



Primroses

The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Spring 2019

Vol. 77

No. 2



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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 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: 'Chorus' コーラス, one of the fabulous double Sakuraso bred by Mr. Toyokazu Ichie. See article on page 11.

Back Cover: Juliana 'Jay-Jay' bred in the Pacific Northwest.

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Membership in the Society includes a subscription to Primroses, Seed Exchange privileges, password to the members' only section of the APS website (including the Pictorial Dictionary).

Dues for individual or household memberships, per calendar year, are as follows:
US - \$30
Canada - \$32
International - \$38
World-wide digital-only - \$25
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
Contact the Treasurer for details

The View from Here

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Spring is just around the corner. We at the West Coast are in full flower, despite the setback of a very cold 4 weeks of winter that happened in mid-February. I am sure the season will come later to the middle of the country and to the East Coast, but we hope you are seeing signs of spring by the time this reaches you.

The APS Seed Exchange is over once again, with many packets of promise of things to come sent out far and wide. Please remember that you can help the Seed Exchange prosper by pollinating some plants in your garden as they bloom, and saving the seed for next years Seed Exchange.

A great deal of time and effort has gone into revamping the APS website. We hope you are enjoying the new look. Some of the new features now include newly organized Quarterly Archives, and the ability for you to send in content for the website or Quarterly. And of course there will be glitches, so if you find any, let the webmaster, Michael, Plumb, know about them.

Have a wonderful spring season, and enjoy all the *Primula* in your garden as they come into bloom.



LOOKING TO ADD TO YOUR *PRIMULA* COLLECTION?

This is the time of year to think of collecting some more plants. Even looking at the websites of some nurseries is a nice pick-me-up. Check out some of the following:

SEED SOURCES

Avant Gardens (avantgardensne.com) - 2 offerings

Barnhaven Primroses (barnhaven.com) - 80+ offerings

Chiltern Seeds (chilternseeds.co.uk) - 33 offerings

Jelitto Perennial Seeds (jelitto.com) - 100+ offerings

World Seeds (b-and-t-world-seeds.com) - hundreds of offerings

PLANTS AND MORE

Arrowhead Alpines (arrowheadalpines.com) - 8 offerings, US only

Ashwood Nurseries (ashwoodnurseries.com) - 26 offerings, UK only

Kevock Garden (kevockgarden.co.uk) - 100+ offerings, UK only

Pop's Plants 2 (popsplants2.co.uk) - 100+ offerings, UK only

Sunshine Farm & Gardens (sunfarm.com) - 11 offerings, US only

Sequim Rare Plants (sequimrareplants.com) - 55 offerings, US only

Eidelweiss (edelweissperennials.com) - 35 offerings, US only

Wrightman Alpines (wrightmanalpines.com) - nearly 100 offerings, Canada and US only

Ebbing Lohaus (ebbing-lohaus.de/en) - commercial grower



A PLANT RESEARCHER IN SPAIN

MAEDYTHE MARTIN

Eduardo Barba first contacted APS in March 2018. He sent a picture of a flower in a painting that he thought looked like an auricula and wondered if anyone in the Society could tell him where to find information on flowers from the 18th Century. Luckily I am interested in sources for flowers in earlier times, and mentioned he look at the Furber engravings, with lots of *Primula* and auricula from the 1700s. Then I remembered the Ehret painting of a pale blue auricula and also told him about that.

Since then he has contacted me again. He sent me other references to sources of information on earlier times. Some of them follow:



Flowers and Nature: Netherlandish Flower Painting of Four Centuries Perfect Paperback – September 1, 1991 by [Sam Segal](#)
Published by Seven Hills Books (1991)

The Garden weekly magazine.



archive.org/stream/gardenillustrate7107lond#page/114/mode/2up/search/primula

LUIS PARET Y ALCÁZAR

[1746-1799]

El triunfo del Amor sobre la Guerra

DONACIÓN ALICIA KOPILOWITZ

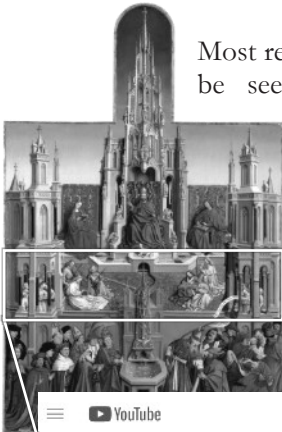


Eduardo co-authored the book *Luis Paret y Alcázar [1746-1799] The Triumph of Love over War*, which can be found at the Museum of Fine Arts of Bilbao.

