

# "THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

Newsletter of the

Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

(formerly The Alpine & Rock Garden Special Interest Group  
of the Qualicum Beach Garden Club)

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## REPORT FROM THE ESWYN ALPINE & ROCK GARDEN

### Report and photos by Elaine Bohm

The following were recent flowers in the crevice portion of the garden:



L: *Gentiana* 'Blue Herald', donated by June Strandberg & planted in the fall of 2012;

R: *Potentilla verna* 'Nana', donated by June Strandberg



*Cypella herbertii*, "Goblet flower", an iris-relative native to eastern South America. A spectacular blossom that lasts only one day. June gave some to Eswyn some years ago so they must have been transplanted from one of her groupings.



*Campanula aucheri* (#56 on June's list) - seed from Rocky Mountain Rare Plants #1942.V





This one is also from the crevice area but I don't know its name. Can you help with identification?

### **Wallis bulb and seed accessions July '13**

***by Grahame Ware, Owl and Stump Rare Plant Nursery***

Rannveig and Bob Wallis have been a force in alpine horticulture for decades. The retired professional couple has a particular affinity for bulbs that they have botanized in the wild. From their nursery in Wales, Buried Treasure, they trial and cultivate their finds usually from seed. Through this process they have found and selected many of the best forms and garden performers in the bulb cosmos.

I recently received an order from them in the mail. Unlike many bulb and alpine nurseries in the UK, they agreed to send it with my suggested instructions i.e. "botanical specimens" and 'No commercial value'. Good old form CN22! Using their catalogue comments (with a little editing plus pictures), I present my recent purchase from them.

*-Grahame Ware, August 2, 2013*

CUSTOMS DECLARATION		CN 22	
DECLARATION DE CONTENU		May be opened officially Peut être ouvert d'office	
Free <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial sample <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> See instructions on the back			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gifts <input type="checkbox"/> Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial sample <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Tick one or more boxes	
Quantity and detailed description of contents (1) Quantité et description détaillée des contenus	Weight (in kg) (2) Poids	Value (3) Valeur	
64 small cat specimens		NO commercial value	
<b>For commercial items only</b> If known, HS tariff number (4) and country of origin of goods (5) N° tarifaire du SH et pays d'origine des marchandises (si connus)		Total Weight Poids total (in kg) (6)	Total Value (7) Valeur totale
		106g	
I, the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item, certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by legislation or by postal or customs regulations. Date and sender's signature (8)			
K W allis 22.7.13			

Customs declaration on outside of a small cardboard shipping box

## Bulbs





***Eucomis autumnale* ssp *amaryllidifolia*** - In our opinion, one of Jim Archibald's best introductions from S Africa. Dwarf "pineapple top" over neat foliage. Green flowers on a dense stem in mid-summer. Dry in winter, water in summer. 3 year old seedlings.

***Fritillaria oliveri*** A robust species in the *crassifolia* group from moist fields in the Zagros mountains of Iran.



*Fritillaria oliverii* RHS PC shown by Jim McGregor

***Fritillaria whittallii*** One of our favourites which blooms a bit later than the majority of our fritillaries. Elegant green and purple chequered bells on 12-20 cm stems.

***Hyacinthella glabrescens*** This one is named after its smooth, grey-green leaves but the striking racemes of lovely blue bells are why we grow and show it.



*Hyacinthella glabrescens*

***Hyacinthella heldreichii*** ex RRW92103 from the central Cilician Taurus. A beautiful dark blue-flowered selected form from one of our wild collections.



*Hyacinthella heldreichii* ex RRW92103



***Ipheion 'Jessie'*** A beautiful seedling of 'Rolf Fiedler' with bluer, darker flowers.



*Ipheion 'Rolf Fiedler'* on left, and..... *Ipheion 'Jessie'* on right

***Narcissus albidus* RRW8853** Afourer, Morocco. Robust large-flowered hoop petticoat with huge white trumpets. Very similar to the prize winning SF 110.

***Narcissus confusus*** Dwarf deep yellow trumpet section species from the Salamancas, Spain



*Narcissus confusus*

***Ornithogalum nanum* RRW00031** A particularly dwarf form of this alpine turf plant. Excellent for a pan or pot.



*Ornithogalum nanum* RRW00031

***Ornithogalum sibthorpii*** Very similar to *O. nanum* but has grooved flower stalks. A flat topped umbel of white flowers. (GW: NB, the roots are cylindrical unlike the spherically-shaped *O. nanum*. See pics below. Also: this sp. is *sibthorpii* not *sibthorpiana*.)







