3,000

meters) elevation, I found the subject of my endeavor, *Primula capillaris*. As is often characteristic of our native primulas, *P. capillaris* was the first plant to bloom of any of its other associates.

Some plants of this primula were growing in humus soil containing small pieces of granite with little competition from other plants at this time of the season. Others were tucked among larger pieces of granite and were growing with other plants that would soon obscure them. I was amazed to find such diverse plants, as what I believe were *Lewisia nevadensis* and *Marchantia polymorpha* (liverwort), growing among the primulas. A test of the soil indicated the pH was 6.0.

After making a cursory visual survey of the surrounding area, I started to photograph the primulas just as a light



Primula capillaris

photo by Jay Lunn

rainfall began. Although traveling alone and knew I would be faced with a wet return route, I remained, through wind and rain delays, long enough to take the photographs I desired.

The rain caused the descent back to my vehicle to be hazardous at times. Fortunately, it only took an hour and a quarter, as compared with over three hours for the ascent. Once back at the trailhead a change from hiking boots to casual shoes, dry pants and socks, was a welcome relief.

Driving into the valley adjacent to the Ruby Mountains, I could see in my rearview mirror the sun lighting up the peaks surrounding the canyon from where I came. However, I did not drive over 40 miles before being confronted with violent thunder storms (flash flood warnings had been issued that afternoon for the nearby Elko, Nevada area). Trying to keep my Volkswagen bus in its proper lane of the highway was then the task at hand!

Primula capillaris is not known to grow well in cultivation; however, there are reports it has been successfully grown in a Logan, Utah garden. Logan is in an area with a climate not unlike the primula's home in Nevada.

No signs of *P. capillaris* seedlings were observed on this trip. I suspect that individual plants produce very few seeds. I did note some seed capsules eaten by insects or other herbivores.

Although *P. capillaris* is not listed as either endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, it is very appropriate that it should be classified as endangered; especially if no other sites are found in which it grows naturally.

* * *
References

1. Williams, M. "Rock Garden Plants From Western North America", **The World of Rock Plants - A Report of the Fourth International Rock Plant Conference 1971**, Alpine Garden Society, 1972. p. 155.
2. Holmgren, N. & A. Holmgren. "Three new species from the Great Basin", **Brittonia** 26:313-315, 1974.
3. Williams, M. "Primroses in a desert state", **Primroses** 37:2, A.P.S. Quarterly Bulletin, 1979. p. 12-14.

CHEHALIS RARE PLANT NURSERY
2568 Jackson Hwy., Chehalis, WA 98532
Herb Dickson, Prop.

After 30 years of selecting and breeding, I have developed an improved strain of Garden Auricula with a complete palette of color.

Mixed Garden	White Garden
Yellow Garden	Brown Garden
Blue Garden	Red Garden

Exhibition - Alpine
Petite Hybrids, a strain of small species and hybrids in a wide range of color.
The above \$1.00 per packet of 50 seeds.

Primula Florindae & Mixed Candelabra
Generous packet \$1.00 each.

Hand pollinated Show Auricula	
Red Self	Green Edge
Yellow Self	
\$2.00 per packet of 25 seeds.	

Hand pollinated Double Auricula Mix
\$3.00 per packet of 15 seeds

MINIMUM ORDER \$5.00
Post free in U.S. and Canada
Overseas orders please add .50 cents

PRIMULAS AT THE BERRY GARDEN

by Will Simonds
Portland, Oregon

As many remember, Rae Selling Berry was internationally known for her collection of primulas. She subscribed to expeditions into China's plant-rich provinces in hopes of receiving new species of primula. She built her collection in a garden in southwest Portland from the late thirties until her death in 1976. This garden is remembered for having the greatest number of primula species assembled in one garden outside of England. When her garden was purchased from her estate and became a botanic garden in 1979, what remained of the primulas became one of the five major collections of the new non-profit organization. As the years progressed these mercurial, transient, and sometimes just "cranky", as Mrs. Berry would say, plants came and went, but the commitment to the collection has remained.

Today at the Berry Garden the primula collection bears only some resemblance to the collection of log beds, in which Mrs. Berry grew her plants. The renovation of the beds at the south end of the Garden was the most recent change. A "natural" look with a dry stream made of river gravel snaking through irregular beds was decided on. Asian streamside species look right at home here. *Primula florindae* and *P. wilsonii* provided a wonderful display this year. *P. pulverulenta* and *P. involucrata* are building up numbers for future displays. This area is one of the focal points in preparations for the 1992 Primula Conference. Other Asian

species at the Garden include *P. kisoana*, and its white form, from Japan, *P. muscarioides*, *P. flaccida*, and *P. vialii*. Most species reseed themselves in place and elsewhere.

