



# "THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

Journal of the  
Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

<http://alpinegardenersofcvi.wordpress.com/>

Issue # 35

Spring 2015

**FROM THE EDITOR:** Happy Spring Equinox! Of course here on Vancouver Island we are well into the season. I hope our readers from away are at least getting a glimmer of the season. Your contributions are gratefully received at [Melanson.valerie@gmail.com](mailto:Melanson.valerie@gmail.com). Next deadline: May 31<sup>st</sup> for a Summer issue.



On this first day of Spring, *Saxifraga federici-augusti* ssp *grisebachii*

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## UPCOMING AGCVI SPECIAL EVENTS

### The Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

present

**David Sellars**



To speak on

**Picos de Europa:**

**The Alpine Garden of the Cantabrian Mountains &  
Where to find alpine flowers in the Olympic Mountains**



**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 1-3 p.m.**  
(doors open 12:30),

**QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE,  
747 JONES, Q.B.**

**\$5 at door includes entry in prize draw &  
coffee/tea**

**The speaker will have plants for sale.**

**Picos de Europa:** At the end of May 2014 David and Wendy Sellars joined the Saxifrage Society field trip to the Picos de Europa in Northern Spain. While the primary focus of the trip was to identify endemic Saxifrages, the amazing floral diversity of the area was an added attraction. The presentation will feature alpine and meadow plants of the Picos including many that can be grown on the west coast. Photos will include *Fritillaria pyrenaica*, *Lilium pyrenaicum*, three Narcissus species, the endemic *Erysimum duriaei* and spectacular orchids (*Orchis ustulata* pictured above left).

**Olympic Mountains:** The presentation will focus on routes in the Olympics to locate endemic alpine and other special plants.

**David Sellars** is an award winning photographer and writer and regular contributor to several alpine journals. He is also an avid mountain hiker and President of the Alpine Garden Club of B.C.

Info? Valerie: 250-594-4423 or  
Melanson.valerie@gmail.com



Meantime you can check out David's report on a hike of the Cresta de le Sele during his Dolomites tour in the International Rock Gardener at

<http://www.srgc.org.uk/logs/logdir/2014Sep251411672305IRG57.pdf>

A report on David's his Picos de Europa visit with The Saxifrage Society can be found in the AGCBC Bulletin v. 57:3, pp 67-70 and 57:4, pp 84-87. Also in The Saxifrage Magazine # 22, Autumn 2014, pp 21-27.

David Sellars is an award winning photographer and writer and is a regular contributor to the NARGS (North American Rock Garden Society) Rock Garden Quarterly. He has also written illustrated articles for the Alpine Garden Club of BC Bulletin, the International Rock Gardener and The Saxifrage Magazine. Together with his wife, Wendy, he is developing an extensive alpine and woodland garden in coastal British Columbia. He is an avid mountain hiker and maintains the website: [http://www.mountainflora.ca/Site/Mountainflora\\_Home.html](http://www.mountainflora.ca/Site/Mountainflora_Home.html)

His particular interests are rock garden design and construction, alpine plant photography and using video to illustrate mountain landscapes and alpine plant habitats. His video page is:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MountainFlora>

In addition to the NARGS Quarterly he has written illustrated articles for the Alpine Garden Club of BC Bulletin, the International Rock Gardener,

<http://www.srgc.org.uk/logs/logdir/2014Sep251411672305IRG57.pdf>

and the Saxifrage Magazine. A selection of his alpine plant photographs were published in the recent book Alpine Plants of British Columbia, Alberta and Northwest North America:

<http://www.lonepinepublishing.com/cat/9781551058863>

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

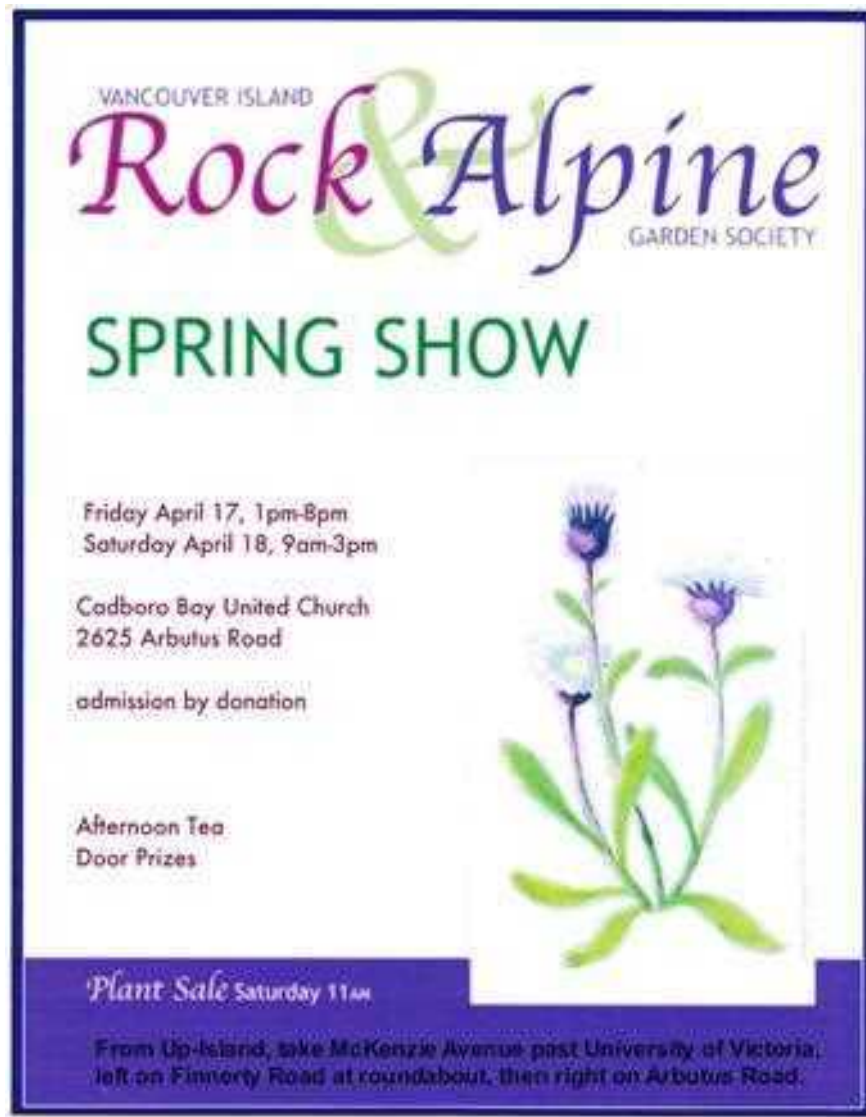
Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>: AGCVI will have a plant table (alpines & rhodo companions) at the Mountain Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society Spring Show & Sale, Parksville Arena. Please watch your inbox for more information.

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>: **AGCVI ANNUAL PLANT SALE**, at Louise Cotterill's, 9 to 1. Please watch your inbox for more information.



## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> - Eaglecrest, Oceanside's Garden Club** meets at 7:00 pm, in QB. Civic Centre. **Kathy Claxton's topic: Divide and Multiply Perennials** will be a hands-on demo of how to increase your favourite plants. All welcome. Non-members \$2.  
Contact person: Marilyn: 752 2405



**April 18-19<sup>th</sup> - Valley Succulents' Season Opening**, Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 to 5:00  
There will be a Grand Prize draw, door prizes and complimentary coffee.  
Barbara Kulla plans to go and wonders if others will join her. They could car pool - Barbara is inclined to go Sunday is OK if others prefer Saturday.  
Please contact Barbara Kulla, [bkulla@shaw.ca](mailto:bkulla@shaw.ca)

**Saturday, April 25 -Eaglecrest,Oceanside's Garden Club Annual Plant Sale**

**8:00 AM-12 NOON, 531 Yambury Road, Qualicum Beach**

Perennials, roses, shrubs, annuals, vegetables, herbs, garden tools, pottery, baskets, etc.

Master Gardeners on site.

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*Alpine enthusiasts are invited to*

***Eswyn Lyster's Alpine Garden, Nanoose, 5th Anniversary Open House***

***Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 10 - 2***

Held in conjunction with Nanoose Art Group's Annual Show and Sale

Hosted by Eswyn's Alpine Garden Caretakers

\*To celebrate the successful development of a public alpine garden over the past 5 years

\*To honor Eswyn's original alpine collection, the basis of the garden

\*To create public interest in alpine gardening in general and in Eswyn's Alpine Garden in particular

\*To fundraise for the garden with a small selection of plants for purchase.

