



Primroses

The Quarterly Of The American Primrose Society

Fall 2015

Vol. 73

No. 4



Primroses

The Quarterly of the
American Primrose Society

Volume 73 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 of 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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Front Cover: Marianne Kuchel's amazing double candelabra

Back Cover: Johan Nilson's photo of *P. sherriffiae* taken in Bhutan, July 2015

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Membership in the Society includes a subscription to Primroses, seed exchange privileges, password to the member's only section of the APS web site (including the Pictorial Dictionary) and use of the slide library.

Dues for individual or household membership, domestic and Canada are:
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The View from Here

MERRILL JENSEN

As the seasons change from summer to autumn, I think about my seed collecting chores for the various seed exchanges that the Jensen-Olson Arboretum participates in. Of course, our primary focus is bringing in the *Primula* seed crop.

Here in Juneau, we have been experiencing a very unusual weather year. Our typically snowy winter was practically non-existent. Warmer than normal temperatures brought endless rains and a new January rainfall record of more than 12" precipitation. I'm not one to usually complain about the weather, but weeks of 34 degrees and dreary, wet skies had me looking for plane tickets to the Arizona desert to dry out...

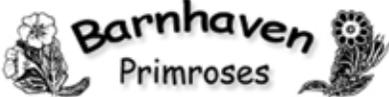
May was at the other end of the spectrum; less than 1/2" of rain came paired with much higher than normal temperatures and had the *Primula* collection suffering. We only have the capability to run one hose for irrigation and many beautiful sunny days saw numerous plants wilting in the hot afternoon sun. It was disheartening to have stunning weather only to see our primary focus suffering as a result. July returned to record amounts of rain with a Jekyll & Hyde weather pattern. One day beautiful, the next, torrential downpour...

Needless to say, it was interesting to see

how the *Primula* responded to these patterns with regard to seed set. Some, like *P. florindae*, *P. japonica* 'Postford White' and *P. pulverulenta* set copious amounts of seed, while others, *P. japonica* 'Miller's Crimson' and *P. veris* ssp. *marccalyx*, set hardly any.

With the shortening days, I've been dutifully collecting, drying and cleaning seed to package and send to the annual APS Seed Exchange. I consider the Exchange to be part of the heart and soul of APS. It provides members an opportunity to obtain new, rare or unusual seed that isn't available anywhere else. As stated on the APS web site, the Exchange cannot survive without donations from the membership.

If you haven't already collected seed from this year's plants, take a walk around your garden and see if you might have anything to share. That's what the American Primrose Society is all about, sharing our plants, knowledge and seed with others who admire this amazing genus.



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Also, please remember that renewals are due soon. Check the membership list near the back of this quarterly to see when yours expires. And perhaps consider a gift membership for a friend!

And finally: we still need a new President and Secretary to stand for election. Please consider putting your name forward, or do you know of anyone that would stand? Please forward nominations to Michael Plumb at michaellplumb@yahoo.ca



To Whom We are Indebted

EXCERPTS FROM THE ARTICLE BY R.H.BRIGGS
FROM THE APS QUARTERLY, JANUARY 1948, VOL. 5,
NO. 3, P. 41, NOTES BY M. MARTIN

On page 42 of the January 1947 issue of this Journal there is an illustration of the Auricula as it appeared in Parkinson's day, just over 300 years ago, and on the opposite page a reproduction of a modern Auricula. It might, therefore, be interesting and instructive to make an effort to trace to whom we are indebted for the remarkable development which has taken place and converted a rather ragged-looking flower into one of regal splendour.

So starts an article on a trip through time, highlighting some of the men, for they are all men, that have contributed to the development of the "modern" auricula. Looking at some of the back issues of the APS quarterly is always interesting, and anyone can do this now thanks to Michael Plumb's efforts. The whole 70 volumes, taking us from Volume 1 up to the last three years (which are available only to members) are now on the APS website.



Samuel Barlow

Many of the names we have heard about, but have no idea who the man was, can be found in this article. Sam Barlow's name I know.

Samuel Barlow was born in 1825 and was one of the old school. Though not born in Middleton — the cradle of Auricula culture in Lancashire — he spent most of his life there and was soon attracted to the Auricula.

He was one of the founders of the Auricula Society and when Horner relinquished the secretaryship in 1891 was appointed his successor.

As the raiser of Mrs. Potts and Mrs. Henwood, varieties still in existence, his name is revered by Auricula growers, particularly in the North.

Another person I have heard of often is James Douglas of the House of Edenside. I even had seed from them in the 1970s.

Although there is abundant evidence that Lancashire had played a large part in developing the Auricula it was John Beswick of Middleton who set about improving Alpines and who was responsible more than any other in these parts for popularizing them though for quite a long period growers of "Shows" would have none of them. Indeed, even to-day there are old Auricula fanciers who refuse to have anything to do with Alpines regarding them as too easy to grow and not demanding any of the old florist's skill and therefore beneath their dignity. Headed by James Douglas, founder of the "House of Edenside" the next quarter of a century brought a galaxy of stars to the Auricula firmament and included such well-known personages as The Rev. F. D. Horner, J. J. Keen, Ben Simonite, Samuel Barlow, as well as many other Northern enthusiasts.

James Douglas was born in 1837 and became one of the founders of the Southern Section of the National Auricula Society and was one of the foremost cultivators of his day — many of his introductions still grace our exhibition tables. Later he specialized in other flowers, particularly the Carnation, but on one occasion in later life declared that his earliest love was still the strongest and that the sight of a stage of Auriculas stirred up feelings that no other flower could do.



James Douglas

Finding gems like this article in the old quarterlies brings back some of the history of both the plant and the people who raised and grew them over the years so that we have them today. As

Briggs sums up:

To read this article in full, and many others like it, please see the Quarterly Archives on the APS website at americanprimrosesociety.org

In such a review as this it is quite impossible to name all who have taken part in bringing the Auricula to its present stage of perfection, or to do full justice to those who have been mentioned, but enough has been

written to convey some idea of the many in various walks of life who have played a great part in its development.