<http://museobilbao.com/in/tienda.php?ord=precio&filtro=Eduardo%20Barb>

Most recently he sent a link to YouTube where he can be seen giving a lecture on ‘The Fountain of Grace’ (Fuente de la Gracia), seen left. While the lecture is in Spanish, it is still a marvel to see how Eduardo tracks the plants seen in this piece, relates them to other historic works in the Prado Museum, and then to current culture. You can view the lecture here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxCu_8D4TN0





Join us for the 2019 American Primrose Society National Show

At Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA
Friday and Saturday, May 3,4

Events Schedule ~

FRIDAY

- 10:00 to 4:00 - Self scheduled tours of Bruce Lockhart's garden and greenhouse, Petersham MA or Garden Vision Epimedium's Open-Nursery Day
- 2:00 to 4:00 - Show set-up and Exhibition Plant benching in the Main Hall at Tower Hill. Early plant sales
- 6:00 to 10:00 - Garden Party, Greenhouse Tour, and Dinner at the home of Matt Mattus and Joseph Philip

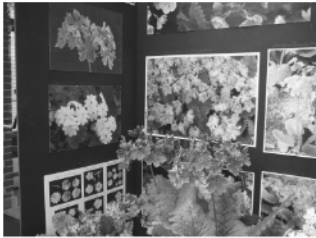
SATURDAY

- 7:30 to 8:30 AM - Final staging and benching of Exhibition Plants
- 9:00 to 10:00 - Primula Judging
(Exhibition Area for judges & clerks only at that time)
- 10:00 to 5:00 - Tower Hill open to the public
- 10:00 to 4:00 - View the Judged Primula Exhibition, visit Seed, Book and Primulabilia Sales at the APS Welcome Table, or enjoy Tower Hill's Gift Shop, Cafe, Gardens, and Conservatories.
- 9:00 to 2:00 - Seed and Plant Sales in the Orangerie:
Primula and companion plants from specialty nurseries and members' gardens
- 11:00 - 12:00 - Primula Grower's Round Table Discussion
- 12:00 - 1:45 - Buffet Lunch, Show Awards, and New England Chapter Meeting
- 2:00 to 3:30 - Matt Mattus' presentation of "Primulas and Rare Flora of Western China"
- 4:00 to 5:00 - Show take down and departure from Tower Hill

The Registration Form and Rules for Exhibitors (New England Chapter version) can be found on the APS website:

www.americanprimrosesociety.org

Questions or map directions, email <jsellers@frontiernet.net>



Elizabeth Lawson will be at Tower Hill on the Saturday for a book signing

PRIMULA SIEBOLDII IN THE GARDEN

SURVEY ARTICLE BY MAEDYTHE MARTIN

Many of the *Primula sieboldii* grown in Japan, ‘Sakuraso’, are now finding their way to North America. These are the equivalent of “show” auriculas or gold-laced polyanthus – exhibition plants. As such, there are conventions when potting and showing them, and I gather that in Japan there are classes for the various types just like there are classes for edged and alpine plants in England and North America. In the shows in North America we do not have the classes for the various types of *P. sieboldii*, and are just glad to see full, well-grown pots on the show benches. Over here, *P. sieboldii* mainly are grown in gardens, and here are some from growers from different areas

At the **West Coast**, the *P. sieboldii* is a hardy and welcome garden plant, coming into bloom just a bit after many of the early primroses are over. **The Lunns** in Oregon have a few clumps that they have kept going over a number of years. Here is what they say about cultivation:

Primula sieboldii and rhododendrons like similar conditions in our Pacific Northwest garden. We grow practically all our *P. sieboldii* in the ground under oak trees along with some of our smaller rhododendrons. In the cool spring they all receive full sun. Once the warmer weather of summer occurs, the oaks’ leaves have developed and the provide varying amounts of high shade for all the plants during the day. We do irrigate them during the hot weather. *Primula sieboldii* form large clumps for us, but don’t spread under the canopy of the rhododendrons. I believe some of the clones that I am fond of tend to be lost because of competition from other primroses, or the clones just lack hardiness.

We don’t divide them, but they probably would like to be lifted, compost added to the soil and then replanted. That is a task that we seem to never get around to doing. I do occasionally dig up dormant plants in very early spring, divide and pot them up for contributing to plant sales and they do well. I apply fertilizer to the rhododendrons and the primroses benefit a little from that application. I don’t

specifically target the primroses for this feeding. We do apply a top dressing of medium fir bark on them every year or so. I once tried growing *P. sieboldii* under somewhat similar conditions, but without irrigation and they all died.

At the **East Coast**, **Ellen Hornig** lives in Massachusetts and grows her plants in the garden with little fuss. Here is another insight into growing *P. sieboldii* in the garden.

I do grow a lot of *P. sieboldii* (I used to own a nursery, Seneca Hill Perennials, so I grew out scads of them from seed in order to select the best forms - and then I had to close the nursery, so when I moved to Massachusetts I brought all my favorites along, and here they are).

I grow them in high shade and in partial shade, and I don't do a thing for them, except - big "except" - this garden is designed for aging in place, so I leave the leaves where they fall unless the wind piles them up too deep. The trees are hickories and oaks - no surface roots - and so the plants have the benefit of accumulating humus and leaf litter, a lively fauna at the surface and presumably the roots, and protection from the elements. The soil is an acidic sandy loam - not what you'd choose for *Primula*, and indeed the *P. sieboldii*s are the only ones that thrive - the *P. vulgaris* types are miserable, the assorted polyanthus seedlings only somewhat less so.

