

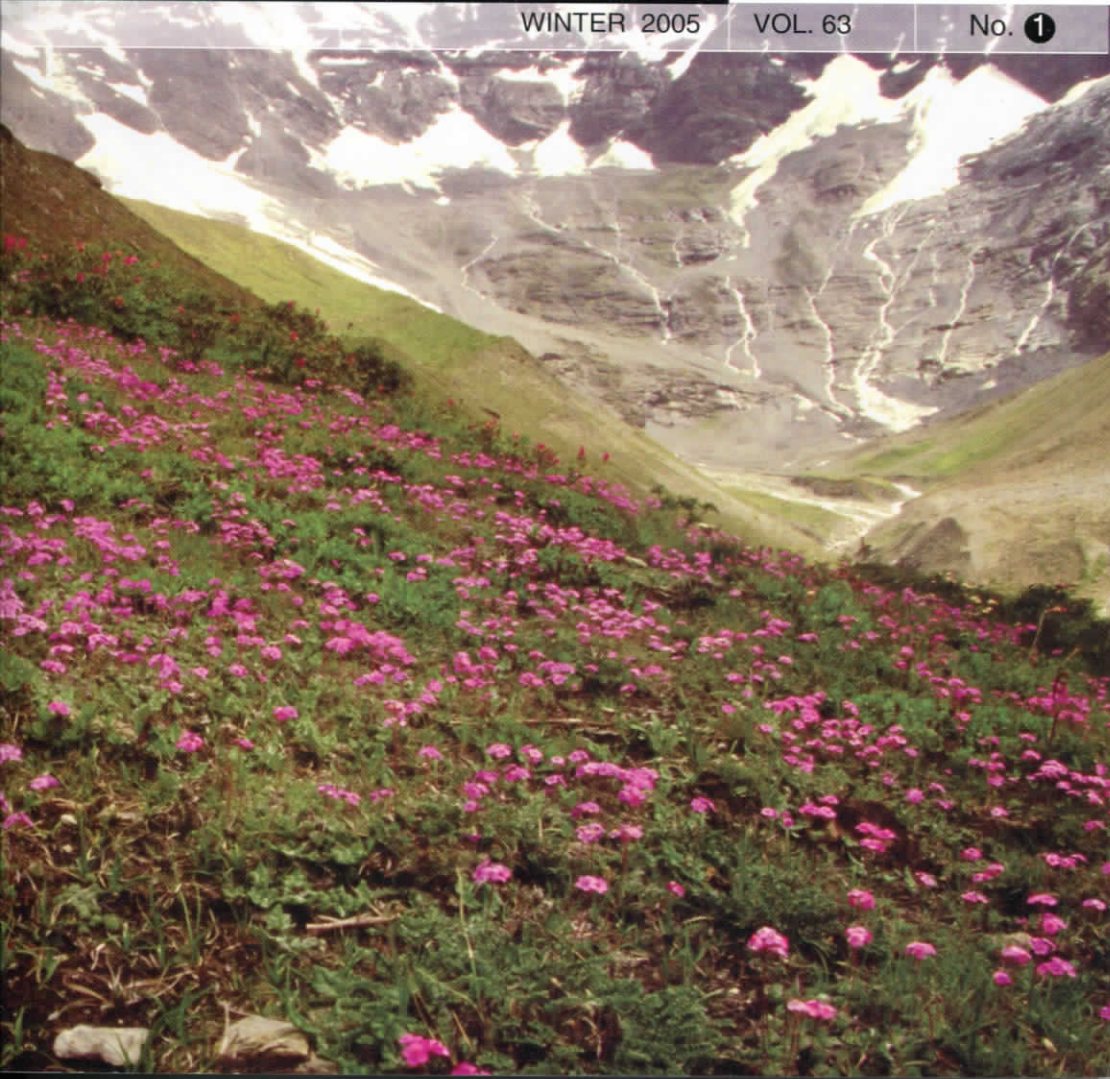
Primroses

THE QUARTERLY OF THE AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

WINTER 2005

VOL. 63

No. 1



Primroses

The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

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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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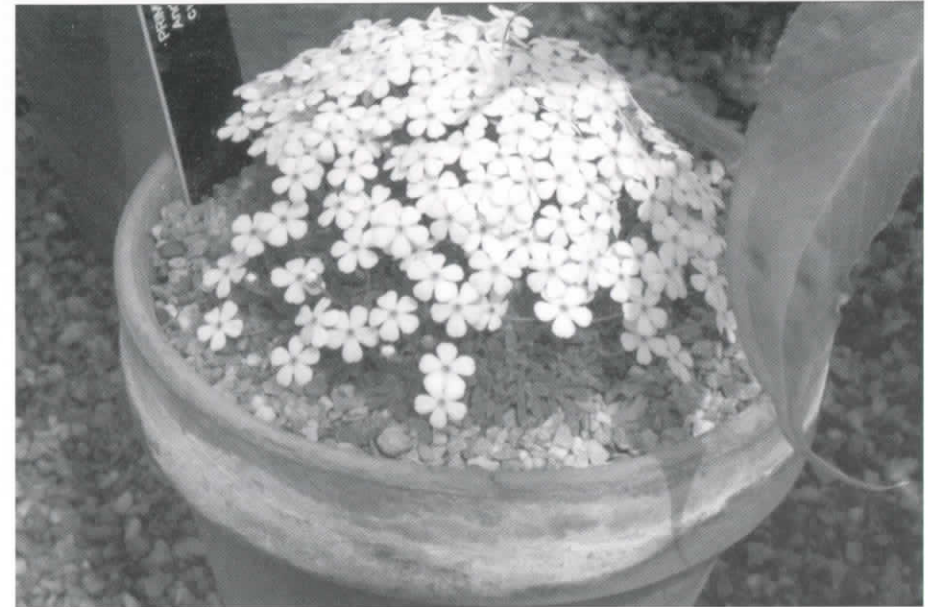
A vast population of *Androsace robusta ssp. purpurea* blooming in the Sabche Khola in the Upper Marsyandi Valley of central Nepal. Photo by Jozef Lemmens.

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Androsace cylindrica

Photo: Matt Mattus

This Issue, which focuses on the greater family of Primulaceae, will take you from Nepal to Canada, and from Belgium to Nevada.

PRIMROSES • The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Editor

Matt Mattus
26 Spofford Road
Worcester, MA 01607
mmattus@charter.net

Editorial Committee

Robert Tonkin
Judy Sellers
Pam Eveleigh
Ed Buyarski

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EDITORIAL DEADLINES

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

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OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ed Buyarski P.O. Box 33077, Juneau, AK 99803-3077 (907)-789-2299	amprimsoc@hotmail.com
Vice President	Michael Plumb 9341 Kinsley Crecent Richmond, BC V7A AV6 (604) 241-0498	mp-9341-rp@iniserive.com
Acting Secretary	Michael Plumb 9341 Kinsley Crecent Richmond, BC V7A AV6 (604) 241-0498	mp-9341-rp@iniserive.com
Treasurer/Membership	Julia Haldorson P.O. Box 210913 Auke Bay, AK 99821 (907) 789-5860	julia-haldorson@ak.net
Editorial Advisor	Robert Tonkin 3155 Pioneer Ave. Juneau, AK 99801	primroses@gci.net

DIRECTORS

Through 2007	Paul Dick 2906 Blueberry Hills Drive Juneau, AK 99801	(907) 586-4042
	Arlene Perkins 580 Perkins Rd. Montpelier, VT 05602	
Through 2006	Richard Austin 10 Forestside Gardens Poulner, Ringwood, Hants United Kingdom BH24 1SZ	dreamgreenuk@yahoo.co.uk
	Rodney Barker 49 Woodcliff Road Newton Highlands, MA 02461	rodney@justice.com
Through 2005	Mary Kordes HC2 Box 852 Allouez, MI 49805	mkordes@up.net
	Phyllis Petrovich Box 424 Forks, WA 98331	phyllis@olypen.com

President's Message

ED BUYARSKI

Greetings from Alaska.

Just a hint of spring in the air as I write this in late January . It's raining now after more than 50 inches of snow since Christmas and I'm thinking of seeding a few flats of seed to put outside to chill. I'm tired of shoveling but I know that if the snow disappears, we will still see more freeze/thaw cycles to remind me where I live. Of course all this snow is a wonderful blanket to protect our plants until spring really does arrive. In the meantime I have a few *Primula marginatas* blooming in my garage to help me through my spring fever and acaulis and polyanthus hybrids are brightening our supermarket aisles.