The writer wishes to express his thanks to the Reverend G. D. Dunlop for his assistance, especially in supplying much information respecting the work of Gilbert and Rea.

What to do with your seeds

Donating & Ordering Seeds

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

And remember:

it's not too late to send in your seed donations!

In the **USA** send seed to:

Amy Olmsted 421 Birch Road, Hubbardton, VT 05733

Send seed in **Canada and outside North America** to:

M. Martin 951 Joan Crescent, Victoria, BC V8S3L3 Canada



One of the most delightful things in the spring for growers: the arrival of seed packets! Photo by Kevin Baker.



Primula World: Pam's blog

To keep up with current news on *Primula*, one need only look at Pam Eveleigh's blog on her Primula World website. Pam has a facility for finding information on *Primula* species and with her introduction of the blog - short pieces of information on the genus - you can learn a lot of interesting things.

Also look at "New in the Gallery," a listing on the home page where she has noted which entries in the species gallery she has updated. Who has ever heard of *P. klaveriana* or *P. soongii*? But they are there, with images and new information as Pam finds it.

Some of her recent posts include:

Primula longipinnatifida – an interesting story about a Chinese species with very finely cut leaves:

Primula longipinnatifida

[characteristics](#)
[species profile](#)
No comments



Primula blinii has numerous synonyms reflecting the variability of this species. One of the synonyms cited in the Flora of China is *P. longipinnatifida* F.H. Chen. This species was collected by T. T. Yü, NW of Wa-Erh-Dje, alt 2800m under woods in 1937. It was described in the article "An Enumeration..."

[Read More](#)

Mexican *Primula*, actually *P. rusbyi*, distinguished by the lines of farina on the calyx, giving it a striped appearance. We had one appear in the alpine plant show in Victoria this year, though it was incorrectly labeled - don't forget it is incorrect to use *P. ellisiae* any more:

The Mexican Primula

[characteristics](#)
[species profile](#)
2 comments



There are 21 *Primula* species listed for North America, and we usually think that means "in the USA and Canada". However there is one *Primula* which is found in Mexico. That species is *Primula rusbyi*. It is also found in the US states of Arizona and New Mexico. It is speculated that because...

[Read More](#)

A post on *P. ludlowii*, as mentioned in the article on the expedition to Bhutan in this issue:

Primula ludlowii - Species, Subspecies or Variety?

[characteristics](#)
[explorers](#)
[species profile](#)
No comments



In 1934, Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff discovered *Primula* plants growing on a cliff on the Diwangiri-Trashigong Road in Bhutan. Collection #552 was named *Primula sherriffiae* in honor of George Sherriff's Mother. The spelling of this has been corrected to *P. sherriffiae*, according to...

[Read More](#)

How to use Google Earth Pro (key to using it for free in the article) and the ways in which Pam plots *Primula* species distribution and expedition routes:

Looking for Primulas in Google Earth Pro (now free)

[exploration](#)
[techniques](#)
[video](#)
No comments



Primula caveana on the Bimbi La, Tibet by Anne Chambers Using Google Earth to plot botanical expedition routes - old and new - and to locate type locations and plot species distributions has become the norm for me. I like the visual representation of the data. Places can be marked and...

[Read More](#)



The Cultivation of the Auricula in 19th Century Britain

MICHEL KUWAHARA

The auricula first appeared as a garden flower in the middle of the 16th century when plants collected in the Alps were grown in Austrian gardens. Later in the century, Clusius received plants from Austria, which he grew in his garden in Leiden, the Netherlands. He describes six different varieties that he distributed to colleagues across the continent; it is believed that the great range of auriculas grown today is descended from these few plants. The culture of the auricula developed throughout the continent during the next century and by the end of the 1600s, it had achieved the status of a Florists' flower.

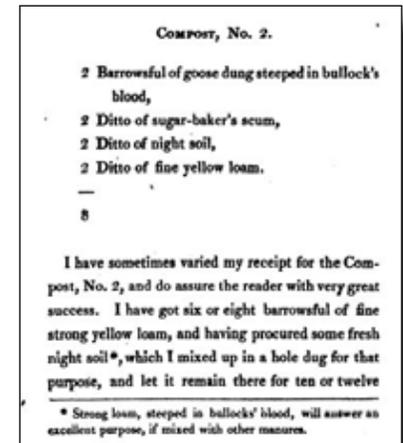
At that time, a Florist was a person who grew plants for the beauty of the flowers and not for medicinal purposes, or as food. Eventually they became specialists who raised certain flowers for exhibition. The earliest Florists' flowers included carnations, tulips, ranunculus and anemones; later auriculas, hyacinths, pinks, dahlias, polyanthus, chrysanthemums and other flowers joined their exalted company. Florist's Societies were formed and they met, more often than not, in public houses; the showing of flowers usually including a, sometimes rowdy, banquet during which the plants were passed around and judged.

It is thought that Flemish weavers brought the first auriculas to Britain in the late 16th century, where they settled in the county of Lancashire. Early in the 1600s Huguenot refugees began to arrive in England bringing auriculas with them. In these early days, British auricula growers were generally men of the working classes

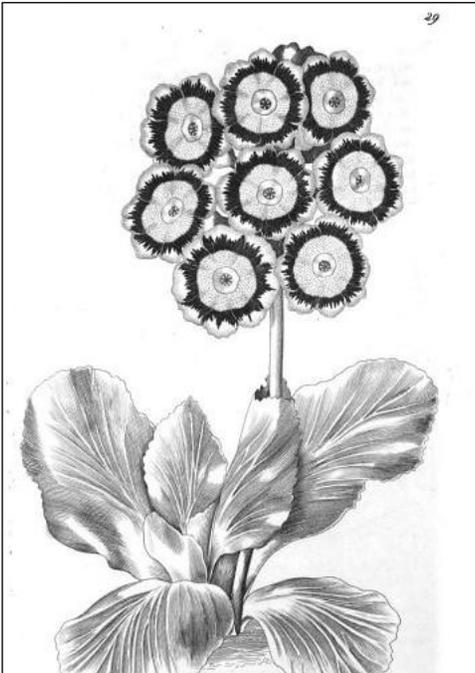
(until the 20th century, Florists were almost exclusively men, witness the fact that their meetings were often held in less than decorous taverns). By the eighteenth century, however, the growing and showing of auriculas had become fashionable among the upper classes where enthusiasts included women.