The patches do spread vigorously, and after a few years the blooms start to decline. I select the plants for sturdy stems and nice compact trusses so it's pretty easy to see when I'm losing these. At that point, I dig them up and then replant chunks from the outer (more vigorous) perimeter. The rest I use elsewhere, or compost, or give away, depending on the possibilities.

I should note - or maybe you should - that these things regrow easily from root pieces, like Oriental poppies, so it's pretty hard to eradicate them. Since my garden is chaotic and naturalistic, that's fine with me, but it might appeal less to someone who likes to maintain a high degree of control. I'd just suggest that in digging clumps one take care to tease out all the roots. Chopping through them just encourages them.

I hardly ever water my garden - it's too big, and water fees here are too high. Once the *P. sieboldii* go dry in summer, they go dormant, and they're perfectly OK with that.

Pat Hartman, from **Alaska**, sends the following:

I live in Juneau, and my garden areas face the **Lynn Canal**. The surrounding garden location at my home is on a rock outcrop that ranges from 130 feet to 150 feet above sea level, 1/2 mile from the ocean and is exposed to high winds and surprisingly enough, corrosive salt spray carried by the winds. The *P. sieboldii* are in several beds on the south west side of my home and a more protected rock bed area along my driveway that is at the lower elevation.

Soil has been amended with top soil brought in and peat moss. I mulch with small beauty bark but plan to do an early topping of aged chicken manure (purchased) this spring; having seen great results from other *Primula* growers in the area. The plants closest to my house are somewhat protected in a raised bed with large boulders sheltering them from the north winds and have companion plants of *Rodgersia aesculifolia* 'Fingerleaf', *Fritillaria meleagris*, *Cornus sericea* and *Picea pungens* 'Montgomery' that form a semi-circle around the planting that is most exposed and gives the *P. sieboldii* some protection from the winds, bears and deer. Another bed in my Japanese garden area is more susceptible to deer traffic but seems to be surviving.

Mulching is the only special attention that they have gotten so far but they will get the chicken manure mulch. Due to their location, I have not attempted winter protection but the thought of it is on my mind, especially when we have years of little snow coverage.

Ed Buyarski, also from **Alaska**, sends us these notes: I have grown *Primula sieboldii* from plants, rhizomes and seed in my gardens, a few miles from the Jensen-Olson Arbureum. I garden in a sunny to partly-shaded pocket in the rainforest and seldom water any *Primulas* after a few weeks of growth. My soil is heavily organic and enriched with composted horse manure and organic amendments. *Primula sieboldii* thrive along with *Denticulatas*, *Julies*, *candelabras*, and many more. As others have mentioned they may need to be marked so they are not weeded out when dormant. Surprisingly considering how well they grow in Juneau I have never collected ripe seed in my own garden or know of any others. They are one of many we look forward to seeing in flower in late May and June.



DOUBLE FLOWERS OF SAKURASO

MASAHIRO SHIINO

In our last issue, we highlighted Paul Held's lovely collection of named Sakuraso. In the course of collecting all these plants, Paul came into contact with Masahiro Shiino, who has sent him many named Sakuraso from Japan. Paul asked him to write an article for the APS about how the double flowers were created

'Sakuraso' are horticultural plants derived from *Primula sieboldii* indigenous to Japan. They had been most popular during the Bunka-Bunsei Period (1804-1830) of the Edo Era and rapidly increased in number of cultivars. 'Sakuraso' is the pure and traditional flower developed from native wild species of *Primula sieboldii* and represents the heritage of Japanese horticulture. 'Sakuraso' is the Japanese name meaning "cherry grass" because the shape of flower looks like those of the Japanese Cherry Tree; the "so" indicates it is a herb. They grow in the fields along the riverside. Country people were attracted by their beauty and started to grow them in their home gardens. This horticultural activity gradually moved from country to city around the Kyohou Period (1716-1735) and became one of the leading flowers in the Edo period. Since then, many growers have created new types by careful selection and careful breeding efforts. Now, you can see and enjoy wonderful varieties in the 'Sakuraso' Shows held in April and May in many places in Japan. In this article, I will introduce information about a new type of 'Sakuraso' focusing on the double form, which was a longtime goal in hybridization history.

Primula sieboldii is a perennial herb and starts growing from underground rhizomes as the spring sun shines and young leaves emerge. Then a flowering peduncle arises from the tip of the rhizome which produces an umbel of several flowers. They do not make seeds by self-fertilization but make seed by fertilization between different styles within the flower's tube. This is a common character of many *Primula* species: they need insects to be a carrier of pollen for fertilization.

Flowers of *Primula sieboldii* and their cultivars have deeply divided 5

petals. Double flowers have never been introduced since the Edo Era. Therefore, the realization of perfect double flowers has been the goal of most breeders.

