



Primroses

The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Summer 2018

Vol. 76

No. 3



Primroses

The Quarterly of the
American Primrose Society

Volume 76 No 2

Summer 2018

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: National Show Winners (photo: Amy Olmsted)

Back Cover: *Primula juliae alba* (photo: Maedythe Martin)

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

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Dues for individual or household membership, domestic, and Canada are:
\$25 per calendar year
\$70 for three years
Overseas rates are:
\$32 per calendar year
\$90 for three years.
Membership renewals are due November 15 and are delinquent January 1. Submit payment to the Treasurer at the first of the year.

Advertising per issue:

Black and White:
Full page \$100
Half page \$60
Quarter page \$30
Eighth page \$15
Color:
Half page \$150
Full page \$300
Back Cover \$450

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The View from Here

RHONDDA PORTER

The season of alpine and *Primula* shows has drawn to a close. Exhibitors have looked at their entry cards for comments from the judges for tips on how to improve their chances of earning a ribbon or two at next year's show or have smiled at a glowing comment which went along with their prize ribbon. For those of us who are already dedicated "primulaphiles" the shows are confirmation that we are growing some of the most interesting and beautiful plants possible.

There is another group of people that alpine and *Primula* shows attract: the curious. Without shows many people would only know primroses from those that appear each spring in grocery, hardware, and big box stores or nurseries. Shows are a chance for *Primula* enthusiasts to encourage people to try their hand at growing some of the many wonderful, easy to grow varieties that are generally available either as plants or as seeds from our annual seed exchange.

However, these shows would not be held at all except for the all the work done by the group which hosts and organizes the event, often with lectures, garden visits and plant sales. This year a special "Thank You!" goes out to the Juneau Chapter which organized and hosted the 2018 National Show. The president and his many volunteers should be congratulated for putting on an excellent show. In addition to the *Primula* show which was open to the public, there were lectures, plant sales, opportunities for socializing, and

wonderful food for everyone who purchased tickets for the sold-out three-day event. This issue of *Primroses* contains reports on three shows: the American Primrose Society National Show, the New England Chapter show, and the Vancouver Rock and Alpine Garden Society show. As a bonus there is show report on a British *Primula* show.

For those who didn't make it to a show this year, there is always next year. Look for announcements of shows in the Quarterly, on the website, and on the APS Facebook page.



TREVOR COLE (B. 20 APRIL 1934, D. 31 DEC 2017)

Prior to immigrating to Canada from England, Trevor trained at Kew Gardens, where he met his future wife Brenda. He moved to Canada in 1967, where he continued his career in horticulture. He worked at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa from 1967 until 1995 when he retired as the last Curator of the Dominion Arboretum.

In addition to his work at the Dominion Arboretum, Trevor was a prolific non-fiction author and editor specializing in gardening topics. He wrote a column for the *Ottawa Citizen* and was a consultant for Reader's Digest in Canada. He was recognized internationally for his work in horticulture and garden writing. In addition to his work as an author ("*Gardening with trees and Shrubs in Ontario, Quebec, and the Northeastern U.S.*" and "*The Ontario Gardener*"), he edited many gardening books for publishers including Readers Digest (*Care Free Plants*) and Dorling Kindersley (*A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*).

Trevor was a Life member of the American Primrose Society and supported the APS through his articles for the quarterly "*Primroses*" and through the donation of his extensive slide collection of *Primula* to the society.

A SMALL SHINING TREASURE: *PRIMULA JULIAE ALBA*

ROBIN HANSEN

I was recently given a plant of *Primula juliae alba*, and not having been aware that there is a white form of this little primrose, I started trying to find out more about it. Jay Lunn, from whom it came, said it had come from a friend who received it from Rick Lupp, proprietor of the now closed Mt. Tahoma Nursery in Mt. Vernon, Washington.

I could find no reference to a white form in John Richard's *Primula*, 1st edition, nor anywhere else but on the APS website. Sources seem to agree that the species was discovered by Julia Mloskosewitsch in the Eastern Caucasus around 1900. Holubec and Krivka in their *The Caucasus and Its Flowers* describe its habitat as wet rocks in forests but also in the alpine zone along streams in shady canyons up to 2600 meters (8500 feet), specifically endemic to eastern Georgia, Azerbaijan and Dagestan. But they, as with other sources, make no mention of a white form. They state that it prefers cold places with humus-rich soil.

