

Primroses

THE QUARTERLY OF THE AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2004

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No. 4



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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 the genus *Primula* in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about *Primula*.

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About the Cover

A double *Primula auricula*, 'Cameo Beauty' grown by Ken Whorton.
Photo by Keith Leeming, UK.

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Primula auricula, 'Ushba'

Double auricula is the theme for this issue. many thanks to Keith Leeming for the generous contribution of his excellent photographs.

PRIMROSES • The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

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Winter issue	December 10
Spring issue	March 10
Summer issue	June 10

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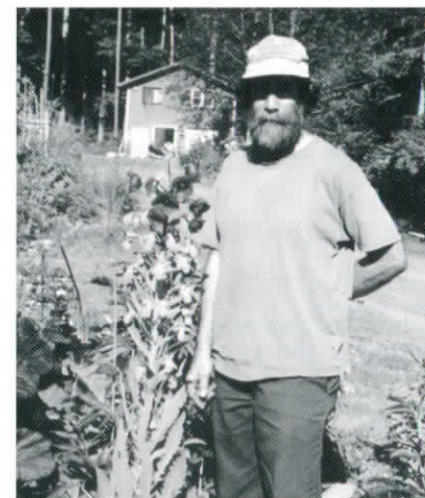
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President's Message

Ed Buyarski

Greetings gardeners; it's been a long time since we last talked and I apologize for this late issue. You will meet our new Quarterly Editor-Matt Mattus-with this issue. We must thank Robert Tonkin for his great work and help and encourage Matt to bring us an even better Quarterly. Since this is the most visible reminder of your membership, I ask all of you to contribute to the Quarterly and our Society with ideas, questions, articles, photos and yes, even constructive criticism.



Speaking of membership, now is the time of year to renew yours or your Twins or your friends memberships if the Quarterly Envelopes' address label has 2004 on it. We will also soon be seeing the Seed Exchange List so be sure to get some seeds to start in late winter and hurry along the new Spring season.

This has been the most amazing summer season in Southeast Alaska in history with more days over 70F and even over 80 to distress some of our Primulas that have been used to cool weather and consistent moisture during the growing season. I even had to water plants in my garden and have lost some that couldn't take the heat and sunshine. I got more of a tan this summer than I have had since leaving southern Idaho 21 years ago. Wild and domestic

fruits and berries were sweeter and more prolific than ever and this will be the summer to compare to all others when I am reminiscing as an "Old Timer".

On the other hand this may be only the beginning of global warming for us to endure and soon we might be growing watermelons in Alaska! Our Mendenhall Glacier has been rapidly retreating for the past 20 years and soon may back away from its lake where icebergs now float. Salmon had difficulty spawning as small streams dried up completely until our fall rains returned in September. This fall, we had a lot of new growth on plants that had gone partially dormant with the unnatural heat and dryness so I hope that growth will not be killed by our winter. I will not make a prediction for next year but so far we are having a very mild beginning for our winter.

Around here we are protecting our plants with evergreen boughs or burlap to slow the freeze/thaw process that we usually receive and I have been gathering from our grocery stores Styrofoam grape boxes to use for the same purpose. These work very well when top and bottom halves are placed over plants that prefer having their crowns kept dryer for the winter. These boxes are perforated for ventilation also but must have a rock or other weight placed on them so they do not blow off. Admittedly they do not contribute to the beauty of the winter garden but certainly may help more plants survive.

In other news, I recently received a copy of the NAPS 2004 Yearbook-Southern Section from its Editor, Lawrence E. Wigley. I was pleased to see a Robert Tonkin photo of *Primula vialii* in my garden used to illustrate a brief article about that species. Of greater interest however were a couple of paragraphs written by Allan Hawkes, a prominent Show Auricula breeder (and winner) about the potential use of pin-eyed plants in making crosses (normally discarded as abomination)! I must quote his sentence—"It is really a matter of convention and tradition, but undoubtedly, any dedicated growers of auriculas could adapt to tolerating pin eyes about as readily as a disciplined vegetarian could adapt to cannibalism." Thank you Allan for the suggestion and I hope you have not been much abused by your fellow breeders and competitors.

One last note, we are looking for new candidates for APS Board and Officer positions for next Springs' ballot. Please consider helping the Society by taking on this duty.