Mr. Toyokazu Ichie is the important man who accomplished this difficult and historical goal. I am honored to introduce the process of his creating double flowers in this article. He is my long time horticulture friend and I respect his dedicated work to achieve this goal tracing back to 1983. In that year he accidentally found 3 buds with possible double form. Their mating parents were 'Fujikosi' and 'Komadome' and while he hoped to proceed further with them, he regrettably found these 3 buds all had short styles. 'Sakuraso' has two types: long and short styles. It is commonly known that crossing using the same length styles will not result in seed. It is especially difficult between two plants with short styles. To achieve a perfect double, it is necessary to find flowers with long styles that could be a possible double. He checked more than one hundred fifty buds and fortunately found a few buds with possible long styles and named them 'Hatu no Kasane' (meaning "First Overlapping"). However, this hybrid is weak and not durable as a garden plant. From 1987 he repeated tenaciously his works to cross this hybrid with other single petal buds and 10 years later in 1996 he successfully found many plants forming perfect doubles with more than 70 to 80 percentage probability, and he chose about 300 plants from among these to keep and name. At last, the basis of present double 'Sakuraso' varieties was accomplished and many cultivars were introduced to 'Sakuraso' gardeners.

Now double 'Sakuraso' is recognized as an established class of *Primula sieboldii* and occupies one corner of display stands to amaze people in the flower shows.

Please see the pictures related to this article and remember that Ichie is the man who made memorable and historical achievements for 'Sakuraso' history.



Paul Held has kindly offered to send a plant to anyone who sends him a self-addressed envelope and a suggested donation of \$5. Paul has agreed to not commercialize the double forms, but is willing to share these, and others, with private gardeners. You can contact him at egnarorewolf@gmail.com



Double
Flowered
Sakuraso

Top: 'Flamenco'
フラメンコ (Ichie)

Middle:
'Namishibuki'
波しぶき (Ichie)

Bottom: 'Murasaki
Suisho' 紫水晶
(Ichie)

All photos supplied
by Paul Held







Asa Borake
あさぼらけ (Ichie)



SatoZakura 里桜 Ichie
All photos supplied by Paul Held

Julianas

Juliana primroses are some of the most hardy and appealing garden plants. In Florence Bellis's time (1950s) there were hundreds of hybrids, but now it's hard to find anything more than 'Wanda' and 'Jay-Jay'. But some APS growers still have a few, and if you can find it anywhere, it's a lovely plant to add to your garden.

In this year's APS Seed Exchange seeds were available for 'Fireflies', 'Footlight Parade', 'Lois Lutz' x 'Snow White', and Barnhaven's 'Pixies' and 'Vera Maud'.



Barnhaven's 'Pixies' (above, courtesy of Barnhaven) is a cross of 'Amethyst Cowichan' Polyanthus with tiny white Juliana primroses.



Barnhaven's 'Vera Maude' (grown by Amy Olmsted) is a modern hybrid introduction (above).



'Ostergruss' (left, by Maedythe Martin), which means 'Easter Greeting' is likely a *Primula x pruhonica* originating in Germany. It showed up in a plant sale in Victoria recently.



'Julie Jack, or 'Jay Jay' as it is known (left, by Cheri Fluck), turned up in Peter Klein's program to produce double Julianas. Peter Klein was a gifted hybridizer, and lived in Tacoma in the 1950s. After he died, his daughter found some seed in the refrigerator

from his double Juliana program. She gave it to Herb Dickson, who raised 'Jay Jay' from the found seed. While it is not double, it does have a ruff of leaves under each flower. It has the admirable trait of all Julianas – a creeping root stock, which means it will make a mat of color in only a few seasons.

Exciting Perennial varieties from seed



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This tiny attractive Juliana (above, by Maedythe Martin) was given to Maedythe Martin by Roxanne Muth in Vancouver a couple of decades ago. Despite searching many sources she has not been able to identify it, but cherishes it nonetheless. Cy Happy had this orange hybrid (below) in his garden in the 1970s. Photo - Cy happy.



