

# "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)

Issue # 22

Part 1

September 2013

## **FROM THE EDITOR:**

### **A Contest:**

An quote seen somewhere, apropos to our passion and to our special seminar on November 2nd -

**"We garden because we remember Paradise".**

I wrote it in the front of an old garden journal, with no attribution !

Can you tell me the author of this quote or the literary work from which it comes?

[Melanson.valerie@gmail.com](mailto:Melanson.valerie@gmail.com).

Prize for the first correct answer - a copy of Zdenek Zvolanek's AGS book:

"The Crevice Garden and its Plants".

FYI: Paradise originated (via French *paradis* which came from Latin *paradisus* which came from Greek *paradeisos*) from Ancient Iranian *parai diz* meaning 'walled around'.

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## **NEWS FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS**

### **ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS EDINBURGH -**

**NEWS FLASH:** The new crevice garden and alpine meadow have been installed - we will hope for an update from John Mitchell in a future issue of "The Crevice".

## **UPCOMING AGofCVI EVENTS**

**Please Note:** *Everyone must have paid their QBGC dues in order to participate in our SIG activities.* A matter of insurance coverage, etc. This is in effect until the end of December when we will have our own AGCVI dues and insurance for 2014.

**Please Note Members:** It is a great help to know yes or no if you are coming to an Alpine Gardeners 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.

NB: NO MT. COKELEY HIKE THIS YEAR DUE TO FIRE CLOSURES & NOW PAST FLOWERING SEASON. WE WILL TRY AGAIN NEXT YEAR !!

**Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 1 p.m.:** **Regular Alpine Gardeners Group Meeting**, at Nanoose Place - Discussion on Preparing Your Plants for Winter, Seed Submissions to AGCBC, Elections for Executive and Board Positions in new group, Venue for Christmas Lunch. A chance to visit the Eswyn Garden and do some weeding, so bring along your kneeling pad, bucket and tools, if you would like to help.

EARLY OCTOBER - POSSIBLE FALL COLOUR HIKE TO PARADISE MEADOWS / LAKE HELEN MACKENZIE, TBA

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** Vote on Constitution & Bylaws of AGCVI. Watch your email for a copy to study in advance. Also a session on Outdoor Seed Starting.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2013: PAUL SPRIGGS SEMINAR**, QB Civic Centre Windsor/OAP Rooms, 10:30 to 3:30. More details to follow by email.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>:** **CHRISTMAS LUNCH** - SHADY REST, Q.B., TBC - memberships for 2014 may be handed in (form will be sent out in advance).

**LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014:**

**MONDAY, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2014:** CLIFF BOOKER, well known alpine photographer and speaker will be in B.C. and coming to visit us.

**FOLLOW UP ON AGofCVI EVENTS**

**TRIP TO PARADISE MEADOWS TO SEE GENTIANAS**

**by June Strandberg**

This was a visit specially to see the King Gentian (*Gentiana sceptrum*), so on August 14<sup>th</sup> Barbara, Margot and I met Bernie in the Strathcona Park parking lot and went on our usual trip around the boardwalk. We almost immediately came upon the gentians, lots of them growing in the meadows with many of them wide open - or as wide open as they get!



*Gentiana sceptrum*

We were very excited, as we have not been up in August before so had never seen them. We spotted them here and there, all the way around the trail and growing with them another new flower - Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*), a very lovely orchid.



Pond side habitat with *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* & *Drosera rotundifolia*

Another new plant was Northern Bedstraw (*Galium boreale*). For some unknown reason we always go round the trail anti-clockwise and found this growing on the far side of the new boardwalk.



*Galium boreale*



*Platanthera dilatata*





*Drosera rotundifolia*



*Cornus canadensis*

The Sundews (*Drosera rotundifolia*) had bloomed and there were lots of berries on the Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) and Blueberries (*Vaccinium*).

We had a wonderful day and plan to go again at the end of the month to see the fall colours.



*Vaccinium sp.*



L to R: Barbara Kulla, Bernie Guyader & PM Greeter

**SUE BEATTY & MICHAELA SCHMIDT** also made a trip to the Meadows on August 21<sup>st</sup> and Sue has sent along some of her flower studies:





Bee on Asters



*Gentiana sceptrum*



*Drosera rotundifolia* with seed head



*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*

## AGofCVI MINI GARDEN TOUR

Report by Valerie Melanson,  
photos by Kirsten Juergensen, Sue Beatty & Valerie Melanson

On August 26<sup>th</sup> we had another lovely mini garden tour. This year 20 members visited 6 gardens. A welcome break for coffee/tea and goodies was hosted by Barbara Kulla and there were plants by donation at Valerie's (thanks to Mike for the bulbs too) & over \$174 was raised towards signage for the Eswyn Alpine & Rock Garden at Nanoose.

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS THAT CAUGHT THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' EYES:

#### AT MIKE MILLER'S:



L: *Roscoeae purpurea* 'Cinnamon Stick' a ginger relative, R: In the Orchid House



L: Mike's Seed tray system, R: Miniature Crevice Garden with L-R *Soldenella alpina* just peeking out, *Draba cuspidata* on top, *Asperula gussanii* in front and *Saxifraga* 'Allendale Charm' on the right with *Daphne dominii* peeking out on the right from behind the slate.





A Mini Tufa Mountain



The Sand Plunge



**AT GLADYS KINSMAN'S:** Beautiful crevice bed





Admiration all round for the crevice bed built by Gladys' son, Doug.



Close-up of happy plants





L: *Campanula pilosa* , R: *Polemonium caeruleum* from seed germinated February 9, 2013



AT ELAINE BOHM'S:

Creeping raspberry overhangs the pond





Inventive use of pottery in mixed planting of *Globularia*, *Sedum* & *Sempervivum*



A collection of troughs, including those fashioned by Elaine's husband, Hugh, out of slate.



Close-ups of some of the plantings - L: *Lewisia cotyledon*, *Draba*, *Androsace*, R: *Dianthus* 'La Bourbole', *Lewisia cotyledon*, *Saxifraga federici-augusti* ssp. *grisebachii*

### AT LORI PROSS':



All wanted a piece of this *Saxifraga* 'Peter Pan'



A Fairy Garden





Garden Shed & Crevice Bed



*Calceolaria* 'John Innes'



Smudge, deer & rabbit deterrer



A *Leptinella squalida* carpet



AT BARBARA KULLA'S:



Barbara's 'Rock Garden'



An 'Alba' *Cyclamen*



Troughs & Containers made mobile by Ken's ingenious rolling dollies with L: a trough of *Dianthus alpinus* and various *Sedum* & *Saxifraga*, R: *Origanum* 'Kent Beauty'





AT VALERIE MELANSON'S:



One of the carport wall troughs



Stairs to the rock garden



Sticks and fencing to deter deer (as if !)



Checking out the nursery



New crevice bed/rockery extension