



"THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

Journal of the
Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

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

Issue # 45

Part 1

Early Spring 2017

FROM THE EDITOR: *This issue has grown so with many lovely photos and therefore it will be in 3 PARTS. I don't want to delay some of the material in the first 2 parts any further, so am sending them out now. As soon as it is complete, Part 3 will follow.*

My heartfelt Thank You to all the contributors to this issue - you make it worthwhile.

Please consider sharing YOUR photos, tips & tricks, sources, portraits of favourite plants, reviews of useful books, etc. Contributions are gratefully received at

Melanson.valerie@gmail.com.

Deadlines for 2017: June 15th for Late Spring-Early Summer, August 15th for Late Summer, October 15th for Fall.

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UPCOMING AGCVI SPECIAL EVENTS

MARK THESE 2017 SPECIAL SPEAKERS & EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW.



Present **DAVID SELLARS**



To speak on

Chaos in the Rock Garden: Putting Theory into Practice

Monday, April 24, 2017, 1-3 p.m.
(doors open 12:30),

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

**\$10 at door (\$5 for AGCVI, ABC-BC &
VIRAGS members) includes entry in prize
draw & coffee/tea & goodies.**



This talk is about rock garden design and how it relates to natural landscapes and preferred plant habitats. An introduction to Chaos Theory is followed by explorations to find natural crevice gardens in the mountains. The presentation concludes with a case study of how to plan and construct a rock garden that reflects mountain forms and attributes.



David Sellars is the Past President of the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia and 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>

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



GIANT PLANT SALE



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

9 am to 1 pm

**886 Primrose Street,
in Hermitage Park,
Qualicum Beach**



**Alpines, Annuals, Perennials,
Vegetables, Shrubs, Gardening Bits and
Bobs and more.**

Come early for the best selection.

Need more info?

Contact June at normjune@shaw.ca

Monday, May 8th - Alan McMurtrie of reticulatas.com, will speak on his work breeding new cultivars, good *Iris* for the rock garden, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 1 pm (doors 12:30). \$10 at the door (\$5 for members of AGCVI, VIRAGS & AGC-BC) includes refreshments & prize draw.

Monday, June 12th - Jiri Papousek from the Czech Republic, will speak on "Small Daphnes & Their Cultivation", Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 1 pm (doors 12:30). \$10 at the door (\$5 for members of AGCVI, VIRAGS & AGC-BC) includes refreshments & prize draw.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT VIRAGS

VANCOUVER ISLAND ROCK AND ALPINE
GARDEN SOCIETY PRESENTS

BERT HENDRIKSEN

HOW TO SUCCEED IN GROWING CACTI IN
ROCK GARDENS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND



Melocactus harlowii. Macabombo Guantanamo Province, Cuba

Bert Hendriksen, past President of the Victoria Cactus and Succulent Society for 5 years, loves to travel to cactus habitats above 3000 metres to collect seeds for his garden in Nanaimo. Free and open to the public, come and enjoy what is sure to be an inspiring presentation.

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 - 7:30pm
Gordon Head United Church Hall
4201 Tyndall, Victoria BC

Visit our website @ www.virags.ca

Or find us on facebook @ vancouver island rock and alpine garden society

In case you can't attend our meeting with Alan McMurtrie, VIRAGS will also be hearing about his work.

VANCOUVER ISLAND ROCK AND ALPINE
GARDEN SOCIETY PRESENTS

ALAN MCMURTRIE

MAGICAL CANADIAN BRED RETICULATA IRIS



This Talk will focus on Alan's work, from his early days of hunting species Iris in Turkey, to his achievements in hybridizing dwarf Reticulata Iris. This talk is not to be missed as Alan McMurtrie is on the cutting edge of Canadian Horticulture. All are welcome.

Admission by donation
Tuesday, May 9, 2017 - 7:30pm
Gordon Head United Church Hall
4201 Tyndall, Victoria BC

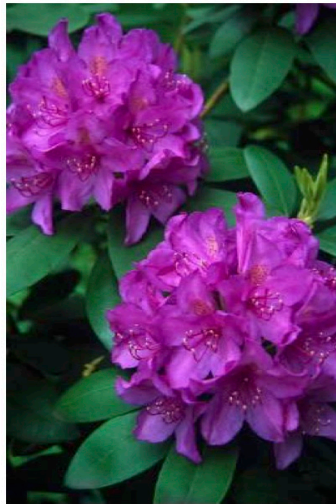
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June 13 - Jiri Papousek, Topic: Diversity of methods of growing alpine in the Czech garden, TBC. Watch for further details via an email.

