

# "THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

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

Issue # 11

September 2012

**From the Editor:** ALMOST TO THE WIRE FOR COLLECTING SEEDS FOR THE FALL SEED EXCHANGES, AS IT WILL SOON BE TIME TO START MAILING THEM AWAY.

*A big thank you to everyone who has written reports or taken photos for this issue ... wonderful reading & viewing and much, much appreciated. Valerie*

## TRIP TO THE U.K.

### THE ROCK GARDENS AT KEW & WISLEY

Text & photos  
by June Strandberg



(Louise Cotterill in front of the Kew Rock Garden & Davies Alpine House)

Both are amazing, Wisley has the advantage of being built on a natural slope. Kew had to make her own ups and downs. We (my brother and I) visited Wisley May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 on a damp and very cold day. Thank goodness for the big new glasshouse where we warmed up afterwards! May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Kew with Louise, however, was a wonderful warm, sunny day - much too hot for us to go in any glass houses! - Except the alpine house, of course, it had its sails up and was quite airy!

You can stand on the path at the bottom of **Wisley** rock garden and get a very good idea of the whole thing though, of course, many surprises as you mount the steps and follow the paths.

There are large rocks, pools, waterfalls, water plants and bog gardens, a stream, sandy beds, gravelly screes and all kinds of crevices full of plants. Then there are the shrubs and conifers of different sizes, shapes and colours. -the 'Bones' as Eswyn always said. When we were there the rhododendrons were out and a *Paeonia mascula* subsp *russoi* and *Erysimum* 'Moonlight' were blooming - along with many other flowers braving the weather! The view from the top looking down across the rock garden to the stream and path and then up over the 'forest' of trees was wonderful.

We walked up and down and cross-wise. This involved walking along lots of little paths and steps and also the taking of a large number of photographs! It was the perfect day for taking pictures but a bit tricky when one has mitts on!



(Above photos are of the Rock Garden at RHS Wisley, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012)





(Above photos of Rock Garden at RHS Wisley. Bottom left of right photo shows bog garden.)

**Kew** can't be viewed in the same way, I don't remember any steps but lots of paths and from them you get the views - sometimes looking up a terraced slope or over a panorama of rocks and flowers, sometimes straight up a cliff or down at a pool with water falling behind. Something different round every corner! And, of course, the shrubs are there too building a perfect picture. Quite a bit of new planting is going on - maybe even re-construction. There are lots of very interesting gravelly places some with new plantings and some are still bare.

There were many more flowers in bloom than at Wisley - the three weeks made a big difference. We did have a few favourites, one being a beautiful blue iris growing just as we entered the garden but I have lost its name.





The Davies Alpine House stands in the midst of a new (to me anyway) rock garden that almost looks as though it grew there! I like the way it is done and fits on to the alpine house itself. Again we took lots of pictures - that is the glory of digital cameras - no running out of film and no expensive developing!



(Kew Rock Garden, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.)  
(Photo right shows the Princess of Wales Conservatory in the background.)

I really enjoyed my visits to both rock gardens. Louise only saw Kew but I know she liked the flowers - it was there that she found out she would not be able to keep a list of everything she liked as she liked most of it! We photographed labels instead.

## **CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW**

**By Louise Cotterill**

There are 3 things you should remember when you go to the Chelsea Flower Show: You must bring a good camera, wear sturdy walking shoes and, last but not least, take an antihistamine.

The Chelsea Flower Show is held once a year in London, England and is said to be the best flower show in the world! I can certainly agree with that. Our tour group arrived bright and early, just as the doors opened for the day. June Strandberg and I split from the group and headed for the tent that holds dozens of booths displaying every plant imaginable, displayed in great abundance. The displays were so enticing and, had we been able to bring any of the items displayed back to Canada, we probably would have spent lots of money. Many of the booths specialized in dozens of varieties of one type of plant such as roses, clematis, primroses, etc., which made choosing your favourite one an almost impossible task. The sight, sounds and particularly the smells in the tent were absolutely intoxicating. I got progressively more excited the more I saw and I couldn't wait to get back to work in my own garden.

