

Primroses

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Primroses

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The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in *Primula* together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden the genus *Primula* in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about *Primula*.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO: P. clarkei
Photo by Henry Pugh

BACK COVER PHOTO: P. boreiocalliantha
Plant from Big Snow Mountain, Yunan, China
Photo by Ed Buyarski

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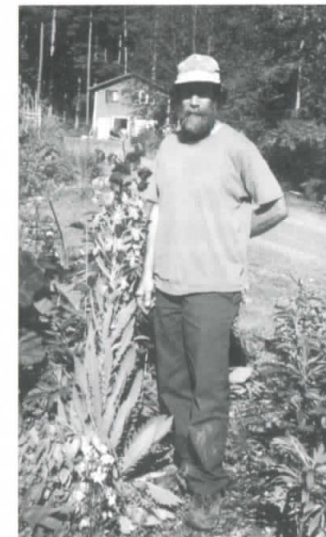
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Manuscripts for publication in the quarterly are invited from members and other gardeners, although there is no payment. Please include black and white photographs, slides or color prints if possible. Send articles directly to the Editor at the addresses above or email articles and pictures to primroses@gci.net. Articles composed in Word or another word processor are greatly appreciated. Please send pictures scanned at 300 dpi, scanned at their intended size of 5 by 3 inches for wide half page shots and 2.25 by 3.3 inches for quarter page shots. APS reserves the right to use submitted articles and pictures for other official APS uses.

Advertising rates per issue: full page, \$100; half page, \$50; quarter page, \$25; eighth page and minimum, \$12.50. Artwork for ads is the responsibility of the advertiser, and camera ready copy is appreciated. Submit advertising to the Editor. (Graphic artwork help is available.)

Presidents Message

Wet wishes from Alaska to all you primrose growers out there. While some of you may still be experiencing dry conditions, we would sure appreciate a few more hours of sunshine before the webbing between our fingers sprouts this fall. The ten inches of rain in the last two weeks has the stream through my garden near full and no more need to water any of those seedlings that are going into the ground now. Last week, on a rare, sunny,



September day; three of us went up Mount Roberts collecting seeds of *Primula cuneifolia* and other plants for some of the different Societies that we belong to. This summer I noticed that I finally had gotten germination of some of those *P. cuneifolia* seeds from two years ago. This is a reminder not to empty those seed pots for at least two years.

A year ago this month, I was in China collecting the seeds of many wonderful plants that are now thriving and some even blooming in my garden. It was an unforgettable experience that my new plants help me remember as they grow. Hopefully next year we will see many flowers on primula and other Chinese plants that will allow us to identify more of them. As you will read we will have a photo contest in a future Quarterly featuring those seedlings.

Robert Tonkin, our "Primrose" Editor will be introducing himself in this issue with a Letter from the Editor. We are planning a Holiday gift subscription program and an expanded 60th Anniversary issue for next year that you all can help us prepare. With this issue, your APS Membership Dues are due, unless of course you have already renewed for three years or have a Life membership. Please check the mailing label on the envelope your Quarterly came in for the year your subscription expires.

Primula clarkei
Part I -The True Story of its
Introduction into Cultivation
By Chris Chadwell

Primula clarkei, the rarest of all Western Himalayan Primulas, is still winning prizes on rock garden society show-benches nearly 70 years after its first appearance in cultivation. Since the 1930s, different versions of how the plant was tracked down and successfully introduced have emerged - none of them entirely correct. It is time to set the record straight and to give belated acknowledgment to the two men actually responsible: P.N. Kohli and B.O.Coventry.

This extraordinary miniature member of the Oreophloemis Section (previously under the Farinosae Section) was discovered by Charles Baron Clarke (1832-1906) of The Indian Education Service, who collaborated with J.D. Hooker on the Flora of British India. Clarke gathered pressed specimens (which are stored in the herbarium of The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland) from damp rock faces at 2700m near the village of Poosiana in the Poonch district of Kashmir back in 1976. Poosiana is located on the south slope of the Pir Panjal range, along what was the old Moghul route into Kashmir.

Most accounts of the introduction of *P. clarkei* credit Amin Chand of the Kashmir Forest Service, Baramulla with both its re-discovery and supply of material back to the UK (though John Richards in *Primula*, 1993, believed, erroneously, that Frank Ludlow was responsible). In fact, the person primarily involved was Prem Nath Kohli, a Forest Ranger stationed in Baramulla District at that time. Chand, as documentary evidence now clearly shows, falsely took the credit and subsequently even accepted a Gold Medal awarded by the Royal

Horticultural Society for long-standing contributions to plant introductions from Kashmir. In those days, the more senior officers tended to receive all the accolades. In reality, Chand seldom ventured far from his office, other than for discharging his Forestry duties and knew little about the local flora. District Forest Officers did not trek in the mountains!