The earliest auricula varieties were color variations, as was apparently the case with Clusius's six varieties. By 1640, John Parkinson's *Herbal* describes two striped examples. A Dutch flower painting by Jacob Marrel, dated 1634 shows a striped auricula. By the 18th century, the Stripes had become immensely popular and were the most prized Florist flowers. In Britain, however, the Stripes fell out of fashion early in the 19th century and by the end of the century they seem to have disappeared altogether. It was not until after WWII that auricula breeders began to dream of bringing back the Stripes. The Englishman, Allan Hawkes was the first to succeed in creating a Striped auricula after many years of hybridization. Soon, Derek Parsons joined him in reviving the full range of colors that had been available almost two centuries before. On this side of the Atlantic, Maedythe Martin has been successfully breeding Striped auriculas.

Isaac Emmerton, in *A Plain and Practical Treatise on the Culture and Management of the Auricula* of 1815, describes five kinds of Show auriculas: Selfs, Painted or Striped, Green, Grey and White Edged. The Edged varieties had first appeared in the middle of the 18th century; they are the result of a mutation that caused the edge of the flower petals to take on the characteristics of the leaves. By the middle of the 19th century, they had become, at least in Britain, the most important



An excerpt from Emmerton's "Treatise" - this on compost for auriculas. For a modern take on recipes for auricula mixes, see page 30. To read Emmerton's work in full, go to Google Books (books.google.com) and search for "Emmerton Care and Management of the Auricula." The first result should be a free edition.



Grime's Privateer Auricula (*P. auricula* var *Grimesii*) from Sweet's Florist's Guide. To read the full copy, search on Google Books for "Sweet florist's guide."

of the Show auriculas. Initially any ground color was acceptable; illustrations from a German publication of 1801, *Aurikel Flora*, shows twelve examples of Edged flowers with a wide variety of ground colors; by 1829, Robert Sweet's *The Florist's Guide and Cultivator's Directory: Containing Coloured Figures of the Choicest Flowers cultivated by Florists* was showing Edged flowers with only purple or black ground colors, that are still favored today.

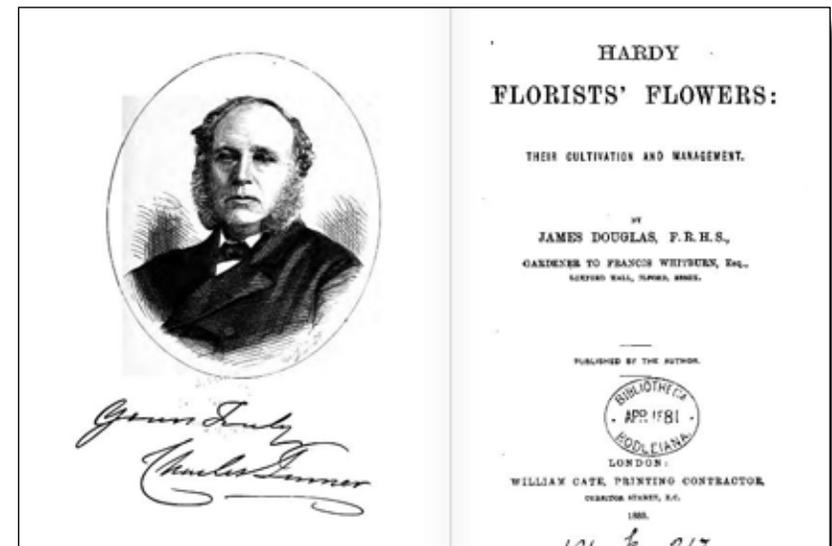
The Alpines seem to have appeared quite early. John Parkinson in his *Paradisi in sole Paradisus terrestis*, published in 1629, describes auriculas with no meal on the leaves and flowers with either golden or white centers which historians believe to have been Alpines. The British referred to Alpines as Liègeoise, suggesting a Continental origin. These were both solid colored and shaded.

By the end of the 19th century, James Douglas in *Hardy Florists' Flowers, Their Culture and Management* (1880) (right) names five varieties of show auricula: Green, Grey and White Edged, Selves and Alpines.

The discovery of the sexuality of plants was actually made in the 18th century by the German botanist Rudolf Jacob Camerarius, but the actual mechanics of plant fertilization were not understood until the middle of the 19th century. In the 1860s Charles Darwin wrote about the pollination of orchids by insects and Gregor Mendel performed his experiments with plant genetics. By 1880, James

Douglas describes a method for breeding auriculas not appreciably different from that employed today. Like most breeders today, he crossed like with like.

Up until that time, the breeding of new varieties of auricula was a haphazard affair. Eventually, although the mechanics of the process were not understood, florists had developed enough experience to establish some ingenious methods for producing good seedlings. In 1815, Isaac Emmerton recommended that plants intended for seed should be segregated by at least 40 to 50 yards from other auriculas; if you did not have enough space to allow for this, he suggested imposing on your neighbors to place your plants on their property until seed was formed. The plants during this period were to be exposed to the elements and to insects. These were understood to be necessary for the production of seeds although it was not known exactly how. Emmerton grouped at least six plants each of two select varieties together, the varieties chosen being of the same type, i.e. green edged with green edged, blue self with blue self, etc. He stated that twenty to twenty four robust plants of two select varieties would yield 400 seeds that should



To read a free copy of James Douglas' *Hardy Florists Flowers*, go to www.archive.org, and search "james douglas hardy florists flowers."

produce 300 flowering seedlings. Of these, five may have superior, first-class flowers, and seven or eight, second-class flowers. These distinctions were important because he goes on to state how much one might expect to receive for the sale of each grade of plant.