June and I had made arrangements to meet Shirley Finstad, a Qualicum Beach Garden Club member, for lunch at one of the food tents, but, by this time, it was getting crowded and we had to search for a spot to sit and eat our lunch. After finding a very small patch of grass on which to sit in order to eat lunch, June wanted to search out the Alpine Club booth which we did after inching our way through a lane lined with dozens of booths on both sides containing every imaginable product for gardening including hand tools, baskets, pots of all descriptions, decorative garden-themed items for the home, art, etc. I hoped to be able to do some window shopping here later, but it was not to be. At this point, I couldn't help but wonder why we don't have such a variety of garden related items available in Canada. It was absolutely mind-boggling.

We then wound our way through the thickening crowds to the Artisan Gardens. This was a particularly unique concept. 8 small lots were assigned, each to a different landscape artist/designer. They were tasked with creating a garden space on their lot that reflected some iconic architectural feature. The results included a traditional outdoor privy, a small, beaten-up caravan, backyard greenhouse, etc. It was interesting to see how each designer incorporated vegetation into their concept to make them look completely natural and realistic - you felt as if you had just stumbled upon them in the out-of-the-way areas of someone's property. The Artisan Gardens was like stumbling across an enchanted forest and I was left feeling quite breathless, wishing for more.



I'm sure it's become evident to you why a camera and good walking shoes are required when visiting Chelsea. But an antihistamine? Most of you, like me dedicated gardeners, have never had to worry about contact with the odd bit of pollen we encounter along the way. It was mid-afternoon when a light wind came up which stirred up such a volume and variety of pollen that can overwhelm the hardiest of noses. I began to sneeze and cough and I also began to laugh when I looked around me and saw that every fifth person was doing exactly the same thing! Up to this point in my life, I had never had an allergic reaction to flowers, so if you go to Chelsea, have an antihistamine!

Chelsea was everything I had always dreamt it would be and even more. I will go back.

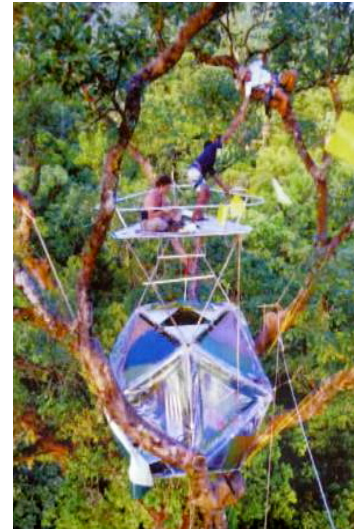
## **THE EDEN PROJECT**

**by Shirley Finstad**



On May 29<sup>th</sup>, a warm and sultry day, our group visited the Eden Project, in the St. Austell area of Cornwall. This is an educational charity filled with exhibits showing our dependence on the natural and each other. Over a million plants from around the world have been planted.

While I was waiting for the land shuttle to take us down to the biomes I had a look at the large photo depicting it's beginning and what struck me was the similarity between The Eden Project and Butchart Gardens, it being built from an extensive limestone quarry and Eden's global garden from a former clay mine.



What an undertaking for Tim Smit who conceived the idea plus Architect Nicolas Grimshaw and engineering firm Anthony Hut, who completed the project in 2 ½ yrs., opening Mar. 17, 2001. Two hundred and thirty miles of scaffolding were used to build the 2 biomes; Rainforest and Mediterranean.

The Rainforest biome holds over 1,000 different rainforest plant species; many from seeds planted in the nursery. Here, in a steamy jungle, one treks past plantations, shacks and thunderous waterfalls. Once you walk higher in elevation the humidity soars and I was drenched with perspiration dripping off my face! What you view are mangrove swamps bringing a taste of tropical islands, Malaysian hut, complete with veggie plot and paddy field, plants that bring us cola, cupcakes, chewing gum, and a mini soya plantation. As I returned to lower levels I felt wonderfully cool compared to what I had just experienced. Needless to say I didn't attempt to climb the stairs to the top for an overview of the jungle! Also here is the gigantic Titan arum 2.9m, taking 6 yrs. to bloom and when it does it has the smell of rotting meat! and only stays in bloom for 48 hrs. Just to note a few plants here are proteus, macadamia, papaya, raffia, vanilla, persian ironwood, highland tropical pitcher plant, cork oak, torch ginger, cashew, Chilean guava.