Prem, on the other-hand, had always been a keen amateur botanist who regularly walked in the hills. His specimens are to be found in the herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; e.g. Dr. R. R. Stewart, an American botanist and author of *The Annotated Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of W .Pakistan and Kashmir*, credits Kohli for finding *Chelonopsis albiflora* var.cashmeriana -a very rare member of the Labiatae (Lamiaceae) family in the Uri Hills of Kashmir. Indeed it was from P .N .Kohli specimen 189 that Mukerjee, then the world's authority on Labiates, describes the new variety in 1942. Kohli established P. Kohli & Co. in 1928 [in the name of his wife since he was at that time still employed by the Forest Department], a world-famous and well-respected Indian horticultural firm, which for decades exported seeds and bulbs (from two nurseries) around the world. Roy Green, within *Asiatic Primulas*, an Alpine Garden Society Guide from 1976, listed P.Kohli & Son, Park Road, Srinagar, Kashmir, as a source of primula seed.

A letter from Bernard Coventry discovered within family papers held by his grandson, Peter Higgs, written to Frank Ludlow, outlines the true version of events surrounding the introduction into cultivation of *Primula clarkei*. From the 1920s onwards much interest was shown in this primula by U.K. horticulturists. A major player in this was Lord Wigram, Private Secretary to King George V, who approached The Maharajah of Kashmir during the 1920s, telling him

that, "... The King was interested in a scheme for cultivating in England the wild flowers of Kashmir for the purpose of growing them in the Royal Gardens and Parks." The inquiry was passed on to The Forestry Department, with P.N. Kohli, a knowledgeable young forest ranger deputed to travel extensively in Kashmir and Ladakh, in search of ornamental species.

Primula clarkei, was just one, albeit highly desirable Kashmir species waiting for an introduction. Being such a rarity, special efforts were made to relocate 'Poosiana', where Clarke had discovered it decades earlier. Despite much 'scratching of heads', nobody could think where the place might be. By then, the standard route into Kashmir from the rest of India was no longer the Moghul one taken by Clarke. Once they realized what route Clarke would have taken, it became a simple matter to identify 'Poosiana'. However, although a skilled amateur botanist (whose private studies were of professional standard -to the extent that he had published a 3-part series *Wild Flowers of Kashmir*) himself, Coventry could not leave his post in the capital Srinagar at that time once the location of Poosiana was established. Instead, P.N. Kohli was summoned and given instructions as to where to search. Kohli was successful in locating both live material and seed during 1933. His senior Forest Officer, recognizing its importance, 'took charge' of the material-only releasing it very reluctantly to Coventry. Eventually live plants reached Srinagar and these were sent by air to London, arriving in 1935.

It seems almost certain that the material of *P. clarkei* in cultivation today is derived from this introduction in the 1930s. The district of Poonch lies within what is now known as Azad Kashmir', a region of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan since the partition of India in 1947. As such the village

of Poosiana is very much in disputed border territory and until the present situation stabilizes, any form of plant exploration there would be foolhardy in the extreme. Frank Ludlow, within his account of *The Primulas of Kashmir*, Journal of The Royal Horticultural Society, June 1951, admits that his only acquaintance with this *Primula* was confined to a single gathering of a few non-flowering specimens from the type locality in 1937. I am not aware whether this collection was just in the form of pressed samples for the herbarium or if live material reached the UK. This may well constitute the last time the species was seen in the wild.

Back in 1983, following a meal at his home in Srinagar the late Prem Nath Kohli began describing where he had found *P. clarkei*, to members of The Kashmir Botanical Expedition, led by the author. At that time I was not familiar with the species but one of my team, Tony Powell, a horticulturist, most certainly was. He was paying considerable attention, eager at the prospect of re-locating such a prized plant. Unfortunately, when the exact location was made clear, we discovered, much to our disappointment, that it was not within any Indian-controlled territory which we had access to. Nearly 20 years on, the site is even more 'out-of-bounds'. By then, Kohli was already blind but his mind remained sharp till the end. Two years later, I returned to Kashmir and remember vividly his impressive ability to discuss the finer points of plant identification, which included the distinguishing characteristics of plant families which he had learnt 60 years before.

I have on loan, housed within the small private Coventry Memorial Herbarium at my home, many unpublished papers and notes on Kashmir plants prepared by Coventry. It is fitting to include his description of *Primula clarkei* here: **Name** the specific name is in honor of the celebrated botanist C.B.Clarke.

Description a perennial herbaceous plant with all the leaves & peduncles radical, the peduncles each bearing a solitary rose-pink flower. Rootstock slender, woody. Stem stemless. Leaves all radical, long-petioled, membranous, glabrous, 2.5-3.8cm in length, orbicular or elliptic-cordate, sharply toothed or crenate, tip rounded. Petioles 5-10cm in length, slender, base narrowly sheathing. Flowers rose-pink, 0.8cm diameter; solitary on slender peduncles, which are equal to or longer than the petioles. Calyx Campanulate, 5-lobed, the lobes short. Corolla salver-shaped, the limb 5-lobed, the lobes rather narrow & 2-fid; corolla-tube 0.8cm in length, slender, mouth not annulate. Ovary globose, stigma capitate. Fruit a small 5-valved globose capsule. Seeds black, subglobose. Distinguishing characters its rose-pink flowers, which are solitary on long radical peduncles distinguishes it from other Kashmir species. Flowering season May; a specimen grown in Srinagar flowered in March. Locality Near Poshiana at 2100m, a village in the Poonch Hate near the Pir Panjal Pass. Distribution Does not appear to be recorded from any other locality.