Emmerton advocated a method for sowing seeds, not unlike that employed today. He sowed the seeds in 6" pots – clay, of course – in which the hole had been enlarged, filled it with 2½" of coal ash or cinders the size of coarse gravel and compost to ½" of the top. The seeds were covered with sifted compost to a depth equal to the thickness of a shilling. The pot was covered with a striking glass (a glass made to just fit inside the rim of the pot). The pot was watered by pouring water directly onto the glass that moistened the compost evenly without disturbing the seeds or seedlings and without the need to raise the glass. When the first leaves appeared, a little air was admitted, by raising the glass slightly on one side; as seedlings gained strength, the glass was gradually raised equally on all sides; by the time the plants had four leaves, the glass was removed. When the plants had six leaves, the seedlings were potted on, four seedlings to a five-inch pot.

A number of writers in the 19th century recommended planting seeds as soon as they were ripe in August. These they said, would flower a year from the following spring, whereas seed planted in February would produce plants taking two years to bloom.

All authors throughout the 19th century agreed that the growing medium for auriculas was of paramount importance. There were, however, as many recipes as there were growers, more, in fact, since some offered multiple recipes. Isaac Emmerton in 1815 offered no less than seven compost recipes. Because it was the principal ingredient in all of his recipes, here is a description of the method employed to produce *goose dung steeped in bullock's blood*: a hole some three feet deep and five feet wide was dug in which were placed two or three barrowsful of fresh goose dung; to this, once a week, was added one or more pailsful of fresh bullock's blood from a local butcher and this was mixed thoroughly with the dung; this

process was continued for three or four months, then the mixture was allowed to dry so that it was quite solid. Needless to say, it was necessary to protect this mixture from dogs and other animals.

Typical of Emmerton's recipes was Compost no. 2, with one part equal to a barrowful: 3 parts goose dung steeped in bullocks blood, 2 parts sugar-baker's scum, 2 parts night soil, 2 parts fine yellow loam; all elements mixed thoroughly and turned monthly for two years.

Sugar-baker's scum, Emmerton explained, consisted of the dross of sugar, a portion of West India mould, fine clay, bullock's blood, lime-water, etc. Emmerton claimed that compost containing sugar-baker's scum never harbored any grubs or injurious insects. He assumed this was because of the lime-water.

In 1839, in his *A practical treatise on the culture of the carnation, pink, auricula, polyanthus, ranunculus, tulip, hyacinth, rose, and other flowers: with a dissertation on soils and manures, and catalogues of the most esteemed varieties of each flower*, Thomas Hogg recommends the following compost recipe: one third fresh yellow mould or maiden mould, one third cow dung, well rotted, one

THE AURICULA.

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The seed, if good, and kept moist, and the weather prove favorable, will strike root and make its appearance in a month, but sometimes not under six weeks. When the seed is up, I then recommend you to take away the striking glasses, and place squares of window-glass over the pots in their stead, for you must be careful not to confine them too long, and so draw them up weak, as you would mustard and cress. Give air gradually, and harden them to it by degrees. The young plants, when beginning to sprout, will sometimes throw their roots out of ground, which must be carefully put in again, by making a small cleft in the earth, and closing the soil round them; this may be done with a long flat bit of ivory or smooth wood, thin at the end, and about one-eighth of an inch broad, or they will come to nothing.

As soon as the plants are fit to handle, transplant them carefully into store pans or pots, an inch apart, filled with proper compost, which ought to be raised in a convex form, one inch and a half higher in the middle than at the sides; water with the brush as

H 5

To read a free copy of Hogg's Treatise, visit biodiversitylibrary.org and search "hogg treatise."

third night soil, two years old, one third leaf mould and one tenth sea or river sand.

The working class Florists of Lancashire – mainly weavers and miners – had a recipe for compost that will sound more sensible to modern growers. They combined horse and/or cow dung, dung of poultry, old decayed willow wood – this was gathered from the core of old willow trees - and mould cast up by moles. This was mixed together, gathered up in a pile and exposed to the weather. In the winter, when the top of the pile was frozen, it was removed; this process was repeated until the whole pile had been frozen.

By 1880, James Douglas was advocating a compost that anyone today might recommend: four parts turfy loam, one part leaf mould, one part river sand, plus a few bits of broken charcoal.

Just as contentious as the type of compost used was the timing of repotting. Throughout the 19th century, many British Florists advocated repotting in August. Thomas Hogg suggested that spring repotting meant that the plants had been in the same compost for almost a year and the soil was nearly exhausted at the time of bloom. Furthermore, he claimed that fresh compost in the spring forced premature growth causing autumn flowers. Finally, offsets would be more mature in August. There were also recommendations to repot every three years, simply renewing the top two inches of soil and lightly trimming the root-balls in the interim years.

Emmerton, Hogg and most of their fellow Florists advocated top dressing in February - their way of feeding the plants just coming into growth. One to two inches of compost were carefully removed, so as not to disturb the roots, and replaced with a compost considerably richer than the regular compost. Hogg recommends a top-dressing consisting of one part each, goose dung and blood, night soil, loam and sugar-baker's scum.

Methods of auricula cultivation throughout the year recommended by the 19th century British Florists were not appreciably different from the methods that Florists of today are likely to use. The plants



A Bouquet of Auriculas by Pierre Joseph Redoute, dated 1837, watercolor on vellum - National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, USA. This painting is in the public domain because the artist died more than 70 years ago.

This print includes a Striped and an Alpine auricula, suggesting that the Stripes were still popular on the Continent in the 1830s, when this was painted, at a time when they were no longer grown by British Florists.



Two Edged auriculas and two Sells. Note that the Sells are extremely ruffled and that the Edged flowers on the right have a wire-thin white edge, like a lacing. The painting is by Robert John Thornton from his book, *The Temple of Flora*, 1807.

(*The Temple of Flora*, Robert John Thornton, 1807, www.biodiversityheritagelibrary.org)



New Fancy Auriculas

Some of the new Fancy varieties include Clouds: "a subtle blending of soft colors, the blending being from the center of the flower toward the edges, or from the center of each



petal toward the petal's edge." These are, from top: Cloud Nine, Embankment and West Harrow, all raised and photographed by Henry Pugh in England.