September 12 - Bill McMillan, Topic: My Experiences Growing Gentians
October 10 - Tony Reznick, Topic TBA
November 14 - Member Photo Show

OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE



Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron
Society Presents the 25th annual

Rhodo Show & Sale

Saturday April 22, 2017

PARKSVILLE CURLING CLUB

(Highway 19A & Corfield)

10 am till 2 pm

Admission FREE

***This popular MARS event brings vendors from the
mainland, all over Vancouver Island. Come and view
the tables of rhodo blooms on display; vote for your
favorite and shop for the unusual -- rhodos,
Japanese maples and more***

Coffee, snacks available
For more information: 250-752-3694

EAGLECREST GARDEN CLUB

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Perennials, shrubs, annuals, herbs,
vegetables, succulents, garden
bargains, etc

531 YAMBURY ROAD
QUALICUM BEACH

8 am till noon

SATURDAY

APRIL 22.

Master Gardener on site



Nanoose Garden Club

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 13th

9am—1pm

Nanoose Library Centre

Northwest Bay Road

Vegetables • Heritage Tomatoes • Perennials

Master Gardeners in Attendance



LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

Book Sale • Bake Sale

Car Boot Sale

New & Used Garden Treasures

Bring Your Family, Friends & Neighbours!

For More Info Contact Loraine (250) 468-9749



ESWYN ALPINE & ROCK GARDEN REPORT

Three Crocus in Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden this 'Spring'.

By Karen Unruh

Crocus is a genus in the *Iridaceae* family, about 90 species, mostly found in Europe, North Africa and Asia. Species that bloom in the spring need a cold dormancy, whereas those that bloom in the fall need a warm, summer dormancy.

I have added information to this study that I obtained from the books of E. A. Bowles, (1865-1954) a plantsman of great esteem. I especially appreciated his book *My Garden in Spring* (1914). *A Handbook of Crocus and Colchium for Gardeners* was published in 1924 and revised in 1952.

Crocus do produce a seed pod at the end of the stem or below or at ground level. They are usually not noticed as this is usually well after the plant flowers. Underground, a new corm grows on top of the old corm, which then dies. Sometimes extra corms are produced which helps the spread of the plant. In studying how *Crocus* seedlings 'move' from where they were planted, Bowles describes how the plant forms an outgrowth called a starch root which feeds the developing corm and then withers and contracts, but the end is attached, and this pulls the corm down deeper and often sideways from where the seedling was planted... thus he always kept seeds or seedlings in pots for two years before being planted out in rows in the *Crocus* beds to assure plant name accuracy.

These three *Crocus* are blooming this Spring, I believe for the first time. They were obtained as bulblets from Hans Roemer in September, 2014 and planted in Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden. Thank you Hans, for propagating these *Crocus*...they are a treasure in Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden.



Crocus etruscus, spring bloom, pinky-mauve, medium size.
This species is from woodlands in NW Italy. It is easy to grow in sun or part sun in deciduous woodland and fields. It can tolerate moist conditions throughout the year.



Crocus versicolor, spring bloom, white with dark veins, small-medium size.

This species grows in southern France and NW Italy on stony and grassy places and in open woodland. It is easily grown in gardens given well drained soil. And it is tolerant of summer moisture.



Crocus biflorus 'Fairy', spring bloom, white/pale purple, medium size, damaged by our snowfalls.

This species has at least 15 subspecies. Their native habitat is from Italy to Iran. E. A. Bowles raised many *Crocus biflorus* cultivars, but I could not find *C. biflorus* 'Fairy' in his writings.

PLANT PORTRAIT: *Nototriche macleanii*

By Ger van den Beuken, The Netherlands

Nototriche is a genus of the high Andes in Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Peru, and belongs to the Malvaceae family. Several species are described, but as far as I know only a few are in cultivation. During our expeditions in South America we have seen different species like



Nototriche compacta and *Nototriche aretioides* in the higher Mountains of Central Patagonia in Argentina.

We found *Nototriche turritella*



on a lava slope in fine sand on the Volcan Taäpaca in northern Chile above 5200 m.

And we found another undescribed species on the shore of Lago Chungara, very close to the Bolivian border.



Nototriche macleanii is an endemic species from the south of Peru, where it grows in fine lava or between bigger lava rocks, up to more than 5000 metres in altitude. It has affinities with *N. aretioides*, but is more decorative, with large stem-less crocus-like violet blue flowers, more than 4 cm wide on hairy rosettes.

Although winter hardiness is not a concern, it is advisable to protect against rain or snow and therefore keep the plants under glass or preferably in an alpine house. The soil I use is composed of lava grit mixed up with sand, perlite and a very small part of peat. It is important to keep the pH level below 6.

The only way of propagation is by cuttings during spring and summer.

AGCVI MEETING REPORTS

Monday, February 27, 2017

Photos by Kirsten Juergensen





Mike Miller gave a presentation on propagating Rhododendrons by cuttings, layering and seed sowing. Mike noted that when surface sowing fine seeds, upon watering they tend to migrate to the sides of the pot, so putting a little cross of plastic (above) in the centre, and scattering them around that, helps keep them in the middle of the pot.



Show What You Grow: Mike and other members brought in *Iris reticulata* 'Eye Catcher' and other lovelies to share.