According to Maedythe Martin, she bought hers at the Hortlandia sale from the local rock gardening group. This sale is held every year in Portland, Oregon. She thinks it might have been around the Seattle/Portland area for a couple decades, probably from Rick Lupp. Rick says the white form which he used to offer showed up in a batch of seedlings which he grew at his nursery and believes the seed came from Euro Seed. In comparing *Primula juliae* with the white form, it's clearly not a hybrid, in my opinion, so I'll have to speculate that this color is perhaps only occurring in cultivation.

Primula juliae alba is an absolutely flat growing, dark green-leaved cutie with almost crystalline snow white flowers; it's almost unknown except by the lucky few who have received it from other *Primula* lovers. My single plant came from Jay Lunn in Portland. I've been growing the magenta form for years although I tried to kill it this past summer by not watering it properly in the shade house. It does not form clumps but spreads gently by rhizomes. As it is barely one-half to one inch in height, it needs to be placed in areas where it can be kept moist and

not have much competition, and it really needs to be visible so you won't forget where it is!

From personal experience, regular watering is essential, along with light fertilizer. Mine have been kept in pots and regularly divided. They do best with some shade but the more light they get, the better they flower. As with most primroses, there is the potential for havoc created by root weevils, although the little critters seemed to munch on other species first. I divide my plants whenever I have time, but preferably just before onset of flowering or by late summer to give them time to develop good root systems before winter cold arrives.

This white form of *P. juliae* does not appear to be easily available, and in fact, I've not yet found a source for it, so if you are offered one or see it at a plant sale, grab it. *Primula juliae* generally is less commonly grown than 'Juliana' or 'Wanda Hybrids', the result of crosses with *Primula vulgaris*, *P. minima* and others. They may also be referred to as 'Pruhonica' hybrids and are all relatively small plants with masses of flowers in many shades, but without the vulgarity of huge flowers we so often see in primrose hybrids now available. You won't see these plants at the supermarket or the discount store and they are very rarely seen even at specialist nurseries.

The APS does have some seed available through its annual exchange, and occasionally even *Primula juliae* seed is offered, although it's apparently shy at setting seed and division is much more reliable. *Primula* 'White Wanda' makes an acceptable substitute if you can find it, although it is a somewhat larger plant. Barnhaven Primroses in France ships to the U.S. and I would recommend *The Plant Lovers Guide to Primulas* by Jodie Mitchell and Lynne Lawson of Barnhaven. This book was reviewed in a previous issue (Vol.72, Issue 2) of the APS journal. It gives a general overview of different classes but is not a comprehensive source of *Primula juliae* and its hybrids.



Remember to Save and Donate Seeds!

In the USA send seed to:

Amy Olmsted 421 Birch Road, Hubbardton, VT 05733

NEW Send seed in **Canada and outside North America**
to: Pascal Vigot 1171, seigneurie Ste-Eelie, QC J0K 2K0

SEEDS UP CLOSE

JANE GUILD

After reading Pam Eveleigh's article "Bringing Seeds into Focus" on her Primula World website, I was intrigued. Pam takes a close look (pun intended) at the techniques involved in photographing seeds at a microscopic level. You can read the full article here:

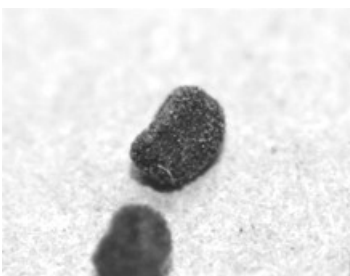
<https://primulaworld.blogspot.com/2015/02/bringing-seeds-into-focus.html>

She has two beautiful photos of *Primula* seed she has taken herself, one of *Primula brachystoma*, and another of *Primula agleniana* seed attacked by fungus. The quality of these images is astounding.

I wanted to see what I could obtain by way of close photography given my somewhat ancient equipment: a Canon EOS with a Sigma 28-70mm lens plus macro.

To my surprise and delight, I was able to get some decent shots, highlighting the difference in seeds, courtesy of Maedythe Martin's seed collection.