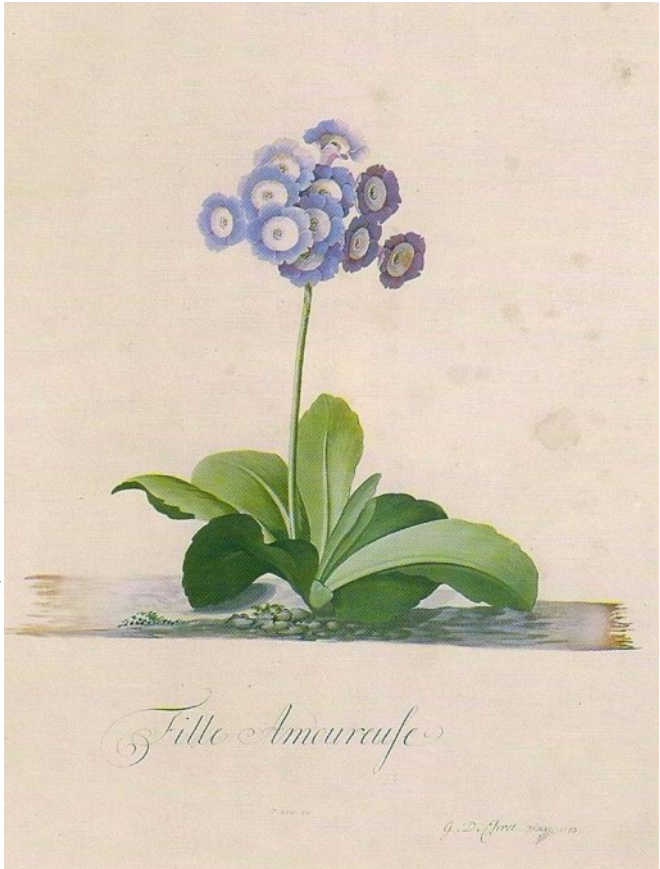
A Researcher in Spain

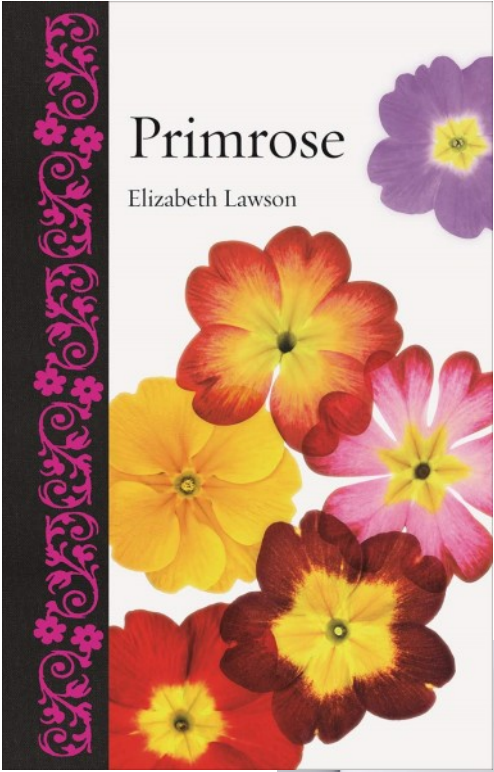


Maedythe Martin writes about her correspondence with Eduardo Barba:

“He first contacted the APS about a blue flower in a painting he was researching (left). He thought it might be an auricula, and I did too.”

“I sent him a picture of the Ehret painting ‘Fille Amoureuse’ from the 1700s. This is likely a *Primula x pubescens*.”





Elizabeth Lawson's new book called Primrose is now available on Amazon!

Seen below is the catalogue page describing Elizabeth's book, which begins:

"For centuries the common primrose has spread breathtaking carpets of pale lemon yellow across the globe. It and its close relatives the cowslip and oxlip are flowers of the field, hedgerow and meadow."



<http://bit.ly/ElizabethLawsonPrimrose>

ON WRITING *PRIMROSE*

ELIZABETH LAWSON

Elizabeth Lawson, Vice-President of the APS, has written a book on primroses, aptly called Primrose. She had many adventures in the course of writing the book and relays some of them in this article. Further adventures will be printed in the next Quarterly. You can find her book to buy online, and we hope to have a book review in a future issue of the Quarterly.

Strictly speaking, the idea for *Primrose* began with the purchase of *Snake*, a small, beautifully illustrated book produced by Reaktion, a publisher in London, in their Animal Series. I bought the book for my older son, who raised ball pythons in my home for a number of years--dozens of them. At any given time escapees roamed the house. I found out that Reaktion carried a Botanical Series as well, and had produced *Geranium*, *Rose*, and *Lily*, and others, but no *Primrose*! The idea that there should be such a volume in their series nagged at me. When I retired from editing and teaching writing to write as a naturalist and "independent scholar," I decided to approach Reaktion with a book proposal. The idea of the book had blossomed in my mind, like a primrose in a garden.

When I was about halfway through writing the book, a friend asked me why anyone would write a book about primroses and why would anyone be interested in reading it. These are good questions for a writer. I defended the social and cultural history of primroses, and their horticultural and botanical value, but the real reason is that I had fallen in love with a primrose a long time ago.



Barnhaven
Primroses

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info@barnhaven.com
www.barnhaven.com

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It was late winter, 1986, in Ithaca, New York. My husband had died just after Christmas. On my way to work, in the Electron Microscopy facility at Cornell, I noticed a carpet of short, pale-yellow flowers in front of a yellow house with green trim. The flowers nodded slightly to one side. I thought I knew every early spring flower in the northeastern U.S. These little bobbing yellow flowers were extra early—not coltsfoot (too tall), not winter aconite (even shorter). The owner of the yellow house told me that her uncle had sent her the seeds from Austria and that they were called the Keys to Heaven. She generously gave me plants, and I have carried them with me wherever I have moved, always leaving some behind to carry on their population. It would be a while before I learned they were not cowslips (*P. veris*), and not the common primrose (*P. vulgaris*), but oxlips (*P. elatior*). “Keys to Heaven” is a name used for hundreds of years for these three species. Primroses are beloved to many people because they appear so early on the heels of even the hardest of winters. The answer to my friend’s questions is that I write out of enthusiasm, which is a form of love, and increasingly readers do want to learn about how the lives of other species influence their own.