From the New Editor

MATT MATTUS

In mid October the UPS delivery man pulled up at my home in Worcester, Massachusetts, and dropped off a cardboard box from Alaska. A heavy box! A beat-up and corrugated box with 'Alaska Litho' printed on it's side contained nearly every issue (except one) of the Primrose Quarterly, issues going back to 1941, was now mine. As your new Editor, I suddenly felt little overwhelmed and soon I felt deeply connected to this fine group.

I spent that cold fall night, reading and organizing the fragile and musty scented issues, captivated with how each issue changed and told a different story through time. Some had stains, some with taped covers, some issues were just photocopies, and some were well read and dog-eared.

This became a box that is was reeking with stories. A few issues had rubber stamped names and addresses of past members, and a few had some clipped addresses and handwritten scribbles and jottings. A few were marked with red ink, edited by an eager member clearly too obsessed with nomenclature. It was moving to read stories and see pictures of young members introducing themselves in, then a few decades later read as they too matured. Like our plants, we grow, and it was fascinating to follow these stories of life.

Everything changes over time, evolving to a new place. The Quarterly has changed as the decades moved ahead, the 1940's, the 1960's, the 1980's, and now, I have a chance to make a contribution.

I am new to Primula, but not new to plant passions. I am grateful for Robert Tonkin's help in guiding me down this path, as well as my fellow members of the New England Group, Judy and Elaine, who have been so supportive and encouraging. I look forward to meeting many of you through the years as I serve in this role.

Lastly, this issue is late and I appologize for that. I am Mac based, and have had to re-build the entire document in Adobe InDesign. Please share your thoughts as I make a few design changes over these next two issues. I look forward to hearing from many of you over the next few months.

Matt Mattus

Double Auricula for the Garden or Show Bench

RICK LUPP

While double forms of *Primula auricula* are not to everyone's taste, I am a very big fan of them. In the 1600s, they were also very popular and commanded very high prices. The doubles then slowly lost favor until they were almost unavailable by the early 1900s. Over the past fifty years or so modern breeders have brought them back to the forefront. They are mostly vigorous plants that will do very well in the garden and they make exceptional container plants either grown in the open or under cover.

When grown in the open garden, double forms of *P. auricula* require a well drained soil and protection from the hottest sun. It is a good idea to put several inches of small gravel or grit around the base of garden grown plants to help protect against the formation of rot in the root crown which is a common reason for the loss of *P. auricula* in all of its forms.

Pot grown plants of *P. auricula* also need a well drained potting mix. I use a mix consisting of about nine parts coarse sand, 4 parts pumice or grit and 6 parts peat. I also top dress the pots with a 1 to 2 inch layer of pumice or grit. Proper watering is important for pot grown plants of *P. auricula*. The plants can take plenty of water during the growing season but require only a light watering during the winter. I let my pots become surface dry before watering in winter. All dead or dying foliage should also be removed in late fall as fungal growth can start in the dead foliage and move into the roots and crown of your plants causing damage or death.

Root aphid and green aphid are about the only major pests which attack *P. auricula*. Many plants in nature harbor these pests and the females can fly so you can never fully eliminate them. These aphids can be controlled with a reg-

ular spraying of a good systemic insecticide. I alternate applications of Orthene and Diazinon at about 30 day intervals during the growing season with good results. Good control of these pests is important as they can cause serious damage to your plants and spread viruses.

A large number of different cultivars of double forms of *P. auricula* have been bred over the years, ranging in color from rich shades of purple, blue and lavender to such unusual colors as green, mocha and burnt orange. Two of my favorite purples are *P.a. 'Shalford'* which has rich, royal purple blooms held on strong 6" stems and is very fragrant and *P.a. 'Doublet'* which is a neat, compact double just right for a container garden. Lavender is the predominant color in *P.a. 'Arctic Fox'* which is a rich lavender purple with a darker center and looks very much like a double alpine auricula while *P.a. 'Susannah'* is a lovely shade of lavender pink.