**BIGNONIACEAE**

A Ray Mears tree! The fully grown gourd-like fruits, once washed and dried, are used to make resonance boxes in berimbaus to play the Brazilian music called capoeira. The young fruits make tasty pickles, a drink can be made from the cooked seeds and some use the leaves to treat toothache.



There is a covered walkway between the 2 biomes and what a contrast upon entering the Mediterranean biome with it's dry warmth, I didn't see many flowering vines, however there were citrus and olive trees, small kitchen gardens tucked in here and there with different coloured tapestries of vegetables; so very healthy looking. (No slug damage here!) I stopped at one fruit tree to admire what I thought was a gorgeous peach but upon spotting the nametag realized it was a nectarine. By these kitchen gardens was the café where a few of us had a delightful lunch showcasing their garden veggies.



Outside the biomes were many pathways with many terraced areas with some showing crops that provide foods, fuel, medicine and material. Some other ones showcased lavender, tea, hemp together with superb gardens showcasing quirky allotments, kitchen gardens and wild Cornwall exhibits. There was still so much to see I wasn't able to absorb it all in just a day, one would need several more visits to do it justice.

During winter months around 100,000 people come to skate each year in the undercover ice rink, which provides year-round employment for staff and business for local suppliers. In July 2010 a large helium balloon was permanently installed allowing gardeners to fly around the towering canopy of the Rainforest biome. Strapped in a sling and tethered by a colleague gardeners prune fast growing trees such as balsa and kapok, which have reached over 50m. There was still so much to see, I wasn't able to absorb it all in just a day, one would need several more visits to do it justice. If you wish to see some short videos and see what new projects Eden will be taking on take a look at their website - [edenproject.com](http://edenproject.com)

## **SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM ESWYN'S ALPINE & ROCK GARDEN, NANOOSE**

By Karen Unruh



## *Fuchsia magellanica* 'David' (Dwarf)



This plant was given to Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden in the fall of 2011 by David and Wendy Sellars. We planted it against a bank of grey granite rock, as protected as we could from the cold winds that often blow through the garden. It has been blooming from early May and continues to have substantial bloom in this, it's first year of bloom. *Fuchsia magellanica* is an erect shrub with ovate-elliptic leaves 1.5-6 cm. long. Throughout the summer it freely produces small flowers with red tubes, deep red wide-spreading sepals, and purple corollas. It is native to Chile and the Falkland Islands and hardy to Zone 6 with protection, and up to Zone 9. The plant we have in the garden is a dwarf plant and currently stands at 25 cm. Being a dwarf shrub, the plant offers a variation in shape in the garden, upright and very statuesque against the grey granite rocks. I was unable to discover the source of the use of 'David' in the name, but perhaps David Sellars can give us more background?

Information taken from Reader's Digest A-Z Encyclopedia Garden Plants and The Colour Dictionary of Flowers and Plants for Home and Garden.

The nursery that sells *Fuchsia magellanica* 'David' is The Secret Garden Growers Nursery in Canby, Oregon.

*Editor's Note: On doing a bit of googling, I found the website for the Duchy of Cornwall Nursery, UK. that lists: "Fuchsia 'David' AGM. Hardy. Upright habit. Dainty single flowers. Sepals scarlet; corolla purple. Mid-summer/autumn. Height 60-90cm. Wood, 1937, GB"*  
*The website of Joy Creek Nursery of Oregon, USA. confirms that Fuchsia 'David' was bred by W. P. Wood and dated 1949 in USA. W. P. Wood was a famous British hybridizer wrote a book called "A Fuchsia Survey" in 1950 (Williams & Norgate). He also bred the Fuchsia 'Mrs. W. P. Wood' introduced in 1949. A Fuchsia 'W.P. Wood' was introduced by Krom, 1989, Netherlands.*

A glorious September  
day doing some weeding at  
Eswyn's Garden  
(photo by Elaine Bohm)



## REPORTS ON ALPINE SIG OUTINGS & EVENTS

### **WHISTLER / BLACKCOMB 2012**

**Report by Mike Miller**

On our second trip to this area as a group we had six members in two units from August 20 to 23. The weather was great with some cloud but no precipitation. The first day was the ferry and drive and just getting settled in the Village. On the Tuesday we bought our lift tickets and shortly after ten we were going up fast. Thank God the lifts work during the summer or we would never have seen what we did.