Primula elatior (the common oxslip) has a rather boulder-like countenance, with rounded shoulders and pitting upon close inspection:



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

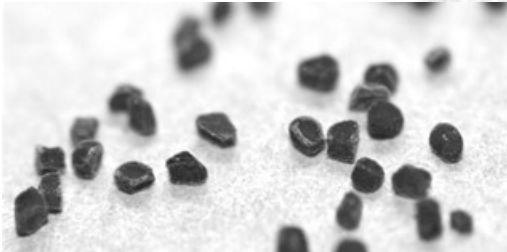
PLANTS SENT BARE-ROOTED TO THE U.S. WITH PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE.

The mixed polyanthus (right) is much the same as *P. elatior*, easily misidentified as so many rocks in a row.



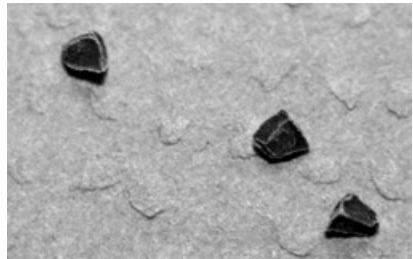
Secundiflora, on the other hand, is quite flinty, with sharp angles (left).

As is *P. simensis* (right), though *simensis* has a more curved aspect with little pointy ends.



P. polynura (left) is angular again, but in a more geometric way, being somewhat flattened.

And my favorite, I think, is one Maedythe calls 'Minge', being a somewhat unpleasantly colored border auricula. It has very sharp angles with an almost white outline of each face that I find surprisingly pleasing to look at.



CYRUS HAPPY III

1922 - 2018



Cyrus Happy III A noted local historian and plant expert, died May 9, 2018 at age 95. A celebration of life will be held at Woodbrook Hunt Club on June 30 at 1 p.m.

Cyrus became an expert on Western Washington's native plants, photographing and documenting their habitats. He hybridized rhododendrons and roses, but he was known internationally for his work with *Primulas*. A specialty was development of an exquisite line of green-edged auricula primroses. He led local and national primrose societies, and served as editor of the American Primrose Society Quarterly. He was an authoritative judge at primrose shows in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and British Columbia, and was featured in a Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening titled "Perennials" for his prized collection of auriculas.

Cy's interest in the area's pioneer orchards developed into knowledge of old apple varieties. He could identify dozens of varieties, and planted many of them at his Gravelly Lake home. He raised vegetable gardens and created an impressive alpine garden with choice plants from around the world...

Cy first married Amy Strout. Their children are Cyrus Happy IV (Marilyn), Martha Todd Happy Behnke, and Edwin Sayre Happy. He married Rita L. Wheeler in 1971. Their children are James Wheeler Happy (Melissa; grandson Finnegan) and Emily Elizabeth Happy...

Celebrate Cy's life by planting primroses, telling family stories, patting a dog or cat, waltzing around the living room, or playing old songs on the ukulele.

Full obituary published in News Tribune (Tacoma) on May 20, 2018



PRIMULA OLD AND NEW, A TALK BY JIM JERMYN

NOTES BY MAEDYTHE MARTIN

Recently, Jim Jermyn from Perth, Scotland was in Victoria on a speaking tour. For some years he ran the Edrom Nursery. These are notes of some of the Primula species he mentioned in his talk.

Jim started by reviewing the famous names we know in *Primula* classification: Smith, Wright and Fletcher, Wendelbo and more recently John Richards. We need order to be able to understand the many species of *Primula*. He mentioned that work has recently been done on the Auricula Section. Perhaps this study of the section, where nothing has been revised for more than 50 years, is what he is referring to:

Classification of *Primula* sect. *Auricula* (Primulaceae) based on two molecular data sets (ITS, AFLPs), morphology and geographical distribution

LI-BING ZHANG JOACHIM W. KADEREIT, Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, Volume 146, Issue 1, September 2004.

Jim began by examining the Soldenoides Section of *Primula* most members of which grow in Chinese areas with winter snow cover and cool summers. He finds he can grow these in Scotland. In fact, the great nurseryman, Jack Drake, had *P. reidii* from this section as his emblem. The plant, *P. reidii* var. *williamsii* if happy, will seed itself around. Others Jim has had success with include *P. calderiana*, one found in the Petiolaris Section. Another in this section, *P. aureata*, the handsome yellow plant which grows vertically on cliffs in its native Nepal. The plants first in cultivation were from the collection by Ludlow and Sherriff in 1949. Most gardeners find these a challenge, but due to his location, Jim can grow many of them.