P. rosea grew in a bed beside the lawn. The whole population was moved to the creek banks (most subsequently died, being a "cranky" species) and the only plants left were those from seed that fell into the lawn. Although *P. rosea* now grows elsewhere, the largest population still resides in the lawn, changing the mowing pattern during flowering and seed setting season.

Raised frames or "Alpine Frames" are another recent addition to the Garden. The original model is brick with a redwood cover, but with money tight and time short recent generations have evolved into a treated wood and clear plastic cold frame three and a half feet tall and 12 feet long. All models are filled with sand for pot plunging. The frames raise plants up out of the cold, stagnate air at ground level and foil the less adventuresome slug. With these the Berry Garden has been able to grow and bloom plants previously too difficult.

Because of these new growing conditions the Garden can focus on American species. Several *Primula suffrutescens* bloomed during their second year from seed. *P. Parryi* made a small show during the summer's heat. *P. rusbyi* and *P. ellisiae* both bloom well and set seed. Tiny *P. angustifolia* produced several



Primula rusbyi

yellow centered, clear pink flowers at the Garden for the first time in many years.

The Aleuritina group fair successfully, but being biennial in nature means annual reseeding. Species such as *P. mistassinica* var *macropoda* (*P. laurentiana*) come easily from seed and bloom well. The Garden has grown several color variations from various

seed lots, although all are shades of lavender. These do better in troughs, where their small stature show to advantage.

Primula specuicola, from the Grand Canyon, will only survive in a trough. It needs winter dry and summer wet (exactly the opposite of our climate) and requires care to flower and set seed (seed heads rot during wet springs). The

plant is well worth the effort; the flowers are unlike others in the group, having a pink-lavender corolla shading to almost white in the center.

The Berry Garden is still working to perfect the culture of *P. cusickiana* and its immediate relatives. The only Oregon native primula, it has eluded the best of gardeners here and elsewhere.

The Garden is encouraged by the success of *P. domensis*, a new species found in Utah, which flowered for the first time this spring. It is closely related to *P. cusickiana* and has similar requirements. It has been living in the Alpine Frames for at least two years.

You can still see some of Mrs. Berry's old auricula varieties here. 'Snow Lady' (a grey-edged Show) and 'Appleblossom' (an indescribable peach) flower favorably each spring. These and any others with heavy coatings of farina were Mrs. Berry's favorites of this group. They require protection from rain and her staff used to run to cover the frames when a down-pour threatened. Today a greenhouse is used. The other auricula hybrids are the consistent, perennial backbone of the collection, some of which have been at the Garden for 40 years.

Most of the European species do successfully here. The auricula group grow both in the Rock Garden and the Alpine Frames. Some *Primula hirsuta* types reseed themselves and provide us with interesting hybrids. Julia hybrids and the diminutive parent, *P. juliae*, grow out under the trees around the lawn and Rock Garden, providing bursts of color in the early spring.

The types and numbers of primulas at the Berry Garden have been changing for years, and will continue to do so. Each year it receives different seed, loses a few plants, and grows new ones. It is difficult to conserve an entire genus when the species are so variable. The Garden continues to amass data

and cultural techniques on each species grown and plans call for possible below-freezing seed storage as a conservation technique for this valuable horticultural genus.

With the recent focus on American *Primula* species the Berry Garden has a new realm of cultural and taxonomic aspects to explore, for its own information and for everyone interested in this diverse genus.

* * *

Will Simonds, Collections Specialist for the Berry Botanic Garden, joined the staff of the Garden after graduating from Oregon State University. While in the program for horticulture at OSU, Will did his internship at the Berry Garden and felt "in the fields of botany and horticulture, botanic gardens provide a privileged and unequalled place in which to learn and work."

The Berry Garden does welcome visitors. If a person does not know how to get there, they can call (503) 636-4112 for information and directions.



Primula domensis
photo by Will Simonds

THE NATIONAL PRIMROSE SHOW April 1 - 2 Beaverton Mall, Oregon.

By Ann Lunn

"A quality Show with an international flavor." That was the description of the 1990 National Show hosted by the Valley Hi Chapter from Beaverton, Oregon.

John Kerridge of Vancouver, B.C. returned home with several best-in-division awards. His Gold-Laced x Polyanthus with dark red body color, had ten open umbels with more to follow and it was judged best in the polyanthus division. The Best Gold-Laced was awarded to a plant with black ground and uniform lacing. The winning Gold-Laced seedling had tiny, dime-sized flowers with red ground. Besides the Gold-Laced polyanthus, John showed an excellent display of Cowichan polyanthus and the winning species hybrid, a *Primula marginata* 'Agee' with lavender flowers and yellow meal on the leaves.

