

# "THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

Newsletter of  
The Alpine & Rock Garden Special Interest Group of the  
Qualicum Beach Garden Club

Issue # 18

Part 1

May 2013

**FROM THE EDITOR:** I am late getting this out, but seedlings needed attention and the garden kept calling. Once again this edition will be in 2 parts - thanks to all the lovely photos you have submitted - so please watch your mailbox for both pieces.

Thank you to all the contributors, including **CLIFF BOOKER**, who shares further photos of the Wengen Area of Switzerland. Cliff plans to come visit us end July 2014. Please watch "The Crevice" for further details.



*Primula farinosa*



*Pulsatilla alpina*

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## **PARKSVILLE SPCA 2014 PET CALENDAR**

Plant lovers are often animal lovers too, so if you would like to be part of this annual fundraiser showcasing wonderful creatures from this area, I'd love to hear from you. The donation per date is \$25, every penny of which goes to the Parksville Shelter. I need a photo of the animal, with his/her name, and a preferred date with alternates if that date is already taken. Photos can be emailed to me: [pmark@shaw.ca](mailto:pmark@shaw.ca) or if you have a real photo, it could be sent by snail mail to 2399 Garryoaks Drive, Nanoose Bay, V9P 9G1, I'll scan it and send it back.

I really hope to hear from you! Paddy Mark

## **UPCOMING ALPINE SIG EVENTS**

**Please Note:** *Everyone must have paid their QBGC dues in order to participate in our SIG activities .*

**Please Note Alpine SIG Members:** It is a great help to know yes or no if you are coming to an Alpine SIG event. When June sends out an email with event details and asks for an indication, please send her a quick email, so she has an accurate number for planning. Thank you.



Shade Garden Columbine

On  
**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**

The Qualicum Beach Garden Club  
**Alpine & Rock Garden Group**  
presents



**Chris Chadwell**

speaking on

**PLANT HUNTING FOR  
ALPINES IN THE BORDERLANDS OF  
WESTERN TIBET**

**Garry Oaks & Arbutus Rooms, Parksville Community Centre  
Doors open 12:30, Presentation at 1:00, Followed by Q&A,  
Refreshments. \$5 Entry Fee**



**includes Prize Draw for Plants  
including some grown from seeds  
collected on Chris's last expedition.**

**Session ends around 3:30 p.m.**

Chris Chadwell is a veteran of 27  
expeditions to the Himalayan region.

He will share his fine images of  
recent explorations for rock garden  
plants in the NW Himalaya and Little  
Tibet.

**ALSO, on WEDNESDAY, MAY 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - A HIMALAYAN SEED SEMINAR with Chris Chadwell at Alba Plants at Cowichan Bay** - Members have already had an email about this. If you haven't booked a space, please contact Valerie at [Melanson.valerie@gmail.com](mailto:Melanson.valerie@gmail.com) , to see if space is available. Cost is \$15 payable in advance. Seminar runs from 10:15 to about 1:30. Bring bag lunch. Coffee/tea provided.

**MONDAY, JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> - CARPOOL TO OWL & STUMP RARE PLANT NURSERY** at Yellowpoint, just south of Nanaimo. Watch you email for a message from June with further details, etc.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014:**

**MONDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2014:** Cliff Booker, well known alpine photographer and speaker will be in B.C. and coming to visit us.

**OTHER EVENTS**

**Kathy Claxton's Annual Sale:**

**KATHY'S 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PLANT SALE**  
Tomato Plants, Cucumber plants, assorted  
perennials and lots of Geraniums  
**Friday May 24 9am to 3 pm**  
**Friday May 31 9am to 3 pm**  
**1596 Marine Circle (Columbia Beach)**  
Small Garage Sale too.





University  
of Victoria

50  
YEARS

UVic 50th Anniversary Signature Event  
in collaboration with Finnerty Gardens Advisory Committee

## PURSuing THE WILD: The Sichuan Botanical Expedition

Thursday, 23 May 2013, 7 p.m.

David Lam Auditorium, MacLaurin building A144



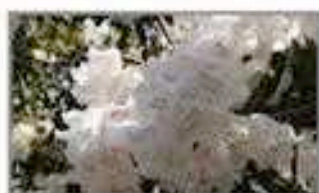
UVic Finnerty Gardens - Credit: Gary Wilmers

Attend an evening of botanical discovery as Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Farm present their 2012 plant hunting expedition to Sichuan, China. The search for new species of rhododendrons, shrubs and perennials was a fascinating trek that included fellow explorers Steve Hootman of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and Peter Cox, legendary plant hunter.

This presentation will appeal to the casual gardener, the serious plant aficionado and everyone with a love of adventure.

Free admission and everyone welcome; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets must be reserved in advance at UVic Ticket Centre: 250-721-8480 or [auditorium.uvic.ca](http://auditorium.uvic.ca).