Jim mentioned that Cluny Gardens in Scotland has a National Collection of Asiatic *Primula*. One plant, *P. thearosa*, in the Crystallophlomis Section, was collected in recent times on a hillside at 14,000 feet. With handsome tea rose-colored flowers, this plant likes its roots in running water. Jim suggests a weak solution of tomato fertilizer over the summer for these plants.

For those growers who might like plants that are less of a challenge, Jim turned our attention to *P. secundiflora* and *P. sikkimensis*. Many of the

original plant collections in the 19th century went to Jack Drake's Nursery in Scotland. The candelabras that we all have come to love are found in this section. *P. pulverulenta*, that attractive tall pink *Primula* with farina on the stem, grows in Sichuan, China. These plants will inter-cross and have resulted in many garden strains, which Jim tells us must now be called "groups."

Primula bullata has been redefined, botanically, by David Rankin and Pam Eveleigh. We used to see this as *P. forrestii* on the show bench. David Rankin has reintroduced this plant. Among the Himalayan species, *P. rosea* is often grown by *Primula* specialists. Jim recommends sowing only fresh seed of this plant for good results. And he has found that plants seem to succeed better if little bunches of seedlings in a group are pricked out and grown on. Don't divide them up and disturb the roots.

Some *Primula* actually like drier conditions in which to grow. Jim has found the North American natives, *Primula* who don't need their feet in running water, hard to grow in Scotland. *Primula parryi* is one he has tried. But the *P. allionii* and the *P. marginata* are successful garden plants for most gardeners. Harry Jans has an attractive white form called *P. marginata* 'Casterino'. Another plant with a small habit is *P. kitaibeliana* from Croatia. Pictures of this can be seen on Pam Eveleigh's website, Primula World. It is rare in cultivation.

The species *Primula auricula* Jim describes as "The Mother of all auricula hybrids." *Primula auricula* will cross with *P. hirsuta* to give *P. × venusta*. The *Primula elatior* sub. *meyeri*, sometimes thought of as the Caucasus cowslip, has been known since 1808 and a very good form was photographed by Lynne Almond in 1996. Another relative, *P. luteola*, is a clear butter yellow and can be seen in the wild in East Georgia, in the Caucasus, covering a rocky hillside. It is sterile but an attractive plant that will do in rock gardens. These plants present another range of *Primula* old and new.

Another "new" *Primula* is *P. albenensis* in the Monte Alben region in the mountains of Northern Italy. This was found by 3 botanists in 2013 and is very hard to even photograph. Jim learned to repel down cliffs in order to see it. It grows in similar habitat to *P. subpyrenaica* which is at the top of cliffs. Jim was allowed to collect three plants, after much paperwork and discussions with the Catalan authorities. Once again the *Primula* lover can have old *Primula* in their garden, such as *P. florindae* known in gardens since it was collected in 1924 and also the "new" species such as the Catalan novelty *P. albenensis*.



PRIMULAS AT THE WEST COAST SHOW

MAEDYTHE MARTIN

The Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society show in Victoria was held April 20 and 21, 2018. This caught the best of the spring display. There were only 22 *Primula* entries, as unfortunately some of the best *Primula* growers have become ill or passed away over the past few years. None the less, there were some pretty things to see. A *Primula sieboldii* was an eye-catcher, in a soft-shaded pink with peach overtones. The best *Primula* in show was a dark red self auricula with a full head of flowers. And the always attractive “Helen Ruan” appeared in fine form. It has a green-edged, yellow pin-eyed flower, covered with meal that begs to be included with show auriculas, but alas, as it is pin-eyed it is disqualified. But as a border plant it made a fine display. A lone alpine show auricula in rust tones represented that class.

The best polyanthus trophy went to a red Cowichan. In the species classes, a yellow cowslip shouted “Spring is here!” In another section of the show, Maedythe Martin put in a six pan display of the smaller auriculas, many *Primula x pubescens*, the kind of plant that would be useful in troughs or pots and would make a good early appearance in the season.

The Society has an auricula theatre that was built by a member’s father about 15 years ago. Often the show does not coincide with the auricula season, but this year it did. A VIRAGS member who has recently become a keen auricula grower, Lloyd Gilmore, brought in several dozen plants to fill it up. It was of interest to many of the show attendees and added a historical note to the show.