Some of the more unusual color forms of double *Primula auricula* are *P.a. 'Sword'* which is a vigorous double green edge show, *P.a. 'Brownie'* with its brown blooms and yellow markings toward the center and *P.a. 'Pegasus'* in a stunning burnt orange. Other eye catching color combinations are found in *P.a. 'Emily P.'* which is creamy white infused with green, yellow and pink and *P.a. 'Standish'* with its pastel shades of cream, yellow and pink.

One of the best and most prolific of the modern breeders of double *Primula auricula* is *Derek Salt* of the U.K. Derek counts *P.a. 'Fred Booley'* as being probably his best introduction and judging by the plant's popularity he is most likely correct. *P.a. 'Fred Booley'* is a rich, dark blue and is very vigorous and easy to please. Some other introductions made by Derek include *P.a. 'Stripy'* which is a heavily striped double, *P.a. 'Trouble'* with fully double dark mocha blooms, *P.a. 'Wizard'* which is deep rose with light striping and *P.a. 'Lincoln Chestnut'* in a rich shade of mid brown.

Many other very fine double *Primula auricula* are being grown by collectors around the world. Make your own collection of double *Primula auricula* and join the fun.



A deep violet double *Primula auricula* 'Fred Booley' grown by Derek Salt in the UK.

Visiting Chelsea: An American in London

Matt Mattus



Plan on visiting the Chelsea flower show next May, but be ready to deal with as many people as there are choice plants.

I'm not much for the major flower show circuit. Like many of us, the idea of posy pushers and the requisite stalls of retailers pitching dyed eucalyptus interests me as much as Hollywood gossip magazines. I'd rather spend my time, in the fresh cool solitude of an alpine meadow hiking ankle deep in glacial run-off, studying tiny precious spring ephemerals – but that's another story.

I had high expectations for Chelsea, since it is the world's leading horticultural event in the world's leading horticultural nation, England. It delivered. Chelsea, which has been held each May since 1913 in the

grounds of the Royal Hospital in London, is organized by the Royal Horticultural Society and features an amazing 11 acres of spectacular exhibits, gardens and horticultural displays.

This year my partner Joe Philip and I we're able to visit it since I had a last minute business trip planned to London that coincided with Chelsea's opening. Even though we avoid the larger shows in the US, I somehow reasoned that it would be OK to support and attend this huge show. Surprisingly, although commercial indeed, nothing prepared us for the national TV coverage at primetime, and the quality merchandise. I guess I'm a closet flower show guy, secretly dreaming on winter nights that maybe if I gave in and ordered the giant walking stick cabbages or the Saladisi™ from Thompson & Morgan, that I might win a free ticket to Chelsea.

Expectations are hard to manage, we often imagine events to be grander than they really are, and to be honest, I'm not sure what I imagined, but I can say this: Chelsea was exciting, overstimulating,

In the main exhibition pavillions at Chelsea, *Primula auricula* are grown with cultural excellence and perfection. After-all, this is where it all began.





It's easy to see why the Chelsea Flower Show is truly the Olympics for our sport we call gardening, and like the Olympics, crowds are to be expected.

shocking, horrid, surprising, and inspirational, all at the same time. But by far, our biggest memory we're the crowds. Incredible Superbowl sized crowds of deeply passionate gardeners, amateurs and those just looking for pretty flowers, all moving slow like cattle, inching along wide paths out of doors, and indoors, slowly, pushy, carrying you along wherever they moved.

One must buy tickets in advance to attend Chelsea, much like a big museum exhibition in a major city. The tickets can be purchased for a specific entry time, and departure time. If you are traveling from anywhere in North America, my advice would be to join the Royal Horticultural Society online, (www.rhs.org.uk) and get the discounted full day rate, since you will never see the entire show in a single day.

This is no ordinary flower show. The difference between the English gardener and the American gardener is, as we all know, intensity. Upon entering, one passes through a grand gate, and across to a wide stairway that leads down to an allee of huge elms, under which were two long rows of vendors. We both gasped at the sea of heads, silently imagining how could we ever pass through this phalanx of tweed and wellies.



From towering mountains of Delphinium to tables of perfect Auricula, the Chelsea Flower Show offers some of the worlds best grown plants.

Vendors at Chelsea bring a sophistication to the sport. Some of the best booths represented custom made leather English muck boots, hand made copper watering cans, and hand thrown pottery featuring alpine pots and long toms. We were delighted with the lack of eyeglass cleaner and potato slicers.