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L: *Thlaspi bellidifolium*, in the rain, first day of Spring

## REPORTS FROM GARDEN CORRESPONDENTS

### DARTS HILL GARDEN PARK

#### Photos from David Sellars

In **Crevice** # 25, January 2014, David introduced us to the Tufa Garden at Darts Hill (<http://www.dartshill.ca/>). The Alpine Garden Club of B.C. constructed and planted a new alpine bed in 2012 and then in 2013-4 built a tufa crevice garden. Last month the AGCBC welcomed Peter Korn from Sweden to give a talk about the construction, design and culture of rock plants showing that rock gardens can be built in almost any environment, it's just a matter of selecting the right plants; anything from desert plants to high alpine plants. The talk was illustrated mainly by photographs from Peter Korn's own garden. Peter has constructed a large garden in Sweden mostly using sand. His book, **Peter Korn's Garden: Giving Plants What they Want** was published in English in 2013. During his visit to B.C., Peter visited the new tufa garden.



L: Peter Korn, R: The photo shows the display notice crediting the Alpine Garden Club of BC with design, construction and planting.

Links for report above:

AGCVI website for "Crevice" # 24: <https://alpinegardenersofcvi.wordpress.com/> - members only. Otherwise please contact the editor for a copy.

AGCBC website: (<http://www.agc-bc.ca/>)

Peter Korn's website: [http://www.peterkornstradgard.se/start\\_eng.html](http://www.peterkornstradgard.se/start_eng.html)



# LOHBRUNNER ALPINE GARDEN AT UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN

## ALPINES IN BLOOM

photos and captions by Brent Hine,  
Curator, E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden



*Anemone pavonina*, straight from Greece to our west coast, very robust for me.



*Narcissus minor* - very petite!



L: pale yellow saxifrage is *Saxifraga* 'Gregor Mendel',  
R: bright yellow *Saxifraga*, cultivar TBC



Hebe 'Silver Dollar'. Looks good even in late winter.

**The** E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden is part of UBC Botanical Garden,  
The University of British Columbia, 6804 SW Marine Drive,  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6T 1Z4



# AGCVI ACTIVITIES REPORTS

## SEEDY SATURDAY, Q.B. 2015

photos by Kirsten Juergensen



L to R: Louise Cotterill (Plant Sales Co-ordinator), with Karen Unruh and Mike Miller, ready for questions



L: Some of the lovely plants looking for good homes. R: Mike helping an attendee.

WHETTING THE APPETITE FOR SUMMER 2015  
SOME PHOTOS BY CLIFF BOOKER  
FROM AGCVI-BOOKER VISIT TO PARADISE MEADOWS,  
JULY 2014



AGCVI members with Sue Booker and Strathcona Wilderness Institute's Krista Kaptein as guide



L: Hunting for carnivorous plants, R: *Drosera rotundifolia*, Round-leaved Sundew





L: *Gentiana sceptrum*, King Gentian, R: *Fauria crista-galli*, Deer Cabbage



Two of the resident orchids:

L: *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*, Ladies' Tresses, R: *Platanthera dilatata*, White Bog Orchid



## STATICE OF MINIATURE STATUS

By Kenton Seth, Grand Junction, Colorado

Many of us have grown, and maybe even weeded out and removed a few. They are those plants which remain for decades if a cottage garden has been abandoned, and plants that a person can even see escaping onto roadsides in the mountains off of mountain highways, garden statice are some incredibly rugged flowers and capable of looking quite normal when soil is powdery dry. Also called sea lavender, and including the popular genera *Limonium* and *Goniolimon* (as well as *Aeoniopsis*, or even *Bukiniczia*, which are obscure but seen in rockeries), are members of the Plumbago family, with garden varieties being 18" to a couple feet high. The species most known and useful to us are from dry Asia.

How about for rock gardens? Good news is afoot. Several species have been worming their way through seedlists and gardens for years, proving themselves to be as tough as their bigger kin, only extra-miniature.