VIRAGS SHOW 2018



Top: Jeff Wright's winning shell-pink *P. sieboldii*.
Middle-left: 'Helen Ruan'.
Middle-right: Painted Lady seedling, reintroducing flowers from the 1700s.
Bottom: Dark red self auricula awarded Best Primula in Show

Photos: Maedythe Martin

Salford & Knowle Shows in the UK



This page, Top - Overview of Salford venue. Neil Tyers far right; Right - show bench of European Hybrid Primula; Below - Ed Pickin and Val Woolley at the Salford show.



Opposite, Top Left - : *P. aureata*; Top right - Gray edged auricula at the Salford show, Middle Left - Alpine auriculas at the Knowle show; Middle Right - Dark red Self, Salford show;

Bottom - Collegiality amongst exhibitors as they prepare their plants at the Knowle show. From left to right: John Gibson, Alan Clelland and Brian Coop.

Photos: Susan Haddock



NEW ENGLAND SHOW



This page, top: Show Winners in New England (photo: Bruce Lockhart), bottom: Show table (photo: Marianne Kuchel)

Opposite, top left: 'Forest Lemon' - Judge's Choice Award to Judith Sellers (photo: Amy Olmsted), top right: People (photo Marianne Kuchel), middle left: Show Table (photo:



Marianne Kuchel), middle right: Amy Olmsted, Matt Mattus, Elisabeth Zander & Mary Malloy at the show, Pink sieboldii exhibited by Bruce Lockhart, Runner up for Best in Show, bottom left: Cream with blue shading winning Best Seedling for Amy Olmsted (photo: Amy Olmsted), bottom right: Educational Display



Top left: Marianne Kuchel
Top right: Jacques Mommens
& Judith Sellers
Bottom middle: Kris Fenderson

Photos: Marianne Kuchel

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NATIONAL SHOW 2018



Clockwise from top right:
Winner of Best Plant in
Show, *P. elatior* hybrid dis-
played by Judy *, Merrill
Jensen and Pam Eveleigh
demonstrating plant divi-
sion, Pan of * exhibited by
* in the Decorative Class,
P. chionantha with a dark
eye, shown by *
Photos: Juneau Garden Club



National Show Continued:
 Top: Winners bench
 Middle left: Merrill Jensen leading a tour of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum
 Middle right: Merrill Jensen receiving the Dorothy Dickson Award for Service to the APS, presented by Ed Buyarski
 Bottom: Pam Eveleigh and Merrill Jensen presenting ideas for dividing plants, with Ed Buyarski
 Photos: Amy Olmsted

NATIONAL SHOW

MERRILL JENSEN

Together with funding from the following groups: American Primrose Society, BC Primula Group, Friends of Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Juneau Garden Club, and Juneau Master Gardeners, the Juneau Chapter hosted the 2018 National Show and Conference in early May. Many thanks to each of those groups for their financial and volunteer contributions which contributed to the wildly successful event.

As noted on the registration website, the conference sold out well before the deadline; approximately 60 attendees participated in conference events as well as approximately 20 volunteers who assisted in the background to keep the weekend gathering running smoothly. Attendees came from throughout Alaska, Washington, Wisconsin, Vermont, and Alberta and British Columbia.

Friday afternoon's tour of the Nationally Accredited Collection™ while rainy, was informative and fun. This was followed by the evening reception at Eagle Valley Lodge which included education about the Tongass rainforest, conversation, great food and wine, a plant sale, and much laughter. Saturday and Sunday's keynote presentations included great photos and detailed information; keynoter Pam Eveleigh provided valuable insights into this unique and amazing genus. Plants and seeds were shared with conference attendees after the hands-on demonstration regarding plant propagation. Saturday's banquet was a lovely event held in the ballroom of one of Juneau's iconic downtown restaurants and included a salmon dinner as well as distribution of show awards and door prizes. Despite a late Spring, there were several species and cultivars blooming in the gardens of the Sunday afternoon tour.

A special thanks to Ed Buyarski for organizing, preparing, and conducting the show portion of the conference.

Finally, a thousand thanks to Kelly Jensen and Amy Olmsted for their tireless volunteer efforts in advance of, during, and after the conference. Much of the event's success is owed to the work of Kelly and Amy.

In summary, it was an informative and fun weekend with lots of opportunities for sharing particular passions about primrose. Happy Summer and happy gardening.