Sieboldiis on Facebook



Sieboldii photos posted on the Primula Lovers Facebook page from Summer 2015 showing a variety of forms and colors.



Judith Sellers



The Primula Lovers Facebook page continues to delight with the variety of plants, people and places to find the genus *Primula*.



Photos this page by Kevin Baker



New in 2015, *Primula sieboldii* 'Flamenco' offered by Barnhaven - a Japanese hybrid with double white flowers and a dark pink reverse. See more at barnhaven.com.

Deal or No Deal



Two of Henry Pugh's Wire Edged Fancy Show Auriculas. He says of 'DEAL' (above), "Sister seedling to NO DEAL (right). They meet the requirement of a good fancy to be different from what is currently available but both would be better with a smoother outline. Also wire-edges have an all too frequent habit of disappearing." Compare these to some of the 'English Auricula Varieties' painted in 1801 on the page opposite - there are some marked similarities!

Exciting Perennial varieties from seed



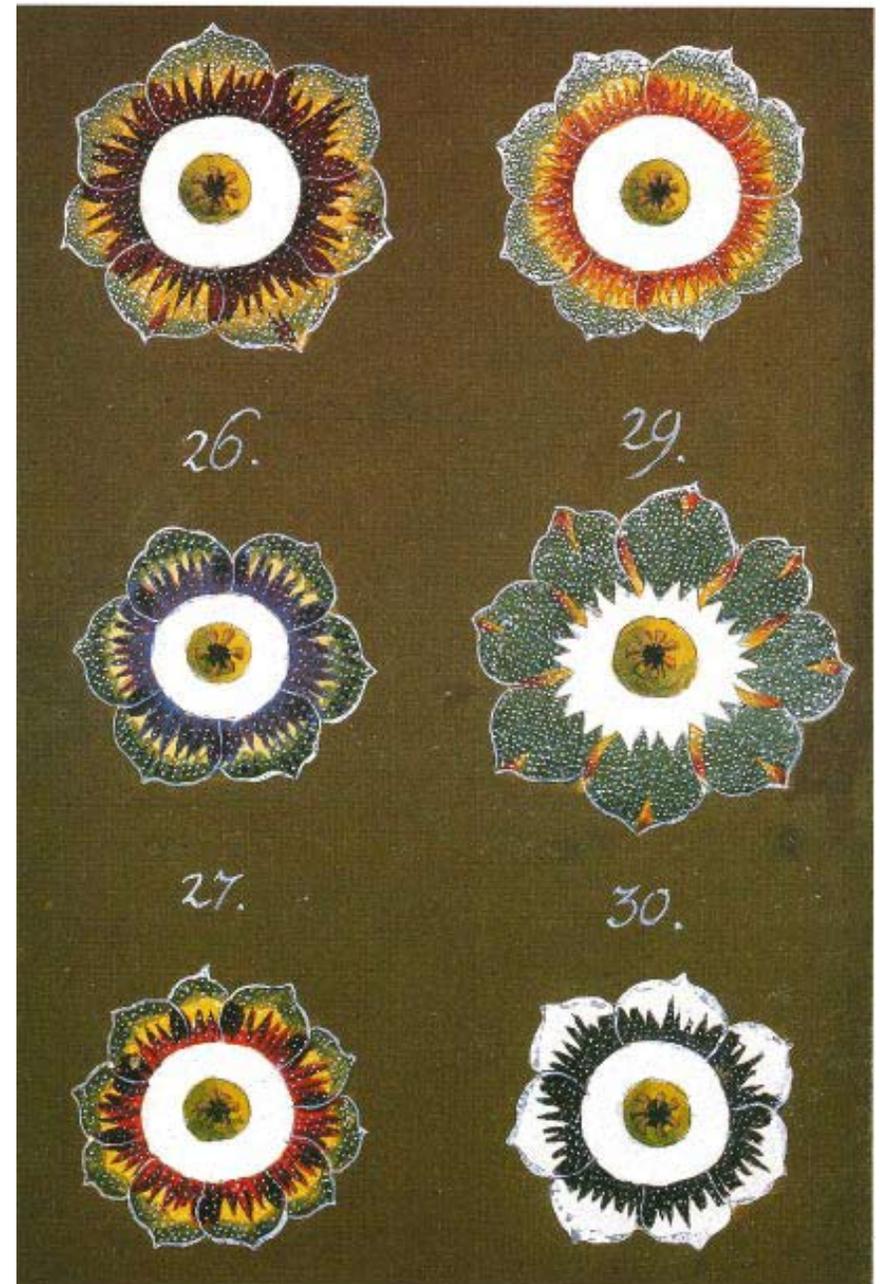
PRIMULA x pubescens

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'English Auricula Varieties' painted by F. A. Kannegiesser from Aurikel Flora, 1801, showing the range of body colors of the Edged auriculas in the early 19th century.

(Flora, Brent Elliott, Firefly Books, 2001)

...continued from page 16

were raised either in frames or in greenhouses. Some differences are worth pointing out, however. For example, one doubts that many growers today have the space to follow Isaac Emmerton's recommendation that the plants be kept in frames with a southern aspect from October to March; moved to frames with an eastern aspect in late March when the sun was too strong for the emerging flowers; then, finally, moving the plants to an auricula theatre or staging area with a northern aspect when the plants were in full flower.

While the plants were in their frames, the Florists exposed them to gentle rains right up to the time of flowering. Some recommended using special glasses that were inverted over plants with powdered leaves; these glasses protected the leaves, at the same time allowing the rain to water the compost in the pot. Emmerton claimed, however, that the leaves did not need to be protected; he said that the farina would renew itself in a few days once the plants were under cover again.

From early April until the end of bloom, Emmerton said that the frames should be kept closed at all times in order to draw up the flower stems to their full height. Thomas Hogg disagreed; he advised that the frames should be kept open as much as possible during this period to strengthen the stems and the plants in general. They both agreed, however, that when the frames were closed, care had to be taken to insure that the plants received plenty of fresh air from the rear and bottom of the frames.