*Ornithogalum sibthorpii*

***Romulea bulbocodium* var. *leichtliniana*** I am pleased to be able to offer this outstanding white form with a larger yellow centre, dark feathering. Good as any Crocus.



*Romulea bulbocodium* var. *leichtliniana*

***Romulea clusiana*** Gibraltar. Ex a J. Hulme collection. The wide-ranging *R. bulbocodium* defies attempts to divide it up into races & the current botanical fashion is one of despair. Almost all are 'Grouped' and thrown together. Nevertheless some plants from SE Spain, which have been called *R. clusiana*, are particularly splendid & desirable horticulturally with large flowers in rich violet with extensive yellow-orange centres. This one is from an extremely fine selected form of the best of these.



*Romulea clusiana*

***Romulea nivalis*** Pale lilac flowers open in the sun to reveal white insides. A superb snow melt plant from the, currently war-torn, Anti-Lebanon mountains.



*Romulea nivalis*



***Scilla melaina*** A fine garden plant with a profusion of Prussian blue flowers. Likes cool, moist well-drained conditions.



### Seeds

***Hyacinthus orientalis* subsp. *chionophylla*** The better of *orientalis* subspecies for a pot as it has broad prostrate leaves and shorter, stronger stems which remain upright rather than flopping. It retains the incredible scent. From rock crevices at **high altitude** in Central Turkey. A perfect alpine Hyacinth for the rock garden!



*Hyacinthus orientalis* var. *chionophylla*

***Iris stenophylla*** Another stunning, dwarf Juno and much easier to keep going than *I persica*. From central Turkey.



*Iris stenophylla*

NB: It is worth knowing that the Wallis 'season' is over. If AGCVI members want to get in on an order, I would be more than happy to coordinate it for next July when their next list comes out.

The Wallis' will be having a seed list makes its way out in September and there may be some goodies worth going in on as well.

## **WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - Elaine Bohm**



*Hebe pimeleoides* "Quick Silver"



## WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - Lori Pross



*Armeria maritima* 'Joy'



*Calceolaria* 'John Innes'



*Primula capitata* 'Salvana'



*Delosperma cooperi*



*Hosta* 'Little Princess'





*Erigeron aureus*



*Sedum* sp. ? - Can you help with identifying the genus and species ?

## **WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - June Strandberg**

A few from my garden in bloom now.





L: *Convolvulus sabatius*, from Allsbrook , R: *Daphne jasminea* 'Delphi Form', from Wrightman



L: *Gentiana* 'Blue Herald', grown from seed, R: *Geranium* 'Ballerina', from Mike Miller



L: *Origanum rotundifolium* 'Kent Beauty', from Allsbrook, R: Just a sedum but it's out now and it's yellow amongst all the blues and mauves! - it just came



## WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN – Kirsten Juergensen



*Gentiana septemfida* - "Crested Gentian", blooms Summer to September, 6-12" tall.

### PLANT PORTRAIT

#### ***Brunnera macrophylla* - Woodlander for Foliage and Flowers**

by Todd Boland

**Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden**

In recent years a number of popular garden ornamentals have enjoyed resurgence in popularity primarily due to their foliage ... *Heuchera*, *Pulmonaria* and *Epimedium* immediately come to mind. Perhaps less well known but also the focus of modern-day plant breeders is the genus *Brunnera*, commonly known as Siberian Bugloss or False Forget-me-not. The genus *Brunnera* contains only three species but only one is grown in cultivation, *B. macrophylla*, a native of Eastern Europe. It is a member of the Borage Family, *Boraginaceae*, being related to such plants as borage, lungwort and Virginian bluebells. The genus was named after a 19<sup>th</sup> century Swiss botanist named Samuel Brunner.

In the wild, *Brunnera* grows in reasonably moist, deciduous woodlands. In the garden, they prefer dappled shade and humus-rich soil. In cooler summer regions they can tolerate morning sun if the soil remains reasonably moist. In early-mid spring plants



produce wiry stems topped with open clusters of blue or rarely white, 'forget-me-not'-like flowers. At this stage the leaves are still quite small. After blooming, the rounded to heart-shaped leaves increase significantly in size to reach upwards of a foot across. If well grown, these plants can assume the role of a groundcover in shady areas. They are quite deer-resistant. While rated hardy to zone 3, their leaves are prone to scorching in summer if exposed to too much sun or wind.