NATIONAL SHOW WINNERS

Peter Klein Hybridizing Award - Roger Eichman

Ivanel Agee Award - Judy Hauck, for a huge pan of *Primula elatior* meyeri

Rae Berry Award for Best Species - Judy Hauck

John Haddock/CF Hill Award for Best Alpine Auricula Seedling -
Roger Eichman

Mary Zach Award for Best Show Self Auricula - Roger Eichman

John Kerridge Award for Most Species in Bloom - Ed Buyarski

Novice Trophy - Janis Burns

Dorothy Dickson Award for Service to the APS - Merrill Jensen

Juneau Chapter Trophies:

John O'Brien Best *Primula denticulata* award - Ed Buyarski for red denticulata

Best Julie - Ed Buyarski for a plant of 'Kathy O'Brien'

A total of 97 plants shown and 80 judged, others were display only.



NEW ENGLAND SHOW

JUDITH SELLERS

The NE-APS members crushed all the fun of our customary 3 day show weekend into one day and an evening this year, but we accomplished most of what we usually do. The event was held two weeks later than in the past to allow members to attend the National Show in Juneau. The space we usually enjoy at Tower Hill was unexpectedly occupied by some massive artwork on May 19th, so we were moved to a beautiful Limonaia with a soaring arched roof.

All went well for the conscientious exhibitors benching their plants early on Friday afternoon until we noticed that the translucent ceiling acted like a lens concentrating light and heat on our plants, already stressed from long rides in hot cars, quickly wilting them. Most trusses recovered by Saturday morning, which was mercifully cloudy and damp, but some of the best plants had to be disappointingly left under the tables instead of displayed on them. In spite of the setback, there were more plants benched than in previous years (103 from 11 exhibitors, 9 of whom received blue ribbons for First Place plants) and the visiting public enjoyed a fine exhibition as the judges were making their decisions. Six vendors lined the sides of the room, and the person at the NE-APS Welcome Table was busy selling

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books, answering questions, and promoting the APS. A special educational display, including elements of the Japanese 'kadan', provided a stunning example of what can be done with some superb stems and loose blossoms of *Primula sieboldii*.

The Friday evening garden party included gifts of pheasant chicks, a tour of a true plantsman's greenhouse and the abodes of his partner's exotic feathered friends, and a delectable variety of dishes selected from previous years' favorites. The event was obviously enjoyed by everyone, with exhibitors finally happy that it was not raining and gloomy that day.



NEW ENGLAND SHOW WINNERS

Best in Show - Marianne Kuchel, for a yellow *P. polyanthus*

Runner up for Best in Show - Bruce Lockhart, for a pink *P. sieboldii*

Second Runner up for Best in Show - Marianne Kuchel for *P. farinosa*

Elaine Malloy trophy for Best Garden Grown Plant - Deborah Wheeler for a dark red Cowichan Polyanthus

Rodney Barker Judge's Choice Award - Judith Sellers for 'Forest Lemon' double auricula

Best Seedling - Amy Olmsted for a yellow/beige garden auricula, listed as 'Cream with Blue Shading' in APS Seed Exchange

Other plants receiving Best in Section awards included Elisabeth Zander's 'Belarina Nectarine' and Judith Sellers' cerise self auricula.



THE 2018 NAPS MIDLANDS & WEST SHOWS

SUSAN HADDOCK

This April I traveled to the UK to attend the National Auricula and Primula Society (NAPS) Midlands and West *Primula* and auricula shows. I have been a member of APS for several years with an increasing interest in auriculas. The only auriculas I had seen were my own seedlings from the APS seed exchange, and later the NAPS group, and I was very eager to see the named varieties in person. I attended two shows.

The first show I attended was in Saltford, just outside of Bath, on April 21. *Primulas* and auriculas were exhibited at this show. The members told me that the number of auriculas at the show was a littler smaller than usual because the spring had been so cool.

I arrived early at the show, and enjoined watching the exhibitors primping their plants for the show. Preparation and staging began at 9:30, judging (lasting about one to two hours) was at 12, public viewing began at 2:00, and trophies were awarded at 3:30. The plants arrived in boxes, carefully separated from each other, and each pip was separated from the next by cotton. They did this to protect each blossom and to train the pips away from one another. Each exhibitor had a kit for preparing their plants. These contained a scissors or scalpel, tweezers, assorted small paint brushes, and sponges for scrubbing the pots.