Perhaps the most striking difference between auricula growers of the 19th century and those of the 21st is that in earlier times, fashion played an important part in selecting the plants that were grown for exhibition. Striped auriculas were all the rage in the first half of the 18th century, such as seen in Furber's *Twelve Months* ("March" seen left), but they fell out of favor in the middle of the 18th century when the field was dominated by the Edged auriculas. By the end of the century, the Stripes had disappeared altogether and had, literally, to be reinvented when auricula Florists again



Robert Furber (1674–1756) was a British horticulturist and author, best known for writing the first seed catalog produced in England.

Most famous of Furber's work was "Twelve Months of Flowers," published in 1730. It was a catalog of plants and seeds, featuring twelve detailed engravings. Henry Fletcher produced each of the twelve hand-colored engravings from paintings by Pieter Casteels. Each plant was numbered, with a list of the corresponding species names provided. More than 400 different species of plant were featured. The plates were originally sold on a subscription basis for £1 5s in uncolored form, or £2 12s 6d for a colored version.

'March' (above) includes auriculas 'Royal Widow Auricula' (left center) and 'Danae Auricula' (lower right).

became interested in the Stripes in the post WWII era.

Happily, the auricula world in the 21st century demonstrates a more catholic taste than its predecessors. Today, in the words of Cole Porter, *Anything Goes*, or nearly so. Not only do we see the full range of types from the past and present, but many of today's breeders are seeking new forms as well, which, until they can be placed in classes of their own, seem to end up in the ever-growing classification of the Fancies. Under the category of Fancies, there are now subheadings, although these may not yet be official, to identify some of these new types, which include: *Shaded*, which appear to be Selves with shaded rather than solid color; *Wire Edged*, Selves with a fine lacing of white farina, often with fine stripes of farina running into the petals; *Clouds*, a subtle blending of soft colors, the blending being from the center of the flower toward the edges, or from the center of each petal toward the petal's edge; *Picotée*, a light body color edged with a darker, contrasting color; and some Clouds have the Picotée pattern, but the zone of darker color on the edges is wider. In addition, there are Striped Doubles, Doubles with farina spread over the petals and Wire Edged Doubles, which have not yet appeared in official shows. With such a wide range of beautiful flowers to choose from, one can only concur with Louis Armstrong, when he sings, *What A Wonderful World*.

A special thank you is due to the knowledgeable and ever helpful staff at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library at the University of Washington in Seattle for their assistance in preparing this article.



Some of the titles referred to in preparing this article:

The Art of Botanical Illustration by Wilfred Blunt and William Stearn, Antique Collectors Club, 1993

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Expedition to rediscover *Primula sherriffiae*

NOTES BY MAEDYTHE MARTIN

A recent post on Alpines-L mentioned a 2015 expedition:

News of a rediscovered plant in Bhutan

Primula lovers may be interested to read about the success of a trip to Bhutan in re-finding ***Primula sherriffiae***, 81 years after its only finding and introduction. The plant has been maintained in cultivation since then by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. The team was comprised of a number of SRGC members and recipients of Scottish Rock Garden Club Exploration Grants and were greatly helped by research done on the location by Pam Eveleigh of Primula World.

You can read more here : <http://www.srgc.net/forum/index.php?topic=13349.0>

A post on the Scottish Rock Garden Society club forum mentioned shortly after the above post told us of the success of the 2015 expedition to Bhutan:

An Expedition to Bhutan, with members Johan Nilson (Gothenburg Botanic Garden), Elspeth Mackintosh (RBG Edinburgh) and Julia Corden (Explorers' Garden, Pitlochry) - all sponsored by the Exploration Fund of SRGC, along with other members, Martin Walsh, Koen Van Poulke and Ann de Rijke have found a primula last seen decades ago.

After 81 years ***Primula sherriffiae*** has been found on steep mossy cliffs at 2120m in Bhutan. Also growing on the cliff was ***Primula ludlowii*** as recorded by Sherriff and Ludlow in 1934. - message received from

Julia Corden 8th July 2015

These are some photos from Alan Elliot of the plants being grown at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh which are derived from the original introduction.



Pam Eveleigh has added new information



on her website Primula World for *P. sherriffiae*.

The name has been corrected

from *P. sherriffae* to *P. sherriffiae* according to the IAPT code 60C as the epithet honors a woman. This species is easily distinguished by 2-7 pale violet, farinose flowers with very long and slender tubes held on scapes 4-7cm (1-3 inches) tall. Leaves are hairy and narrowly obovate. *P. sherriffiae* has been found at two disjunct locations: one in Bhutan and the other in Manipur. Also listed by the Flora of China as found in SE Tibet. *P. ludlowii* was found at the same location and at the same time as *P. sherriffiae* and is a smaller plant with solitary flowers without farina on the corolla and with fine hairs on the inside and outside of the tube. Recent images of this species in

the wild indicate it may be distinct. See related: *P. ludlowii*.

According to Primula World, John Richards had the plant in cultivation in 2000.

And please see the back cover for Johan Nilson's photo of *P. sherriffiae* taken in Bhutan from July 2015.



An herbarium sheet from 1936, copyright © 2015 Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (above).

Auriculas and Spagnum and Another Mix

MAEDYTHE MARTIN

Following the article on “To Whom We Are Indebted” in the January 1949 quarterly, is one by MacAlevy of New York on his experience growing auriculas in pure sphagnum. (Sphagnum Propagation of Auriculas, Vol.5 No. 3 p. 50, January 1948) Quite an experiment, but it worked for him. He did finally move the plants on to a garden bed with a soil mix as follows;

1/5 rotted soil, liberally treated with superphosphate
1/5 sifted peat moss
1/5 sharp sand
2/5 rotted manure.

This was quite acid so he added screenings from limestone gravel.

This sounds quite a bit like my own mix. I start with making a John Innes mix, of my own interpretation:

3 part loam (I actually use the brown under-soil here at the west coast that some refer to as arbutus soil, as it is very minerally and sterile)

3 parts peat (but I use coir that comes in bricks at the hardware or garden center. It gets bad press as salty, but I haven't found that. And peat attracts root aphids, in my opinion)

2 parts coarse sand. (I get the local washed sand at the gravel mart and put it through window screen which gives me fine coarse gravel.)