Soon I'll be flying to Seattle for the Northwest Flower and Garden Show where I plan to share some of our APS membership applications with interested folks. I also expect to see many more primroses in the beautiful display gardens.

Recently Robert Tonkin and Paul Dick of our Juneau Chapter helped teach a section in the local Master Gardeners' class about primroses and of course offer the opportunity to join this fine organization. In many of our other members' areas there are probably more chances for you to share your love for primroses with friends, neighbors, and gardeners. Offer your help to garden clubs, nurseries that have gardening seminars or even newspapers and radio stations that want to feature local stories of a seasonal nature.

I must thank the new editor for the look of his first Quarterly-great job, Matt! Remember, he always needs stories, photos, and suggestions for more articles. In this issue is the ballot for Officers and Board members so please cast a ballot or contact those people to see what they promise to do for you. Again, you must also tell them/us what you want out of our American Primrose Society.

Last, make plans to attend the National Show in Boston. Many of you who haven't been brave or adventurous enough to make it to the West Coast and Alaska for the last 50 some years of shows have a fine opportunity to participate in our big social event of the year. I hope to see you there!

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY 2005 NATIONAL SHOW

55th National Primrose Show and Convention
Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, Massachusetts
April 28 - May 1, 2005

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 28th 12:00 - 5:00 P.M. Show and Membership Set Up, Early registration and early show entries taken.

Friday, April 29th 8:30 AM New England Garden Tour Tour leaves from hotel at 8:30 AM
Richard Redfield Garden, Scotland, Connecticut
Paul Held's Garden, Westport, Connecticut - Lunch Provided
Sydney Eddison's Garden, Newtown, Connecticut

Friday, April 29th 12:00 - 5:00 pm Registration and show entries recieved

Saturday, April 30th

Entries Recieved	7:30 - 9:30 AM	
Judging	10:00 - 11:30	
Primula Round Table Discussion with Judith Sellers and Richard May	10:00 - 11:30	classroom C
Judge's and Exhibitor's Luncheon	11:30 - 12:30	
Plant Sales and Vending	10:00 - 5:00	
Show Open to the Public	11:30 - 5:00	
Talk : PRIMULA and FOLKLORE with Angela Bradford	1:00	Theatre
Talk : ALASKA and YUKON PRIMULA and WILDFLOWERS with Ed Buyarski	3:00	classroom C
APS Board Meeting	4:00	classroom C
Banquet - Crowne Plaza Hotel, Worcester, MA	6:30	

Keynote Speaker: Angela Bradford 'Hybridizing New Primroses'

Sunday May 1st

Show Open to the Public	10:00 - 5:00
Plant Sales and Vending	10:00 - 5:00
Talk : SAKURASO-PRIMULA SIEBOLDII with Paul Held	1:00
Daffodil Tour	2:00
Talk : COME VISIT MY PRIMROSE PATHS with Arlene Perkins	3:00
Breakdown and Closing	5:00

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
2005 NATIONAL SHOW

Deadline for receipt is April 1, 2005
Mail this registration form and your check to:

Arlene Perkins
580 Perkins Road
Montpelier, VT 05602

check one

- \$85. Includes Tour, tour lunch, Sat. Banquet and show
- \$55. Show Registration Only, Includes Saturday Banquet

REGISTRATION and HOTEL

We suggest flying in to Boston or Providence, RI. The Boylston/Worcester area is centrally located about a 1 hour drive between those two cities. Please make accomodation reservations directly with the hotel. Mention that you are with the American Primrose Society to get our special \$99. (plus tax) nightly room rate.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA 01508

Toll Free: 1-800-628-4240

Please select your choice for your banquet dish:

Baked Boston Scrod Pecan Chicken Dietary Needs _____

NAME _____
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OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTERS

British Columbia Primrose Group

President, Maedythe Martin
951 Joan Cresent
Victoria, B.C. Canada
mjmartin@pacificcoast.net
(250) 370-2951

Doretta Klaber Chapter

Hope Punnett
6635 Wissahickan Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19119
Telephone: (215) 848-5577

The Narrows Chapter

President, Dorothy Dwyer
3702 Hunt St. NW #23
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
(253) 857-4266 dwyer80@yahoo.com

Eastside Chapter

President, Thea Oakley
3304 288th Ave. NE Redmond, WA 98053
(425) 880-6177

Juneau Chapter

President, Robert Tonkin
3155 Pioneer Ave
Juneau, AK 99801
primroses@gci.net
(907) 463-1554

New England Chapter

Chairperson, Mary Irwin
6 Spruce Mountain Terrace
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 207-4695
scmgirl77@aol.com
Co-Chairperson, Elaine Malloy
P.O. Box 38, South Salem, NY 10590
elaineprim@aol.com

Tacoma Chapter

Co-President Candy Strickland
6911 104th St. E.
Puyallup, WA 98373
(253) 841-4192
Co-President, Cy Happy III
11617 Gravelly Lk. Dr., Tacoma, WA 98499
(253) 588-2585

APS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

QUARTERLY LIBRARIAN

Cheri Fluck
22765 S.W. Eno Place
Tualatin, OR 97062
(503) 612-0664
cheri44@comcast.net

WEBSMASTER

Pam Eveleigh
6520 Law Dr.
Calgary, Alberta T3E 6A1
eveleigh@shaw.ca

QUARTERLY EDITOR

Matt Mattus
26 Spofford Road
Worcester, MA 01607
(508) 757-1171
mmattus@charter.net

SEED EXCHANGE

Jacques Mommens
P.O. Box 67
Millwood, NY 10546
(914) 762-2948
mommens@advinc.com

SHOW JUDGES

Rosetta Jones
170 E. Dunoon Place
Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 426-7913

SLIDE LIBRARIAN

Mary Irwin
6 Spruce Mt Terrace
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 207-4695
scmgirl77@aol.com

LIBRARIAN

Thea Oakley
3304 288th Ave N.E.
Redmond, WA 980-6177
othea@mindspring.com

ROUNDRBIN

Candy Strickland
6911 104th St. E.
Puyallup, WA 98373
(253) 841-4192



Nepalese Androsace of the Upper Marsyandi Valley

JOZEF LEMMENS

During the last two weeks of June and the first week of July, I visited the Marsyandi Valley in Central-Nepal, accompanied by Tim Roberts (English) and Jan Burgel (of Czech origin). Although the expedition was primarily meant to study the *Saxifraga* species, I would like to talk exclusively about the *Androsaces* in this valley.

The hike mainly followed the Marsyandi river; the valley is dominated by the mountain tops of the Annapurna chain that reach higher than 8000 meters. By the building explosion over the entire hiking route, you realise this is the second most visited trekking route in Nepal.

The hike starts in the village of Besi Sahar (823m) approximately 180 kilometres west of the capital of Kathmandu.

The first couple of days we walked through a subtropical climate, which slowly evolves into a subalpine environment. With *Arisaema tortuosum*, *A. costatum* and *A. erubescens* as the most striking plants. In the more humid places grew many different *Gesneriaceae* species, such as the *Corallodiscus lanuginosus*, *Didymocarpus primulifolius* and *Chirita bifolia*.

On the fifth day we finally discovered our first *Androsace*. We are now at an altitude of about 2750 meters. In the forests which consist mainly of *Pinus wallichiana* and *Picea smithiana* we found *Androsace strigillosa*. The plants were very thinly distributed, sometimes dozens of meters apart and mostly in small groups of two or three plants. The upper sides of the petals were white and the under sides were pink-red. The flowers were standing on stems of about 20 to 25 cm high, that were mostly supported by surrounding plants, such as the *Cotoneaster microphyllus*. Apart from this species, in the zone we



also found *Anemone rivularis*, *Euphorbia wallichii*, ferns and a *Thalictrum* species. The plants were mostly growing mostly in dappled shade, where they received diffused daylight penetrating from between the trees.

The soil consists of fir needles containing lots of humus. This *Androsace* species is very widely spread throughout the Marsyandi Valley up to an altitude of about 4500 meters.

Slowly the track winds higher; at an altitude of about 3000 meters the first plant of the species *Androsace robusta* ssp. *purpurea* appeared, hanging over a rock. It was quite easy to determine this plant, as it keeps the same characteristics as the plants we cultivate. This very loose type of growth was most probably caused by poor light due to the surrounding plants.