Cultivation

It is probable that the first recipient of live plants or seed of *Primula clarkei* sent from Kashmir would have been Thomas Hay, Superintendent of the Royal Parks, London. He wrote about his experiences of growing many plants sent from Kashmir within Plants for the Connoisseur, 1937. Once established, it bloomed in early spring; the scape, though usually obsolete, was sometimes well developed, bearing 3-4 flowers of a lovely pinkish hue.

It is time we acknowledge the contribution of Prem Nath Kohli, who rediscovered *Primula clarkei* in 1933, under the directions of Bernard Coventry. If you are fortunate and skilled enough to have grown the real *Primula clarkei* at any time, raise a glass to

the men who provided the opportunity. Whilst Kohli never received any medals for his plant hunting exploits, he deserves this belated recognition. As a testament, I can do no better than to quote the following description of him written by Thomas Hay in 1935.

*"... we have become acquainted [with the plants of Kashmir] of late years in increasing numbers, owing to the enthusiasm and activities of of...Mr Prem Nath Kohli..., a gentleman who has a unique knowledge of his native country, a knowledge probably unsurpassed by any other resident in Kashmir, native or European. This officer has roamed the country collecting seeds and plants and has a first-hand acquaintance with the alpine and herbaceous flora of the country, having seen most of the floral treasures of Kashmir growing in their native habitats. He has also an eye for a good species and one that is likely to be appreciated as a garden plant. The best proof of this is seen in the large number of plants collected by him that have been honored by the Royal Horticultural Society's Flora Committee... [more] recent arrivals include *Primula inayatii* and the rare *P. clarkei*, *P. elliptica* and other species of *Primula*..."*

According to Dr Richards in *Primula*, *P. clarkei* does not set seed in cultivation and he considers that its continued existence in cultivation for more than half a century is probably owed to dedicated nurseries in favored (humid and summer-cool) conditions, notably at Inshriach [Jack Drake's famous nursery in the Highlands of Scotland), raising it by division. But do the plants appearing under the name *P. clarkei* within seed exchanges or from specialist nurseries always constitute the genuine article? I shall attempt to answer this within Part II, which will appear in a future issue.

Primulas Love Sun

by Pam Eveleigh

Have I got your attention? Aren't primulas shade loving plants? Read on and find out!

First a little background on my garden conditions. I garden in Calgary, Canada (3,500' elevation, 51 degrees, North) on the prairies, but less than 1 hour drive away from the Rocky Mountains. Our frost free days range from June 1st to September 15th. Temperatures can get over +30°C in summer but we are blessed with cool nights regardless of the daytime high. In winter we get as low as -40°C and as high as +20°C when a Chinook rolls in. Chinooks are warm winds that sometimes raise the temperature by as much as 30° C within a day. Unfortunately they also melt our precious snow cover away, creating brutal conditions for the plants when the temperature returns to freezing. Humidity is low and we average a dry 40 cm of precipitation per year. My soil is alkaline.

And Sunshine! Calgary gets lots of blue sky days; on average 2395 hours of sunlight a year.

You would think that with those conditions that I would find Primulas difficult to grow. Not at all. My secret weapon is the BOG. No, that doesn't stand for "Bob's Optimum Gardening." No, I don't mean a real bog as found in nature with a low amount of oxygen and stagnant conditions. Simply what I mean is a consistently moist spot in the garden, filled with a loose soil.

Not surprisingly many people use bogs in their gardens. The first time I saw one was at Barrie Porteous's Ontario garden about 7 years ago. Barrie had several bogs situated on a gentle slope that were concrete dishes set into the ground so that water could flow into them from above, but excess water could spill out. The idea was filed for later use and

popped up again when I was creating a scree bed in 1997. We had dug a depression 1.4m x 2m on one end of the new bed in order to mix the soil with sand, grit and peat. The hole looked like it could be a perfect bog, so plans were changed immediately. The soil stayed in a mound, and the .4m deep hole was lined with plastic and filled with 50% peat and 50% coarse sand. The plastic liner was punctured in a few spots so there was no water sitting stagnant at the bottom. The key feature was the bog was situated in SUN. The south west corner of the bog was planted with Siberian irises. What to plant in the rest? Perhaps a few primulas? Until then, I had been having difficulty with *Primula rosea*. When it was planted in a shady spot it survived but didn't bloom. When I planted it in a sunnier spot, it dried out and died. So I had nothing to lose with planting *P. rosea* in the new bog. It FLOURISHED! Not only did it grow vigorously, but it bloomed profusely. (Photo page 15) The successes keep on going. Other primulas that do well in that bog include: *P. alpicola*, *P. chionantha*, *P. deorum*, *P. eximia*, *P. longipes*, *P. magellanica*, *P. nivalis* var. *colorata*, *P. orbicularis*, *P. parryi*, *P. rusbyi*, and *P. sikkimensis*.

