



"THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn
Journal of the
Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island
<http://alpinegardenersofcvi.wordpress.com/>

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FROM THE EDITOR: If you have any items for the "Crevice" for June, please send in by end of day on June 15th to Melanson.valerie@gmail.com. Thank you.

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CHRIS CHADWELL 2014 EXPEDITION TO THE HIMALAYA:

A prospectus and subscription form are available from Chris if you email him at: chrischadwell261@btinternet.com or via his website: www.chadwellseeds.co.uk. Or you can contact me and I will forward a copy: melanson.valerie@gmail.com

Chris sent along some other **notes on developments to his website** to check out, a must if you are interested in plants from the Himalaya:

"May I draw your attention to my web-site (see below) which I am adding lots of material to. Well worth taking a look at from time-to-time (the bottom of the navigation bar on the right-hand-side shows which parts have had recent changes) -both for material related to

growing Himalayan plants plus more general images of my travels covering wild flowers, garden plants and people.

"Hopefully browsing my site is an enjoyable (and inspiring) experience - whether or not you are open to buying seed at any given time. Your interest and support is always welcome.

"I particularly draw your attention to:

PLANTS INTRODUCED FROM PREVIOUS EXPEDITIONS - The impressive initial germination results of Steve Marshall in Germany: <http://www.chadwellseeds.co.uk/sulzburg-germany> and images of assorted species grown on in my own garden: <http://www.chadwellseeds.co.uk/slough-England>

"I am also 'restoring' the Himalayan Plant Association. SEE:

<https://sites.google.com/a/chadwellseeds.co.uk/main/introduction-8?pli=1>

Let me know if you would like to take FREE membership of the association, periodically receiving complimentary newsletters.

"And finally, have recently been downloading some fine images of Himalayan flora taken by Krishnan Lal; SEE: <https://sites.google.com/a/chadwellseeds.co.uk/main/plant-portraits>

And <https://sites.google.com/a/chadwellseeds.co.uk/main/introduction-7>

"I have also added an IDENTIFICATION CORNER section to my website, which provides updates as to the correct identification of CC introductions from expeditions to the Himalaya.

SEE: <http://www.chadwellseeds.co.uk/identification-corner-1>

But please be patient, it will take some time to enter the 7500+ collections - though I am working in reverse chronological order, so recent expeditions will be added first. "



Plants grown from Chadwell seed collections by editor.

L: *Primula munroi*, M & R: *Aquilegia moorcroftiana*, TBC when fully open

AGCVI UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

The Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

present

Kenton Seth of Colorado

to speak on

Hunting Wildflowers of the Wild West:

A talk about the places and plants in the recent work of
bringing the Wild West home to the garden.



Monday, May 26th, 2014, 1-3 p.m.
(doors open 12:30),

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

**\$5 at door includes entry in prize draw &
coffee/tea**

"Well, it's still there. The "Wild" West, that is. So much of the great basin and dry American intermountains is still there- uninhabited, dry, dusty, and lousy with wildflowers. They definitely miss that part in old John Wayne flicks. The Great Basin, lest we forget, has a secret chilly side - the mountains and alpine! These alpine environments are often encircled by vast deserts, creating ecological "islands", promoting the unique endemism and only-that-mountain-range specialty of plants. But the desert and alpine don't always get an obvious distinction from each other, especially in Wyoming where the desert and alpine ecologies actually share species and blur together, and the windy steppes becomes a Patagonia-esque cold yet dry landscape, stretching for hundreds of kilometres with a smorgasbord of unique species. This talk will offer a view into the colourful realities of hunting for native Western American plants which lead from one thing to another: from dry technical botany manuals to seed envelopes, GPS devices, topographic maps, surprise plants, new plants, and getting vehicles stuck in odd places."

Kenton J. Seth is a landscaper/gardener/wild-plant-fiend in Colorado, USA, who specializes in desert natives and builds crevice gardens professionally. He has contributed articles to the NARGS Quarterly and the AGCVI "Crevice".

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



Kenton writes: The Wild West is still wild. If a place has been explored, it may not have been by botanists. And even then, some populations disappear for years into the seedbank and reappear later, especially Penstemons, Astragali, and Eriogonums. The miniature form of *Yucca harrimaniae* was only properly collected and described in the nineteen eighties, recently being given (but not by all authorities) its own species status- *Yucca nana*. What is more, different populations continue to be found. Some, smaller than ever.



Yucca nana in sandstone crevices high on the desert "reef" of the San Rafael Swell.



The West Reef of the San Rafael Swell in Utah, USA, the very stones that are habitat of those extra-tiny Yucca. It takes some climbing to visit them.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS - AGCVI & OTHER **PLEASE MARK YOUR AGENDAS !!**

Saturday, May 24th - **AGCVI PLANT SALE** at Qualicum Beach Farmers' Market, Memorial Ave. at Veterans Way, by QB Community Hall. Come look for treasures from 8:30 to 12 noon.