The landscape slowly changes into an open and drier environment. Finally we enter a territory where there has been virtually no rain for the last 3 years. Here we find *Androsace robusta* ssp. *purpurea* in a very compact form. It was a shame that there were only a few plants in bloom. From a distance the plants resemble a silver white carpet. This might be caused by the dry weather conditions in which these plants grow. The soil is very dry and sandy. The accompanying plants were, among other things: *Anthemis* species with grey leaves, *Thymus linearis*, *Juniperis squamata* and *Potentilla fruticosa*.

A short distance past the village of Hongde, we leave the Marsyandi Val-

ley and follow the Sabche Khola river. In this sidevalley, along the flanks of the Annapurna IV, we hope to find the single known location of *Saxifraga lowndesii*. On our trip to the end of this valley we come across hundreds of thousands, maybe even millions of plants of *Androsace robusta ssp. purpurea*. Most plants are blooming, and along with *Rhododendron leptodum* they cause the slopes to have a red glow. It is an absolutely overwhelming sight. Although the upper part of this valley is a couple of hundred meters higher, the plants are less compact and greener. The length of the flower stems varies from between 2 and 6 cm. It caught my attention that the flower stems do not become shorter at these higher locations. The only difference that can be noticed is that the color of the flowers change to a more blue-ish tinge at an altitude of about 4600 meters. *Androsace robusta ssp. purpurea* is also wide spread in the Marsyandi Valley up to a height of about 4750 meters. The plants are mostly to be found in dry, sunny places.

After leaving the Sabche Khola valley we again follow the Marsyandi river and come to a height of 4200 meters in a village where 4 different *Androsace* species grow within a couple of hundred meters of each other. Namely *A. strigillosa*, *A. robusta ssp. purpurea*, *A. tapete* and *A. nortonii*. There were a dozen plants of the *A. tapete* to be found in a mountain pasture.

The plants were being threatened by the building of a new hotel. Although the plants had just finished blooming, you could see that they had made only a very small amount of growth. The soil was neutral, containing light particles of humus and sandy.

On a slope facing north-west we found thousands of the species *A. nortonii*. The color of the flowers varied from deep pink to very light pink, almost white. The plants strongly resemble *A. sarmentosa*, but the leaves are very heavily covered with long, upstanding little hairs, especially near the sides of the leaves. The flower stems mostly measured between 4 and 8 cm in height. They grew in a quite humid meadow together with *Rhododendron leptodum* and *Cremanthodium arnicoides*. *A. nortonii* is to be found up to about 4750 meters, but is less common in the other locations.

Near our base camp for the climb to Thorung La, at a height of 4600 meters, *A. lehmannii* grew in a mountain meadow with lots of humus. The gorgeous green cushions were no larger than 10 to 15 cm across. The white stemless

flowers were grouped on a small part of the plant. The flowers were so close together that the corolla lobes were overlapping one another. The yellow eye of the flower changes color to pink-red after pollination. Given the location of the plants, I suspect that the soil is nearly always quite moist. I only found *A. lehmannii* in this very limited area. At about the same altitude the first plants of the *A. zambalensis* appeared, but at an altitude of 5000 meters we found this species in large numbers.

During the climb from Thorung Pedi to Higher Pedi and towards Thorung La pass we found *A. robusta ssp. purpurea*, *A. nortonii*, *A. zambalensis*, *A. delavayi* and one single plant of the *A. tapete*.

Androsace zambalensis is to be found on the screes that are facing north-east. The rocks of the debris slopes were mixed with a light acid loam soil, containing a large amount of small rocks. In the sunniest places these plants were very compact and beautifully in bloom.

We found *A. zambalensis* towards Thorung La (5200 meters). Most of the cushions had a diameter of between 10 and 20 cm. The rosettes of *A. zambalensis* are more robust than those of the *A. delavayi* and various flowerbuds are formed on each short flower stem.

At about 5000 meters we found a couple of plants of the *A. delavayi* amongst thousands of plants of *A. zambalensis*. Most of these plants had not started to bloom or were still in bud. *A. delavayi* forms smaller rosettes that are closer to one another. From the center of the rosettes grow 1 (sometimes 2) stemless white flowers.

Central Nepal and the Nepalese Himalaya offer some of the world's most unspoiled vistas. Famed for its widely varied flora and challenging terrain. The area is still one of the few places on earth where the modern explorer can make discoveries that equal the great explorers of the nineteenth century.

Jozef Lemmens lives and gardens in a small village near Louvain, Belgium with his family. Among his favorite plants are cushion plants such as *Androsace*, *Dionysia* and *Saxifrage*. He has traveled extensively botanizing to some of the world's finest alpine areas such as the Italian Dolomites, Greece, Spain, China and Central Nepal.

Discovering and Cultivating Hardy Cyclamen

JOHN LONSDALE

There is hardly a region of North America that cannot provide a garden home for at least one species of *Cyclamen*, and the ease of growing most adds to their horticultural value. Starting your own collection by seed is one of the very best ways to collect a decent sized collection, yet a few specialty nurseries carry some of the more hard-to-find species. I will briefly outline the more hardy forms, as well as provide you a description of some of the more unusual species that you may wish to try growing.

One of the first concerns for North American gardeners, used to seeing photos of glorious pots of *Cyclamen* in England, is are they hardy enough to grow on this side of the Atlantic? The answer is yes. *Cyclamen hederifolium* is remarkably winter-hardy and weather-resistant, even in the coldest zones, *C. purpurascens* and *C. coum* just slightly less so. The remaining sixteen species that are in cultivation make excellent garden subjects in appropriate climates and sites (most are at least frost-hardy), and those whose basic needs cannot be met without protection are wonderful pot subjects under glass.

Species and Cultivars

Of the twenty species currently recognized by botanists, nineteen are in general cultivation. Almost all have been further subdivided, either botanically or horticulturally, and a number of interspecific hybrids have been described. Though it is impossible to do justice to all the variants here, I will briefly discuss the merits of the species and highlight some of the newer and more interesting forms now becoming available in the specialist trade, particularly in Europe. The premier garden *Cyclamen* species, *C. hederifolium*, is

discussed in greater detail, as is *C. graecum*, the queen of the species generally considered not frost-hardy, but a superb pot subject.

Of all the species, *Cyclamen hederifolium* is without doubt the most garden-worthy. Not only will it provide flowers throughout the autumn, it will reward also with a carpet of beautifully marked leaves for up to nine months of the year. In the wild, *C. hederifolium* is a woodland plant, but in the garden it tolerates a wide range of conditions as long as it has a well-drained but moisture-retentive growing medium. Once established, it happily seeds itself around, and in a few years a large drift can result, with seedlings in leaf forms that can be totally different from those of the parents. A more tolerant plant would be hard to find, and a place should be found in any garden for the everyman's *Cyclamen*.

Cyclamen africanum is virtually indistinguishable by eye from *C. hederifolium*, although its flower and leaf variation is not nearly as spectacular. Hybrids between the two species occur freely, and it can be very hard to tell exactly what one is growing. The leaves generally rise directly from the tuber whereas in *C. hederifolium* they spread laterally before rising. In a pot this is often manifest by a ring of leaves around the edge.

Cyclamen intaminatum, *C. cilicium*, and *C. mirabile* are three small Turkish species that are undeniably elegant, reasonably hardy, and very floriferous from relatively small tubers, blooming somewhat ahead of the foliage.

Cyclamen cilicium is another species of quiet charm, relatively invariant in both flower and leaf form. The foliage may be plain green or, more usually, may have a creamy-silver hastate (spearhead) pattern; the flowers may be pink with deeper markings around the mouth, or pure white, and all have a delightful scent.

Cyclamen mirabile is perhaps the most exciting of these three Turkish species, especially with the recent introduction of some cultivars by Peter Moore of Tilebarn Nursery in the UK. The type forms are clearly distinct in both flower and leaf from *C. cilicium*, although their botanical distinctiveness has been questioned. The flowers of *C. mirabile* are delicately fimbriate (fringed), and the rounded leaves can have a curious puckered appearance, with marginal teeth, which are absent in *C. cilicium*. Flower color can be pink or white. 'Tilebarn Nicholas' has a bright raspberry flush in an outer band on the young

leaves, the inner portion of the leaves being marked with a glossy green "Christmas tree." The raspberry eventually fades to a muted pewter shade.