Members of the Chapters from Washington were also well represented. Rosetta Jones' specialty is double vernaes and her plant with mauve flowers and a fine white edging won best in the division. Unlike many of its type, this plant had strong stems holding the flowers upright.

The Best Acaulus, a plant covered with bright yellow flowers held just above the foliage, was exhibited by Flip Fenili. Also, his eight-inch pot of deep red Juliana hybrid won Best Jack-in-the-Green.

Thea Oakley won best in the greenhouse division with *Primula obconica*. The plant had nine perfect umbels of large salmon-colored flowers, as well as flawless foliage. The auricula sections were filled with Herb Dickson's fine plants. A pink and white flowered plant, somewhat like 'China Plate', won Best Garden Auricula. His plant with rich, deep purple, fully double flowers took the Best Double Auricula award. The Best Seedling and Best Seedling Alpine trophies were both given to his alpine auricula with deep maroon petals shading to rose.

A green-edged auricula with large, flat flowers and black ground was awarded the Bamford trophy for Best Seedling Show Auricula. The plant was shown by Orval Agee.

Best Juliana Hybrid went to Jay and Ann Lunn for 'Dorothy', a plant with pale yellow, stalked blooms displayed above tiny foliage.

Ironically, the smallest plant in the show won the largest trophy, a huge copper jug for Best Species. *Primula frondosa*, with six umbels of dainty lavender-pink flowers and nicely mealed foliage, was grown to perfection by Frederick Held. The same plant was judged Best-in-Show.

Etha Tate's trophy winning grower's exhibit featured six *Primula kisoana*. Etha also showed how effectively primulas can be used in cut flower arrangements. Her winning decorative exhibit included Gold-Laced polyanthus with red and black body color complemented by hosta, lace-leaf maple and silk tree foliage.

Valley Hi confers two Best Companion Plant awards. Thelma Genheimer's rose-pink *Lewisia cotyledon* hybrid and Flip Fenili's *Soldanella* were judged best.

The show organizers wish to thank all those members who exhibited plants to make this show a success. Special appreciation should go to John Kerridge who travelled such a distance to participate. One can only wonder what the customs agents thought as they looked at his carload of beautiful plants.

TACOMA PRIMROSE SHOW

March 31st & April 1st

by Shirley and Gordon Lymburn

The Tacoma Chapter returned to the Lakewood area in the old Villa Plaza site this year and staged its 40th Annual Show at the new Lakewood Mall. Over 200 plants were exhibited by 15 growers.

Gray-skirted tables were set up in groups of four almost the entire length of the Mall's main corridor. The white walls and high white ceilings with many skylights offered bright natural lighting to the show plants. Plant-sale tables were placed in the core area of the total display and were flanked by two trophy tables. Because our veteran expert, Ruth Huston, was absent this year due to ill health, the education table was manned by various chapter volunteers. Sample display plants, give-away literature on raising primroses, and a library of texts on primula were available to the public. Master gardeners manned two tables near the centre of the mall.

Three outstanding floor displays added a very professional touch. Rocky Ridge Nursery's pastoral scene featured dwarf maples and masses of brightly colored primroses and azaleas near a stream spanned by a small wooden bridge. Mt. Tahoma Nursery's display of assorted troughs and Pacific Rhododendron Society's exhibit of many colors and varieties of rhodies attracted a great deal of attention.

While there was a very short supply of polyanthus, julies and auricula at this particular time, there was however, a good splash of color of *Primula denticulata* from white to lavender to reddish-purple. John Kerridge's many Gold-Laced polyanthus from deep red to almost black added a new dimension for the first time in many years. Steve Witcher had the greatest number of unusual species entries. The number of novice entries, which we haven't seen for a long time, was a pleasant surprise.

Candy Strickland won the Wee Willie Award for the Most Willing Worker.

