



"THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

Journal of the
Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

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

Issue # 37

PART 2

Late Summer 2015

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AGCVI ACTIVITIES REPORTS continued

AGCVI GARDEN TOUR - Monday, May 25, 2015

**Report and photos by Margaret Castenmiller
(with additional photos by Valerie Melanson)**

The garden tour this year is in Qualicum Beach North, starting at Qualicum River Estates on Ashling Road.

Bridget Rowledge's garden is the first stop and after a nice climb up her

driveway we enjoy peace and quiet and a gorgeous view, a fabulous display of Alpine and Native Perennials, some of them growing right in between the gravel and rock.



The second garden visit is at my house, where we have lived a year and a half now, so one of the newest gardens we visited with at least another 10 or 20 years of work. I have two little Alpine Gardens and a veggie garden starting in the front yard where it is very hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Eventually we would like to grow all blueberries in the rest of the front yard. In the back we have a shady and herb gardens as well as a flowerbed mixed with the wild ferns and native plants, Rhodos, Lilacs, Irises, lots of wild Foxgloves that I love, some Peonies and Hydrangea and a tree stump growing native Honeysuckle.



The 3rd garden is at Betty Jablonski's - it also had this perfect balance between unspoiled forest trails and manicured yard, a fabulous veggie garden and great playing space for the grandchildren. My eye fell on the Bob's Blue Rhodos and a great greenhouse.



Then we where off to the 4th garden, Carol Senecal's - 4 acres of mature beauty everywhere you look, perfect spots to sit and contemplate. My favourites where the old but majestic hazelnut tree,



the variegated Lilac,



the cute shed covered with clematis and a Sambuccus plant, just to name a few.

Last but not least was Linda Derkach's gorgeous garden on the ocean across from the bird sanctuary - lots of gorgeous birds singing and playing on the beach and around the garden.



Here I just could not stop admiring all the plants in pots, some of my favourites -



the braided Blooming Wisteria, the Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa*), blueberries, a wide variety of Rhodos and incredible front yard with red Valerian, Rosemary and all kinds of Geraniums. There were so many different beautiful flowers I did not know where to look. We had our coffee/ tea here (thanks Linda) and some yummy Sea Shell chocolates Jo brought.



We got a chance to do a raffle and to buy the beautiful book "The Public Rhododendron Gardens of Vancouver Island" signed by Ian Efford himself. What a fabulous turnout with 20 or so beautiful gardeners, it was another fun and educational afternoon, thanks to June and the Programme Committee for making this possible.

TRIP TO PARADISE MEADOWS, JUNE 27, 2015

Report and photos by June Strandberg

We had a good day, just Margot and I. All the autumn flowers are out, I would say 6 weeks ahead of usual - pink and white burnets coming into bloom and lots of King Gentian all over the place. Other years we have gone up in August to see them. Butterwort was still out and the Sundew a little bit bigger with flowers but the heathers just about gone. I don't think they made much of a show this year. The Veratrum doing very well and lots of flower buds

not out yet - remember last year we hardly saw a bloom? The Rhododendron was at its very best with lovely flowers.

I think we found a couple not on our lists, Yellow Monkeyflower and American Brooklime (*Mimulus guttatus* and *Veronica beccabunga* ssp. *Americana*, below).