Cyclamen rohlfsianum is a very distinctive species and quite tender; even a light frost burns its foliage. It is native to Libya. The flowers are unique in that the cone of stamens protrudes well below the mouth, somewhat resembling a *Dodecatheon*.

If *Cyclamen hederifolium* is the premier garden cyclamen, then *Cyclamen graecum* is the ultimate species for pots. It is difficult to find a spot in most UK and northern US gardens where it will grow well enough to flower, even if it survives the frost.

It is impossible to speak too highly of *Cyclamen graecum*. It has a reputation of being difficult to flower well, but, given the correct summer treatment, it blooms profusely. It is easy to become obsessed with this species alone.

The last of the fall-flowering species is *Cyclamen cyprium*, which often bridges the gap between winter and spring. The flowers are white or very pale pink with attractive darker markings and very prominent auricles.

Although slightly out of chronological order, we can consider *Cyclamen libanoticum* here. The flower is uniquely broad and a lovely pale pink, paler at the nose, with little trace of auricles. It tends to be few-flowered, and the leaves are not spectacular, although better forms can be selected.

Cyclamen coum, *C. trochopteranthum*, and *C. parviflorum* form a complex of related late winter to spring flowering species, the time depending on growing climate. *Cyclamen parviflorum* is a high-alpine Turkish species that can be rather miffy in cultivation. Its flowers are small and dumpy, and with its small, plain, round leaves, it is not the glam queen of the genus. *Cyclamen trochopteranthum* is reasonably cold-hardy and is best known for its flowers, which are shaped like propellers and have a lovely spicy scent.

Cyclamen coum is the spring counterpart of *C. hederifolium*, making a superb garden plant in many regions and coming in a variety of flower colors and leaf patterns. Many cultivars have been named, and forms true to type are well worth seeking out. It has proved very disappointing as a garden plant in Pennsylvania, at least in the forms I am growing. Although the tuber is undoubtedly completely hardy, the leaves are very badly damaged by snow and ice, although they are untouched by very cold air.

Cyclamen pseudibericum is the most beautiful of the species flowering in

early to mid-spring. The sweetly fragrant, long-lasting flowers are large and bold yet retain elegance.

Cyclamen persicum is often ignored in any discussion of "proper" *Cyclamen* because it is perceived to be responsible for the florist's *Cyclamen*. Nonetheless, it is well worth growing in its wild forms, and there are some lovely ones around

Bringing up the rear in the *Cyclamen* year are the members of the *Cyclamen repandum* group: the various subspecies and varieties of *C. repandum*, *C. balearicum*, and *C. creticum*, and their interspecific hybrids. All three species are plants of shady places, and they have very thin leaves which wilt easily in the strengthening spring sunshine.

Cultivation

The cold-hardiness of many *Cyclamen* species is surprising, and several traditionally considered to be tender in fact show some degree of hardiness. Many species survive and even thrive outside in areas where winter temperatures do not dip much below 20° F (-7° C). As I have found to be true of numerous other bulbs whose cold-hardiness proves greater than I expected, correct positioning and soil conditions are crucial. Excellent drainage is paramount; it is ice rather than cold that kills, and bulbs and corms in a soil that was only faintly moist when it froze can survive far lower temperatures than those that freeze in a wet medium. This phenomenon is exaggerated when plants are grown in pots.

Generally, most *Cyclamen* require some shade during the hottest part of the day, a very well-drained but moisture-retentive soil, and a relatively dry rest during their dormant season. The emphasis here is on "relatively": several species, such as *C. hederifolium*, tolerate regular watering, whereas others require a dry (but not "baked") rest. Several species in the latter category are best treated as pot plants, where watering is much easier to regulate. Bear in mind that species such as *C. graecum* experience long hot, dry dormancy in the wild, but their corms are frequently very deeply buried, and the long roots are probably always in contact with a cooler, slightly moist substrate.

Cultivation in pots

It is possible to grow superb specimens of all species in containers, as evi-

denced by the stunning plants regularly seen at the overseas shows. Although subtle variations in cultivation can benefit certain species, the reality is that most can be treated in exactly the same way. Seed-raised plants always position their corms at the interface between the compost (the soil mixture—not “compost” in the US sense of decomposed vegetable matter) on which they were sown and the grit used as top-dressing, and this is exactly the way we grow mature plants. Although little or no harm is done by burying the corms slightly, the emerging growth is much more likely to rot off if the compost is too wet. Control of fungal pathogens is facilitated if the growth points are above the compost.

There is no magical compost, either. I have used soil-based ones, suitably amended with grit and some peat or bark-based material to increase moisture retention. Because ready-made soil-based composts (referred to in the UK as “John Innes” composts) are not available in the US, I now have to find alternatives. All my bulbs, corms, and tubers are now grown in a mixture of BioComp BC5 (composted peanut hulls) and perlite. If anyone had suggested that mix to me while I was still in the UK, I think I would still be laughing—but it works wonderfully for *Cyclamen*, *Crocus*, *Narcissus*, *Corydalis*, *Iris*, and other genera. The pots are top-dressed with a half-inch or so of coarse grit.

As is the case in many branches of horticulture, especially alpine gardening, the real skill comes in turning on the hose at the right time and pointing it in the right direction for just long enough. *Cyclamen* are certainly vulnerable to over-watering, especially during dormancy.

There is no general agreement on whether to feed *Cyclamen*. I now use an in-line feeder that allows weak feeding every time watering is carried out, and this seems to have been beneficial. I use ‘Miracle Grow’ fertilizer, and the same effect can be had by watering with this at half strength whenever the plants are watered.

Cyclamen suffer from relatively few pests and diseases, however vine weevil can do serious damage to cyclamen. Aphids can also attack *Cyclamen*, but they are susceptible to many systemic insecticides. Squirrels have been known to strip seed capsules in the garden, but this is generally sporadic and localized and does little long-term harm to large plantings.

Propagation

Raising *Cyclamen* from seed is one of life’s great pleasures. Vegetative

propagation by division of the corms into one or more pieces, each with a growing point, is possible, but it is little used and perhaps best saved for the rescue of diseased corms in which the rot has not spread too far. Growing them from seed, by contrast, is easy and very rewarding.

Seed should be sown as fresh as possible. If sown by late summer or early fall, it generally germinates the next growing season, fall or spring depending on the species. There are several accepted ways to sow and germinate *Cyclamen* seed, some more scientific and involved than others. Cool temperatures (below 59° F/15° C) and darkness are required, but these can be provided in many ways, artificially or naturally. The following method has worked well, generally giving timely, high-percentage germination.

The same compost used for mature plants is used for seed, which is surface sown and covered with a 1/2-inch (c.1 cm) layer of grit. After watering, the pots are stood in a shady place and kept evenly moist. When the time is right, the seeds germinate and the fun begins, although the first season, most species make only a single, usually unmarked leaf. It is beneficial to keep the seedlings growing as long as possible, keeping them cool, shaded, and well watered. When they finally go dormant, they should be given more moisture than mature specimens, because they can be very prone to desiccation, and they seem less susceptible to rots when young.

Seedlings should be treated like more mature plants from the second season onward, but not transplanted until they are a couple of years old.

Sowing seed collected from one’s own plants is particularly enjoyable, but this obviously requires getting seed set in the first place. As in most contexts, good children result from good parents. This is particularly true for *Cyclamen*, and it pays to start with some of the more interesting leaf and flower forms as seed sources. Fertility varies considerably from plant to plant, and seed is not always set naturally, especially on plants you value the most! Hand-pollination with a small paintbrush is certainly beneficial. Since we have moved to the US, I have found that early flowers are particularly difficult to pollinate, either naturally or artificially, and this seems to correlate with higher humidity earlier in the season. Seed set is better in the fall when the humidity is much lower. Fertilization is obvious because the flower drops rapidly from the swelling ovary and the pedicel starts to coil or bend to bring the capsule down to within the relatively protected area under the leaves. The way the pedicel

coils or loops down is species-specific and is fascinating to watch.

Irrespective of the time of year the seed was set, it ripens the following mid-summer. Just before the capsule splits open, it becomes softer and “squishy.” The seeds inside are now pale honey-brown and ripe for collection. If you miss this opportunity, the capsule will split, causing a terminal hole to appear through which the seeds can be seen. If not harvested, they will either be removed by ants (which love their sticky, sweet coating), or they will rapidly dry and fall from the capsule.