Saturday, May 24th - **NANOOSE GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE**
Nanose Library Centre on Northwest Bay Rd., 9 am -1 pm

Tuesday, May 27th - **VIRAGS: Kenton Seth** will speak on "**Caucasus and Crevices; from Georgia to the Garden**: Plant hunting in the Greater Caucasus and what those environments mean for inviting those plants home." 7:00 pm at Gordon Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall, Victoria B.C.



present **Cliff Booker** from Lancashire in the U.K.
speaking on
'The Definitive Dolomites'



Monday, July 28th, 1 - 3 p.m. (doors open 12:30)
at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones Street, Q.B.
\$5 entry includes plant prize draw and coffee/tea.

***WATCH OUT FOR MORE DETAILS OF EVENTS DURING
CLIFF'S VISIT IN THE JUNE "CREVICE" AND THE AGCVI
"NEWSLETTER".***

REPORTS ON AGCVI ACTIVITIES

PREPARING PLANTS FOR UPCOMING SALES

Photos by Kirsten Juergensen

Work party at June Strandberg's:



AGCVI Members priming & pricing



Lots of treasures for the upcoming sales

PLANT SALE DURING MARS MOTHERS' DAY
GARDEN TOUR, Sunday, May 11th

Photos by Kirsten Juergensen and June Strandberg

***A big Thank You to Lori Pross for letting us set up
in her driveway.***



June handled setup and sales with help from Kirsten, Mike, Barb and others of the club.



Mike minding the store.



Lovely plants awaiting new homes.

VIRAGS SPRING SHOW & SALE IN VICTORIA, **Saturday, May 3rd**

Photos by Kirsten Juergensen

Several carloads of AGCVI members made the annual pilgrimage to view the show and snap up some choice plants at the member plant sale. And, of course, visit various other nurseries afterwards ... Some lunched at Amanda Carruthers' and visited Beacon Hill Park too.



Someone's 'haul'



Two views of a crevice bed by Paul Spriggs on display in front of the show place



Entries in the trough classes show some of the stone and plant options



Vendors' row, with Gordon Mackay and Alba Plants on the right



Members taking a welcome tea break before getting back to viewing entries and shopping

ESWYN'S ALPINE & ROCK GARDEN REPORT

Photos from Karen Unruh and Elaine Bohm

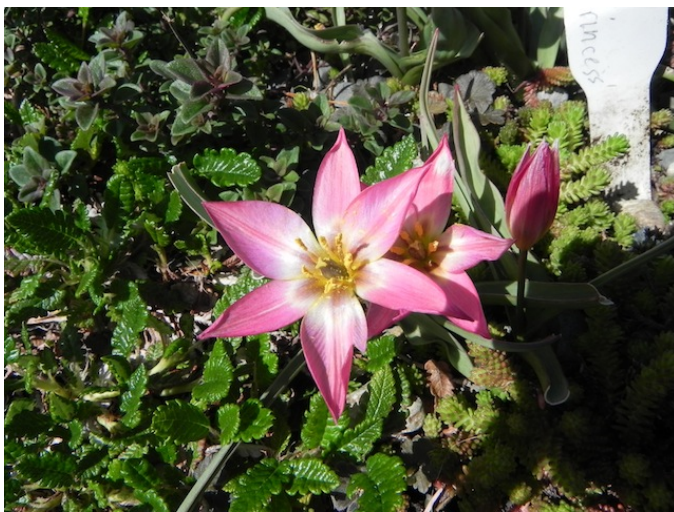
A few photos of what's flowering in Eswyn's garden this month:



L: *Rhododendron impeditum*, R: *Narcissus romieuxii* - Bulbs from June Strandberg in 2012



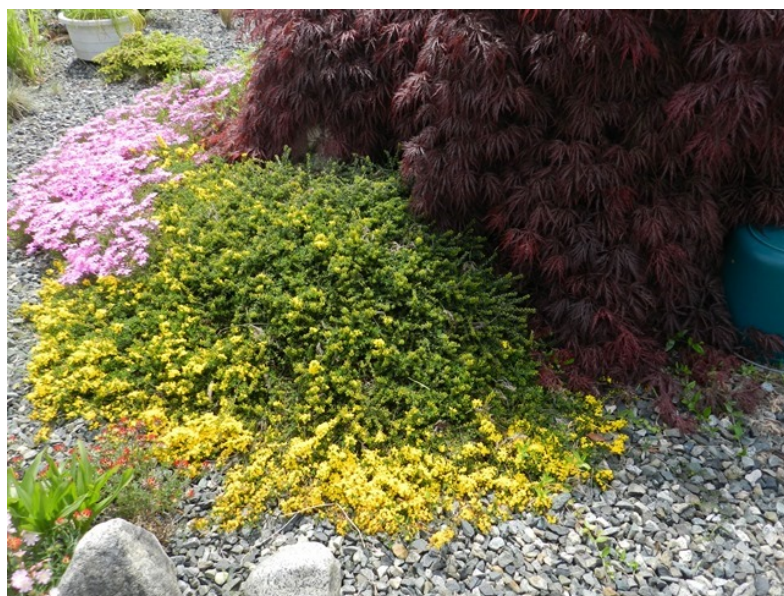
White rhododendron rescued from Eswyn's home garden. Can anyone give us the name?