We traveled up the Blackcomb Solar Coaster Express with lots of cyclists and did our transfer half way up and then headed on the Peak2 Peak. We thought we should travel as many lifts as possible as many flowers carpet the ground below so we gathered many of the species on the rides. Once on Whistler we walked down to the bottom of the Peak Express, which is the steepest of the lifts and stepped off at the very top of Whistler Mountain. We spent a good part of the day doing the Whistler Summit Interpretive Walk, which does not go far and is very rich in high alpine plants. Much of the walk had newly built trails much easier to handle than last years, but in the building or just with the thousands of walkers in a small area a good number of what had been nice plants had been flattened and pounded underfoot. This year the *Phlox diffusa* was practically finished but we did see a good number of plants: *Antennaria alpina*, *Cassiope mertensiana*, *Phyllodoce empetrifomis* and *P. glanduliflora*, *Epilobium latifolium*, *Luetkea pectinata*, *Lupinus arcticus*, *Oxyria digyna*, *Phacelia sericea*, *Penstemon procerus*, *Ranunculus eschscholtzii*, *Saxifraga bronchialis*, *S. ferruginea*, *S. pyrolifolia*, *S. tolmiei*, *Sedum*



*divergens*, *Sibbalkia procumbens*, *Silene acaulis*, and *Veronica wormskjoldii*. Plus grasses and sedges as well as two little *Pinus albiculis*. We still have a battle over a couple of plants we found and worked hard to identify and maybe with the pictures we will be able to add them to the list. This is a very rich area taking up just the top of the mountain. We did the Peak 2 Peak on the way down again obviously and had a great evening all gathered in one unit.



Whistler, P2P mid lift & snow making pond



Whistler summit - great views - landscape and at your feet

(Photos by June Strandberg)

After a good night's sleep we again headed up Blackcomb on the Solar Coaster Express and then started the Alpine Walk and cut off onto the Overlord Trail for an hour or so. When you are botanizing every few feet the trails take a great deal more time than advertised. Many people do stride along and cover the ground but they do not spend time identifying and photographing all the great flowers on display. The lunch break on the Overlord Trail was outstanding because after I innocently asked "And where are the Whisky Jacks?" a mob of a dozen or more descended on us and added greatly to their winter stores. Sitting quietly trying to eat with up to four jays perched on you waiting a chance to lighten your diet was quite exciting. They had a rich diet of toasted almonds and anything they could sink their bills into. Two groups of hikers stopped for a photo op and we shared the bait so we could eat our lunches. They even carried away an apple core put down for them to peck. It was carried in the feet, something I never knew they could do. We also had two sightings of Rocky Mountain Pika, our hay harvesting little mountain animals. On these trail the flowers came more in meadows of massed mixed colours with the *Lupinus arctica* and *L. lyallii* sharing the slopes with *Arnica latifolia* in great drifts. But, scattered around were *Anemone occidentalis* in seed, the *Cassiope mertensiana* and *Phyllodoce empetriformis*, nearly over, *Veratrum viride*, pale *Pedicularis bracteosa* and pink and white forms of *Pedicularis racemosa*, *Senecio sylvaticus*, and *Sorbus sitchensis* in flower, green fruit and nearly ripe fruit. Jan and I had a protracted debate and final resolution on Mountain Hemlock and Subalpine or Alpine Fir. It came to not trusting what cones were under what trees. I think some little mammals or birds were



spreading the wealth, but we finally reached our agreement. On the ride back down we finally saw our black bear, a healthy looking cub of last year feeding under the lifts.



*Solidago multiradiata*



*Silene acaulis*



*Saxifraga bronchialis*



*Saxifraga tolmiei*



View from Blackcomb to Whistler



*Sibbaldia procumbens*

(Above photos by June Strandberg)





Blackcomb - Phlox diffusa



Phacelia sericea aka Sky Pilot

(Photos by June Strandberg)

This year Barbara Kulla, June Strandberg, Jan Phillips, Margaret and Richard Mann and Mike Miller made up the intrepid botanizers. A great time was had by all and we even stopped at the Britannia Mines Museum on the way back to the ferry but only dropped into the gift shop. A wonderful outing and good people to be with. Maybe we could get more of us up there next year.