Cyclamen are beautiful, elegant plants, and growing and raising them from seed is a fascinating hobby, not particularly difficult but incredibly rewarding. Whether you want drifts of plants in the garden or beautiful pot-grown specimens under glass, they offer something for everyone. Give them a try if you are new to them, and if you already have some, experiment with a few of the less well-known species – and expect a few surprises and a lot of fun.

John Lonsdale is a highly successful grower of alpines (primarily *Androsace*, *Dionysia*, *Primula*, *Saxifraga* and hardy bulbs) in alpine houses and cold frames. John received the AGS Gold Merit Medal in the UK in 1995. He and his family then moved from England to Pennsylvania, where he began work on “Edgewood Garden”. On 1.5 acres of woodland, sunny slopes and sandbeds, he now grows an incredible range of hardy bulbs, *Daphnes* and woodlanders, including hardy orchids. *Cyclamen*, *Corydalis*, *Crocus*, *Fritillaria* and *Iriss* species are especially well represented. Almost all are grown, or at least attempted, in the open, with protection in the garden provided only to a few highly moisture-sensitive plants such as *Oncoclycus Iris*. The range of plants that are traditionally thought to be growable outside in eastern PA has been extended considerably to include a wide variety of exciting and beautiful plants, especially bulbs. Two greenhouses are used for propagation from seed and also to house the *Cyclamen* that are not hardy enough to survive the garden. John is a member of the AGS, NARGS, *Cyclamen* Society, *Ariil Iris* Society, *Species Iris* Group of North America and the *Fritillaria* Society and contributes articles to the publications of these and other groups. He has lectured widely on a number of these topics.

Sources

To enquire about membership of the *Cyclamen* Society contact:
Dr David Bent, Little Pilgrims, 2 Pilgrims Way East, Otford, Sevenoaks,
Kent. TN14 5QN, United Kingdom. Email: membership@cyclamen.org
Cyclamen seed is always available through the seed exchanges of NARGS, AGS,
and SRGC. All species are now covered by CITES regulations, importation of
plants into the USA requires a permit.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Clockwise from, top left, Ripe seed pods of *Cyclamen hederifolium* in John Lonsdale's garden in Exton, PA ; A fine example of a patterned leaf of *C. hederifolium*; Two pure white blossoms of *C. coum* 'Golan Heights'; A silvery speckled leaf of *C. cyprium ex PB200*; a seed pod of *C. hederifolium* showing the unusual habit of a spiraled stem that brings the ripening pod down back to soil level; the spiraled petals of *C. rohlfianum*.



All photos : J. Lonsdale



THIS PAGE: Left: Examples of the remarkable immature foliage from **Cyclamen mirabile 'Tilebarn Nicholas'** and **Tilebarn 'Anne'** with distinctive raspberry flush and flowers. below, Silvery foliage of **Cyclamen ssp. coum**, and next to that, a pot of **C. coum ssp. coum** photographed against the snow. Bottom RT: sparkling flowers of **C. intaminatum**; outdoors, and left, the hardier **C. hederifolium** bloom in the Lonsdale garden. FACING PAGE: this close-up of **Androsace sempervivoides** in a New England garden, below: And below, **Androsace robusta ssp. purpurea** in Nepal's Marsyandi valley.



All photos: J. Lonsdale



Photo: J. Sellers



Photo: J. Lemmens



All photos this page: J. Lemmens



Photo: J. Lemmens

Opposite above: *Androsace delavayi* in Nepal. Below: The yellow *Androsace bis-cula* v. *aurata*. This page above: *Androsace spinulifera*. in Nepal's Marsyandi valley.



ABOVE: The New England chapter of the APS met in Connecticut on a mild Saturday in February, then stepped outside for a group photo op. This large group met to discuss plans for the National Primrose Show. Below: A **Dodecatheon pulchellum** in a New England garden.



Photo: J. Sellers



Above: Habitat of the alkaline spring phase of a **Dodecatheon pulchellum** var. **pulchellum** from Ash Meadows, Nevada. Below, details of variants with different expressions in regards to the inflorescence and the

All photos this page: James Reveal

The *Dodecatheon pulchellum* var. *pulchellum* is the most widespread and variable of the variants, being found in damp meadows throughout much of western North America (right) from Alaska to Durango, Mexico. Below, a detail of an inflorescence of a variant in its alkaline spring phase in Nevada.



All photos this page: James Reveal



Dodecatheon Variants

A closer study reveals possible new nomenclature.

JAMES L. REVEAL

Dodecatheon pulchellum (Latin for beautiful) is commonly called “dark-throat shootingstar.” The species was named by the brilliant but eccentric naturalist, Constantine Samuel Rafinesque-Schmaltz (1783-1840), a native of Constantinople, who described many American plants (Reveal & Pringle, 1993). Rafinesque never saw the plant in the wild. He proposed the name based on an illustration published by William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865) in *The Botanical Magazine*, and as this was the only element cited by him, it is designated here as the lectotype. The illustration was drawn from garden material grown from seed collected by Thomas Drummond (1780-1835) in the “Rocky Mountains” of Canada. The seeds were probably collected in 1825 when Drummond was in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta, Canada. Hooker indicated the plant was raised at both the Edinburgh and the Glasgow botanic gardens.

The genus *Dodecatheon* (Greek for twelve gods, probably the Olympians, coined by Pliny for an unknown plant but used by Michaux to allude to the number of flowers in an inflorescence) is a member of the primrose family, *Primulaceae*. The species may be subdivided into four varieties, var. *cusickii* (Greene) Reveal (*Southwest. Nat.* 18: 399. 1974), var. *alaskanum* (Hultén) Boivin (*Phytologia* 17: 74. 1968), var. *monanthum* (Greene ex R. Knuth) C.L. Hitchc. (in Hitchc. & Cronquist, *Fl. Pacif. Northw.*: 353. 1973) and the var. *puchellum*. The var. *pulchellum* is the most widespread and variable of the variants being found in damp meadows throughout much of western North America from Alaska to Durango, Mexico.

The distinction among these variants is not sharp, and populations with overlapping characters occur. The staminal tube of var. *monanthum* is a dark purple. This variety is dubiously distinct from var. *pulchellum* and has been reduced to synonymy in both Hickman (1993) and Welsh et al. (1993). However, the only chromosome count made for var. *monanthum* is $2n=88$ (from British Columbia) whereas that for var. *pulchellum* is $2n=44$ (from Alaska). The range of var. *montanthum* overlaps that of var. *pulchellum* in portions of the Pacific Coast and the Intermountain Region.

The remaining variants all have yellow staminal tubes. The var. *alaskanum* is a coastal expression that occurs from Alaska to Oregon. The leaves of this variant are broader than those of var. *pulchellum* and tend to be distinctly petiolate. Unlike var. *alaskanum* and var. *pulchellum*, the herbage of var. *cusickii* is distinctly glandular-pubescent throughout. The var. *cusickii* occurs from British Columbia, Canada, southward to Oregon and eastward to Montana and is by far the most distinct of the segregates.

In the Intermountain Region there is an expression of var. *pulchellum* that is distinctive and may well prove worthy of formal taxonomic recognition. The name *Dodecatheon spilantherum* is available. This is a small-flowered form with thickish to even somewhat succulent leaves and an enlarged connective with a distinctive purple tip. For example, compare the flowers of the Rocky Mountain expression of var. *pulchellum* with those of the alkaline phase (from Ash Meadows, Nevada). As may be seen there is a pronounced white rim at the base of the corolla lobes in the former that is replaced by a less conspicuous, yellowish rim in the latter. This curious phase is seen commonly around alkaline springs and seeps among wiregrass, sedges and other graminoids.

The var. *watsonii* (sensu Thompson, 1953; Hitchcock et al., 1959; Hitchcock & Cronquist, 1973) is also distinctive for which the name, at the species rank, *D. uniflorum* is available. This is a subalpine to alpine phase in parts of British Columbia, central Idaho and western Montana. This expression is composed of short plants with inflorescences of only (1) 2–3 flowers. The type of *D. watsonii* is from the East Humboldt Range of Elko Co., Nevada, and appears to represent a depauperate but otherwise typical form of var. *pulchellum*.