I make about half a wheelbarrow full – usually using one gallon pots as “parts” and 2 times the recipe and then add some superphosphate and lime (but I use dolomite lime – should get real limestone ground, but just haven't yet.) Just a handful, scattered

over the mix and then mixed in.

Then I take this mix and to each part of it I add an equal part of well rotted oak leaf mold and more grit. I suspect you could use well rotted manure. I find I want to have more and more grit in the mix – the plants seem to make better roots that way. Since I've started adding the finely sieved oak leaf mold I think the plants do better.

All this is a lot of trouble, and I only do it about twice a year, and right now I am out of the arbutus soil. Any fine garden loam might do. But you can experiment and use what you can get and see how the plants do.

Auriculas are heavy feeders and like rich, but well-drained, soil. If your pots have lots of roots you are on the right track.



Membership List Renewal Reminder

JULIA HALDORSON, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership in the American Primrose Society runs on the calendar year and includes four issues of our journal “Primroses”; the first issue being Winter, on to Spring, Summer and with Fall, the last issue for the year. As we are at the end of the calendar year, renewals for 2016 are due around **November 15, 2015**.

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

Jon Kawaguchi
3524 Bowman Court
Alameda, California 94502 USA

Please renew today using these easy steps:

- Check out the Membership List in this issue of “Primroses” to see if your membership expires in 2015.
- If your membership expires in 2015 - go to the website to renew either by using PayPal or the membership application form; or use the form found within the Fall issue of “Primroses”. (please note: Canadian members should not use Canadian checks. Our bank charges us \$10US for each Canadian check we deposit. International Money Orders can be deposited without a fee.)
- Submit your renewal to our Treasurer on or around **November 15, 2015**.

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

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 GS NA&PS, Southern Region Mr. L.E. Wigley 67 Warnham Court Rd. Carshalton Beeches Surrey SM5 3ND England
 GS NA&PS, Midland & West Section Roger Woods 44 Tansey Crescent Stoney Stanton Leicestershire LE9 4BT England
 GS The Alpine Garden Society A.G.S. Centre Avon Bank Pershore Worcestershire WR10 3JP England
 GS NA&PS, Northern Section Mr. K. Leeming 3 Daisybank Drive Sandbach Cheshire CW11 4JR England
 GS N American Rock Garden Soc Malcolm McGregor, Editor

16 Mill Street Hutton, Driffield East Yorkshire YO25 9PU England

France
 2015 Mrs. Lynne Lawson Barnhaven Primroses 11 Rue du Pont Blanc 22310 Plestin Les Graves France

Germany
 GS Bibliothek Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem D - 14191 Berlin Germany
 LF Dr. Alarich Kress Edelweiss - Strasse 9 D - 82194 Grobenzell Germany
 LF Georg Maerz Postfach 150308 D-70076 Stuttgart Germany
 2015 Bernd Franzen Im Baumgarten 5 51105 Cologne Germany

Iceland
 2015 Bjorgvin Steindorsson Sjonarholi Akureyri 603 Iceland
 LF Fridrik Skulason Stighlid 65 Reykjavik IS 105 Iceland

Ireland
 GS Library, National Botanic Gardens Librarian Glasnevin Dublin 9 Ireland

Japan
 2015 Gishu Aoki 14-1 Banba-2 Midori-ku Saitama-shi 336-0912 Japan
 LF Takao Maki 7-11-6 Kugenuma-Kaigan Fujisawa-251 Japan
 LF Mr. Hiroto Oi 11-1890 Kami-Okawamae Niigata-Shi 951-8068 Japan

New Zealand
 2018 Diana A. Whimp 47A Whau Valley Rd. Whangarei 0112 Northland New Zealand
 2018 Mrs. Heather Sell 49 Mill Road Waimate Sth Canterbury New Zealand

Norway
 2015 Aase Garstad Tordenli Fauske 8218 Norway
 LF Magnus Valvik Torborg Nedreaas gt. 20 N-5006 Bergen Norway

Scotland
 2015 Mrs. Jeanie Jones Kilnptoles Kettleholm Lockerbie Dumfriesshire DG11 1DD Scotland
 2015 Spedding Mickle 1, Dryden Place Edinburgh EH9 1RP Scotland

Switzerland
 LF Peter Kade Oberhofstettenweg 5 St Gallen 9012 Switzerland

The Netherlands
 2015 Gerben Bauke v.d. Veen Nieuwe Tijingen 78 5301 DA Zaltbommel The Netherlands
 2016 J. W. M. van Saase IJweg 1063 2133 MH Hoofddorp The Netherlands

Wales
 2016 Les Allen Windy Ridge Llandrindad Wells Powys LD11 5NY Wales

LF=Life Member GS=Garden Club T=Twin

Please remember to renew your subscription to the APS by the deadline, November 15, 2013 and consider a gift membership for a friend. Thank You

American Primrose Society Minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 26th, 2015

The meeting was held online. Quorum and start at 6.04 pm, EST.

Board members present: Cheri Fluck (Director), Julia Haldorson (Director and Membership Secretary), Merrill Jensen (Director and President of the Juneau Chapter), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Alan Lawrence (APS President), Amy Olmsted (Director), Michael Plumb (Secretary and Webmaster), Rhondda Porter (Vice-President)

A. Approval of the Agenda (Michael/Merrill), with the addition under New Business of 2016 National Show and Financial Report for 2015 National Show.

B. Minutes of May 3rd 2015 – accepted (Cheri / Michael)

C. Business Arising and Old Business

1. Search for new president and secretary:

Michael apologized for not yet posting an appeal for nominations on the website. Rhondda said it would be easier to advertise for directors and then appoint people from the board to the posts of president and secretary. Michael pointed out that the number of directors is limited by our constitution. ACTION: Michael will post an appeal on the website; Rhondda will do the same on the APS Facebook page.