Unfortunately crowds were so large much at Chelsea was not seen. Undeterred, we realized that there was so much else to see in this one day at Chelsea, that we decided to take in the indoor displays featuring specific plant material and specialty nurseries. We felt that these specialist displays we're by far the highlights of our Chelsea experience.

Under acre wide white tented structures, is arranged a virtual football field of displays all competing for the highest of honors, the Chelsea Gold. Imagine row after row of elaborate staging, each featuring a specialized plant. Nurseries from all over England display their best, from Dibley's well known Streptocarpus to the equally famous Blackmore & Langdon delphinium.

Tiered staging reached skyward as velvet ropes kept the slowly

moving line of attendees away from the towering specimens. Sweet peas, a thousand to a basket, each a different color, each basket three feet wide, arranged by color and variety, tier after tier, if there is a horticultural heaven, this surely was it.

Fuchsia nurseries, more sweet peas, begonias, lilies, spring bulbs, row after row, we carefully followed the neon arrows that kept the crowd moving along the roped along the perimeter of the pavilion. We followed the crowd along viewing even better fuchsia displays, even more sweet peas, each display seemed better than the previous one. Pitcher plants, tiered shelves of perfectly staked Snapdragons, an entire display of Russel Lupines, and a memorable display of potted blooming cacti, horticultural excellence was everywhere we looked.

Then finally, there were the Primulas. Nurseries with Auricula theatres complete with black velvet draped tables and rows of neat and tidy black pots. Doubles, Fancies, Stripes and green. I had never seen such plants, this was the first time that I had actually seen a show auricula believe it or not, before this, they only existed on British web sites and old paintings at the museum. I was hooked. I was tired, hey, I was hungry!

Like any museum experience, no matter how spectacular, and special, one can, and will, become over stimulated with all of the potent eye candy. We could handle only so much before our minds wore out, or as in our case, our stomachs. Food at Chelsea definitely came second to plants, so the idea of sitting with a basket of fresh fish and chips with smashed peas and a foamy cold lager a cab ride away in deeper London sounded so much better.

Regrettably, we left, talking a bit about how the initial excitement, then disappointment with the crowds, and the lines. It's funny now, that as time moves on, we realize how incredible some of the sights were, and we are now discussing our next Chelsea trip, with plans to arrive not on closing day at noon, but early in the morning, like the pros do. Chelsea is worth attending. You can expect to see some of the very finest in cultivated plants in the world,

I recommend that one join the RHS, and plan on attending Chelsea on the first two days when the show is reserved for members. The dates for Chelsea 2005 are May 24-28, 2004.

Hand-to-hand Combat

by Jay Lunn

A few years ago, a friend visited our garden and told a story about going out after dark with a flashlight and hand collecting root weevils from her primroses. In the middle of June a year or so after her visit, I noticed that we were experiencing quite a bit of weevil damage to primroses in a bed along the front side of our house. Many of them had the characteristic scalloped leaf edges that indicate the presence of grazing adult weevils. I decided that I would try our friend's method of removing these pests.

With a flashlight in hand, my wife and I collected more than two dozen weevils over the next few nights from this slightly larger than 4 ft. by 19 ft. bed (see a photograph of part of it on the back page of *Primroses*, Summer 2004, Vol. 62, No. 3). Our method was to shine the light on the surface of the leaves and grab any weevil we spotted (don't worry, they don't bite). They are not easy to find when you first start hunting, but with a little experience you get better at spotting them. Weevils aren't difficult to catch because they don't scurry away, but can easily be dropped. Once they slip out of your hand, they are very hard to locate within the leaves and mulch of the flower bed. After a few nights of collecting, there weren't any more to be found. I then sprayed the foliage with Orthene, a systemic insecticide that is labeled for use on ornamental plants. I have used it often in the past on rhododendrons for controlling weevils. I also sprinkled granulated diazinon over the soil and watered it in. I assumed that the diazinon wouldn't kill the root weevil larvae, but hoped it would at least give them an upset stomach.

In June of the following year, we found more weevil damage, so it appeared

that this control wasn't terribly effective or the adults had already laid their eggs before we started collecting. We again took to the hand-to-hand combat and collected almost as many weevils as we had the prior season. I didn't apply any type of insecticide this time around.