Field of Lupin



Pedicularis racemosa aka Louisewort

(Photos taken on Blackcomb by Barbara Kulla)



## **CREVICE IN A TROUGH SEMINAR WITH GORDON MACKAY**

NB: Watch for a report by Mike Miller & more photos and plant informaton, in the October issue

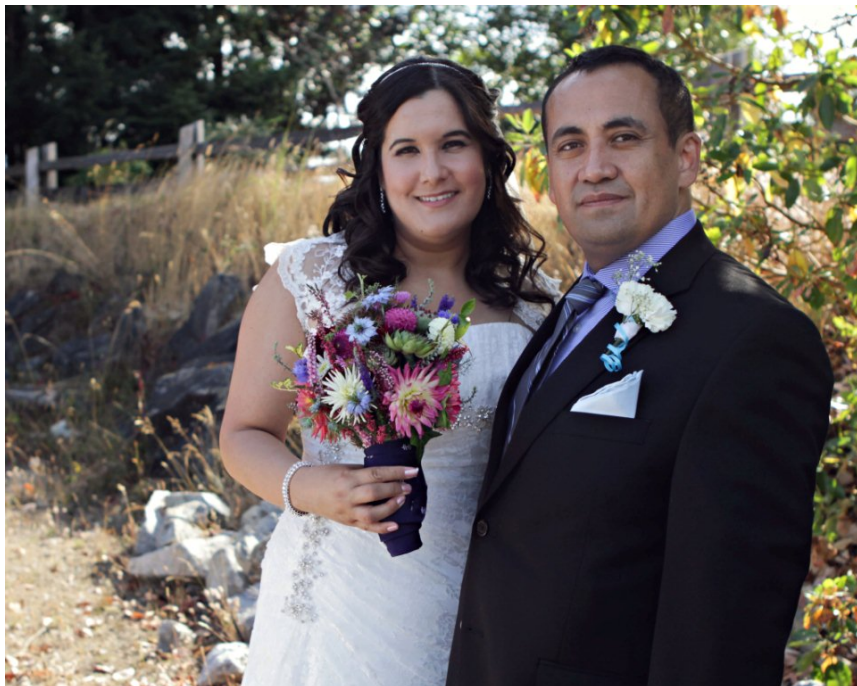


**Gordon Mackay of Alba Plants with demonstration crevice garden in a trough**

## **SUZY'S WEDDING**

**by June Strandberg**

**Coral Evelyn Susan Lyster and Jorge Ignacio Castillo Rojas** were married on September 1<sup>st</sup> in St. Mark's Church, Qualicum Beach. The Reception was at Tigh-Na-Mara and the wedding photos were taken at the rock garden in Nanoose also known as Eswyn's Garden.





Eswyn is the founder of our alpine group and had a wonderful rock and alpine garden in Qualicum. Eswyn died in 2009 and her plants and tufa were moved to the brand new rock garden in Nanoose. Suzy is Eswyn's granddaughter, they were very close and Suzy loves this area and comes to visit as often as she can. Most of you have met her - she was at the meeting in Linda Derkach's garden in July 2011 and she helped at the second crevice garden session on November 21<sup>st</sup> last year.

The bride's bouquet was made by Eva Grodt, who happens to be one of our SIG members. She used Dahlias, Love-in-a Mist and Cornflowers from her garden (the wedding colours being blue/lavender/white - but relaxed somewhat for the bouquet). Sue and I went to the rock garden Friday morning and collected 'fillers', the most important being Sempervivums which Eva wired. We also found pink, red and white heather, a lavender blue Erigeron, Zaucheria, Veronica and a white Hebe. All these were added to the mix. We wanted a Gentian, one of Eswyn's favourite flowers. One peeped out at us the day Paul started the crevice garden on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> last year but it did not co-operate this time.



Jorge & the finished bouquet



Flowers from Eswyn's Garden used in the bouquet

It was a beautiful wedding on a warm, sunny day in a lovely Church with an afternoon reception in the Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Gazebo and later an enchanted evening of dinner and dancing in the Grand Strathcona Room where lots of fun was had by all - ask about the Conga line - a dance right up Eswyn's street!