Success must be repeated, so I now have 5 bogs. One is even situated under a crevice garden – more about that in a future article. The latest bog was built this spring. It is a 1.2m x 1.2m pie shape, tucked in beside my patio and protected from stray soccer balls by a row of small troughs. It is located on the east side of my house and receives sun from morning to early afternoon. This time I also added compost into the mix. Following my theory that primulas can flourish in sun, I planted groups of seedling plants of the following primulas in the bog: *P. bhutanica*, *P. boreiocalliantha*, *P. calderiana*, *P. flexuosa*, *P. ioessa*, *P. luteola*, *P. magellanica*, *P. nivalis* var. *colorata*, *P. nivalis* ssp. *xanthobasis*, *P.*

secundiflora, *P. vialli*, *P. wilsonii*, ARGS 406¹, ARGS 407, CC2608², CC2343, CC3364 and a few small plants of *P. fasciculata*. All of these plants are growing wonderfully. The *P. fasciculata* keeps producing bloom after bloom. *Primula luteola* has gone wild with leaves up to 27cm long X 10 cm wide. The best are the *P. vialli* which germinated in December and are now blooming in July! The *bhutanica* are OK but had yellowing on their leaves (this was a fertilizer problem) and they produced much more crinkly leaves when compared with plants growing in the shade. For a member of Section Petiolares to be surviving at all in any sun is a miracle as they are supposed to grow in much shadier conditions.

When talking about growing conditions for primulas we usually talk about how much shade to provide for them. From my experience, many primulas will take much more sun than we think. The key factors for increasing the sun exposure of primulas are consistent moisture and cool conditions. The bog holds lots of moisture because of the peat or compost in the mix and also because of the plastic liner. The water at the surface of the bog evaporates, creating a cooling effect as well as providing a localized increase in humidity. I allow the surface of the bog to dry out, but I water it if it looks like it is drying beyond the first half inch of soil: Calgary experiences cool night time conditions in the summer so that helps revive the plants after a particularly hot day. A few small rocks (15-20 cm long) placed on the surface also help to keep the soil beneath cool. I can't overemphasize the cooling effect of rocks. Recently, I was on a hike in the mountains on a hot sunny day.

¹ ARGS China Expedition

² Chris Chadwell, all three collections seem to belong to Subsection *crystallophlomis*

When I placed my hand on the alpine turf it was hot, but when I picked up a small rock and placed my hand in the shallow hole, it was cold!

Another secret to planting primulas in sun is to think "meadow". Many primulas grow in conditions where they are exposed to full sun when the grasses and other plants are small in the spring, but then receive shade from those plants during the hotter, sunnier parts of the summer. The Siberian irises in my bog are slow to start growing so in early spring the primulas receive full sun. The irises put on their growth after many of the primulas have bloomed, just in time to provide some shade for the primulas in summer.

Depending on your local conditions, you might have to make adjustments to your bog. More drainage may be needed if you live in an area of high rainfall or you may have to water your bog if your conditions are dry like mine. Try a few rocks on the surface if your summer conditions are hot. If you have large deciduous trees in your garden, your bog may be situated so that it receives full sun in spring, but is lightly shaded by the trees in summer. Primulas can be heavy feeders so adding compost to the mix is a good idea, or providing periodic fertilizer. Just be careful that adding a liquid fertilizer to the surface doesn't encourage choking moss or liverworts to grow, too.

With over 450 species of primula, it is hard to generalize the growing conditions for all of them. Do primulas love sun? Yes, I think so, provided they have constant moisture and a cool root run. If you've had problems growing some of them, why not try them in a bog?

In Calgary the month of August set records for high temperatures and drought conditions. The bog was a lifesaver and performed much better than my regular garden beds.

Furber Then and Now

By Maedythe Martin

Striped auriculas were all the rage in 1730. A nurseryman of the period, James Furber, put out a unique catalogue of his plants – 12 colored engravings of large, luxuriant floral arrangements, one for each month of the year. The flowers in the bouquet for that month were all numbered, with a key to the numbers at the bottom. You could identify the flower you wanted, and order from Mr. Furber.

Striped, bizarre, selfs and painted lady auriculas were included in almost every month's collection of exotic flowers. For example, April includes the auriculas 'Glory of the East', 'Love's Master', 'Double Painted Lady', 'Merveille du Monde', 'Duke of Beaufort', 'Duke of St. Albans' and 'Grand Presence'. The names themselves are very exotic. So were the flowers.