This is the third year and there has been little weevil damage to the main bed, however, the primroses in a 22-inch oval pot that sits on the patio adjacent to it, suffered a great deal of leaf damage. I picked off a half dozen weevils from the plants in this pot, but only one in the main bed! So maybe this kind of control does work!

I believe the pest we have is the obscure root weevil, *Sciopithes obscurus*. Its night-time foraging results in unsightly looking leaves, but this damage isn't fatal to the plants. That cannot be said of their larvae, however. I have found primroses in pots that had a half dozen or more larvae feeding on the plant's roots. It doesn't take them long to destroy a plant when there are that many eating on it. If you have a primrose that is wilted and you water it, but it still doesn't revive, it probably has a root problem and it could be root weevil larvae.

The adult weevils are quite discriminating and don't feed on all primroses. They seem to pass up *Primula japonica* and *P. auricula* cv. while focusing on those in the Primula (Vernales) Section. I don't believe I have found the larvae feeding on the roots of the types that the adult weevils pass by either. Try the hand-to-hand control approach - it's easy, safe and it will save you from buying some expensive insecticides.



Photo: Keith Leeming

ABOVE. Double auricula 'Prima' raised by Derek Salt, from seed obtained from Ken Whorton in the United Kingdom. BELOW. *P. auricula* 'Cameo Beauty' raised by Ken Whorton.



Photo: Keith Leeming



'Brimstone & Treacle' grown by K. Whorton, UK.



'Joannes Red' grown by K. Whorton, UK.



'Mipsie Miranda' grown by Chris Wood, UK.



'Pegasus' grown by Dr. Martin Sheeder, UK.



'Sandpiper' grown by K. Whorton, UK.



'Ushba' grown by K. Whorton, UK.

All Photos this page: Keith Leeming



Photo: Keith Leeming

ABOVE. *P. auricula* 'Chiquita' raised by Ken Whorton shows some of the complexity of color that can be achieved. BELOW, 'Funny Valentine' raised by Ed Pickin.



Photo: Keith Leeming



Photo: Keith Leeming

ABOVE. P.auricula 'Double Treasure Chest', another magnificent specimen grown by Ken Whorton. iBELOW. Clearly, it's not just the fact that the double P. auricula are double that make them so appealing, the stylish contemporary color range also compels one to collect them. This auricula 'Fred Booley' was raised by Derek Salt.



Photo: Keith Leeming



Photo: J. Sellers

ABOVE. Cold hardy New Englanders at their October APS Chapter Meeting in upstate New York. BELOW. Even colder hardy Alaskan members of the Juneau Chapter at a fall planting project at the Juneau Public Library.



Photo: R. Tonkin

Exhibiting Gold at the Chelsea Flower Show

Lesley Roberts and Gil Dawson

The Chelsea Flower Show is world famous, a brilliant floral spectacle visited by 170,000 people every year at the end of May; and there is the challenge as far as auriculas are concerned, the fact that it is in the end of May.

In our part of the south of England the auriculas are at their best from the middle of April until the first week of May. Preparing 250 display plants for a mid-April show is usually not too difficult, but to produce 300 in reasonable form for the end of May is quite a different matter and has brought us to the edge of madness for the past two years.

It is not as if you can hold the plants back in cold storage for more than a couple of days - it simply encourages them to flower. We've tried limiting their hours of daylight but they just stretch and sulk.

Last year we took a couple of hundred plants to Scotland, and flew up to visit them since that bought us a couple of weeks and another 60 plants to choose from. This year we had them high on a freezing hill in Huddersfield in the north of England and we managed to show about a dozen of these.

Our mainstays are the doubles since they take that much longer to open fully, and tend to hold their blooms. The edges are good too, for the same reason. The stripes always come early here, and the show selfs don't hold up long, but there is usually a good smattering of alpines and borders and often



Editors note: Pop's plants did indeed win a well deserved Gold Medal in May of 2004 (before this article was written, in fact).



Photo: Jeffri Coleman

The natural diffused daylight of the exhibition pavillion at Chesea perfectly illuminated the auricula display enhancing thier subtle coloring against the black.

with a second truss.