In the ‘90s *Gardens Illustrated*, a beautiful British Gardening magazine, ran an article on Florence Bellis and Barnhaven primroses, which included an offer of four Barnhaven seed packets. I wrote away for the seeds, sowed them in my basement, and checked on them every morning. Soon enough I had an army of seedlings. Because of my background in horticulture (I had worked as a work-study student at Kew Royal Botanic Gardens in England and then at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for two years), I knew how to prick out seedlings and then pot them on. Having so many seedling “dependents” was stressful. I had two young teenagers from my first marriage and a four-year-old from my second marriage and was working full time, but I tended them, fighting off chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, groundhogs, birds, and slugs, until they were ready to be planted.

Barnhaven primroses never disappoint. The following spring they flowered in a profuse array of mauve, rose, and pink. Neighbors brought other neighbors to view the beautiful sight. Ritz Camera, where I took negatives to be developed, turned one of my photographs into a three foot by five laminated poster and displayed it in the store in the mall. Entranced with these hybrid primroses developed by Florence Bellis over a 30-year period beginning in the Depression, in Gresham, Oregon, I ordered her *Gardening and Beyond*, another step

along the primrose path.

Writing a book is an adventurous activity. Research takes one down rabbit holes that make one feel like Alice in Wonderland. Sometimes I went off in search of primroses that seemed to have vanished, like *Primula abschasica*, which gardener and garden writer Sidney Eddison of New Town, Connecticut, wrote about in *Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older* (2010):

At this time of year, my favorite place is the woodland garden, where the aconites had almost finished their cheerful flowering. Already a few red-purple blossoms of Primula abschasica from Linc and Timmy Foster hovered above the dead leaves. Soon there would be many more. This species from the Caucasus has always been the first to flower and the most enduring of all the primroses, tolerant of winter cold, summer heat, and even drought. (p. 127)

Rock gardener H. Lincoln Foster had given her seeds that he obtained from the Leningrad Botanic Garden. I found an entry on a forum that said that it had lost status, becoming a variety rather than a species, and was sometimes still found in nurseries in Connecticut. When visiting my snake-loving son in Connecticut, I toured four nearby nurseries but found no *P. abschasica*. I mentioned the case of the disappearing primrose at a talk for the Northeast Chapter of NARGS. Lee Nelson, a member of the APS, was there and told me about an article that she had written for the APS journal on its provenance. She had personally encountered *P. abschasica*, and to my delight a package arrived at my door. Inside was a small cardboard box covered in a flowery gold-and-white pattern. Inside was *P. abschasica*. (According to John Richards 2003 edition

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of *Primula*, *P. abschatica* is considered a “hybrid segregate” between two subspecies of the common primrose (*P. vulgaris*), subsp. *vulgaris* and subsp. *sibthorpii*.)

Sometimes I met historical figures whose stories touched me. When I was writing the chapter called “Mr. Darwin’s Primroses,” I encountered a Quaker naturalist who lived near Epping Forest named Henry Doubleday (1808-1875). He and his brother worked in their father’s grocery in Epping. He wrote Darwin a memorable letter in which he described growing the Bardfield oxlip (*P. elatior*), asserting that for 25 years it had remained an oxlip. This may seem a statement of the obvious but another of Darwin’s correspondents had concluded “that seeds of a cowslip can produce cowslips & oxlips; & that seeds of an oxlip can produce cowslips, oxlips & primroses.” Darwin straightened out all this confusion. Entomologist, ornithologist, and oologist [the study of birds’ eggs specifically – *ed*], as well as botanist, Doubleday specialized in a group of moths called Pugs. In his obituary in the *The Entomologist* (vol. 10, 1877), a friend wrote “His life was simplicity itself. Gentle and quiet in his manner, he moved around the house with velvet-tread, as noiselessly as one of his own pet cats.” He had exquisite penmanship and, though shy, was kind and considerate to all, sharing specimens and knowledge. Doubleday had a nervous breakdown when he inherited the grocery and could not balance his work as a naturalist with caring for the store. His fellow Quaker naturalists rescued him, supporting him in a retreat until he was well enough to come home. The obituary writer concluded that “certainly no man ever acquired the same amount of knowledge of the economy and habits of so many species as he.” I count it a great pleasure to have spent so much time learning about the habits of primroses.



Attendees, make note:

Elizabeth Lawson will be at Tower Hill Botanic Garden during the
APS National Primula Show on
May 4th for a book signing.