BEST IN DIVISION

PLANT

GROWER

Acaulis (Ernest Winter Trophy)	Reddish purple miniature	Rick Lupp
Polyanthus (Washington Hardware Trophy)	Pale yellow Garryard	Peter Atkinson
Acaulis-Poly Large	Multi-blossomed red with orange centre	Cy Happy
Juliae Hybrid	Deep purple	Cy Happy
Double Vernaes	Reddish purple with almost invisible white edge	Rosetta Jones
Hose-in-Hose	'Emily'	Cy Happy
Jack-in-the-Green (Floyd Keller Trophy)	Deep purple	Flip Fenili
Asian Species	<i>P. denticula</i>	Darlene Heller
European Species	<i>P. hirsuta nivea</i>	Thea Oakley
Non-hardy Primula	Large plant of salmon-colored <i>P. obconia</i>	Thea Oakley
Seedling	Pink <i>P. rosea</i> 'Grandiflora'	Thea Oakley
Alpine Seedling	Purple, lavender edge	Herb Dickson
Gold-Laced	Black ground	John Kerridge
Rarity	Lavender <i>P. allioni</i>	Rick Lupp
Oddity	Yellow Acaulis	Thea Oakley
Novice	Many blossomed red poly with yellow centre	Cliff Rapp
Growers (6 in 1)	Flat of pale lavender Garryard hybrid	Cy Happy
Growers (Floor)	Country scene	Dolly & Jim Krob (Rocky Ridge Nursery)
Primulaceae	Pink Androsace	Thea Oakley
Decorative A Companion	White <i>Rhodohypoxis</i>	Thea Oakley Thea Oakley
Best Plant in Show	Hose-in-Hose 'Emily'	Cy Happy
Sweepstakes (Ryan Trophy)		Thea Oakley

* * *

OREGON PRIMROSE SOCIETY

April 21 - 22 Milwaukie, Oregon

BEST IN DIVISION	GROWER	BEST IN DIVISION	GROWER
Acaulis	Thelma Genheimer	Seedling	Herb Dickson
Garden Auricula	Herb Dickson	Decorative	Dorothy Macfarland
Alpine Auricula	Herb Dickson	Companion Plant	Thelma Genheimer
Double Auricula	Herb Dickson	Companion Plant	Herb Dickson
Juliana Hybrid	Jay & Ann Lunn	Growers Exhibit	Jay & Ann Lunn
Species	Orval Agee	Best in Show	Orval Agee
Species Hybrid	Orval Agee	Sweepstakes	Herb Dickson



EASTSIDE PRIMULA SHOW

April 13 - 14 Totem Lake Mall

by Thea Oakley

Severe weather conditions reduced the size of this years show but not the enthusasism. The Cherry Garden Horticulture Cluub helped the Eastside Primrose Chapter in preparation of the Standard Flower Show, 'Around the Sound', held in conjunction with this years Primrose Show.

The best Show Auricula 'Anna Francis', shown by Florence Tibbits, was named many years ago by one of the Eastside's members Beth Tait. Beth is widly known for her contributions to the American Primrose Society and her articles in the A.P.S. Bulletin.

BEST IN DIVISION	PLANT	GROWER
Acaulis	Semi-double lavender	Thea Oakley
Polyanthus	Yellow	Florence Tibbits
Acaulis-Polyanthus	White	Peter Atkinson
Juliana Hybrid	'Early Girl'	Don Keefe
Double Vernaes	Rose	Pat Diesen
Jack-in-the-Green	White Polyanthus	Pat Diesen
Garden Auricula	Fringed edge lavender	Florence Tibbits
European	<i>Primula x pubescens</i>	Florence Tibbits
Asian	<i>P. frondosa</i>	Don Keefe
American Hybrid	<i>P. 'Kleinii'</i>	Don Keefe
Not Hardy	Lavender-purple <i>P. obconia</i>	Pat Diesen
Seedling	Deep Blue Cowichan	Darlene Heller
Show Auricula	'Anna Francis'	Florence Tibbits
Laced Polyanthus	Dark background	Don Keefe
Rarities	<i>Primula specuicola</i>	Thea Oakley
Oddities	Shags & Feathers	Peter Atkinson
Novice	Pink Polyanthus	Mary Ramachandran
Primulacae	<i>Androsace sempervivoides</i>	Thea Oakley
Decorative		Pat Diesen
Alpine Planting		Florence Tibbits
Best in Show	'Anna Francis'	Florence Tibbits
Sweepstakes		Florence Tibbits
Runner Up		Don Keef

SEED of DOUBLE ACAULIS and DOUBLE AURICULA

NEW SEED CROP IN AUGUST
Minimum Order - 50 seed - \$5.00

Rosetta Jones
Phone: 206-426-7913

E. 170 Dunoan Pl.
Shelton, WA 98584

WASHINGTON STATE PRIMROSE SHOW April 14th

by Candy Strickland

The Washington State Chapter's Primrose show at the Centre of Urban Horticulture was once again a great success. This year's show was "just like the old times". There was Cy Happy from Tacoma back in the winners' circle, and like a breath of spring there was Beth Tait. Beth was back with our panel of judges. Then there was Rene Smith and her daughter Sandy, familiar figures in the food area, making sure the judges and clerks had their lunch. Gene and Dot Reichle were in their place behind the money box at the sales table. Darlene and Lyle Heller and Rick Lupp were there with others to help at the plant sale.