When the cotton was removed, each pip was the perfect distance from its neighbors. They made sure each blossom was touching but not overlapping its neighbor, and made a nice domed umbel of flowers. They used the brushes to flick any debris off the inflorescence and leaves. They would remove any less-than-perfect pips with the sharp blade or scissors. The handle of the paintbrush could be used to tip the pip one way or another. Finally, the pots were scrubbed with the sponge to get any dirt or lime off the surface. Each plant was top dressed with grit or moss, depending on the growing situation for that plant; woodland plants would have moss, and alpine-type would have

grit. The energy and hum in the room was great as the exhibitors were preparing their plants, some having discussions and others silently working. All would happily talk with me if I asked questions.

As plant preparation was completed the exhibition tables would get fuller and fuller, and of course more beautiful. As more plants would come to the table occasionally some exhibitors would change the category of their entry, as a grouping of two or more might have a better chance of winning than a single plant exhibit.

Overall, there were 254 plants, 188 entries, and 20 exhibitors. Some of the individual entries were groups of two to six plants, making the number of plants larger than the number of exhibits. At the show I met with Robert and Sue Holgate, both members of NAPS, Midlands and West, whom I had met on an earlier UK visit. Robert was one of the organizers of the Knowle show, and he and Sue were showing *Primulas*. I also met with people who I had known of through the Primula Lovers Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/234998600033536/>) and the NAPS journal: Neil Tyers, Val Woolley, Allan and Lynn Guest, Andy Kemp, Gordon Bracewell, and Bob Middleton. Robert and Sue helped me arrange to be a runner for one of the Salford judges, Ed Pickin. Ed is a very nice man whose specialty is Self, Alpine and Double auriculas. As the judge finishes judging a section, the runner brings the final section results up to the tabulator. Ed was judging the Self auriculas. Ed would explain to me and the other runner what features of the plants he was looking at, and how he was evaluating them. This experience helped me see the subtle qualities that make an auricula a first-rate specimen. He is a breeder of gold-centered alpines. He was judging Selves at the show, so he could not enter any plants in this category.

Here (as would be the case with the Knowle show), there were sales tables where members sold offsets of their named plants and also a few seedlings. Most sold for two to four pounds (\$3 to \$6). Half of the price realized went to the grower, with the other half going to the Society.

I next attended the Knowle Show (just outside Birmingham) on April 28. This show was much larger than the Salford show, being the largest auricula show for the Midlands and West NAPS group. The basic format of the show: prepping, sales tables, etc., was the same as

at Salford. The Knowle show was held at Arden School. As in the Salford show, the attendees reported that the number of plants shown was smaller than previous years because of the slow, cold spring. There were 349 plants exhibited, 204 entries, and 38 exhibitors.

I was the runner for judge Derek Parsons who was judging the Striped and Fancy Show auriculas. Derek is famous for breeding Striped auriculas, though he has retired from exhibiting them. Robert Holgate noted to me that, "When you were with Derek in his judging of the stripes you were with someone I would describe as the greatest living authority on striped auriculas." Bob Middleton gave a talk and demonstration on doing crosses of auriculas. I met Henry Pugh and his wife (Henry is the largest contributor to the NAPS Midlands and West seed exchange). I met Gordon Bracewell who makes many contributions on the Primula Lovers Facebook page. It is always fun to put a face with a name.

These societies and the showing of auriculas goes back hundreds of years in England, and they still maintain the same rules, standards and guidelines (flatness of pips, domed umbel, five or more pips, relative size of pip to eye, etc.) that were instituted in the beginning. Competition at the shows was very keen, but friendly.

Throughout my visit I found all the show participants to be very welcoming to visitors and very open to explaining what they were doing to prepare for the show, and the organizers were very willing to let visitors shadow the judges and learn from watching the process.

Membership in NAPS Midlands and West is invaluable for the seed exchange, the journals, and the exhibitors' handbook. A visit to their show is great for seeing the plants (some of which we don't have in the US) and personally meeting the growers.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO SAVE SEED FOR THE
2018 APS SEED EXCHANGE

American Primrose Society

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 20TH, 2018

The meeting was held online. Quorum and start at 6.00 pm, EST.