APS National Show Trophies 2018 winners

Revised list

- Ivanel Agee** (Best Hybrid Julie) - Ed Buyarski - 'Devon James'
Rae Berry (Best Species) - Judy Hauck - *P. elatior meyeri*
John Haddock- Best Alpine Auricula Seedling xxx
Frank Michaud- Best Named Show Auricula xxx
Mary Zach- Best Show Self -Roger Eichman-Maroon white center
John Shuman- Best Show Alpine xxx
Ellen Page Hayden- Best Double Auricula xxx
John Kerridge- Most Species in Bloom-Ed Buyarski
John Kerridge Memorial- Best Cowichan xxx
Novice-Janis Burns- 'Kathy OBrian'
Show Chairman's Award- for Most Points Earned by one Exhibitor-Ed Buyarski
Dorothy Dickson Bronze Medal- for Outstanding Service to the APS-Merrill Jensen
Peter Klein hybridizing-Roger Eichman-Red Julie
Etha Tate-Ed Buyarski-*P* x belarina hybrid-Buttercup

APS Juneau Chapter Trophies

- Best of Show-Gold pan**-Judy Hauck-*P. elatior meyeri*
John O'Brien Denticulata Trophy-Gold pan-Ed Buyarski-Red denticulata
Best Species-Framed print of *P. megasaefolia*-Judy Hauck-*P. elatior meyeri*
Best Vernales-Framed print of *P. elatior* -Ed Buyarski-'Kathy OBrian'
Novice Trophy-Janis Burns
Best Juliae-Ed Buyarski-'Devon James'
Best Polyanthus (Framed print) -Ed Buyarski -'Kathy OBrian'



FROM THE VAULT OF *Primroses*

Vintage Bits

Selected by JANE GUILD

I chose this article from the Spring 1969 issue of *Primroses* because it's always interesting to see which techniques have changed and which haven't.



How To Raise Primroses From Seed Easily

HOW TO PLANT

Start with any garden soil available and then make it loose and friable so that water will drain through readily, yet it will retain enough to stay moist. You can use anything you have to do this, such as leaf mold, compost, sand, peat moss, vermiculite, etc. in any combination that will give you the proper degree of friability. This may be tested by squeezing a handful of the properly moistened mixture and noting whether it falls

degrees for an hour, being sure the soil remains moist. Or, a double boiler, covered, is a better way of retaining the moisture.

Place drainage material in the bottom of a pot, can, or flat. Rock charcoal or sphagnum moss is suitable, or just the debris from the above soil that is used. This material should be placed in the bottom in a layer about 1/2 inch thick. No

To read the full article, go to the APS website, at:

www.americanprimrosesociety.org

On the top menu bar of the home page click > Quarterly > The Quarterly Archives > Vol 27.2 (Spring 1969). Then go to page 54.



AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10TH, 2019

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

Board members present: Ed Buyarski (Director), Mark Dyen (Director, and President of the New England Chapter), Jane Guild (Editor), Julia Haldorson (Director, Membership Secretary), Pat Hartman (President, Juneau Chapter), Merrill Jensen (Director), Jon Kawaguchi (Treasurer), Elizabeth Lawson (VP), Amy Olmsted (Director), Michael Plumb (Secretary and Webmaster), Rhondda Porter (APS President)

Regrets: Cheri Fluck (Director)

A. Approval of the Agenda (Michael/Elizabeth)

B. Approval of Minutes of November 18th, 2018 (Elizabeth/Mark) as presented.

C. Treasurer's Quarterly Report (emailed before the meeting)

Income less expenses October 1st to December 31st, 2018: (\$1,085.76) (loss)

Income less expenses January 1st to December 31st, 2018: (\$1,577.02) (loss)

Total liabilities and equity as of December 31st, 2018: \$29,020.87

MOTION (Patricia/Ed) to accept the treasurer's report. **Carried.**

Jon observed that by summer the loss may have been removed by the increase in membership dues. It would help if more members went over to the digital quarterly, which needs promoting. Pat remarked that the digital version is very attractive, and is posted long before the mailed version reaches members.

ACTIONS: Pat will encourage her chapter members to 'go digital'; Michael will post a free digital version of an older quarterly on the website, available to the public, and will promote the 'digital membership'.

D. Business arising from the minutes, and old business

Reciprocal arrangements for other organizations to receive a free quarterly:

Using addresses supplied by Julia, Rhondda has now contacted all the organizations which receive a free APS quarterly but who do not reciprocate in kind.