The show plants and their groomers outdid themselves. Double acaulis were in unusually good supply and color. The display was outstanding. Growers specializing in species primula, Juliae Hybrids and Show Auricula really presented a beautiful part of the show.

Many thanks go to the Show Committee and to Harold Foster, a familiar figure with his camcorder. He took pictures at all the shows this year and hopes to have a tape for all the Societies to show to their members.

There were 268 plants on the display table, and about \$2000 received for plants sold from the plant sale.

Judges: Al Rapp, Anna Christensen, Beth Tait, Cy Happy, Edna Bailey, Flip Fenili
Clerks: Sharon Meredith, Loise Fenili, Gladys Krohn, Elda Beahm

BEST IN DIVISION

Acaulis
Polyanthus
Acaulis-Polyanthus

Juliae Hybrid

Double Vernales
Hose-in-Hose
Jack-in-the-Green
Garden Auricula
Double Auricula
Dbl Auricula Seedling
(C.C.Chamber Trophy)
Brightest Garden
Auricula
European Species
Asian Species
Native American Species
Non-hardy Species
Seedling
Show Alpine
Show Alpine Seedling
(G. T. Dowling Trophy)
Rarity
Oddity
Grower's Exhibit
Primulaceae
Decorative
Companion Plant
Best in Show
Sweepstakes
(Marion Hannah Award)

PLANT

Large bright pink
Yellow
Bicolor yellow, pink edged

'Little Gem'

Yellow
'Emily'
Deep red, yellow center
Mauve, light center
Dusty orange-brown
Purple

Completely bright yellow

Deep red, *P. hirsuta rubra*
Primula petiolaris
Primula domensis
Pink *P. malacoides*
Red juliae hybrid
'Tait'
Lavender edge, light center

Primula domensis
Bright green Acaulis
Red Cowslips in trough
Androsace mariae

Pale lavender *Ramonda*
Yellow double Acaulis

GROWER

Cy Happy
Darlene Heller
Mt. Tahoma
Nursery
Mt. Tahoma
Nursery
Evie Douglas
Cy Happy
Mt. Tahoma Nrsy
Cy Happy
Cy Happy
Larry Bailey
Herb Dickson
Herb Dickson
Evie Douglas
Larry Bailey
Thea Oakley
Thea Oakley
Larry Bailey
Larry Bailey

Larry Bailey
Cy Happy
Cy Happy
Herb Dickson
Thea Oakley
Herb Dickson
Evie Douglas
Cy Happy

PLASTIC GARDEN SPRAYERS

by Joe Dupree
Anacortes, Washington

Do the new, small plastic pressure sprayers have any advantages over the old metal types?

Plastic garden sprayers have several advantages, beginning with the small size. They are easier to lug around and operate because they weigh less. And, since they are smaller, gardeners are less likely to mix up more spray than they can use at any one time.

A person may have to mix spray more often, but there will be less wastage in the long run. This prevents over-spraying, applying surplus mix to plants that don't need to be sprayed, and the problems of legally dumping the excess mix.

High-impact plastic sprayers allow the level of mix in the tank to be monitored, giving a better idea of how much spray should be used in each operation. This enables the applicator to anticipate how much mix will be needed for different jobs.

Luckily, plastic sprayers have built-in pressure-relief valves that pop open to relieve excess pressure. This valve reduces damage to tank, seals and hoses.

Pesticides can be corrosive and eat away at metal sprayers (unless constructed of stainless steel). Corrosion is not a problem with most plastic containers.

Plastic sprayers also are very easy to clean. Hoses, pickups and pumps detach easily from the tank, allowing them to be cleaned and rinsed with no possibility of small amounts of pesticide remaining in the tank or any

parts. However, even with this assurance of complete cleaning, it's best to reserve one sprayer for herbicides.

Save all the instructions and paperwork (owner's manual, etc.) that comes with a new sprayer. For instructions printed on the sides of the packing box, photocopy it for easier filing. (You might also send a note to the manufacturer explaining that it is dumb to print important instructions on throw-away packaging).

Spray for thorough coverage. That means getting the spray on all surfaces if applied to deciduous plants. Fissures and cracks in the bark of trunks, branches, limbs and twigs are especially important. Start from the top so the mix running down will be efficiently utilized. There are no advantages in using additional spray after all surfaces are wet.