We had a good bye lunch on 4<sup>th</sup> at Thalassa restaurant (Eswyn's favoutite) with Daphne Trelawny, Norah Stone, Jane (Suzy's mother), Suzy and me. It started at noon and I think it finished at about 3.30!! Daphne had to take off to get back to work. Suzy and Jane returned to Vancouver that same day to see Jorge fly off to the Toronto Film Festival and his parents fly back to Chile. Jane and Suzy are driving back to Jane's home in Lynn, Ontario. Before she left, Suzy gave me her bouquet to pull apart and plant the Sempervivums - this I have done, along with a few slips of heather etc, so now I just hope they all grow!!

We all wish Suzy and Jorge a life-time of happiness and don't forget - come to see us often! (Photos by June Strandberg and Sue Beatty.)

### **UPCOMING ALPINE SIG EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING** - 1:30 p.m., June Strandberg's, 1980 Island Highway (by Village Way) - Business Meeting & Cutting and Division session. Bring your own plants/cuttings to work on, or help work on June's.

**SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> - ROAD TRIP TO VIRAGS IN VICTORIA - KRISTL WALEK** of Gardens North, Seeds for the World, expert on seed germination speaking on wildflowers of Eastern Canada, for which she has written a new book. Members of VIRAGS will also have plants for sale. Please watch for an email from June with more details, or contact June now if you are interested in carpooling to this. The group usually makes more of a day of it, stopping at a couple of nurseries or garden supplies on the way.

**OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING** - Topic & Venue TBA

**NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING** - Christmas Lunch - Date TBC & Venue TBA

### **TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2013**

**JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING**

**MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING**

**MID APRIL - ROAD TRIP TO VIRAGS SPRING SHOW & PLANT SALE**

**APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING**

**MONDAY, MAY 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - CHRIS CHADWELL, PLANT HUNTER, SEED COLLECTOR, AND SECRETARY OF THE HIMALAYAN PLANT ASSOCIATION**, will be visiting us for garden visits and a seminar. Topic & Venue TBA

**TUESDAY, MAY 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - ROAD TRIP TO VIRAGS** - CHRIS CHADWELL, PLANT HUNTER, on "Paradise on Earth".

**TBC WEDNESDAY, MAY 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013** - We are invited to attend a seminar with Chris Chadwell at Alba Plants Nursery, Cowichan Bay, on "Starting Himalayan Seeds". \*\*DATE AND TOPIC TBC. Reservations will be a must.



## USEFUL LINKS

From UBC Botanical Garden's Plant of the Day emails:

Several photos, details and links for Butterworts:

[http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/2006/07/pinguicula\\_vulgaris.php](http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/2006/07/pinguicula_vulgaris.php)

<http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/2012/08/pinguicula-spp.php>

A lovely Paintbrush from the Siskiyou Mountains:

<http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/2012/08/castilleja-schizotricha.php>

A Ranunculus family member from the Pyrenees:

<http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/2012/08/adonis-pyrenaica.php>

Very interesting Iris / Erythronium genus from alpine and sub-alpine Tasmania:

<http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/potd/2012/08/isophysis-tasmanica.php>

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

*Nanaimo Rhododendron Society*

presents a special

Sale of

Rhododendrons

Saturday 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday 10 am - 1 pm

September 22 & 23

Benson Room, Coast Bastion Hotel

11 Bastion Street, Nanaimo

Fall is the best time to plant rhodos!

(Sent along by Linda Derkach)

## WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - AMANDA CARRUTHERS CARIBOO CREVICES

It's time to share a few photos and tell the story about how alpine crevice outcrops came to be in my yard at Deka Lake in the South Cariboo region of British Columbia. Incidentally, Zdenek Zvolanek who built the crevice outcrops, drew the plans for the Cariboo villa we travel to often and adore.

While house construction was underway I collected rocks like mad and transported them to the property with the idea that if a quantity of fabulous rocks was on hand Zdenek might, one day, build me a crevice garden. Over time I provided Zdenek with vivid descriptions of successful rock hounding trips and produced pictures of generous piles of schist, tufa and limestone.....opportunity waiting! While visiting Victoria in 2010 he agreed to do a quickie visit August long weekend and the outcrops were built.



Zdenek constructing the crevices



The bones in place

Once the crevices were built protecting them from erosion was the next order of business, so vertical crevices were stuffed with moist clay and a generous amount of scree scattered around and up the base of the outcrop. Troubles were encountered when working to reinforce the highest vertical crevice in the tufa outcrop in that it refused to be reinforced. On careful observation I discovered that plants were not the only form of nature that would live in the tufa outcrop and immediately adjusted reinforcement techniques to accommodate beautiful pest eating residents.