References to *Dodecatheon pulchellum* east of the western edge of the Great Plains are due to the inclusion of a clearly related species, *D. amethystinum* (Fassett) Fassett (Rhodora 33: 224. 1931) as noted by Steyermark

(1963). Thompson (1953) and Gleason & Cronquist (1991) referred this species to synonymy under *D. radicans*, a species synonymized here under the earlier name *D. pulchellum*. *Dodecatheon amethystinum* is found primarily in the driftless area of southwestern Wisconsin and adjacent Minnesota, with scattered populations elsewhere from Illinois and Missouri to Pennsylvania. While Thompson (1960) continued to maintain *D. amethystinum* in synonymy, he did abandon *D. radicans* for *D. pulchellum*.

Dr. James L. Reveal, emeritus professor at the University of Maryland, now lives in Montrose, Colorado, where he continues his studies of the Intermountain Flora and concentrates on the wild buckwheats (Eriogonum and relatives) in association with The New York Botanical Garden, The Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. His other areas of interest include suprageneric nomenclature of extant vascular plants, history of western North America botanical explorations and discoveries, and floristics.

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Some Hardy Alpine Primula

MARGARET BROWN

The primula I shall be describing belong to the *Auriculastrum* Section. Almost any of these will do well in a Calgary, Canada garden. Just browse through this section in John Richard's book "*Primula*" and see what is possible.

I first saw some of these small *Primula* growing in Bill Metzloff's garden and was enchanted. They were so small, with such large flowers, I could not believe that I could grow them, was sure they were too delicate for such as me. Then a friend gave me *Primula pubescens* "Bewerly White" and *P. marginata* 'Linda Pope', both grew and survived the winter and flowered gloriously. I had by this time realised gravelly soil was the answer to growing alpines, even *Primula*. When they bloomed the next May I was hooked.

I could not, of course, find these little fellows in Calgary at that time. A couple of years later, in 1999, another friend brought me, from the American Primula Society show in Vancouver, six small plants with '*marginata*' in their names. They looked so charming and they also looked as if they belonged to the *Auricula* group. I had a common border *Auricula* that had grown very well in a semi-shady spot by the front steps under an overgrown 'Mugho' pine. I ripped out all the snowberry that made a trouble free ground cover there, mixed the soil with an equal quantity of small gravel, re-built the boulder garden and planted them. They loved it. One looked 'peaky' the following spring and finally died, but the other five flourished and became the foundation of my collection. They have grown bigger and better with the years and in May are covered in sweetly scented blooms in all shades of mauves and

pinks. When they fade their leaves are so decorative, covered with a silver or golden bloom and gold or silver serrated edges. All had to be dug up to make way for new driveway and steps up to my front door. I propagated them and now have several plants of each and am hoping that all my favorites make it. I am sure they will.

Now to describe some of the small *Primula* that I have grown successfully here in Calgary with no special care but to ensure a fast-draining soil and snow cover over winter. My entire rock garden is in shade from October to early April, so the snow that falls, stays, and Chinooks are not a problem.

Primula marginata

I recommend this group highly. They are tough and hardy and easy, there are many cultivars and hybrids to choose from. The species is itself delightful, with smaller flowers and the same decorative leaves. It has been in cultivation since 1777 and has so far proved long-lived and healthy. I particularly like *Primula marginata* 'Linda Pope', a strong grower with larger-than-species mauve flowers, given to me first by Kim Bruce. *P. marginata* 'Herb Dixon' is perhaps my all-time favourite so far.

Primula marginata 'Jimmy Long' has very deeply serrated leaf edges and mauve flowers. The pinks and blue-mauves of these plants are truly lovely. Almost any of the named varieties will please. Grow in a partly shaded spot in very well-drained soil. They do well with morning sun and filtered sun in the hottest part of the day, but they are not fussy.

They develop long necks or long fleshy stems, as they age and every few years need to be dug up and re-planted to bury the necks. You also can add another handful of gravel to cover them. This is an adaptation to living on scree slopes where they can elongate to keep ahead of the rubble.

You can propagate by division. I do it as soon as the flowers are over. Another friend is trying to encourage them to shoot out from the necks by weighing them down to the earth with a stone and it seems to be working. They are native to north faces and scree slopes of the Alps of Provence and the extreme north-west of Italy.

Primula allionii

The most enchanting plants are the *P. allionii* hybrids. These are very small with relatively large flowers, just what we rock gardeners love. This group has a reputation for being very difficult and subject to rotting off during the "winter wet" of milder climates. We do not have winter wet and many of us are having very good luck with these little plants. People from the West Coast and England cannot believe that we just plant them and they do well for us. They have to grow them in alpine houses in pots. Just make sure that you have a fast-draining soil, lots of gravel and sand, and they do well with rather more sun than *P. marginata*. You do have to be sure they don't dry out, and they seem to like to snuggle up to a rock. It gives them a cool moist root run and helps a lot. Also I would make certain that you have a mulch under the plant leaves to make sure that it is airy around the crown of the plant. I would say you should, here in Calgary, try any that you can find. Some will do well, others will be 'iffy'. The colour range is quite wide. One of the loveliest hybrids, readily available, locally is 'Airemist', a small plant smothered with very large white flowers.

Primula pubescens

Many and varied are these hybrids, vigorous, but small, like half-size plants of the garden *Auriculas*. Many of the plants that no one can decide how to classify get this designation. They may or may not have much farina on the leaves, but they will be tough and floriferous. One I particularly like is *P. pubescens* 'Freedom', a brilliant neon pink which plumps up very readily and grows almost anywhere. You notice that I like plants which are easy and willing. I don't have time or patience for things which aren't prepared to flourish! I like to welcome my little friends each spring and see them get more beautiful, then be able to propagate and share them with other people. The word 'pubescens' will pretty well guarantee that the plant will flourish.

Primula wulfeniana.

A very desirable small primula with a distinct shape and shining dark green leaves that make handsome pointed rosettes. Mine are in semi-shade in gravelly soil tucked in to the north side of tufa boulders. The flowers are large for the size of plant and a lovely clear pink. I gather that they are shy flowering: I must have been lucky to get a free-flowering clone.

Primula minima

I have several of this well-named plant, both a pink form and alba, the white-flowered form. They like more sun than some of the others and seem to enjoy being up against a rock in gritty soil. Don't let them dry out. The presence of a rock helps the root run. The books say it flowers poorly, but mine seem to do quite well despite the minute size of the plant, giving disproportionately large flowers that are deeply cut. I also have the very similar hybrids of *P. minima*. These include *P. x forsteri*, *P. x bilecki*. I have replanted them together and will now watch with interest their development. They do bloom but they look so alike to me that, apart from their attractive minute rosettes of leaves, I haven't made time to study them. *P. x vochinensis* is another of *P. minima*'s natural hybrids, between *P. minima* and *P. wulfeniana*. All are hardy and very attractive.

Primula hirsuta

Another handsome small alpine primula. It has a rich dark pink flower and is easy to grow in gritty soil in part shade.

Primula auricula

I have not mentioned the garden *Auricula*, which does very well here and is reliable, but too large for my alpine garden. I put them in the general garden where they make a very brave show in spring, their flowers so sweetly scented and so long-lasting. They do seem to like gritty soil and part shade, but are not very fussy. I have not had luck with the grey and green show *Auricula*. They are too highly bred for my conditions.

There are a number of others in this *Auriculastrum* section which I haven't tried but which would be well worth picking up. There are two which Pam Eveleigh feels would be unlikely to be successful for us. She has tried *P. palinura*, which is found on sea cliffs and is summer dormant. It needs baking and is suitable to a Mediterranean climate. It may well be able to grow for us in the right spot. The other is *P. glutinosa*, which requires acid conditions, very hard to provide here.

This is a very brief and personal gallop through this section. These are charming plants and worthy of their place in any alpine garden in Calgary or anywhere else.

Androsace 101: An Introduction

The *Primula* relatives that are worth growing,
collecting and displaying

JOZEF LEMMENS

Androsaces belong to the kind of rockery plants that fascinate me most. If some species could be called slightly 'awkward', most will readily establish themselves in any garden, alpine house, trough or rockery, and demand very little attention. There is plenty to choose from amongst varieties easily grown in gardens. The loveliest species are those growing in rosettes forming dense cushions. The color of the flowers is mostly white or slightly red (varying from pink to purple). A few exceptions have yellow flowers, but these are not, or very seldom, grown. There are some 155 species in the wild, spread over the whole of Europe, Asia and North America. In South America there is only one. Half the species are found in China, where some unknown species may remain to be discovered. About 90 species are known to have been grown in cultivation, so far.

Androsaces are members of the *Primulaceae* family, and differ from other genera in that their flowers have quite short stems, whilst the remainder of the *Primulaceae* display both short (thrum) and long styles (pin), with some exceptions. Another difference is the slightly thick edge lining the eye of flowers.