Board members present: Mark Dyen (Director and President, New England Chapter), Cheri Fluck (Director), Julia Haldorson (Membership Secretary), Merrill Jensen (Director and President, Juneau Chapter), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Michael Plumb (Secretary and Webmaster), Rhondda Porter (APS Vice-President)

Regrets: Ed Buyarski, Amy Olmsted

- A. **Approval of the Agenda** (Cheri / Mark), with the removal of items 4b and 4c (no developments since previous meeting)
- B. **Approval of Minutes of October 29, 2017** (Mark/Michael) as presented.
- C. **Treasurer's Quarterly Report** (emailed before the meeting)
1. Income less expenses January 1 to March 31, 2018: \$839.96
 2. Total liabilities and equity as of March 31, 2018: \$31,162.36
 3. **MOTION** (Mark/Jon) to accept the treasurer's report. **Carried.**
 4. **MOTION** (Michael/Merrill) that the 2017 surplus of \$252.64 be used for journal expenses. **Carried**

D. **Treasurer's Year-end Report for 2017**

Total income less expenses: \$3252.64

However, the society had received over \$4500 in donations, without which the society would have suffered a serious deficit. The following motion was therefore made:

MOTION (Michael / Mark) That the membership dues be changed to the following amounts beginning with the 2019 calendar year:

Annual - worldwide digital only: \$25 USD

Annual - US (paper and digital): \$30 USD

Annual - Canada (paper and digital): \$32 USD

Annual, overseas (paper and digital): \$38 USD

No three-year membership renewals

Carried (four in favor, two opposed).

Rationale: APS membership dues have not increased for 17 years. Our costs have increased and without the generous donations from our members, the APS would be operating at a loss, which has been the case for a number of years. We hope to attract more overseas members by offering the digital-only membership.

E. **Business arising from the minutes, and old business**

2018 National Show: Merrill reported that this had been a success, with sixty attendees.

ACTION: Merrill will prepare a report for the Quarterly and the website, with photos.

F. **Committee Reports**

1. **Membership:**

Julia had previously reported that several organizations were receiving free Quarterlies with no reciprocal arrangement. No action was decided on at this time, pending further investigation by Julia.

2. **Website:**

- The upgrade has been delayed owing to unforeseen technical difficulties, but should be completed in the next two weeks.
- New members will be able to set their own passwords.
- Reminders to renew dues will be sent automatically via the website.
- The discussion forum will be restored.

G. **New Business:**

1. Election results:

President (one-year term): Rhondda Porter

Vice President (two-year term): Elizabeth Lawson

Treasurer (two-year term): Jon Kawaguchi

Secretary (one-year term): Michael Plumb

Director (three-year term): Ed Buyarski

Director (Three-year term): Amy Olmsted

There were no write-in candidates.

2. New England Show: Mark gave an informal report. There were approximately 115 entries, with a good variety of plants, though *Primula sieboldii* cultivars were especially plentiful. Amy will post photos soon. Full report coming later.

H. **Next meeting:** Rhondda will send dates of next three meetings by email.

I. **Adjournment:** (Merrill)

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/membership>.

Join the National Auricula & Primula Society

Midland & West Section

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk



£10.00 Overseas Membership.

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

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

SOUTHERN SECTION

www.southernauriculaprimula.org

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

The Annual subscription is £7.00 (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: D. Skinner, Treasurer, Nanny Lane,
Church Fenton, Tadcaster, N. Yorks. LS24 9RL.
Overseas membership £7.50 (\$10.00 US)

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

New Members

April 5 - June 25, 2018

Year of Expiry	Name	Address
2020	Heidi Anton	790 Ellwood Drive, Coupeville, Washington 98239 USA
2018	Patricia Becker	51 Creek Road, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865 USA
2020	Meighan Carpenter	1404 Paumier Court, Raleigh, North Carolina 27615 USA
2018	Lucy Coles	3 Penny Meadow Lane, Hopkinton, Massachusetts 01748 USA
2018	Theresa Miller	1440 Durand Court SE, Rochester, Minnesota 55904-4937 USA
2018	Moore - Smith	22707 Northeast 218th Avenue, Battle Ground, Washington 98604 USA
2018	Joshua Piper	PO Box 55, #416, Quilcene, Washington 98376 USA
2018	Barbara Vartanian	125 S Chenango Street Ext, Greene New York 13778-2301 USA

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

Julia L. Haldorson, APS Membership

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julia-haldorson@ak.net

membership@americanprimrosesociety.org

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