It was touch and go this year though. Every morning for about two weeks before Chelsea we potted up the plants into their smart black exhibition pots. And the following morning we would discover more of them blown and take them out again. The supply of plants left to flower dwindled at an alarming rate, and that was the point, as usual, when the nightmares began.

Chelsea is a long show since it is open for the best part of a week and you want the flowers looking decent for as long as possible. The nightmares usually run along the lines of every single flower falling off as the judges appear, or the stand collapsing (this year it was much higher).

The potential for public humiliation is on a grand scale, and the Royal Horticultural Society would not look kindly on an exhibitor who pulled out at the last minute.

This year, having spent most of the preceding warm week juggling a hose pipe over the roof of the the show house and dashing inside to repair leaks, we made a night time break for London. The new Great Pavilion would be cooler than home.

At 7:00 PM on the Friday before the show we began setting the exhibit since



Photo, Jay G. Lunn



Photo, Jay G. Lunn



Photo, Jay G. Lunn

While harmless to humans, *Sciopithes obscurus*, commonly known to gardeners as the Obscure Root Weevil, can be very damaging to certain plants, including Primula species. The adult root weevils limit their damage to Primula foliage, causing classic "trails" of damage on the leaf. But this insect earns its name, since most of its damage is underground, from the larvae's preference to feed on the plants' tender root tissue.

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NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS:

NEW ENGLAND



They were not exactly 'huddled masses' but a small group of chilled adults was gathered around a picnic table on the bluff overlooking a duck sprinkled lake on October 16 at Innisfree Gardens, just up the Hudson River from New York City. Their purpose was to conduct the fall business meeting, exchange plants and discuss *Primula*. The meeting was to have been a month earlier, in a glorious autumn setting, but a hurricane's rains had closed roads, making postponement necessary.

In spite of the cold and blustery weather, many issues were discussed. The main topics concerned plans for the APS National Show, to be held from April 28 through May 1 of 2005 at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden, near Boston. Hotels, meals, speakers, garden tours, registration, advertising, benching procedures and committee participation were just a few of the many issues raised by Show Chair, *Elaine Malloy*, and the discussion kept us busy, if not warm.

A subject brought to our attention by Chairperson *Mary Irwin* was the establishment of a trophy in memory of *Richard Redfield*, a great friend to our Chapter, who passed away in early October. The group decided to solicit donations from members (If you wish to make a donation, please send to *Mary Irwin*, address listed at back of this issue) for a trophy to be awarded annually at the New England Shows, whether they are national or local.

Our usual plant auction, held towards the end of the meeting, was exciting rather than organized. The first plants went well to bidders, but, with many plants still to share and black clouds looming, it was decided to quickly hand the pots to anyone present (except the parking lot attendant) with instructions to 'Grow them on and bench them at The Show.' Instead of touring the extensive gardens, members then scuttled, with flats or armloads of plants, back to their cars, wishing they had preheated seats.

Judith Sellers

JUNEAU CHAPTER



Membership and attendance for the Juneau chapter has remained consistent going into the new chapter year. Our chapter does not meet in the summer. Our first get together this fall was the planting of one side of the new Juneau Public Library gardens. With the involvement of APS President Ed Buyarski, the City and Borough of Juneau has embraced our local Chapter. Last year, by official proclamation, Juneau became the "Primrose Capital of Alaska". This year, the new raised library beds have been turned over to the Juneau Chapter of the APS for primula planting and maintenance.

Our September kick off meeting was a work party to get the project started. A dozen chapter volunteers showed up with various gardening implements, plenty of primula to plant, and an abundance of enthusiasm for the project. Early next spring will find us planting the second bed with new plants. Garden signs for the public are in the works. Thousands of visitors a day pass the beds in the summer. Signs will identify the various species of plants in the garden as well as our chapter and APS involvement.

Our treasury remains strong at \$3600. New programs are being planned for the winter. The newsletter is in its fifth year of publication and has been well received around the state as well as by various APS Board and Officers. Other recent discussions centered around the possibility of helping National with storage and maintenance of the APS Quarterly library.

By Robert Tonkin



P. denticulata

(continued from page 21)

this gave us the weekend since In the Great Pavilion, exhibits are judged on Monday. We began to unload and setting up the stand. It is an island site and four sided, with six tiers of shelves which we build by ourselves. By Saturday the stand is up, the black clothes in place, and we can start staging the plants.