Striped flowers, and clothes were "the thing" in this period – think of striped carnations, striped tulips and striped roses. Despite their colorful and marvelous appearance, the stripes, including the auriculas, went out of fashion about 1740. By the time of the little book by F.A. Kannegiesser, with hand-colored plates printed in Germany in 1801, the bizarres are still there, but no stripes. The new fad was green and grey-edged auriculas which first appeared about 1770. Referred to as the English auriculas, their unusual petal color captured the imagination of the auricula fancier. These flowers from the late 1700s were perfected over two hundred years of hybridizing into show-bench winners of today such as 'Prague' (green-edged) and 'Grey Hawk' (grey-edged).

David Tarver, in his booklet *Auricula History*, cites a number of sources in an effort to identify just what is a painted lady

auricula. After re-reading his summary, my guess is that they were striped with two if not three colors and had meal over the whole of the plant – flowers and leaves. Bizarres, I am interpreting as tri-colored flowers in bands like the modern edged auriculas, but again the meal covers the whole face of the flower. This might be a grey-edged flower, with a rust ground, a band of gold color around the rust and white meal in the center of the flowers.

Despite these striped and parti-colored auriculas going out of fashion, the genes were not entirely lost. Miss Wynne in Ireland collected one, perhaps from a cottage garden: 'Mrs. Dargen' (red and white striped) and another cottage garden find is 'Osbourne Green' (green, purple and white stripes)[*photos page 16*]. Modern show auricula hybridizers find nothing to admire in the form of these historical relics, but they carry with them the past and have, in part, given us back the treasures of the 1730s.

In Britain, Alan Hawkes and Derek Parsons have worked for years (15 in Allan Hawkes' case, and 10 in Derek Parsons') to recreate the striped marvels of the 18th century. Allan Hawkes started with poor pin-eyed starry auriculas and kept introducing show fancies and edged that had a tendency to stripe. By the mid-1980s he had many dozen good stripes. Derek Parson started with seed from Allan Hawkes in 1989 and by 1999 had 140 named and handsome stripes. What great success they have achieved.

Comparing Derek Parson's recent introduction 'Rumbled', a tri-color stripe, one has to observe the similarities to Furber's 'Royal Widow'. The three colored stripes are there, though the 'Widow' may have had more meal over the face of the flower. 'Danae' from the March bouquet of Furber's catalogue has daintily penciled stripes – much like Derek Parson's striped auricula

'Purple Prose'. We have yet to recreate the double painted lady, but some of the elegant double stripes by Ken Wharton (see the photo of 'Fantasia', p. 107 in Mary Robinson's new book on auriculas) are getting close.

While a picture might be worth a thousand words, and Furber's engravings give us pictures of the flowers available in 1730, an actual plant, such as Derek Parsons' 'Rumbled' is history recreated. What would an auricula fancier of Georgian England say of our modern stripes?

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Reminders!!

Does your membership expire with this issue? If so, please mail in your renewal using the form on page 35 to the Treasurer. Would you consider giving an A.P.S. Holiday gift membership to someone? Read the details on page 9 (Letter from the Editor).

Send In Those Seeds!

You have until October 30th to send in your seeds for the 2002 Seed Exchange!

12 Common/Easy Primroses

Please send us your recommended list of 12 easy/common primroses for the 60th Anniversary Issue (next issue). Either email <primroses@gci.net> or write the editor with your suggestions.

Early Blooming Methods

by Derek Salt

It has been suggested that "one of our primrose masters across the pond may wish to contribute an article on early blooming methods." I am no master of any kind and have rarely grown primroses for show, but I have twenty years experience with auriculas, particularly with doubles. Many growers in the UK say that it is not possible to force auriculas to flower early, some even regard it as cheating! I disagree and have forced them on many occasions.

You will need a heated greenhouse, thermostatically controlled with reasonable accuracy, good light and some humidity. Temperatures depend on when flowers are needed, a day/night range of 50/60 F ventilating at 70 F is as high as I have used. The day/night difference seems essential. Good light is necessary or stems will be stretched, high humidity is needed to prevent flowers drying out. Always use water at the temperature of the greenhouse, cold water will reduce compost temperature and delay growth.

Be warned, when the sun comes out and the temperature gets to 75+ you must either shade or take the plants to a cooler place. It can be hard work but if you are keen to show I know of no other way of getting plants to flower in a cold, late season. I have never missed a show due to late flowering.

This method can work very well. This year which was very late over here, we were able to take 28 plants to Datchet(NAPS South), all but one was forced, on the same day at Knowle (NAPS M&W), only 18 plants were shown by all exhibitors. From a total of seven classes we were awarded six firsts, five seconds and three thirds from fifteen entries, so obviously they had not been damaged. All the varieties that we show have been

bred by myself. I find that they grow better than those bred by others, no doubt they are used to my conditions.

You will find that some varieties will not respond and some plants will be spoiled for the current season. I have one variety 'Lincoln Imp' which gives its best color when opened on the dining room window sill above a radiator.