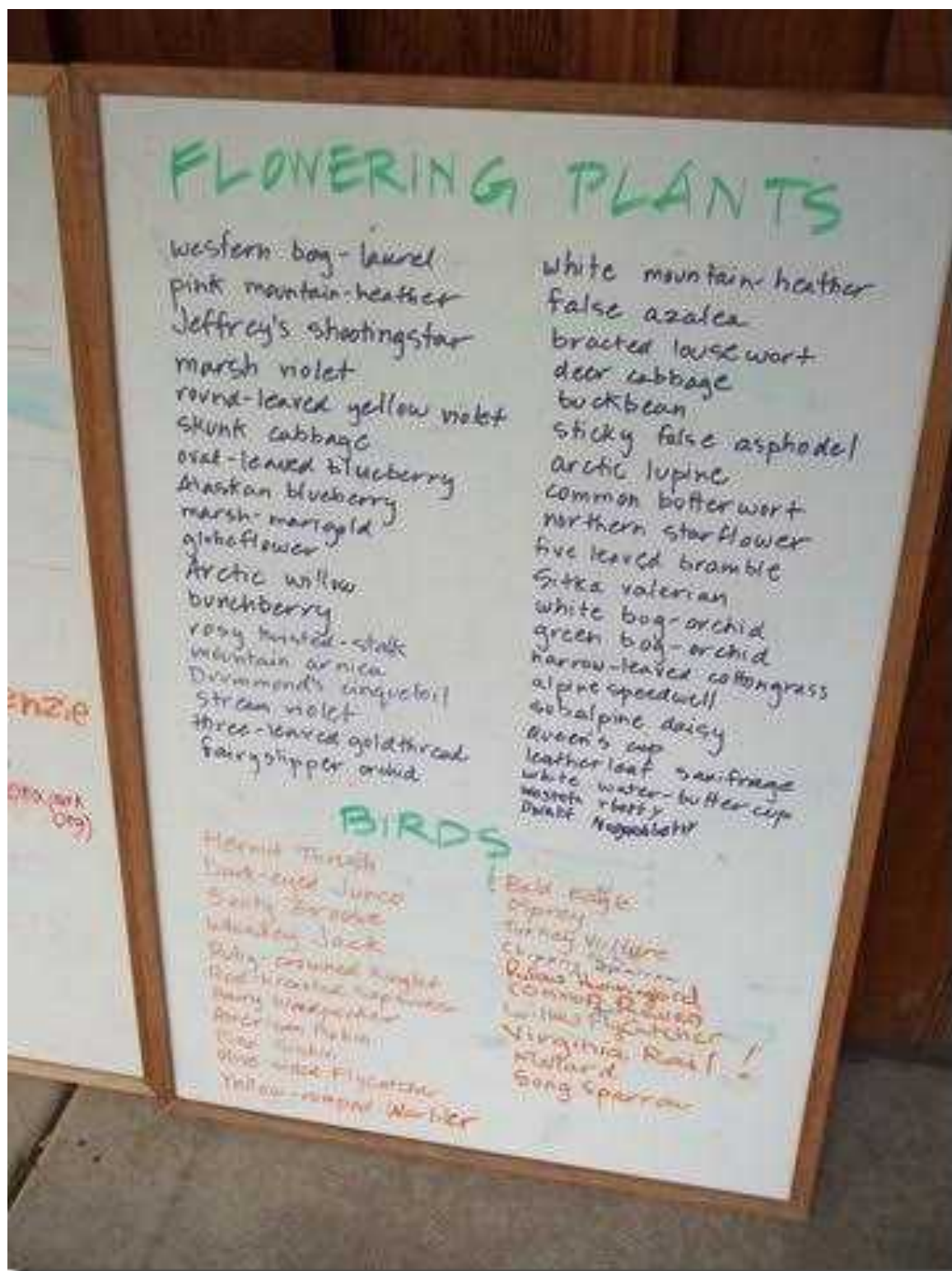


Sanguisorba

We had a good day and it was not so hot up there - though we found the last part a bit of a grind!! Goodness knows what we will find in August - the level of the ponds is down and the usual rushing little streams are dry.



View across the lake to Mount Washington



The plant list posted at the Strathcona Wilderness Institute office.

The Carnivorous plant contingent:



Drosera rotundifolia, at the lake's edge.



Pinguicula vulgaris



Platanthera dilatata



Rhododendron albiflorum



Coptis asplenifolia in seed

FURTHER COMMENTS & PHOTOS from MARGOT MOSER:

June and I had a great day yesterday but were very sorry Sue and Barb couldn't come too. These pictures are definitely not Sue-quality but some of my favorites. I couldn't believe how many plant names I forgot. I'm still consulting E-Flora BC to figure out which orchids are which but we know *Platanthera dilatata* - fragrant rein orchid - for certain now. Getting down to confirm ID by sniffing the flowers can be a challenge however.

It must have been about 11:30am when we got to Paradise Meadows (it took 1 hour and 15 minutes to drive back to June's). At that time, the temperature was 25C at the bottom of the mountain and 20C at PM.

When we got back to the car after our walk, I asked June to guess the time and temperature. I think June guessed the time to be 2:15pm (please correct me if I'm wrong June) and that the temp was 24C. I guessed 3pm and 22C. It actually was 4:30pm and 25C. We were so surprised!



L: *Cornus Canadensis* R: and Below, the others are all orchids.



Oh, but it was so dry up there! It upset me to think summer has barely begun but June reminded me that they do get more rain than we do further south. I hope not too many plants succumb to the weather but you can see some already shrivelling. There were far fewer of some species like creeping dogwood than I recall from previous trips but I am sure things vary from year to year.