For further information, [uvic.ca/pursuingthewild](http://uvic.ca/pursuingthewild) or [anniversary@uvic.ca](mailto:anniversary@uvic.ca) or 250-853-3606  
Visit [uvic.ca/anniversary](http://uvic.ca/anniversary) for a calendar of upcoming events

## NEWS FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS

### Tromsø Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden, Norway:

Kristain Nyvoll wrote on May 14th, "Finally spring has arrived - Drabas, saxifrages, and Pasque flowers are now in flower. Some places still bounded by ice and snow. Next Tuesday we will mark the 'Fascination of plants day'."

### Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland:

John Mitchell wrote on May 9th re: the tufa walls at the New Alpine House:

"Things are progressing well in the alpine house. We have drilled 600 holes 300 inside and the same outside which took 2 of us a week to do and about 4 drill bits. Never want to do that again and now we are planting the wall up which is great. The light at the end of the tunnel." John promises us a fuller report on the project in a future issue.



(photo by James Salomons from May 14<sup>th</sup> showing many holes and some plants)



# FOLLOW UP ON ALPINE SIG EVENTS

## TRIP TO VIEW PADDY MARK'S GARDEN

**Text by June Strandberg, photos by June and Linda Derkach**

The group had two trips, one on April 16th and the other on 21st (not to mention a little special visit for Jo!), 16 of us visited altogether.

Both days were perfect to see this beautiful garden. A Hidden Treasure, I think Mike called it! A natural rock garden where Paddy is encouraging her alpines to grow, we all envy those rocky out-crops!



The Natural Rock Garden



Lots of Garry Oak, little streams, primula, orchids, trillium and we were just in time to see the mass of *Erythronium oregonum* that grows there naturally and the *Erythronium revolutum* - another native, which Paddy has introduced.



*Erythronium revolutum*



Paddy's stream with *Primula*

The camas were still to come. Sadly the rescued *Calypso bulbosa* does not seem to have survived - but give it another year, it came back last year so maybe it's having a little sulk!!

We found Paddy's potting bench very interestingl as well as all her pots and troughs - some wonderful plants and flowers.



Paddy discusses her troughs



*Saxifraga* trough





*Anemone nemerosa*



*Erythronium oregonum*

There are lots of Rhododendrons from very large to quite small, most of them blooming at their very best and many other shrubs and trees - Garry Oak, dogwood, magnolia, cherry, camelia, redwood, dwarf conifers and never forgetting the Douglas Firs! All make a lovely picture.



*Rhododendron augustinii* 'Cerulean Blue'

Talking of forgetting - we always call this 'Paddy Mark's Garden' - but of course it is not! She has help from and helps her husband, Mark Nixon, who has bred a lot of the rhodos and accompanied us on our tour.

A big thank you to both of you for this year's perfect visits.



*A Rhododendron hybridized by Mark Nixon*

## TRIP TO MORRISON CREEK

**Text and photos by June Strandberg**



**Three happy Native Plant SIG members in a sea of Fawn Lilies  
(Carol, Jo and Margot)**



The Native Plant Group arranged this trip and invited us - we were 6. The day was a bit wet but the flowers didn't mind! The *Erythronium* were more than ever and our timing was just about right. We found other plants - a wee *Anemone*, *Trillium*, yellow violet, *Claytonia* (Miner's Lettuce), *Thalictrum* and *Aquilegia*?? - we have to go back to check out this one.



*Erythronium oregonum* - the one on the left showing particularly dark markings

We knew about the new little bridge but now there is a new big bridge too - it is so nice not to have to balance on a log or walk across that swingy thing. A big thank you to whoever made them!!



*Trillium ovatum*

## ALPINE SIG MEETING AT ESWYN GARDEN - APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>

Report and photos by June Strandberg



The rock garden was almost at its best, but of course weeds need to be pulled before they can set and scatter seed. The Alpine Group gathers in preparation for a pulling session.



The Crevice Garden showing plants starting to fill out.





*Lewisia & Penstemon in a crevice bed*

## **INSTALLATION OF GREEN ROOF AT MILNER, APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Photos by June Strandberg**

Mike Miller, who volunteers a lot of hours at VIU's Milner Gardens, was asked to create a green roof to cover half of a shed roof there. He designed a system using pool liner, wooden edge boards and plastic trays cut down from plant trays. The trays are loaded with a special mix and lots of sedums, succulents and other drought tolerant alpine. Several Alpine SIG members helped Mike by donating plants, with planting the trays and the installation, including June Strandberg, Barbara Kulla, Linda Rehlinger, Barb Lemoine and Kirsten Juergensen.



*A jigsaw of baskets filled with drought tolerant plants*



Mike installing the trays and inspecting the finished design



Project Complete - Mike Miller & LtoR - Kirsten Juergensen, Barb Lemoine, Linda Rehlinger, Barbara Kulla - photographer June Strandberg