If spraying plants with leaves, coat all surfaces. Be sure to spray both the top and the bottom of each leaf, plus the trunk and branches. Select a sprayer that allows you to spray in both up and down directions. This is easy to do with the nozzle at the end of a hand-held sprayer hose or wand.

Know why a particular pesticide is being used. Determine if the pest is an insect, disease or weed and find out if the spray is effective against that pest.

Gardeners also need to know if it is legal to spray on or near the plant they wish to protect. This is assuming they have identified the pest correctly and have selected a pesticide that can in fact control that pest.

Many pest questions can be answered by a visit or a phone call to the nearest County Cooperative Extension Office. Educational materials at nominal cost will let a person learn more than they ever wanted to know about many pests. In today's world it is increasingly important we all know more than we had to in the past.

* * *

Editor's note: Many States offer home study courses for pesticide applicators licenses. These courses, even if a person does not wish to obtain a license, are excellent sources of information on the use of pesticides, applicators and how to safely use them. The courses are easy to follow and in layman terms. Information on these courses can usually be obtained from local County Cooperative Extension Offices.



Primula x juliae 'Wanda'

photo by Larry A. Bailey

POINTERS ON GROWING JULIANAS

by Dr John Kerridge
Vancouver, British Columbia

Gardeners, when growing Julianas, should always remember these little jewels have different features and requirements from the Primrose and Polyanthus primulas. For instance, they can in general take more cold and more direct sunshine, and seem less subject to slug and snail attack.

Why then do we lose them? So often people ask, "Why have my Julianas disappeared again?" "I just can't grow them."

It is possible that they are getting too much tender loving care. For example, they prefer a poor, lean soil (but well drained) that induces hardy growth. Adding compost and too much organic matter can induce a soginess, which leads to rot. On the other hand, peat moss well forked into the beds does improve drainage. A top dressing of your discarded alpine soil mixture, after blooming, helps shield the roots from the strong summer sun.

On no account grow them 'soft' during the winter with heat and fertilizer. The open ground and cold fresh air will not trouble them.

In the mid-summer sun the leaves may scorch and shrivel, but they come back in mid-August. A bad mistake many gardeners make is to panic at the browning-off of the leaves in summer and water heavily. This can do a lot of damage, as the soggy dead leaves can rot and harbour fungus. Certainly, any watering in the evening is inadvisable. Julianas are different from many wilting Denticulatas or Can-

delabras with irreversible damage. In the morning, after the Julianas have recovered a little from the cooler night air, a light watering can be tolerated.

Once the foliage is dry and brown it will never recover and is best snipped away, for if allowed to sit there it will harbour disease. This arid foliage also prevents water from a sprinkler from penetrating deep down to the roots. Spider mite attack is also likely on dry and wilting leaves. A good method is to snip around the crown with scissors pointed vertically downward, this tidies up nicely.

Julianas love to clump and division can be much less frequent than with other forms such as Cowichans and Gold-Laced Polyanthus. 'Vernales' primulas do well divided annually and freed from their old root stock that holds back the vigor of the young side-shoots; but not so for Julianas.

Apart from named Julianas, there are diverse Hybrids with beautiful form and color. Gardeners will find many of them more attractive than the older named varieties. Because of their proven ability to withstand drought, mite attacks, and sever winters, we must never lose the old established favorites. Thank goodness a few enthusiasts are collecting and caring for them.

Now, the larger Wanda Hybrids are on the scene with glorious colors. Because their size has greatly exceeded the usually diminutive 'Julie', they have not the favor of everyone. Small is still beautiful!

AN UPDATE ON THE BARNHAVEN COWICHANS

by Don Keefe
Redmond, Washington

A grand era of primroses is ending this year with the closing of the famous Barnhaven Nursery. Barnhaven received world acclaim with its distinct hardy strains of double primroses, clear colored polyanthus and the stunning Cowichans. The following report is to document the final chapter of just one of Barnhaven's achievements.

Historic records indicate that in 1932 an unusual polyanthus seedling was discovered on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in a Cowichan Valley garden near Victoria. Florence Bellis (Barnhaven Nursery, Gresham, Oregon) obtained an offset of this distinct polyanthus and began a long series of hybridizing efforts to "set" the distinct characteristics. Clones and hybrids of this plant became known as polyantha Cowichans (*Primula x polyantha, Cowichan*).

The Cowichan Florence Bellis acquired was a very frail plant, but through selective breeding, cross hybridizing and a strong determination she would eventually develop the very hardy Barnhaven Cowichan 'strain'. The first mention of this initial strain was in Barnhaven's 1949 catalog, i.e.: "**COWICHAN STRAIN** — Three generations removed from the named variety 'Cowichan' but with the same smouldering luster and almost absent eye. Colors are intense garnet to almost black garnet, oxblood ruby . . . clusters neat and compact on dark, wiry stems."