Propagating can be done using seed or cuttings. Some (European) species can easily be crossed, whereby a large number of plants on sale are actually hybrids. I usually resort to sowing as early as possible, whereby several seedlings appear well before winter. If one sows during the winter, most species will start to germinate in early spring, but some may not germinate until June.

Striking cuttings generally takes place once the flowering period is over; it can also be done at any time during the summer.

Now follows a list of the *Androsaces* I have been trying to grow in my own garden, leaving out excessive detail. In the field of annuals I only have *Androsace septentrionalis*. This species (colour: white, 5-8 cm high) seeds itself in the rockery.

The following biennial flowering species develop umbels on stems some 10 to 20cm high. The prettiest and most striking species is *Androsace bulleyana* (Yunnan). Its flowers are flame-red. There is very little difference between *Androsace albana* (Caucasus) and *Androsace wiedemannii* (Turkey). The color of the flowers varies from white to slightly pink. *Androsace armeniaca* var. *macrantha* (Turkey) has cream-coloured flowers. *Androsace integra*, from Sichuan, has pink ones.

Now moving to the true perennials. Among the true perennial European species *Androsace vandellii* can most definitely be called the loveliest. Its grey cushion is completely covered in white flowers without any stems. This is a species frequently found in Europe (Alps, Pyrenees, Sierra Nevada) on acid stone. It prefers to be propagated from seed, whereby the best clones with the largest flowers can be picked out. Its little brother, *Androsace helvetica*, has green rosettes, and needs chalky soil. Flowering is often not very spectacular. *Androsace cylindrica* (white, Pyrenees, chalk) grows easily in an alpine house or trough. This species is readily crossed with *Androsace hirtella* (white, Pyrenees, chalk). In fact, most of the plants found in nurseries tend to be hybrids of these two. Then there is *Androsace pyrenaica* (white, Pyrenees, acid) and *Androsace pubescens* (white, Alps, chalk).

The *Androsace carnea* group, including the *carnea* (pink, acid, Alps), *halleri* (pink), *laggeri* (pink, Pyrenees) and *cantabrica* (pink, Spain) species, are too small for the rock-garden and can best be kept in a trough. I never managed to keep *Androsace cantabrica* outside a plastic pot. *Androsace carnea* ssp. *brigiatica* (white) is the easiest species within this *carnea* group.

Impossible to grow well in an Alpine house is the carpet forming *Androsace alpina* (white or pink, acid) because the plants then grow completely out of character.

Androsace hausmannii (white, chalk, Dolomites) and *Androsace mathildae*

(white, chalk, Abruzzes) are short-lived species, easy to propagate from seed. *Androsace brevis* (pink, acid, from the mountains surrounding Lake Como - Italy) and *Androsace wulfeniana* (pink, acid, Dolomites and Tauern) are really wonderful, and well worth the trouble as they are particularly rewarding. *Androsace chamaejasme* (white, chalk) is a loose carpet former, readily found in the Alps. *Androsace villosa* (white, chalk) has a number of slightly differing varieties, depending on the place of origin, such as the *arachnoidea* variety (slightly hairier, Carpathes), *taurica* (Crimea), *kosopolyanskii* (Central Russia), *glabra* (slightly less hairy, Turkey), *barbulata* (Caucasus), *congesta* (denser, Turkey).

Differences among these varieties are hardly noticeable. In fact, one has to hold them up to one another to tell them apart. *Androsace ciliata* (pink, acid, sometimes chalk, Pyrenees) has a number of different clones from very loose plants to very dense. Flowers vary from tiny to huge. The number of blooms also varies. *Androsace hedraeantha* (light pink, acid, Balkans) and *Androsace obtusifolia* (white, acid) are easily kept species that ought to be given more attention. *Androsace obtusifolia* var. *aretioides* from Switzerland, stays dense. Its flowers have almost no stems.

The above are strictly European species. American *Douglasias* according to their DNA, also belong with the *Androsaces*. The more widely known species is *Androsace laevigata* (pink), including its *ciliolata* variety (larger), another species which forms a loose straggly mat if grown in too much shade.

Androsace montana, usually comes in pink, sometimes white, and spreads in the way of dense cushions to looser matting. *Androsace constancei* (pink) is fairly difficult to grow. *Androsace idahoensis* (pink) needs a lot of sunshine to go on thriving. I never managed keeping one alive in an open garden so far.

Androsace nivalis (pink) comes in 2 varieties, *nivalis* and *dentata*. Remarks formulated under *Androsace idahoensis* also apply here.

The *chamaejasme* category further subdivides into a number of subsections, one of which is subsection *villosae*. The more recent species within this subsection being quoted first: *Androsace baltistanica* (white, Pakistan), *Androsace caduca* (white, Pamir), *Androsace dasyphylla* (white, Pamir), *Androsace ovczinnikovii* (white, Kazakstan), *Androsace incana* (white, Mongolia) and *Androsace sericea* (white, Pamir, Kazakstan). All are fairly

easy to keep and develop into beautiful plants.

Androsace foliosa (light pink, Himalaya) is a taller species with large leaves. Easy to keep in semi-shadowy places. *Androsace globifera* (pink, Himalaya) is not difficult when kept in the sun, but it does not flower well.

Androsace jacquemontii (pink or lilac, Himalaya) is one of the easiest species in the rockery. But there is some doubt as to whether or not the true *Androsace jacquemontii* still occurs in our gardens.

Androsace lanuginosa (pink, Himalaya) does well in the open. The main part of the plant dies away during the winter but comes up again in spring. The garden variety known as *leichtlinii* has white flowers. This species does not come into seed in my garden, possibly because the flowers appear too late. Down in Paris, however, a mere 300 kilometres South, the plant does seed.

There has been no permanent solution as yet for the *Androsace muscoidea/robusta* team. *Androsace muscoidea* is believed to have solitary flowers whilst *Androsace robusta* flowers in umbels. This rather simplistic way of splitting them up may not be entirely correct. *Androsace robusta* ssp. *purpurea*, has purple flowers.

There is a lot of confusion also between *Androsace sarmentosa* and *Androsace studiosorum*. The differences between these two become more obvious in winter. *Androsace studiosorum* is the easiest to keep by far.

The *Chamaejasme* subsection: *Androsace akbaitalensis* (white, Pamir) is highly demanding. The plant vanishes during the winter and one can but hope to see it come up again in the spring. Most of the garden grown plants belong mainly to a different species. (*Androsace lehmanniana*??). *Androsace lowariensis* (white, Pakistan, Afghanistan) is a newcomer in cultivation.

Androsace tapete (Himalaya) refuses to bloom under cultivation. The closely related *Androsace selago* on the other hand, yields a fair amount of flowers.

Androsace zambalensis and *Androsace yargongensis* do not invariably thrive. In its natural state, *Androsace zambalensis* is hardly distinguishable from *Androsace yargongensis*. Only *Androsace zambalensis* plants from Nepal are readily recognisable.

The *Pseudoprimula* category: *Androsace geraniifolia* (white, Himalya), *Androsace henryi* (white, Sichuan) and *Androsace rotundifolia* (white, Himalayas) need a slightly shady space and a humus rich soil. *Androsace*

strigillosa (white/pink-purple, Himalayas) is easy to keep. *Androsace spinulifera* (pink, Yunnan) does not survive winter well. *Androsace wardii* does not flower well at all. Last spring, I managed for the first time to have one single specimen bloom. *Androsace stenophylla* (pink, Sichuan) I find very difficult.

The difference between *Androsace sublanata* and *Androsace limprichtii* is very slight; both are short-lived. According to some reports, *Androsace nortonii* (pink, Himalaya) strongly resembles *Androsace hookeriana* (white) in the wild. But I found a marked difference between the plants I keep in the alpine house. *Androsace mucronifolia* (pink, Pakistan) is not easily kept true to character unless grown outdoors.

Androsace sempervivoides is one of the easiest species and well worth growing. *Androsace mariae* has, as far as I am aware, only one garden growing specimen left (pink, Sichuan). *Androsace rigida* (pink, Yunnan) responds reasonably well, but its plants are loose.

Androsace delavayi, originating in the Himalaya, have white flowers, whilst plants from China have pink flowers. The Chinese version is far more difficult to grow. *Androsace bryomorpha* (white) is the densest and the slowest species. The toughest time will be shortly after cuttings. *Androsace bisulca* var. *aurata* (yellow, Sichuan) has practically disappeared, or is barely being grown.