A much less drastic method is to keep plants frost free for sometime before the show. I cannot help on timing as I know nothing of conditions experienced by others.

If you want to hold plants back, keep cool (a fan might help) but do not keep them shaded all day as this will make them stretch. Give good light, but restrict the hours of daylight by covering later in the day to persuade the plants that it is not yet spring.

Some of the problems with forcing and with holding back are possible changes in color and reduction in flower life. With practice you will learn which varieties can be manipulated. With some varieties you can put a forced and unforced plant together as a pair and no one will tell which is which.

I have included four photos for reference. Please note you may not consider the photos to adequately illustrate some of the points I am making as there is no photo of a plant which was not forced well. For instance Firsby looks terrible when forced.

Photo #1 [page 18] of 'Lincoln Imp' was opened on a windowsill with a radiator underneath in good light. Photo #2 of 'Lincoln Imp' was opened under normal conditions, ie fairly low temperature in part shaded conditions. These photos show how temperature can affect color. Photo #3 of 'Cardinal Red' was opened as described above, ie forced. Photo #4 of 'Firsby' opened under normal conditions. This variety will NOT force. It is difficult to advise generally as growers conditions vary greatly.

Letter From the Editor

There is much going on with your Quarterly, and in this short space I hope to give you some idea of our immediate future plans. Our efforts for the next few months will be our 60th Edition Winter 2002 issue. The focus will be 12 easy/common primroses. Along with related articles, the issue will focus on 12 primroses believed to be a good introduction to the genus. Our intent is to help the gardener, new to primroses, be successful. The issue will have 20 pages of additional text and the standard 8 pages of color. We will print many of the best cultivation articles from the past 60 years in an effort to put in one place as much information as possible to help gardeners, especially newer A.P.S. members, be successful growing primroses.

In conjunction with the Special 60th Edition, A.P.S. is asking you to give a gift membership to someone you feel may be interested in the pleasures and rewards of our Society. A gift membership application is provided on the back page (36) of your renewal form at the back of this issue. When you send in your renewal membership this fall please give a holiday gift membership as well. Your gift recipient will receive a letter from the President identifying you as the source of the gift membership just before the holidays. The first issue they will receive, a few weeks after the holidays, will be the special expanded 60th Edition. Their first issue will include a new member package as well.

We would like to hear what 12 primroses YOU believe we should focus on. Please keep in mind this is not a list of your favorite plants. Rather this is a list of those primroses you believe a beginner would be successful growing in your area. Please send your

Continued on page 30

Year One	Seed Parent A	X	Pollen Parent B	=	Seed AB1
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Sow half Seed AB1 as soon as ripe. Dry store the remaining half for a spring sowing. Sow seed thinly and label seedpots well. Don't be surprised to see germination in days rather than weeks.

Year Two	Flowering AB1 Class 1	X	Pollen Parent A or B	=	Seed AB2
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Separate flowering AB1's into two classes. Class one exhibits those characteristics you are looking for. Class two are the rest. First cross all AB1 class 1's with pollen from parents A or B.

	Flowering AB1 Class 2	X	Pollen Parent A or B	=	Seed AB2
--	------------------------------------	---	--	---	--------------------

Make these crosses only if there is enough pollen from parents A and B. If more pollen remains, cross A with B again to start another lineage. Be sure to label the seeds accordingly.

	Flowering AB1 Class 1	X	Flowering AB1 Class 1	=	Seed AB2
--	------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	---	--------------------

Pollen from parents A & B is gone. Cross all remaining flowering AB1 Class 1 seedlings together first. Do not be restrained to pollinate the pins of these flowering seedlings.

	Flowering AB1 Class 2	X	Pollen Parent AB1 Class 2	=	Seed AB2
--	------------------------------------	---	--	---	--------------------

Next cross all flowering AB1 Class 2 seedlings together. Again, don't be restrained from pollinating the pins of these seedlings. Again sow half the AB2 seed in fall and dry store half for spring.

Year Three	Flowering AB1 Class 1 Pins	X	Pollen Parent A or B	=	Seed AB3
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Separate your AB2 Seedlings the same way you did those of AB1 last year. You also now have more flowering AB1's from Year One. Pollinate AB1 Class 1 pins with parent A or B pollen first.

	Flowering AB2 Class 1 Pins	X	Pollen Parent A or B	=	Seed AB3
--	---	---	--	---	--------------------

Next pollinate AB2 Class 1 pins with pollen from Parents A or B. If sufficient pollen is still available on A and B, use it to pollinate Class 1 AB1 and AB2 thrums.

	Flowering AB2 Class 1 Thrums	X	Pollen Parent AB2 Class 1 Pins	=	Seed AB3
--	---	---	---	---	--------------------

It is very important to clearly record where the pollen came from on all AB2 plants. It could be from the original plants A or B, or it could be pollen from another AB2 plant. KEEP RECORDS!