L: *Sanguisorba menziesii*, R: *Rhododendron albiflorum*

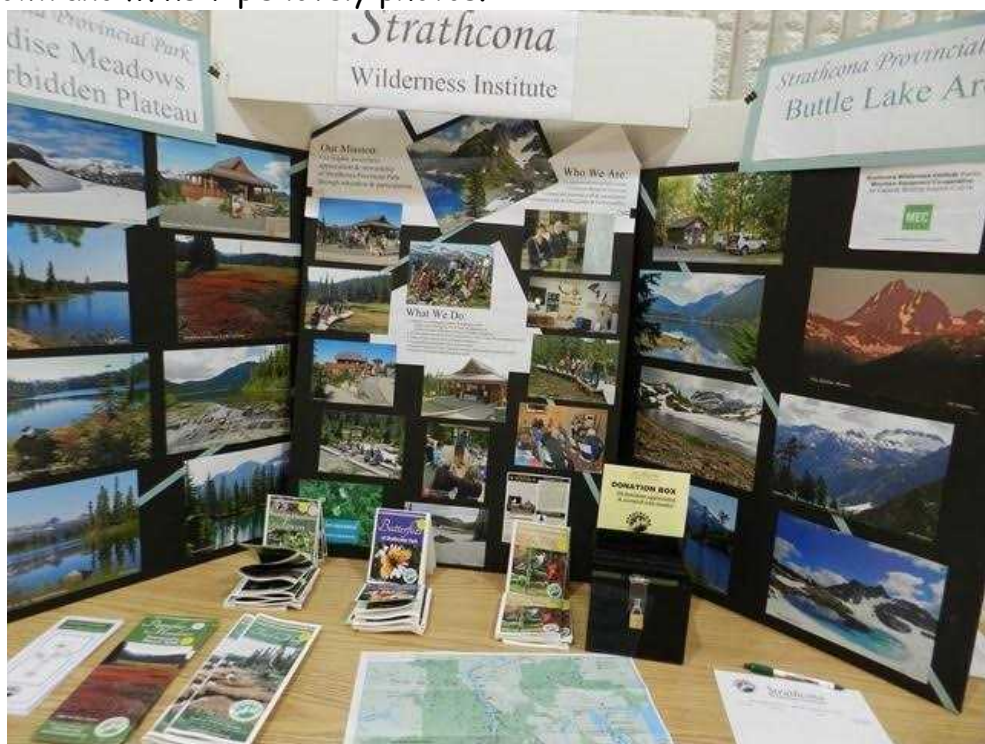
KRISTA KAPTEIN VISIT TO AGCVI, JUNE 29th

Photos by Kirsten Juergensen, report by Valerie Melanson



Krista gave us a presentation on "Beyond Paradise". Paradise Meadows in Strathcona Provincial Park is a unique area of subalpine fens & meadows with rare & unusual flora. The presentation

went beyond Paradise Meadows, through the forests, to the lakes, meadows & vistas of the broader Forbidden Plateau area. Krista also mentioned a bit of Strathcona Park history and some background on Strathcona Wilderness Institute Society, who operate the two visitor centres in Strathcona Park and organize nature walks & hikes in the Park. She also had a lovely display and pamphlets for sale on the Birds, Plants, Butterflies and Trails of the park, using her own and Mike Yip's lovely photos.



We had our traditional plant prize draw and there were other plants - from Marion Summerer and Ian Efford - available to good homes.



A

A BIG THANK YOU

On August 10th Mike put on a "Planting in Tufa" Workshop. It was held at Jan's and much enjoyed by all participants - a big Thank You to Mike for all your help and to Jan and Toad for the use of your building and all the goodies. Watch for a photo report in the fall issue of "The Crevice".

WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - June Strandberg

August 6th

This campanula is, I think, a double form of *Campanula cochlearifolia*, it is trying to take over the whole trough!



I thought the convolvulus has died the winter before last but a tiny piece survived in the middle of a campanula - which is where it now lives.



Convolvulus sabatius

This *Dryas* blooms in the spring and then on and off all through the year.



Dryas octopetala 'Tundra Pygmy'

The leaves are from one of our maples which thinks fall had come in July!
I have removed most of them but it is a never ending job.



Gentiana paradox 'Blue Herald'

PHOTOS FROM OUR HIKES ON THE BEAUFORT RANGE THIS SUMMER

By Vel Rhodes & Dan Schwarz



Brodiaea coronaria



Eriophyllum lanatum



Above - Anyone have any idea what this plant might be?



Pyrola picta



Platanthera dilatata This is the nicest patch we have ever seen. It has a very beautiful scent and is growing in a seepage area in full sun.



A close-up of *Platanthera dilatata*



Monotropa uniflora

PLANT PORTRAIT - *Edraianthus serbicus*

Text and photos by Valerie Melanson



This *Edraianthus serbicus* bloomed this June in my garden in an interesting flat star formation. I note in my propagation journal that it was grown from Alplains seed #76314.01, started on February 17, 2014, 12 seeds, surface sown, needing light to germinate on granite/seed starter mix with 6 weeks cold stratification, then 20C on a hot mat in a lighted dome covered seed tray. There was one sprout by April 12th and on June 5th I potted up 1 to keep and 8 others. My specimen plant is sunk in another pot of gritty soil in a dry part of the rock garden with a *Aquilegia scopulorum*, *Penstemon davidsonii* x *menziesii* 'Tolmei Peak', *Castilleja miniata*, and *Campanula cochlearifolia* for company. All appreciate the good drainage, full sun and limited moisture.



Closeup of cluster.

Now that seed has set, the plant has put more oomph into its leaves:



More information:

Alpains notes that the plant can grow to 6 inches high by 12 inches wide, and is a perennial, hardy to Zone 6.

The online AGS Plant Encyclopedia says:

"This closely resembles *E. dalmaticus*, but the leaves are longer, 5-9cm, the outer bracts are as long as the flowers or shorter, and the flowers are themselves longer and frequently more numerous, six to twelve in the cluster. Yugoslavia and Bulgaria."

Late summer colour in the garden. Unfortunately, both beloved by deer:



L: *Lobelia cardinalis* 'Fried Green Tomatoes', R: *Lobelia speciosa* 'Vulcan Red'