Dorothy Dickson Award Plaque: The engraver will start on a second plaque which will allow for future awardee names. The engraver will send a quote within a week. Merrill will eventually send the two plaques to Amy for safe-keeping. He will send the bill for the engraving to Jon for payment as requested by Jon. *[Merrill had to leave the meeting here]*

Seed Exchange update: Amy has received 60 orders so far. Thirteen donors out of 24 have ordered. Income so far: \$1,141.00 / Expenses: \$1044.85. It is cheaper to mail from her local PO. There have been fewer orders by this time than last year. One reason may have been the website's automated requirement for members to log in to pay for seed, which had proved very confusing for many members. This was an error, and has now been remedied. To sell more seed to members before the start of the public

(‘Lucky Dip’) sale, Amy has placed a notice on the website to tell members they may now purchase an extra 10 packs of seed (donors another 20 packs). Lucky Dip will start February 15.

Nominations to the Board: Rhondda (president), Michael (secretary) and Merrill (director) are all leaving the board. Julia Haldorson is standing for director again. Elizabeth Lawson (current VP) has agreed to stand for President. Patricia Hartman has agreed to stand to replace Merrill as director. Michael has not yet heard back from his potential nominee. Amy has someone in mind who will probably accept the nomination for director. We still need someone to stand for VP and someone for secretary. Michael reminded the board that the ballot must go out with the Spring Quarterly. *[Bios are needed from all candidates: Please send to Jane and Michael]*

National Show: The information has been posted on the website. Rhondda is having trouble posting the large digital file on Facebook. She has asked Judith Sellers to send a smaller file.

E. Committee and Chapter Reports

Membership:

As of February 9th, 2019, we had 199 members. This includes 15 new members who have joined since September. In January Julia sent out email reminders to members to renew. Amy has been reminding members to renew when they order seeds. The seed exchange is an encouragement to people to join or renew.

Julia agreed to send Pat a list of new members in the Juneau area so that she may contact them about chapter activities.

Membership is for the calendar year.

2. Website:

For some reason the website was asking members to create a user name and password when they went to pay for seed. This was confusing for people, and we may have lost purchases as a result. This rogue function has now been removed. This removal of passwords for payment is especially vital for the Lucky Dip stage which will begin Feb 15.

The Forum has been 'under construction' recently. Rhondda has been working with Jane on this. The Forum will soon display photographs without the need to click on an internal link.

Jane has installed a new program to make submitting articles much easier.

Michael will check that board positions are up to date in the ‘About Us’ section.

3. Chapter Repots:

Juneau has 20 members. Pat Hartman is the new president. No meeting this winter. Pat is encouraging at least four more people to join the chapter. Some of them joined the APS at the National Show last spring (Their names were not shown in the quarterly membership list). Ed will be promoting the APS at the Farmers’ Summit on Sitka next week.

New England members have been very busy planning the 2019 national Show.

Four members of the BC Group met in November to exchange seeds. Maedythe also ordered seeds for the Group from Amy, which have arrived and are being planted.

Chapter bylaws: In answer to Pat's question, Michael said that the APS constitution specifies only that chapters must have a minimum of 10 APS members and submit an annual financial report. They should also follow APS judging rules as far as possible. Otherwise, chapters may draw up their own bylaws.

F. New Business:

1. Annual General Meeting, 2019:

The Annual Meetings used to be held in person at venues such as the Portland Public Library. Nowadays we are spread across the continent (world!) so board members and regular members who are unable to attend the show in person have to join the meetings online with those who are able to physically meet at the shows.

It is made even more difficult to hold a meeting at show venues each year because of poor availability of internet and difficulties in program scheduling to allow for the meeting.

The present constitution does not allow for online participation, and is quite restrictive as to when and where to hold the AGM. For these reasons it needs to be changed and brought up to date.

ACTION: Rhondda will mark those items in the constitution which need changing.

ACTION: Elizabeth, Pat and Michael will form the Revisions Committee.

ACTION: Mark, Amy and others in NE Chapter will work out the best time in the 2019 show schedule to hold the AGM at Tower Hill.

2. Submission of Articles for the Quarterly and the Website:

The website now has a streamlined system for contributors to submit articles for publishing in the Quarterly and on the website.

Rhondda encourages all members to send in articles!

Elizabeth said she would contribute stories about Primula people which she was unable to fit into her new book *Primrose* (Reaktion Books, Islington).

G. Next meeting: TBA by the National Show organizers (May 4-5)

Michael Plumb, Secretary



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PO Box 18604

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

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Midland & West Section

www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk



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to: The Honorary Treasurer, Tracey Pockett,
'Majutora', Longney, Gloucestershire,
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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 (UK) for single or family membership, Overseas £15.00

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 Beches,
Surrey, SM5 3ND.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

NORTHERN SECTION

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www.auriculas.org.uk

New Members

January 20 - March 24, 2019

Expiry	Name	Address
2019	Alice d'Entremont	1250 Argyle Sound Road, West Pubnico, Nova Scotia B0W 3X0 Canada
2019	Charlie Hickerson	16021 Highway 65 Northeast, Andover, Minnesota 55304-5633 USA
2019	Melissa Plosay	P. O. Box 32871, Juneau, Alaska 99803 USA

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

Julia L. Haldorson, APS Membership

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Greenbank, Washington 98253 USA

julia-haldorson@ak.net

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