

"THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

Newsletter of
The Alpine & Rock Garden Special Interest Group
of the
Qualicum Beach Garden Club

Issue # 2

November 2011

From the Editor:

Time to get your seed orders in to AGCBC, SRGC and soon AGS, if you belong. Time to start seeds outdoors that need OT = freezing and thawing to stimulate germination.

If you have items or ideas for new sections or articles, or would like to write on a topic, please contact the editor, Valerie Melanson, Melanson.valerie@gmail.com. Submissions would be very welcome. The newsletter will be sent out in the body of an email and as Word and .pdf attachments. If you do not have a printer and wish a paper copy mailed to you, please contact Valerie above. Submission deadline is 12th of month, with newsletter to be sent out circa 15th. Frequency - most months except December.

UPCOMING 2011 GROUP EVENTS

Monday, Nov. 21st - Eswyn Crevice Garden Build, Part 2.
More info has been sent you via email from June.

Wednesday, Nov. 30th - Christmas Luncheon at Cuckoo's in Coombs, 11:30 am. Prebooking has been done through Louise Cotterill.

PLANS FOR 2012 - FIRM & TENTATIVE:

1ST FIELD TRIP (CARPOOL) TO VIRAGS:

Tuesday, January 24th to hear Zdenek Zvolanek on "Daphnes, Balkan Alpines, or the Mystery of Limestone". Doors open at 7 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:30. at Gordon Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall, Victoria. Get in touch with June Strandberg re: carpool interest.

SIG JANUARY MEETING - Monday, January 30th, 1-3 p.m. at June Strandberg's, 1980 Island Highway, discussion on plans for 2012. Cookies by Sue Beatty. Can someone else volunteer for cookies to June S.?

SIG FEBRUARY MEETING - Monday, February 27th, 1-3 p.m. at Serious Coffee, Heritage Plaza, 9-1209 Island Hwy East, Parksville, in the meeting room.

2ND FIELD TRIP (carpool) - TO AGCBC MEETING, Van Dusen Gardens, Vancouver & **DAVID SELLARS GARDEN** in South Surrey: - **Monday March 12, 2012.** Visit to **David Sellar's Garden** in afternoon. In evening **Malcolm McGregor** will speak on " Saxifrages around the world and in the garden". Malcolm is editor of the NARGS Bulletin and author of **Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide to the 2000 Species, Hybrids & Cultivars.**

Choice of taking late Tsawassen to Duke Point ferry in the evening (BC Ferries willing), or staying overnight. Contact June S. re: carpooling.

****NB: THE QBGC MEETING IS ON MARCH 13TH - BERNIE DINTER ON XERISCAPING**

3RD FIELD TRIP (carpool) - TO VIRAGS, Victoria, Tuesday, March 27, 2012 - **David Sellars** will speak on "Chaos in the Rock Garden: Putting Theory into Practice". Doors open at 7 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:30. at Gordon Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall, Victoria B.C. Contact June S. re: carpool.

OUR MEETING: Wednesday, March 28th- DAVID SELLARS, here at QB Civic Centre, 1 TO 3 PM., on "Alpine Jewels of the Olympic and Wenatchee Mountains, Washington State". David will bring plants to sell. List will be circulated in advance.

OTHER PLANS TO FIRM UP:

APRIL WORKSHOP TO BUILD TROUGHS?

APRIL or MAY PLANT SALE AT LOUISE COTTERILL'S ?

TRIP TO BERNIE GUYADER'S ROCK GARDEN IN COURTENAY ?

WORKSHOP ON BUILDING A CREVICE GARDEN IN A TROUGH - with

Gordon Mackay. Please see interesting article on the subject by the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden and Horticultural Society from 2004
<http://www.ovrghs.ca/articles/other/slab%20in%20a%20bag.htm>
(thank you to Sue Beatty for this link)

OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE

QUALICUM BEACH SEEDY SATURDAY, February 4, 2012

NARGS WWSW at Everett, WA

In 2012, The NARGS Northwestern Chapter will host the 37th Annual Western Winter Study Weekend and the NARGS Annual Meeting on March 9 - 11 in Everett, Washington
Stop the Car NOW...! Roadside Botanizing: East of the Cascade Mountains, <http://nedm.drizzlehosting.com/2012/2012.htm>

FOLLOW UP ON SIG EVENTS

CREVICE GARDEN BUILD, October 31st

The plant sale made \$84 and the donation pot \$41 plus Terry Lyster gave our treasurer a \$100 donation for the club.
Rosie won the tufa, selection of plants and Mike's little filling tool. Karen won second box with the saxifrages and she was very pleased having just bought the Malcolm McGregor's saxifrage book!

IN MEMORY OF ESWYN

By June Strandberg

"The Crevice" and the crevice garden are in memory of Eswyn. so you would like to know why ...
In February of 2006, Eswyn and I went to the American Rock Garden Society's Western Winter Study Weekend held at Sydney-by-the-Sea and hosted by the VIRAGS . Linda Rehlinger and JoAnne Moger attended too that year.
There were five workshops to choose from, we were allowed two and chose 'Alpines in Pots' - which was full so we got shifted to 'Peonies'- and the 'Czech Rock Garden' which luckily was not full or we may never have seen a crevice or met Paul and this garden may never have happened!
Zdenek Zvolanek (ZZ), a talented Czech crevice builder, assisted by Joyce Carruthers and Paul Spriggs built the

garden in a large wooden trough - similar to the one we see as we go into the VIRAGS Show and Sale each spring. We thought it was wonderful - all those plants and all those rocks in such a small space and so very pleasing to look at. Eswyn had to have one!!! She got hold of Paul to see if he would build it for her. She was so happy to see a nice young person, interested in her pet hobby. There was lots of chat back and forth but, for one reason and another, the crevice garden never came to be. She was extremely disappointed. In 2009 Eswyn died and many plants from her garden found a new home in the rock garden at Nanoose Place.