It is not known why the catalog failed to mention Mrs. Bellis' later statements

regarding the bronze-touched leaves, intermediate size and general appearance of the Cowichan strain. The bronze coloring of the leaves is a distinct characteristic and can be easily identified in any garden in which it is growing.

In Barnhaven's last catalog, No. 8185, (Barnhaven moved from Gresham, Oregon to Kendal England around 1966) the second and final proprietor, Jared Sinclair, stated: "Over the years, other colors maintaining the characteristics of the original plant have been introduced. The Cowichan strains of today are vigorous, robust plants with flowers that are solid pools of color with either no eye at all or a tiny golden eyelet, and petals that have the hot coal smoulder of the bloom from Major Knocker's garden."

The list of Cowichans offered by Barnhaven's nursery was modified and expanded as new strains were developed and introduced. The following listing is from Barnhaven's final catalog:

GARNET COWICHAN Garnet, black garnet and ruby shades.

AMETHYST COWICHAN Amethyst and violet shades, some with intricate little Persian carpets where the eye should be.

BLUE COWICHAN Intense blues, some with black bee centers.

VENETIAN COWICHAN Hot pinks, reds, some with black bee centers.

YELLOW COWICHAN Newest of the cowichans. Yellow shades over bronzed foliage. Rather shorter in growth and smaller in flower than the others, but prodigious with its blooms and exceedingly pretty.

There have been many wonderful articles published about the history of Barnhaven and its founder Florence Bellis. Serious students of primrose history, primrose culture and the founding of the American Primrose Society will find this documentation exciting and humorous reading.

OTHER AVAILABLE STRAINS

Hybridizers throughout the world have used the original Cowichan strains to produce an abundance of colorful and exciting hardy strains. Many of these have the same characteristic traits as the one found on Vancouver Island. The following are some of the more popular varieties available from selected nurseries and grower.

APRICOT COWICHAN Also listed as the Tangerine Cowichan. It has apricot shades with a touch of red in the dark eye and grown by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clarke. Two or more flats of seedlings were recently being grown by Herb Dickson.

PINK COWICHAN An acaulis type. Pink shades, grown by the Fred and Hellen Clarke.

BROWN COWICHAN Cy and Rita Happy reported that other growers are developing luxuriant brown Cowichans.

FIREFLY COWICHANS Derived from the Barnhaven Juliana Polyanthus 'Firefly' strain. Barnhaven seed packets produced Garnet and Venetian Cowichan Juliana hybrids. They are delightful plants.

BIG RED COWICHANS A rich true red Cowichan type developed by Herb Dickson with Juliana traits.

SMOKY DARK GARNET COWICHANS Two similar stalked varieties grown by Mary Baxter. Mary related that Cy Happy pollinated a *P. juliae* with a Cowichan plant, or vice versa, to produce these plants.

MISCELLANEOUS COWICHANS Four other varieties of Juliana plants, some stalked and some cushion varieties, with Cowichan type flowers, e.g., an amethyst shade, two deep reds, and one bright red, have acquired through swaps with Jerry Flintoff and Rick Lupp.

* * *

SOURCES OF COWICHAN SEED:

Craven's Nursery, Hall Barn Nurseries, Windsor End, Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 2SG England

Saltspring Primroses, 2426 W 47th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6M 2N2

References

Anonymous. *The Barnhaven Primroses*. A.P.S. Quarterly Bulletin, Winter 1967.

Bellis, Florence. *The Origin of the Barnhaven Cowichan*. A.P.S. Quarterly Bulletin, Winter 1984.

Happy, Cy & Rita. *Cowichans*. A.P.S. Quarterly Bulletin, Spring 1978.

Sinclair, Jared. *Primrose Seeds by Barnhaven*. Barnhaven Nursery's Catalog, August 1985.

Springer, Dorothy. *Cowichan . . . I Love You*. A.P.S. Quarterly Bulletin, Summer 1969.

BRIAN SKIDMORE

by Larry Bailey
Edmonds, Washington

I have always found it difficult and somewhat humbling to write about a person for whom I held in high respect. Brian Skidmore was such a person.

It has been over ten years since I became acquainted with Brian and June Skidmore. We met at the first meeting I attended of the APS's Washington State Chapter. If my memory serves me correctly, this was also one of the first meetings that Brian and June attended. Little did we know our lives would be so modified by a horticulture organization and so intertwined with Primroses.

