

In memory of Eswyn

Journal of the
Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

<http://alpinegardenersofcvi.wixsite.com/agcvi>

Issue # 45

Part 2

Early Spring 2017

Table of Contents:

PART 2:

Pages 16-19: VIRAGS Spring Show & Sale, March 17-18, photos by Valerie Melanson

Pages 20-27: What's New in My Garden: Paddy Mark, Vel Rhodes & Dan Schwarz, June Strandberg & David Sellars

VIRAGS SPRING SHOW & SALE

March 17-18, 2017

Photos by Valerie Melanson

16 AGCVI Members attended the VIRAGS annual show and sale in Victoria.
Here are a few plants / displays that caught my eye:



Paul Spriggs' 'Instant' Crevice Garden at the entrance - glorious !



Tecophillea cyanocrocus won Hans Romer the "Best Plant in Show" & "People's Choice Award"

The hard winter we have endured is reflected in which genera were ready for show. This time stars were *Cyclamen*, *Fritillaria*, *Primula*. The *Tulipa* weren't quite ready and the Carnivorous Plants were still asleep ...



L: *Cyclamen libanoticum*, R: *C. parviflorum*, both shown by Andrée Conell



Erythronium tuolumnense, shown by Paul Spriggs



L: *Fritillaria carica*, shown by Hans Roemer, R: *Fritillaria pudica*, shown by Gordon Mackay



L: *Primula sinensis*, shown by Maedythe Martin, won the trophy for "Rarest Plant in the Show", R: *Primula vulgaris* ssp. *Sibthorpii*, shown by Paul Spriggs



Trough Garden by young alpine gardener, Hamish Mackay

WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - Paddy Mark

On March 4th, Paddy found several of her *Saxifraga* in bloom.



Saxifraga 'Winston' and *S.* 'Valerie Finnis'



Saxifraga sp.

WHAT'S NEW IN OUR GARDEN - Vel Rhodes & Dan Schwarz

On March 11th



Above L: *Crocus vernus*, a wild form, from 4 corms Dan won in our October 2015 prize draw, R: *Narcissus romieuxii*, also a prize draw win.



A February purchase off the Library table, *Iris reticulata* 'Eye Catcher'

By March 15, things were happening in the garden proper:



Chrysosplenium macrophyllum aka Giant Golden Saxifrage



A lovely patch of *Cyclamen coum*



Helleborus sp., grown from wild seed collected in Slovenia



Scoliopus bigelovii

WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - June Strandberg

In March June too had a plethora of lovely *Saxifraga*



L: *Saxifraga* 'Cathy Read', R: *Saxifraga* 'Gloriana' & *Saxifraga* 'Marianna'



Saxifraga 'Your Success' and *Saxifraga* 'Lismore Carmine'



L: *Saxifraga jenkinsiae*, R: *Saxifraga* 'Allendale Beau'



L: *Draba kotschyi*



Saxifraga growing on tufa

WHAT'S NEW IN MY ALPINE HOUSE - David Sellars

On March 14th, David had these beauties flowering in the Alpine House:



Tulipa cretica

This tulip is endemic to the island of Crete where it grows in very large colonies. According to the Pacific Bulb Society it is rare in cultivation. I grew this from seed from the Alpine Garden Club of BC seed exchange. The seed was sown in January, 2011 and this is the first year of flowering. It is potted in sand, leaf mould and quarter inch grit.



Fritillaria gibbosa

This fritillary is native to Iran, Afghanistan and neighbouring countries where it grows in open, stony or sandy places hot in summer. It is the most widespread species of the *Rhinopetalum* group. It needs to be kept dry during the summer and I stop watering immediately after flowering. I got this plant from Roger Barlow in 2007 during a period when he was growing *Fritillaria* from seed. It is potted in sand, leaf mould and quarter inch grit.



Gardener's Calendar

When Forsythia blooms, plant first peas.

When Forsythia finishes, do last pruning of roses.

When Lily of Valley blooms, it's time to plant tomatoes.

When Mock Orange is in bloom, it's time to seed winter veg.

If dandelions are in blooms, it's time to plant potatoes.