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Officer and Board Member Biographies

Ed Buyarski I have served as APS President for almost six years (or almost forever as my wife says) and would like to continue to lead the American Primrose Society with my enthusiasm for the Genus and the people who enjoy growing them. I cannot continue to do this, however, without your help as volunteers in your cities, Groups and Chapters.

I am a past President of the Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners and have taught classes in Southeast Alaska for the benefit of our towns and neighborhoods. As a landscaper and organic gardener I try to promote safe and healthy gardening practices. Thank you for your past support.

Robert Tonkin Robert Tonkin has served the Society as former Secretary, former Editor and current President of the Juneau Chapter. He says he will fulfill the responsibilities of serving the Society in whatever position he is asked, to the best of his ability. In addition to other Society responsibilities, he is currently working on a multi year project of updating and codifying all Society judging documents. Future plans include digitizing our Quarterly archives, with search capability.

Julia Haldorson As a certified public accountant, who enjoys gardening in Southeast Alaska, primroses from plant sales of the Juneau Chapter of the American Primrose Society have helped to shape my garden. Luckily many species of Primula thrive in the thin, acidic soil and cloudy, rainy conditions of the region located in the Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest rainforest. My accounting expertise coupled with a keen interest in Primroses should be an excellent combination for treasurer of the Society.

Michael Plumb I live in British Columbia, Canada, where the climate allows me to experiment with many kinds of primula, so our garden is festooned with clumps of P. japonica, sieboldii, veris, vulgaris and elatior. I also have a large collection of auricula in pots. I teach English as a Second Language at a local university college, which is why I need primula and my roses to help keep me sane. I was Secretary to the Board of my church for several years, and have also taken the minutes for numerous meetings at the college where I teach. I believe this experience, combined with my enthusiasm and what knowledge I possess, will help the APS Board to further the interests of the Society and its members, and to promote the love of the genus Primula.

Susan Gray I was first introduced to cowslip primroses by my landlady in early eighties and it was not until '89 when I moved into my new home that my love affair with primulas blossomed. I was a greenhorn then and am now as far as the APS goes, having joined only a year ago (Jan. '04)! What fun it's going to be. I live in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Linda Bailey My interest in Primula dates back to the 70s when Larry and I bought property in Edmonds, WA. The grounds were planted with several kinds of plants we'd never seen before. When we found they were primroses, we joined the Washington State Chapter and APS to learn about them. Larry edited the Q for several years. We have since gone our separate ways. I am still pursuing and attempting Primula species. It has been awhile since being actively involved in APS but I am willing to participate as a member of the Board at this time. I'm so pleased at the interest in the genus through the online Chats. It is absolutely wonderful!

2005 Ballot for Officers and Board Members

For your vote to count, your ballot must be postmarked by April 15, 2005. Please be sure to write 'Ballot' on the outside of your envelope. Please tear out this page, complete the ballot and mail to:

Mary Kordes
2138 N. Farmers Block Rd.
Allovez, MI 49805-6942

The following names have been submitted by the APS Nominating Committee. Biographies of these nominees follow.

_____ President **Ed Buyarski**
_____ President Write in Candidate _____

_____ Vice President **Robert Tonkin**
_____ Vice President Write in Candidate _____

_____ Treasurer **Julia Haldorson**
_____ Treasurer Write in Candidate _____

_____ Secretary **Michael Plumb**
_____ Secretary Write in Candidate _____

_____ Board of Directors Position 1 **Susan Gray**
_____ Board of Directors Position 1 Write in Candidate _____

_____ Board of Directors Position 2 **Linda Bailey**
_____ Board of Directors Position 2 Write in Candidate _____

Comments and/or Suggestions for APS Officers, Board or Editor

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 210913

AUKE BAY, AK 99821



The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in Primula together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and the interest in the collection, 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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American Primrose Society Minutes of the Board Meeting January 8th, 2005

Present (online): Richard Austin (Director), Rodney Barker (Director), Ed Buyarski (President), Pam Eveleigh (Webmaster), Julia Haldorson (Treasurer), Mary Irwin (Chair of the New England Chapter), Mary Kordes (Director), Elaine Malloy (Co-Chair of the new England Chapter), Matt Mattus (new Editor), Arlene Perkins (Director), Phyllis Petrovich (Director), Michael Plumb (Vice President), Robert Tonkin (retiring Primroses Editor, and new President of the Juneau Chapter)

Meeting opened at 1:15 Pacific Standard Time. The minutes of April 25 (printed in the summer *Quarterly*, 2004) Accepted as presented. **2. Treasurer's report:** Mary K asked what happens to income from investments. Ed/Julia replied that this is reinvested and earns about \$50 per month. The society's expenses are covered by membership fees. Revenue from advertisements in the *Quarterly* is sent by the editor to the Treasurer. Ed explained that the relatively large number of expired memberships was a result of the delayed reminder, since the fall *Quarterly* had not yet been sent out. Matt will put a reminder in the winter *Quarterly* too. Pam will put a reminder on the APS website Home Page. **Summary:** Total liabilities and equity as of December 31, 2004: \$22,791.90; Total income/expenses for 2004: (\$2,108.80); Membership as of January 4, 2005: 481. **3. Chapter and Committee reports:** No comments. Gratefully received. **4. Business arising from the minutes:** a) **The 60th anniversary edition of the Quarterly:** This was scheduled for reprinting because it is a great introduction to Primula, and reprints are needed for the National Show. Printing is delayed because the printer has lost the file. However, Robert has the original, unedited version, which can be used to rebuild the file. Julia and Ed will help with proof-reading. Matt and Robert will look after details of reprinting (time frame, cost, etc.). b) **Seed Exchange:** Robert T. will find out if the Juneau Chapter is willing to run this next year. A two-tier price system may be introduced to help offset the cost of purchasing seed from commercial growers. **5. New Business** a) **Welcome to the new Editor:** The Board gave Matt a hearty welcome. b) **Old Quarterlies:** Cheri Fluck has resigned as *Quarterly* Librarian. There is a huge number of old issues to store (about 4000?). Jane Preston may be willing to store a small selection of back copies. Some proposals: store only a limited number of back issues; sell spare back issues at the National Show; advertise back issues in the *Quarterly* and on the Website. No vote was taken on these proposals. Ed will ensure that each APS chapter and group has a full set. Robert explained how he envisaged the digitizing of the *Quarterly* and the use of an index using *Adobe Acrobat*. The current index runs from Volume 1 to Volume 34. c) **Judging Committee report and proposed changes to documentation:** It was eventually established that the Committee was asking for the removal of a fixed show schedule, and not for the removal of standards! Motion to accept the revisions as laid out in the letter from Rosetta Jones dated November 1, 2004 (Rodney / Julia): Carried. **d) National Show:** The show organizers want to put copies of Richard's *Primula* on sale at the Show. It was recommended that these books be purchased from Amazon as a box of 12, which would be less expensive. Robert will send a file for entry tags to Elaine. Pam will put the Show brochure on the APS website. Both information and registration form will be placed in the *winter* issue of the *Quarterly* to ensure members have enough time to register. Robert also suggested putting the registration form on the website. Elaine and Matt will discuss Show-related issues in the coming week. The next APS Board Meeting will be held at the National Show before the banquet so that new appointments can be announced to those present. e) **Nominations and Nominating Committee:** A ballot needs to be sent out as soon as possible, and candidates need to be solicited. Matt will include the ballot and announcement in the winter *Quarterly*. Phyllis agreed to be on the Nominating Committee. One more member is needed. Ed will ask people. f) **Webmaster search:** Pam Eveleigh would like us to find a new Webmaster. Matt volunteered his friend Joseph Philip. Joseph has experience as webmaster of a national site, and is a member of a primula group. Matt will arrange for Joseph and Pam to contact each other by email. **6. Other business** a) **Fliers to the UK:** Robert will send standard APS membership information fliers and the file to Richard in the UK. Richard's work in promoting the APS is appreciated. Richard said there would be no printing costs involved. b) **Free membership for editors** of related publications in the UK (National Auricula and Primula Society). Our Editor receives complimentary copies of their publications. It was agreed that Julia and Matt would work together to ensure that those editors received a reciprocal benefit from the APS.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 Pacific Standard Time- Michael Plumb, Interim Recording Secretary



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