I can still remember Brian's excitement with his first successes with species primula. Brian's efforts with *Primula obconica* was soon the talk of the local chapter. A person could see the pride and enjoyment Brian had in producing the magnificent arrays of colorful blooms. It was only after he discovered the source of an irritating rash on his hands and face, that he discovered a subtle nuisance of growing some plants. Brian was allergic to the *Primula obconica*.

Not to be deterred, Brian quickly switched gears and dove into other species of *Primula*. It was not long before the makeshift seeding room in the crawl space of their home was bulging with seedlings of thousands of *primula* and spilling out into the yard. The Skidmore's garden was soon a display case of spring primroses in bloom, and Brian's plants were becoming the standard of excellence in the

Primrose Shows. Brian took a special interest in the auriculas and marginatas, but I think Brian always held dear to his heart the English Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*) that derived from his native England.

Over the years Brian and June's support and contributions to the National Organization of the American Primrose Society were recognized by this struggling group. In 1983 Brian was persuaded to have his name placed in nomination for the society's Treasurer. During that period the organization's monetary balance was literally running from month to month. And, the membership lists and accounting were evolving from a historical record keeping system of antiquity methodology.

Within the first few months of assuming the treasurers position Brian, in his own exacting ways, had the organization running like a finely tuned British motorcar. Exercising exacting control of the expenses, the American Primrose Society was soon operating in the black and the bank balance continued to grow for the next six years. Those of us who know the intricacies and problems of any small, volunteer organization are well aware of the formidable task that Brian did.

Not only did Brian contribute so much of his time and energy to the National Organization, but both Brian and June were the "ones" to be counted on to supply the leadership and just plain hard work in the local Chapter's meetings, Primrose Shows

and exhibits. Even this last February, June and Brain were scurrying all over Seattle the night before the Northwest Flower and Garden Show opening, putting the APS's exhibit into a proper format and meaningful display. The American Primrose Society is indeed indebted to Brian Skidmore.

Those of us who love our plants and cherish growing them, know that the true enjoyment of gardening is sharing our joy with others. As we get older and past major milestones in our lives, the plants and knowledge that we have

shared with others becomes more and more dear to us. There are many areas of my garden where the plants that I have received from my friends are far more important to me than the latest or rarest plants that are finding their way to the market places. Brain's marginata's and double auricula seedlings, his polyanthas and primroses, and his obconica that he has shared with me will always be dear; if not the plants, then the wonderful memories. Brian Skidmore will be missed.

* * *



Primula x juliae, grown by Orval Agee

photo by Larry A. Bailey

American Primrose Society

Officers

President: Vasco Fenili, 7102 Citrine Lane S.W., Tacoma, WA 98498
 Recording Secretary: Ann Lunn, 6620 N.W. 27th Ave., Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
 Treasurer: Jay Lunn, 6620 N.W. 27th Ave., Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
 Past President: Irene Buckles, 13732 - 45th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98168

Directors

1993 Bill Brown, 43 Middle Road, Blue Point, NY 11715
 Don Howse, 41370 SE Thomas Rd., Sandy, OR 97055
 1992 Etha Tate, 10722 SE 40th Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222
 Ruth Korn, 3606 Robin View Dr., West Linn, OR 97068
 1991 Cyrus Happy III, 11617 Gravelly Lake Dr., Tacoma, WA 98499
 Kris Fenderson, Group Hill, South Acworth, NH 03607

Presidents of affiliated societies and chapters

Publications

Back issues of Primroses are available. Order from the secretary.
 Manuscripts for publication in the quarterly are solicited from members and other gardening experts, although there is no payment. Please send articles and photographs to the editor.
 Advertising rates per issue: full page \$60; half page \$30; quarter page \$15; eighth page and minimum \$10. Submit advertising to the editor.
 Artwork is the responsibility of the advertiser, and camera ready copy is requested.

Round Robin

Elizabeth van Sickle, 654 Marine Drive, Sequim WA 98382

Seed Exchange

Esther M. Strickland, 8518 28th Ave. E., Tacoma WA 98445

Show Judges

Al Rapp, 4918 79th Ave. W., Tacoma, WA 98467

Slide Library

Jerry Flintoff, 154 N.E. 194th, Seattle, WA 98155

Editor's Committee

Larry A. Bailey, Editor, 1570 9th Ave. N., Edmonds, WA 98020
 Thea Service Foster, 'Fambridge,' 779 E. 21st St. North Vancouver, B.C. Canada V7J 1N7
 Don Keefe, 22604 N.E. 20th Pl., Redmond, WA 98053
 Pat Foster, 'Fambridge,' 779 E. 21st St. North Vancouver, B.C. Canada V7J 1N7