The NARGS seed exchange this year offered *Limonium minutum*, which might be the most grown mini statice in rock gardens. It can reseed into charming lumpy colonies around stones, being generous with seed. The leaves are indeed in rosettes, but as the plants age, these branch into lots of tiny rosettes to take on the bun-look, only some 3 inches tall, until the flowers poke up to about 8 inches in summer.



*Limonium minutum*

Flowers last for many months, are not staggeringly showy, but are papery and purple and definitely big for the size of plant. The gardener really appreciates plants like this who have a dense leaf-mound topped with distinct flower stems that are easily deadheaded. The seeds look not a little like *Acantholimon*, which is in the same family. Their purple or red winter colour easily becomes their best attribute.

*Limonium gougetianum* is an obscure, essentially identical species not commonly grown. It survives a dry clay crevice garden in desert Colorado where it is dry enough to kill Iceplants and Penstemons. *Limonium binervosum* has been grown by a few nurseries for years, and purchased far too little. It seems a tad bigger than the other two species and is being trialled for major introduction in the states, which it kindly deserves.



*Limonium gougetianum*

## **ALPINE SHRUBS IN THE CREVICE GARDEN at ESWYN'S ALPINE & ROCK GARDEN, NANOOSE**

**By Karen Unruh**

This Crevice Garden needs small plants, planted into the narrow crevices between rocks all angled in the same direction. And Alpine Shrubs are included with these plants. Our Alpine Gardeners guidance group selected a collection of shrubs and chose how they should be situated in the Crevice. They are all shrubs that can take the summer sunshine and the winter winds and coldness. They can even be used to shade tiny plants around them. Here are three of the shrubs in the Crevice portion of Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden.



***Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'White Pygmy'**

One of the conifer nurseries on line describes this cypress as 'What a cutie', and it is, with strands of feathery, white-tipped foliage producing a fine, velvety texture. It is special in that it does not take on the golden colour of so many cypresses. It provides year-round green with white tips colour in the alpine garden and will maintain its size without pruning.





*Podocarpus alpinus* 'Red tip'

Commonly called **Mountain Plum Pine**, this is an evergreen shrub native to Australia and New Zealand. The plant's newer name is *Podocarpus lawrencei* 'Red Tip'. This dwarf shrub has needle foliage that emerges burnished red in spring and matures to dark, blue green. It grows slowly to 1' tall and individual branches may spread to 3' wide with an arching habit. Inconspicuous flowers produce red berries.



*Chamaecyparis* 'Verkade's Sunburst'

This miniature globe with yellow foliage in summer and greenish in winter prefers full sun for best colour. A true miniature, it may attain a size of 9" high and 10" wide. As you can see, it is already sharing its space in the garden.

## THLASPI WITH LEAVES OF A DAISY

Small remark from Zdeněk Zvolánek



We know well the alpine *Thlaspi bellidifolium* from the marbles of Mt. Vichren in Southern Bulgaria. The flowers are nothing special and this model is very pale rose. Josef Jurášek and I have got a very different form or variety from an alpine level of Mt. Korab, the limestone peak, which is the highest mountain of three states: Albania, Kosovo and Slavonic Macedonia. It is now free for hiking. I enclose my portrait of this small *Thlaspi*, which is quite perennial in my rock garden and kind enough to give me viable seed. We do not know if this very distinct form has some botanical name, but we love this dwarf alpine plant. I keep it on the northern slope in a crevice, where it is only 5-7 cm high in flowering time, without watering or feeding. God bless wild individuals that are happy to be tamed.



## AN INTERESTING WEBSITE TO CHECK OUT

<http://www.gloria.ac.at/>

GLORIA = **GLOBAL OBSERVATION RESEARCH INITIATIVE IN ALPINE ENVIRONMENTS**

### **The purpose of GLORIA**

is to establish and maintain a world-wide long-term observation network in alpine environments. Vegetation and temperature data collected at the GLORIA sites will be used for discerning trends in species diversity and temperature. The data will be used to assess and predict losses in biodiversity and other threats to these fragile alpine ecosystems which are under accelerating climate change pressures.

There are quite a few reports and contacts to other organizations to explore as well as Vascular Plant, Bryophytes and Lichens lists and interesting photos.

The North American GLORIA chapter is:



On this first day of spring, L: just coming to an end is *Iris germanica* 'Alida', R: looking sad in the rain is *Primula marginata* 'Holden Variety'