	Seed Parent B	X	Pollen Parent A	=	Seed BA1
--	-------------------------	---	---------------------------	---	--------------------

Start all over with a new line. Perhaps consider switching the seed and pollen parent around.

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P. rosea in Pam Eveleigh's bog garden



P. vialii in Pam Eveleigh's bog garden



P. longipes in Pam's bog garden
All Photos Pam Eveleigh



'Osborne Green' old cottage garden striped auricula. All photos Maedythe Martin



'Royal Widow', a painted lady auricula from Furber's March bouquet



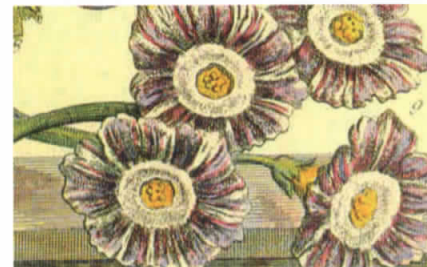
'Rumbled', hybridized by Derek Parsons. Photo by Derek Parsons



Furber's "Month of April"



'Double Painted Lady', a painted lady auricula from Furber's April bouquet



'Danae', a painted lady auricula from Furber's March bouquet



'Purple Prose', hybridized by Derek Parsons. Photo by Derek Parsons



'Lincoln Imp' opened on



'Lincoln Imp' opened under normal conditions. Photo's Derek Salt



'Cardinal Red' forced open



'Firsby' opened under normal conditions. Photo's Derek Salt



Spring Plant Sale Juneau



Primrose seed pods



*'Valerie Ann', grown and shown at Ossett in April 2001 by Derek Lockey.
Henry Pugh Photo*



*'Galatea', Best Edged Cultivar, grown by David Hadfield, shown at
Newbottle, May 2001. Photo Henry Pugh*



A.P.S. Seed Exchange Seeds February



A.P.S. Seed Exchange Seeds July

The American Primrose Society

announces the

ARGS China 2000 Expedition Primrose Photo Contest



The Quarterly will conduct a photo contest of those primrose plants resulting from the seed returned by the Anchorage Rock Garden Societies 2000 China Expedition. Photos may be submitted through October 31st 2002, the last day seed can be donated for the 2003 seed exchange. Winning photos will be published in the Winter 2003 issue.

The contest is open to A.P.S. members only. Any China seed PRIMULA plant is eligible for consideration. Prizes will include First place, Second place, Third place, and five honorable mentions. Photos may be submitted in print, slide, or electronic file format. All photos or slides will be returned to sender if accompanied by a self-addressed return envelope. If an entry is submitted by electronic means it must be at least 300 dpi, 5 by 3.5 inches for wide orientation and 2.25 by 3.3 inches for tall orientation. Electronic photos may be larger than these dimensions, but NOT smaller, and MUST be at least 300 dpi. The TIFF file format would be appreciated by the Editor, but not mandatory. Please ensure each photo is properly labeled. Each photo must be accompanied by the name of the A.P.S. member grower, the location it was grown, the A.R.G.S. or A.P.S. 2000 seed list reference number, and the date the photo was taken. Mail photos to Robert Tonkin, APS Editor, 3155 Pioneer Ave., Juneau, AK 99801, or email primroses@gci.net.

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Presidents Message cont.

Please remember to get your dried and cleaned seeds to the Seed Exchange folks from the New England Chapter by the end of October. They had a bit of near panic in August with announcements from the USDA of stricter enforcement of some rules that were later clarified to allow seed sharing to continue across national borders. We must still be careful when we are collecting and preparing our seeds so that we are doing all we can to preserve native populations and avoid contamination of seeds or plants with diseases that may be spread to other places. We all want healthy, viable seeds to grow new and wonderful plants in our gardens. This was brought home to me this past spring when my order of plants from a Scottish nursery could not be sent because all of the Agriculture inspectors in Great Britain were actively involved in the outbreak of hoof and mouth disease. Plants moving across borders have to be thoroughly bare-rooted and washed so they do not carry disease.

We should have some interesting seeds from Chris Chadwell's expedition to the Mustang region of Nepal to add to our gardens from the Seed Exchange this year, and if any of you know of other seed sources, please let them know for next year. Ed



A.P.S. President & Editor seeking answers in the dirt!

Editor From Letter cont.

thoughts either by letter or email to the Editor at the address on page 1.

We are conducting a China seed photo contest. Details are on page 22. We are hopeful this effort will not only be a great deal of fun, but will also provide the membership with shared information on those plants brought back from China last year. Consider submitting an entry!

I would like to briefly explain the chart on pages 10 & 11. Last fall I wrote an article on line breeding that had as its source a series of emails between Angela Bradford of Barnhaven and myself. Many folks suggested I try to diagram Angela's procedure for hybridizing. Here hopefully is a visual reference to her process that may be of use. Please keep in mind this is only one way of approaching the issue. No doubt many folks will (do) differ on her method. Hopefully it will raise some good dialog and discussions on the subject of line breeding and hybridizing. If you don't have a copy of that article from the Fall 2000 issue, contact me and I will send you a copy. Many of you know I have started a line breeding program of blue self auricula, and will no doubt be following her method over the next few years. Should any other members desire to do the same, with either auricula or other species, please let me know. If there is sufficient interest we can continue to do a follow up article each year and highlight the results of those efforts by members so involved. Let's all learn a bit as we proceed!