Sand falling from crevice



Helpful Mr./Ms. Toad at the ready



Below are pictures of progress made by rooted cuttings, one from a white penstemon and

- *Cliff penstemon - Penstemon rupicola 'Alba'* Joyce Carruthers purchased from Rick Lupp (proprietor of Mt. Tahoma nursery in Washington). This saxatile species, loves slightly acid mineral soil and-of course-crevices. Common flowers are pink; the albino with pure white flowers is still rare in cultivation. Propagation by cuttings is easy).

the other from a favourite daphne plant growing in our Victoria garden.

- *Daphne x susannae 'Lawrence Crocker'* is hybrid between *Daphna collina* and *Daphne arbuscula*. It was found in the garden of nurserymen L. Crocker. Joyce Carruthers obtained this daphne from famous Canadian/American nurserymen Roger Barlow.



*Daphne x susannae 'Lawrence Crocker'*



*Penstemon rupicola 'Alba'*

The Victoria cuttings were planted in the Cariboo in fall 2011, survived the harsh winter climate at 4000' high on the Fraser Plateau and produced these first blooms Labour Day weekend 2012.

**Sincere thanks to Zdenek Zvolanek for improving this article by providing correct names and good information about cuttings.**

## **PLANT PORTRAITS**

**By John Husbands,  
portraitsofalpineplants.com**



### **Anthyllis montana 'Rubra'**

This is an outstanding alpine plant; easy and long lived, but not often seen in gardens. It has a woody base with neat silvery mats of grey-green downy foliage, which in the summer months is covered in abundance with deep pink clover-heads. Its natural haunt is the European Alps, from the Pyrenees to the Apennines. My plant is about 14 years old and has a spread of a little over 30 centimeters and a height of 12 centimeters. It can tolerate clipping back to keep it within its allocated boundaries. In the winter it dies back and looks a very sad thing! I think many people believe it is dead at this time and dig it up and discard it during the autumn tidy-up in the garden. Cuttings are best taken during the first week in August and in June the following year you will have strong rooted young plants. Give it a sunny spot in a well-drained gritty soil.





### **Calceolaria tenella**

I have grown this diminutive little charmer for over 40 years and would never want to be without it. It comes from Chile and produces prostrate creeping stems clad in minute foliage, over which hover thread-like stems of about 6 centimeters in height bearing clear yellow, pouched flowers with parallel crimson specklings. It is best planted in a cool leafy damp soil where it will clamber and cling to the face of damp rocks especially where moss clings also. Propagate by division of small pieces with their thin thread-like roots attached and plant in similar positions; do this often, you will then never be without this little gem.

## **ADVERTISEMENTS / REQUESTS**

Dr. Patricia Mark, "Paddy", writes:

I'm doing the **SPCA Pet Calendar** for Parksville and trying very hard to make it a good fundraiser, starting more or less from scratch as it hasn't had a volunteer for a while. Keeps me occupied in all my spare time, but this too will pass! If you know anyone who has an animal and they would like to have a photo in the calendar for a small donation, I'd love to hear from them! Feel free to pass my email address to anyone who is interested!

[pmark@shaw.ca](mailto:pmark@shaw.ca)



**REAL CORK WINE CORKS NEEDED:** Mike Miller is working on a green roof project at Milner Gardens, to be assembled next April. He needs real cork wine corks, no need for them to be clean, just dry. Please contact him at: [stelmike@telus.net](mailto:stelmike@telus.net), or bring them to the next QBGC or Alpine SIG meeting. Thank you.

**The Crevice Garden and its Plants**, by Zdenek Zvolanek, stock left from seminars, available at cost - \$12.56 CDN each. Only three left.

Please contact Valerie at [Melanson.valerie@gmail.com](mailto:Melanson.valerie@gmail.com)

## **HELP WITH IDENTIFICATION REQUESTED**

On the Whistler-Blackcomb expedition, Mike Miller found the following plant:



Can you help identify it? Please send in your thoughts to the editor at [Melanson.valerie@gmail.com](mailto:Melanson.valerie@gmail.com)