L:

L: *Tulipa* 'Little Princess', R: *Fragaria alpina*

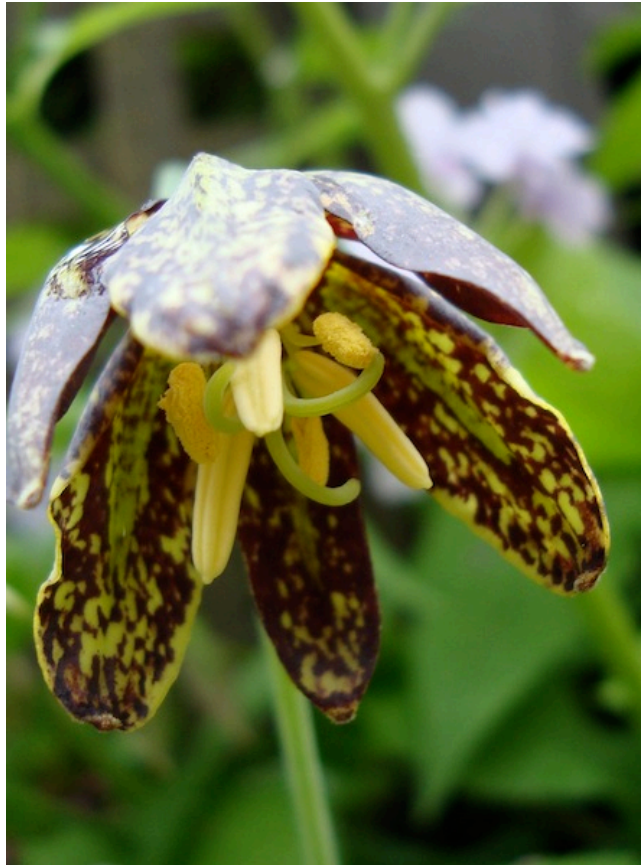
WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - Kirsten Juergensen



Lots of lovely Lewisias, a 'good' broom and so much more.

WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - Valerie Melanson

Fritillaria continue from April:



L: *Fritillaria acmopetala* in a sunny bed; R: *Fritillaria lanceolata* in mostly shade.

Still to come *Fritillaria camschatcensis* in the shade garden:



Promising buds

A start on *Aquilegia*:



First up was *Aquilegia discolor*, a native of the Pyrenees. This one became deer candy, but I got a snap first. Grown from SRGC seed in 2011.



Lovely shades on *Aquilegia caerulea*, a native of the Rocky Mountains from Colorado to New Mexico, with great variation in colouring. Commonly called Colorado Blue Columbine. This

lovely plant was started from AGCBC seed in January 2013 was really producing blooms and made an outing to the MARS meeting on May 14th for "Show What You Grow",



before it became a snack for a yearling deer.



L: *Aquilegia canadensis* 'Little Lanterns', R: *Aquilegia elegantula*, ID TBC.
The red/orange and yellow blooms don't appeal to the deer ... so far.

Shooting Stars are well ... shooting:

Dodecatheon, previously a genus of the Primulaceae, are now 'lumped' in with *Primula*.. As a result some names have been changed completely as the species epithets were already taken in the *Primula* genus. To see a list of the new names assigned by taxonomists, see http://www.kevockgarden.co.uk/dodecatheon_new_names.htm



L: *Dodecatheon alpinum* now *Primula tetrandra*; R: *Dodecatheon jeffreyi*, now *Primula jeffreyi*



L: *Dodecatheon meadia*, now *Primula meadia*; R: *Primula meadia* 'Lilac' likes the shade garden



Dodecatheon dentatum, now *Primula latiloba*

WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - June Strandberg

This is my *Paeonia suffruticosa* aff *ssp rockii* from Josef Halda seeds sown in 2000 and finally bloomed!!



WHAT IS THIS PLANT?

LAST MONTH:

Thank you to Dr. Hans Roemer for the identification on the mystery plant last time. Hans writes: "Your plant at the end of "The Crevice" newsletter is *Boechea lyallii*, a native plant of our mountains (formerly *Arabis lyallii*)."



THIS MONTH:

Margot Moser writes: "I'm pretty sure it is in the Pink family and may be a *Cerastium* though I can't find any on the web that have such fuzzy, grey-green leaves."



June Strandberg found a photo of *Cerastium alpinum* in Tim Ingram's Kent Diary on the AGS website - May 8, 2014 entry -

(<http://www.alpinegardensociety.net/diaries/Kent/+May+/564/>),

that looks close, but Margot would appreciate input from other readers before pinning down this identification.

If you can help, please reply to Melanson.valerie@gmail.com, so identification information can be published in "The Crevice".