

"THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

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

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Building A Tufa Dish Garden Workshop

Text by Mike Miller, Photos by Kirsten Juergensen

The Tufa Garden Workshop was held on Monday March 11th with 11 participants present with their lumps of tufa and supplies recommended in the mail-out. By 1:15 we were ready to begin and Mike ran through the list of steps in the mail-out. First everyone tapped nails with small square green papers about the size of a Saxifrage at 4 years of age where they wanted a plant to be planted on their tufa. Then he demonstrated how to choose the right sized drill hole for the first plant to be set in Jan's tufa and drilled the hole catching the dust and grains of tufa needed for the planting media later. Once the bare rooted plant was in place he showed how to fill in the drill-hole slowly and set the plant ready to grow



Ready to drill

Now it was time to break out all the drills and everyone started as Mike circulated and aided as need be. For most of these members it was their first experience planting in tufa. No one set their tufa in the troughs at the workshop as that makes for a very heavy object to carry to the cars and get home. That was all to be done back at their homes. Mike was helping and moving around the big table constantly for the first hour as plants were bare rooted and set into the newly drilled holes of whatever size was required. By quarter to four all the plants Mike had brought were used up and planted and people were readying their new tufa gardens in progress for transport home.



Papers and nails in place

This was a very successful workshop and everyone worked steadily to create a tufa garden that would be a joy for years to come.

R: Tufa about half done



L: Part of the group working hard



L: Sweeping up the drillings



R: Linda and Louise at work





L: Watering in



R: The table from the other end

Two ready to go home



L: Mike helping Karen

R: Toad and Jan concentrating



Sue hard at work with her hard Tufa





L: Mike's last pep talk



R: The table with Elaine in the front

LE JARDIN BOTANIQUE DE MONTREAL **CREVICE GARDEN**

Text and photos by Zdenek Zvolanek



March 2009

I think that we can observe the results of Canadian biggest crevice garden, which was built by ZZ together with French Canadian head gardener René Giguere and gardeners of Montreal Botanic Garden. They gave me a place in the front of very large, old massive limestone rock garden.



The place was full of the terrible weed, Field Bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*. Joyce Carruthers and I were not able to finish planting and fine details in crevices. You can see the design with a light forest of *Pinus aristata*. All the terrain under rocks is modelled with tons of sand. Please note the healthy growth of difficult *Ranunculus parnassifolius*!!!



Enjoying the sun!



Ranunculus parnassifolius

RBG EDINBURGH NEW ALPINE HOUSE

Photos & notes by James Salomons, Development Officer, RBGE



Ever closer to completion - L: April 3, 2013, R: April 19, 2013

James writes April 19th: "To my untrained eyes, the paving looks complete and more tufa has been laid in front of the house. I am also aware that they are in the process of finalising the drainage improvements (there were problems between the Alpine House and Inverleith Row that required digging)."

PLANT PORTRAIT

***Thlaspi stylosum* aka Pennycress**

by Valerie Melanson

I am grateful that I was successful in germinating a couple of seeds of this honey scented alpine beauty from the Apennines. The plant pictured below was grown from AGCBC 2011 seed # 1397, sown Jan 18, 2012, p/u June 3, 2012, buds starting c. Jan 26, 2013 -



The buds were still developing Feb 11, 2013 -



until starting to open c. March 3, 2013 -



then in full bloom c. March 26, 2013 -



now setting seed on April 17, 2013-



The Alpine Garden Society describes the species as a "Tufted perennial, usually less than 3cm tall in bloom but sometimes to twice this. Basal leaves closely rosetted, elliptic spatulate, 3-10mm long. Flowers 5mm long, pale purple, in small head-like racemes, spring to summer. Central and southern Apennines, to 2000m, in screes."

(<http://encyclopaedia.alpinegardensociety.net/plants/Thlaspi/stylosum>)

Another source notes that it is an endemic (i.e. only found in that area) of Italy in the provinces of Marche, Abruzzo, Molise, Lazio and Campania. And that it is at home on nezazemněné (translation?) limestone debris at altitudes of 1800-2450 m.

(<http://botany.cz/cs/thlaspi-stylosum/>)

The Denver Botanic garden notes that the species is part of Brassicaceae (mustard, crucifer family), an herbaceous perennial, non-woody, Zone 6, and needs full sun.

(Denver Botanic Gardens website, www.navigate.botanicgardens.org)

WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - ELAINE BOHM



Draba sphaeroides



Lewisia (Lewisiopsis) tweedyi



White Primrose cultivar obtained in 2002 from Milner Gardens and *Primula* 'Sue Jervis' from Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden



Saxifraga 'Rosemarie' (TBC)

WHAT'S NEW IN MY ALPINE HOUSE - MIKE MILLER



Above: Soldenella alpina 'Alpine Snowbell' bought at Brentwood Nursery in 2010. Inflorescence 12 cm tall, leaves to 18 mm across. Planted in the crevice garden in a pot assembled at the September workshop with Gordon Mackay.



Trillium pusillum a gift from Eswyn in 2009. The growths come up black like the stems then the leaves open and slowly turn green as the flowers develop. The flowers are about 3 cm wide. Note the wavy edges to the petals.



Saxifraga 'F.L.Vek', from June in 2011, in the plunge-bed flowering well.

WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - JUNE STRANDBERG



The *Narcissus cyclamineus* have been out since February and are now getting smothered by other stuff.



The *Draba mollissima compacta* I am going to have to move to a pot of its own.



The *Erythronium grandiflorum* the slugs love! I have copper round the plants but one slug got by.



The *Saxifraga* sp is from Betscho Pass in the Caucasus (see Holubec). It came from Wrightman's and he still has Siberia listed on the website!



I got a bulb or two of *Narcissus rupicola* from Roger Barlow in 2011, this is the first year it has flowered and everyone admires it and wants to know where it came from!!



Narcissus rupicola on show at the VIRAGS Spring Show, April 13, 2013

ALPINE SIG TRIP TO VIRAGS SHOW & SALE & GARDEN VISITS

Photos by June Strandberg and Valerie Melanson
With special thanks to Amanda Carruthers & Paul Spriggs for sharing
their gardens

SOME SPECIAL PLANTS NOTED AT THE SHOW:



Beautiful *Trillium hibbersonii*



Primula auricula 'Arundel Stripe' *Taraxacum rubrifolium*, fr Faeroe Islands



Cyclamen balearicum



Cyclamen rhodium ssp. *peloponnesiacum*

AS SEEN IN AMANDA CARRUTHERS' GARDEN:



This time last year the trough was full of blooms After the hail, came the sun



Crevice loving Sedums, Daphne & Erythronium

AS SEEN IN PAUL SPRIGGS' GARDEN:



Cyclamen repandum, both white and pink variants



A well established bed and tufa trough



Paul's new tufa bed



Paul sharing construction and plant information