2. Application to become the International Cultivar Naming Authority for Primula:

- Alan had recently sent the board a draft application form for growers and others to register a cultivar's name. He had adapted it from the Rhododendron naming form. The board's first impressions of the form were good.
- Alan said it still requires a section for the plant's description. Cheri said that Dorothy Springer had done work on describing varieties, and her system had used pictures.
- Rhondda expressed interest in finding out which double primroses (double 'acaulis') are still in existence. She would like to use the APS Facebook page for this. She will also base her research on Mary Robinson's book and an old list of doubles from Hopleys Nursery. Alan suggested she also contact Caroline Stone about doubles. Cheri said that Caroline is also hunting for old doubles.
- Alan informed the board that Matt Mattus, president of NARGS, would like to assist us in an individual capacity.
- The board thought it would be best to limit registration initially to just a few types of cultivar (double acaulis? julies?). Primula already well covered by other specialist interest groups (e.g., Auricula, P. sieboldii) should be left under the authority of those societies.
- ACTION: The board agreed to continue discussion by email and possibly the website chat room.

D. Treasurer's Report (Emailed before the meeting)

1. Income less expenses April 1st to June 31st 2015: (\$455.13)
2. Income less expenses January 1st, 2015 to June 31st 2015: \$1,540.02
3. Total liabilities and equity as of June 31st 2015: \$28,689.44
4. MOTION (Michael/Merrill): to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carried.

E. Committee Reports

1. Membership (Julia, by email):
 - Total membership as of July 25th 2015 is 277.

- So far this year this includes 23 new members.
- This still leaves us down by 24 members compared with the 2014 figure of 301.
- Julia observed that exposure on Facebook was helping.
- MOTION (Cheri/Michael): to accept Membership Report. Carried.

2. Editorial Committee (Maedythe, by email):

- The summer 2015 issue should arrive in the mail very soon.
- Submissions of content for the fall issue are welcome.
- MOTION (Cheri/Michael) to accept Editorial Report. Carried

3. Website (Michael, by email):

- Quarterly Archives: All back issues of the APS Quarterly are now posted in PDF format on our website except for eleven of the more recent issues. Michael will be scanning and uploading these in the near future.
- As agreed by the board, the latest twelve issues published are reserved for members.
- 2015 National Show photos: Finally uploaded today, accessible from the home page.
- Website Statistics: Michael is no longer able to use 'Google Analytics' because their renewal process has become very 'user unfriendly'.
- Member-only areas: Few members are requesting log-in codes because they can now obtain most of the website's pages without them. This greatly reduces the webmaster's work. The only areas which now require codes are 'Society Documents', the 'Members' Chat', and the latest twelve issues of the Q.
- Cultivar Naming Authority: Michael has not posted anything about this yet, pending more discussion by the board.
- Contacting the Webmaster: For some reason Julia was receiving all enquiries earlier this year, and having to pass them on to Michael. He still has not resolved this problem.
- MOTION (Cheri / Rhondda): to accept the Website Report. Carried.

F. Chapters

1. New England: The National Show Report is now on the website. No financial report for the show has yet been submitted. ACTION: Amy will check with Mary Malloy about finances.
2. Alaska: Paul Dick has resigned as president, and Merrill has taken over from him. The chapter will meet mid-September to discuss seed collection and fall sowing. They hope to garner new members from the Juneau Garden Club.
3. BC Group: In April the group hosted a talk by Pam Eveleigh. The members agreed informally to host the 2016 National Show in Portland, Oregon next April. The group will meet again in November to discuss this.
4. MOTION (Julia / Michael): to accept Juneau and BC reports. Carried.

G. New Business

2016 National Show and Financial Report for 2015 National Show: Already dealt with under Chapter Reports, items F1 and F3.

H. Next meeting: October 25th, 2015 at 6.00 pm Eastern

I. Adjournment: (Rhondda) at 7.10 pm Eastern

Respectfully submitted, Michael Plumb, Secretary



North American Rock Garden Society

Yes, I am interested in a seed exchange, discount book service, slide library, field trips, fact-filled Quarterly, garden visits, and plant sales.

Sign me up!

Membership:
USA, Canada: US\$30
Overseas: US\$35

Please contact:
Mr. Bobby Ward
Executive Secretary, NARGS
PO Box 18604

Raleigh, NC 27619-8604

Make checks payable to
North American Rock Garden Society

<https://www.nargs.org/info/smembership>.

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society

Midland & West Section

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk



£10.00 Overseas Membership.

to: The Honorary Treasurer, Roger Woods,
44 Tansey Crescent, Stoney Stanton,
Leicestershire, LE9 4BT United Kingdom.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

SOUTHERN SECTION

www.southernauriculaprimula.org

The National Auricula & Primula Society - Southern Section was founded in 1876 by and for enthusiasts who raised and exhibited Auriculas, Gold-Laced polyanthus and other primulas.

The Annual subscription is £7.00 (UK) for single or family membership, Overseas £8.00

Members receive an illustrated Year Book and a Newsletter - Offsets, containing interesting articles on growing and raising Primulas together with their history and cultivation.

Applications for membership of the N.A.P.S. Southern Section should be made to:
The Honorary Secretary, Lawrence Wigley,
67 Warnham Court Road, Carshalton Beeches,
Surrey, SM5 3ND.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

NORTHERN SECTION

Please consider joining the National Auricula and Primula Society - Northern Section. Overseas memberships are some of the best ways to learn more about your favorite plants.

Benefits include publications and more.

Write: Mr. K. Leeming, 3 Daisybank Drive,
Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 4JR

Overseas membership £7.50 (\$10.00 US)

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

New Members

New Members
June 25 - September 30, 2015

Year of Expiry	Name	Address
2015	Elaine Fernald	P. O. Box 623, Mt. Desert, Maine 04660-0623 USA
2016	Jack Ferreri	3118 Timber Lane, Verona, Wisconsin 53593 USA

A present for a friend?



When you renew your APS membership, consider a gift membership for a friend.



Should there ever be a question about your membership, please contact:

Julia L. Haldorson, APS Membership

P. O. Box 292

Greenbank, Washington 98253 USA

julia-haldorson@ak.net

membership@americanprimrosesociety.org

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