We used to begin at the top and work downwards, but this was scary. Everything goes swimmingly for the top four shelves, but the biggest are at the bottom of course, and there never look as if there are enough plants.

Now we do one side at a time since it just seems easier on the nerves. Most of the auriculas are staked since they have to stand up a long time, and one has to have permission to replace any once the show has opened. Although they are all cleaned and watered before leaving home, they still need a fair bit of work following the truck ride. Dusting down with a paint brush and cotton buds, wiping and polishing the pots.

Exhibiting auriculas at Chelsea and other flower shows here is rather different to benching plants at the Society shows, where each individual pip must be perfect, and in most classes only one truss is assessed.

At the general flower shows the plants are inspected closely of course, but the judges are looking for other things too, like impact and colour and what they call the 'wow' factor. This is when you wish you had delphiniums or tree peonies!

The Monday at Chelsea is press day, and also when the Queen and other members of the royal family pay their annual visit. The judges have generally

IN ERRATA

In the Summer 2004 Issue, we apologize for the captions on the images from page 18 and page 23. On page 18, The gentleman to the right of Mary Irwin identified as Ralph Irwin, is actually Charles Tuttle. On page 23, the people identified as Paul Held and Ralph Irwin are actually (on left,) Alex Malloy and (on right,) Charles Tuttle. THE EDITOR

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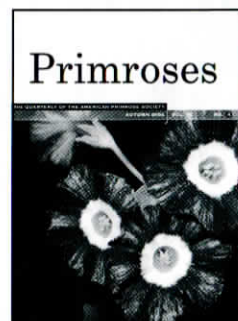
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IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD REDFIELD

1915 - 2004

I am honored to be asked to write about Dick Redfield. It can be said that Dick Redfield ranks with the likes of greats like Linc Foster, who, for many years, was a virtual guru of the North American Rock Garden Society. Like Linc, Dick Redfield stood out among the crowd of enthusiasts as one who was knowledgeable, yet humbled by the awesomeness of the plant world.

Many of us often looked to him for knowledge and advice, knowing that the answer would be as complete and as sure as is humanly possible, yet open to further study.

His garden is renowned for its beauty and diversity ranging from rare alpiners in raised beds, to meadow, woodland shade and swamp conditions. As a grower he excelled - *Primula japonica* has earned the name 'Redfield's Red'. His reputation for growing the double form of *Trillium grandiflora* is worldwide, he, amassed a hillside of them as part of his garden. What struck me most about Dick was his gentleness and his generosity. Dick embodied the spirit of what we think a plantsman should be. Yet, he was a sweetheart of a man. One could not help loving him.

Paul Held

A Thank You

BY ROBERT TONKIN

Thank you sounds so ordinary, but it is the true sentiment that I have from the nearly four years as your Editor. Thank you most for the knowledge I have gained from all of you, both past and present members.

Thank you for the many contributions, suggestions, articles, pictures, proofreading, criticisms, compliments, and especially for all the wonderful letters of appreciation and encouragement from all who took the time to pass along acknowledgement of the hard work that goes into putting together and getting our publication out the door every quarter.

Matt is going to do an outstanding job. He has the professional skills, the enthusiasm and the energy to take Primroses to the next level. However, even with all those attributes, it is you who read this that will ultimately determine the quality of Primroses. As a member contributed publication, we rely on you to share your experiences and knowledge, whether your efforts are successful or not. Please help Matt carry on the tradition with your articles, chapter reports, gardening tips and wonderful pictures.

On a personal note, I intend to stay involved in the Society. My efforts turn now to the APS Judging Committee's need for a single document containing the collective bits and pieces of judging rules and standards from the past sixty two years. For the past two years the Judging Committee has reviewed, discussed, and made suggested changes to the numerous documents that comprise this body of knowledge and procedures. Final approval and distribution of the results to our membership are forthcoming.

Now too I can turn some of my efforts to contributing to the content of Primroses. Hopefully I can help to improve its content in some small manner similar to what I have hopefully done with its structure, technological changes and cost.

Cheers,

Robert and Kerri Tonkin

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Primula auricula 'Prima'
Photo: Keith Leeming

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