While the straight species is very attractive, in recent years there has been a rash of new cultivars grown primarily for their decorative foliage. Among the older cultivars are 'Variegata' (aka 'Dawson's White') with wide, irregular white margins and 'Hadspen Cream' with narrower, yellowish-cream margins. 'Langtrees' is another older cultivar with silver-spotted margins and is the parent that has lead to the many newer silver-leaved cultivars.

There are currently several cultivars that range in foliage colour from silver spotted to entirely silver. 'Emerald Mist' is a vast improvement over 'Langtrees' with margins boldly spotted in silver.



*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Emerald Mist'

'Jack Frost' was the harbinger of the really silver-leaved *Brunnera* and probably the most responsible for the surge in the popularity of *Brunnera*. This selection, which was released in 2001, has silver leaves with green veins.



*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost'

'Looking Glass', released in 2003, has foliage that is essentially completely silver.



*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Looking Glass'

Hot off the bench is 'King's Ransom' which has the silver leaves of 'Jack Frost' but with the added attraction of white-margined leaves! Just introduced this year is 'Alexander's Great', a 'Jack Frost' look-alike with leaves up to a foot across!



Yellow foliage is always in hot demand and thus plant breeders are now looking at *Brunnera* as a possible source for yellow-foliaged woodlanders. 'Spring Yellow' comes quite close with spring foliage that is heavily spotted in yellow-green lending the leaves a chartreuse colour that contrasts beautifully with the blue flowers. The leaves turn greener as the season progresses. 'Diane's Gold' retains its yellow-chartreuse colour all summer. It is more compact than many *Brunnera* and has lighter blue flowers. It is sensitive to excess sun so give it shade. The newest and best of the yellow-variegated selections is 'Gold Strike' whose leaves are irregularly streaked and blotched in yellow. This striking colour remains all season.



*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Gold Strike'

If white is your preference for woodland plants, then *Brunnera* can still fit the bill. The cultivar 'Betty Bowring' (aka 'Betsy Baring') and 'Marley's White' are essentially white-flowered version of the regular species while 'Mr. Morse' is a white-flowered version of 'Jack Frost'.

Some of these newer *Brunnera* are still limited in quantities and fetch rather high prices, but plants are long-lived and clump-up quickly so the initial investment is probably worthwhile. In addition, prices drop over time. I can remember paying \$35 for 'Jack Frost' when I first saw it on the market but now they are regularly sold for \$15 or lower. So if an expensive cultivar strikes your fancy, be patient!

**PLANT PORTRAIT - *Symphyandra zanzegura***  
**syn. *Symphyandra zangezura*, *Campanula zanzegura*,**  
***Symphyandra zanzegur*,**  
**aka Caucasian Ring Bellflower**

**by Valerie Melanson**



This beautiful Campanula family member came to my garden several years ago when I purchased a Rock Stars plant at Brentwood Bay Nursery, down Victoria way, while on a 2008 QBGC bus trip.

In my garden this species is biennial and monocarpic, but self seeds so I always have a baby or two coming along. This is fortuitious as I have not succeeded yet in collecting viable seed. It blooms and blooms and blooms all summer. The buds blow up like little lilac balloons before bursting open and the petals reflex prettily. It enjoys sun to part sun, regular, well-drained soil and moderate moisture. It can tolerate drought but the flowers last longer with moisture.

From **Wikipedia**: "*Symphyandra* is a genus of 10-12 species of flowering plants in the family Campanulaceae, mainly native to the eastern part of the Mediterranean region in Asia Minor, the Balkans, and Crete, but with one species in eastern Asia in Korea."



Their leaves are arranged in a basal rosette (hence 'ring' bellflower) and are commonly heart-shaped with toothed margins.

The species name derives from a region in Armenia. Armeniapedia notes: re: "Simfiandra Zangezuri": "Formerly widely spread in Zangezur and Meghri regions. Now the natural habitat has decreased. The population in Kajaran has completely disappeared. It is on the list of Rare and Endangered plants of Armenia. These are the Endangered and Rare plants of Armenia, as listed in the Red Book. These plants may or may not be rare in other parts of the world, and the list is about 20 years old, so it is already out date, but it is the best information available. Information on where the plants were found, etc, will be added in time. Grows on rocky and shadowy hill slopes, in the sub-alpine zone. It is a highly decorative species due to its very beautiful leaves. Full control over the populations should be established. Should be included in the Botanical park of Yerevan."



close up of bud inflating before opening

I recommend this one for your rock garden but allow an area of 2 to 3 feet as, if happy, it will fill the area with its heart shaped leaves and lilac blooms.



The fused anthers typical of a *Symphyandra* genus member. In *Campanula* they are separated.