We met Gordon Mackay from 'Alba Plants' at Eaglecrest Garden Club. He came up and did a workshop on propagation for our SIG, on the way home he was shown 'Eswyn's Alpine Garden' where he remarked that the bottom triangle was just the place for a crevice garden. He said he had a friend, by the name of Paul Spriggs, who made these things. Well! That really started something - we all wanted a crevice garden and we just happened to know Paul, who we would soon see building another crevice garden at another workshop at the 2011 WWSW! He would be working with another talented Czech, Vojtech Holubec, this time.

Six of us went this year - Barbara, Barb, Karen, Louise, Mike and I. We all attended 'The Czech Rock Garden' workshop, it was so interesting - we nearly froze in the cold but no one left for warmer places! We told Paul about Eswyn, her garden and our need of a crevice garden - he said 'I think I know this lady!' We arranged to look round his garden after our annual visit to the VIRAGS Spring Show and talk more on the subject. It was in Paul's garden that the deal was struck - we would do lots of fund-raising, rock collecting, soil getting and crew finding. When we had all these things in place Paul would come and supervise and help to build Eswyn's Crevice Garden at last.

Things just fell into place! Barbara suggested the Rock Garden at Nanoose Place be on the 'Rhododendron Tour'. We had our fund-raising plant sale there too on the same day and made more money than we had ever dreamed! Plus we had a draw at our monthly meetings and the total crept up. We were having a hard time finding rock until Paul said granite, the local stone, would work very well. Elaine put an advertisement in the local paper for rock and sent notices

about the project to some of the landscaping places asking if they would be interested in seeing this garden built. She got answers from Fairwinds offering granite rock as well as a truck and crew to help move it to the site and both Fairwinds and Parksville City Landscaping Department offered a crew to help build. A neighbor of Kirsten's in Parksville provided some slate rock that her late husband had set aside for a rock garden and this will be incorporated into the garden.

On 31st October Paul came and the garden was started - a little talk regarding crevice gardens in general and then people with shovels and barrows moving the dirt into shape and Paul marking out more shape. There was lots of rock moving, lining up of crevices and back filling. Paul even used a compass! (Mike's) Everyone had a turn to help and a wonderful time was had by all. We are so very grateful to every one of you.

So now Eswyn almost has her crevice garden and I am sure she is watching. Paul did not have time to finish but what he's done looks as though it just grew there! He is returning on November 21st for more fun. He says "you guys are so nice and a great pleasure to hang out with" Thank you so much Paul -we all love you.

Here's a photo of Paul Spriggs and June Strandberg at the October 31st Crevice Build, Part 1



and a Gentian at the garden, a photo taken by Eswyn's son, Terry Lyster, on October 31st.



MEMBER ADVERT.

HYPERTUFA TROUGH MOLD AVAILABLE TO BORROW

It's made from particle board mold and includes the screws for assembling. The finished product is 24" long by 11" high and 15.5" wide. It takes 6 gallons (ice cream buckets) each of perlite, peat moss & #10 Portland cement. I mix all ingredients first so they are well combined then I mix with water in two batches. The mold needs to be lined with plastic and once finished remove in 48 to 72 hours.

If someone wants to use it over the winter they need to pick it up in the next couple of weeks. Elaine Bohm, nuttalbay@shaw.ca

NEXT ISSUE

JANUARY -

MORE SEED STARTING TIPS AND STRATEGIES - CAN YOU HELP OUT WITH YOUR TIPS ??

THE NEXT STEP - POTTING UP THE SEEDLINGS, BY VALERIE MELANSON

"THE CREVICE" Issue # 2 CLIP 'N SAVE HANDOUT

MAKE YOUR OWN ROOTING HORMONE COMPOUND

"Boil a few chapped up willow stems in water for 10 minutes and leave the liquid to cool, then dip the ends of your cuttings into this before planting them. Willow contains salicylates that help plants root."

(p. 152 - Back to Basics: Traditional Garden Wisdom: Time-Tested Techniques for Creating a Natural, Sustainable Outdoor Space, by Charlie Ryrie and Anne Halpin, contributing editors, New York: Reader's Digest, 2011, 978-1-60652-042-0)

GOOD READS

Rock Garden Plants: A Color Encyclopedia, by Baldassare Mineo (Portland: Timber Press, 1999, 978-0-88192-432-9). This is a good basic reference, especially for beginners to get a handle on the genres and their basic needs, available from Amazon.ca and 2nd hand.

Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners, by John E. G. Good & David Millward (Portland: Timber Press, 2007, 978-0-88192-811-2). Explains the ecology, geology, chemical nutrition, reproduction, etc. of alpines - the nitty, gritty facts of why they grow and behave as they do. There is also a section on climate change and its impact. Available from Amazon.ca.

Rain shower wets rock
Autumn sky's warming sunshine
lights alpine jewels.

And

Hard, heavy granite
Barrows, shovels, sweat on brow.
Stone mountain ridges.
Slate slivers in rocky ribs.
Jewels set in tight crevices.

(Creating Eswyn's Crevice Garden, October 31st, 2011)