Finally we desire to bring back the Letters to the Editor section of the Quarterly. Please write or email us and let us know what's on your mind. We will print the content we feel would be of interest to the membership, as well as those that further the purpose of the Society, now printed on the inside cover.

A.P.S. Board of Directors Meeting August 11th, 2001 (with a follow up meeting held August 18th).

Both meetings were conducted "on-line". On-line were Ed Buyarski, Cheri Fluck, Julia Haldorson, Robert Tonkin, Terry Mitchell, Elaine Malloy, Judy Sellers, Mary Irwin and Thea Oakley. Minutes of the previous meeting of April 11th were approved with minor spelling changes. The Treasurer reported we had cash and cash equivalent assets on hand of \$26,450.55 as of June 30th, 2001. It was noted that the summer Quarterly invoice had not been paid from this figure. Additional expenses were also noted since the June 30th report date. Membership was reported at 529. (Renew your membership for 2002 today!)

Discussion centered on the Editors proposal for a request to spend an additional \$1500 for an expanded 60th Edition Quarterly. This issue would focus on 12 common/easy primroses and how best to grow them. This funds request was for the expense of 20 additional pages of text and up to 600 additional copies of the issue to be printed. It was expected the additional issues would be distributed and sold over time with the proceeds divided between local chapters and A.P.S. The Editor had distributed details of the proposal, along with a plan for a holiday gift membership drive to Board members prior to the meeting. The Board was unable to reach a consensus during the August 11th meeting and decided to hold an additional Board Meeting the following weekend with only this agenda item to be discussed. Discussion continued at the following meeting before

a vote was conducted. Pam Finney, Cheri Fluck, and Terry Mitchell voted nay with the remaining present and proxy votes voting yea. The motion passed.

A brief discussion was held regarding the status of the A.P.S. subscription to ARGUS and followup was directed.

Website Report

Approximately 3100 hits on the homepage to date with viewers from around the world.

Chat Group Report

Holding steady at + or - 150 member level with approximately 780 messages logged since 1-1-01.

Twin Report

Currently there are three US members on the list wanting a twin in the UK. I've been in contact with my NAPS Twin counterpart, Robert Taylor, and he says and he doesn't have any candidates at this time.

New England Chapter Report

Our summer meeting, July 29, 2001 at Sydney Eddison's garden, was a wonderful display of daylilies in an explosion of color along with a balance of many other colorful summer perennials. We are grateful for Sydney's talks which she promotes APS and our New England Chapter. \$45.00 has been given to Judy Sellers to cover some of the mailing for the APS seed exchange. As of 8/12/01 we have \$353.75 in our treasury and we have 32 members.

Respectfully Submitted,
RT

Plant Societies

National Auricula and Primula Society

Invites all auricula and primula lovers to join this old society. Membership includes yearbook.
http://freespace.virgin.net/peter_gavin.ward/index.htm

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Midland and West Section

David Tarver

9 Church St, Belton, Loughborough, Leicestershire, England LE12 9UG

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Duane Buell
 P.O. Box 32319
 Juneau, AK 99803
 Tel: (907) 780-4489
 dbuell@iname.com

Want More Primroses?

Back issues of the A.P.S. quarterly, Primroses, are available from the A.P.S. Quarterly Librarian. Prices depend on the issue date:

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1970-1989	\$2.50/copy
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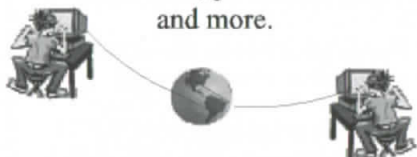
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<http://www.americanprimrosesoc.org>
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For more information go to:
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terry@mitchell1234.freemove.co.uk

Primrose Websites of Interest

The following not-for-profit websites are provided as a resource for APS members who share a common interest in Primroses.

American Primrose Society

<http://www.americanprimrosesoc.org/>

National Auricula and Primrose Society

http://freespace.virgin.net/peter_gavin.ward/index.htm

PrimulaWorld

<http://members.home.net/primulaworld/>

Primulas Auriculas Alpines & Shows

<http://www.wilkin94.fsnet.co.uk/>



American Primrose Society
P.O. Box 210913
Auke Bay, AK 99821



AMERICAN PRIMROSE, PRIMULA AND AURICULA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in Primula together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and the interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden the genus Primula in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about Primula.

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to the quarterly publication *Primroses*, Seed Exchange privileges, Slide Library, and the opportunity to join a Round Robin. Membership renewals are due November 15th and are delinquent at the first of the year.

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