

# "THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

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

Issue # 20

Part 1

July 2013

**FROM THE EDITOR:** My best wishes to all of you and your gardens.  
Items for "The Crevice" can be sent anytime to [Melanson.valerie@gmail.com](mailto:Melanson.valerie@gmail.com).

**CLIFF BOOKER**, shares further photos of the Wengen Area of Switzerland.



Looking down on Interlaken



Snoozing above Wengen



*Trollius europaeus*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

### **PART 1:**

Page 1: Cliff Booker photos from Wengen, Switzerland

Page 2: Table of Contents & Upcoming Alpine SIG Events & Other Events

Pages 3-17: From the Mail Bag &

The Beautiful Peloponnese by Cliff & Sue Booker

Page 18: Follow Up on SIG Events: Chadwell Seed Starting by Valerie Melanson

Page 19 - 22: Paradise Meadows Hike by June Strandberg

### **PART 2:**

Pages 23-24: Eswyn Alpine & Rock Garden Report by Elaine Bohm

Pages 24-31: What's New in My Garden: Bernie Guyader, Cecil Woods, Sue Beatty, Kirsten Juergensen & Late Breaking News

Pages 32-37: Portrait of a Genus: Colour the Year with Gentians by Bernie Guyader

Page 38: Plant Portraits: *Corydalis* 'Craigton Blue' by Zdenek Zvolanek

## **UPCOMING ALPINE SIG EVENTS**

***Please Note: Everyone must have paid their QBGC dues in order to participate in our SIG activities.*** A matter of insurance coverage, etc.

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

**MONDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> - MEETING AT QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE, 1:00 P.M.**  
(doors open 12:30) - Discussion on INDEPENDENCE OR NOT?, FUTURE PLANS, PRIZE DRAW, REFRESHMENTS, etc. Members should have received an email. Don't forget to do your homework!!

### **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.

## **OTHER EVENTS**

**VIRAGS - Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** - Janice Currie on "Tripping with the Czech Republic's Best Rock and Alpine Gardeners" & MEMBER PLANT SALE

**VIRAGS - Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Agnes Lynn on "Flora of the San Juan Ridge"

For more information check out their website: <http://www.virags.ca/calendar.htm>

## FROM THE MAIL BAG

Cliff Booker writes:

"Hi folks,

May I take this opportunity to introduce my wife Sue and I to your esteemed Alpine & Rock Garden Special Interest Group?

It has been our great pleasure to read (and contribute a few images to) some recent editions of the very admirable 'The Crevice' which, as you know, is compiled and edited in such a professional manner by Valerie Melanson and it is she that we must thank for suggesting and facilitating our proposed lecture tour to BC and especially Qualicum Beach in July 2014.

We look forward to presenting our own unique digital presentations to as many of you as possible and to meeting you all in the fullness of time.

We are certain that Valerie will include some background details and a synopsis on our talks in a more pertinent issue of your newsletter but, until then, can we offer you a brief article and various images illustrating a recent visit we made to the beautiful mountains and coastal areas of the Peloponnese? These images (and a veritable host of others) will form the basis of a new digital presentation entitled: 'The Peloponnese and Crete', which we will add to our ever-growing catalogue of titles.

Valerie has an up to date list of available talks and we are certain that a member decision will be made as to the most relevant title for your special interest group. We are perhaps best known for our images, recent book and knowledge of the glorious Dolomites so, without wishing to influence any decision (Umm!!), we humbly offer "The Definitive Dolomites' as our suggested title of choice."

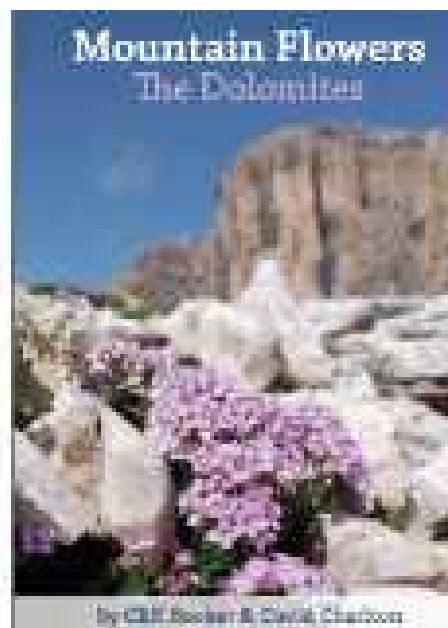
FYI from the Editor:

Where are the Dolomites? -

Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolomites>) says: "The **Dolomites** (Ladin: *Dolomites*; Italian: *Dolomiti*; German: *Dolomiten*; Venetian: *Dolomiti*; Friulian: *Dolomitis*) are a mountain range located in north-eastern Italy. It is a part of Southern Limestone Alps and extends from the River Adige in the west to the Piave Valley (Pieve di Cadore) in the east. The northern and southern borders are defined by the Puster Valley and the Sugana Valley (Val Sugana). The Dolomites are nearly equally shared between the provinces of Belluno, South Tyrol and Trentino."



*Physoplexis comosa* in editor's garden,  
one of the alpine treasures of the Dolomites



Cliff's lovely handbook

## **THE BEAUTIFUL PELOPONNESE** **A BOTANICAL GLORY OF GREECE**

**by Cliff and Sue Booker**

We had been keen to visit the remote Mani peninsula of Greece for a number of years and an opportunity presented itself in April this year when our good friends (and master mini-garden creators and exhibitors) John and Clare Dower agreed to accompany us and share the driving on the less than orderly highways and byways of this glorious land.

We departed from Manchester airport and arrived in orderly fashion in Athens prior to collecting our hire car. Our journey to the Peloponnese proved quite uneventful as we took advantage of the magnificent and recently constructed motorway that whisked us away from the metropolis, over the Corinth canal and on into the sun-drenched splendor of the Mani. We had decided on a two-centre break, with five nights based on the spectacular coast at Kardamili and then five more in the high mountains at Dimitsana.



Kardamili

Suffice it to say that our first hotel and resort were everything we expected and more.



Kardamili



Kardamili and it's even more scenic neighbour, Stoupa, delighted all our senses and provided the perfect locations from which to tour the isolated and out of the way villages, sights and flower rich meadows of the peninsula.



Stoupa



Peloponnesian coast



Ubiquitous olives



Typical cliff geology

We spent five gloriously sunny days exploring the hills, coastal plains, roadside verges and olive groves of this incredible region and, as each picture can paint a thousand words, we have attached images of just a selection of the hundreds of species we encountered on our travels.



*Callistemon* at Stoupa



*Campanula spathulata*



*Campanula andrewsii* ssp. *hirsutula*



*Campanula andrewsii* ssp. *hirsutula*, various views





*Oxalis articulata*



*Anemone pavonina*



*Adonis aestivalis*



*Onosma frutescens*



Poppies in abundance



*Linum pubescens*



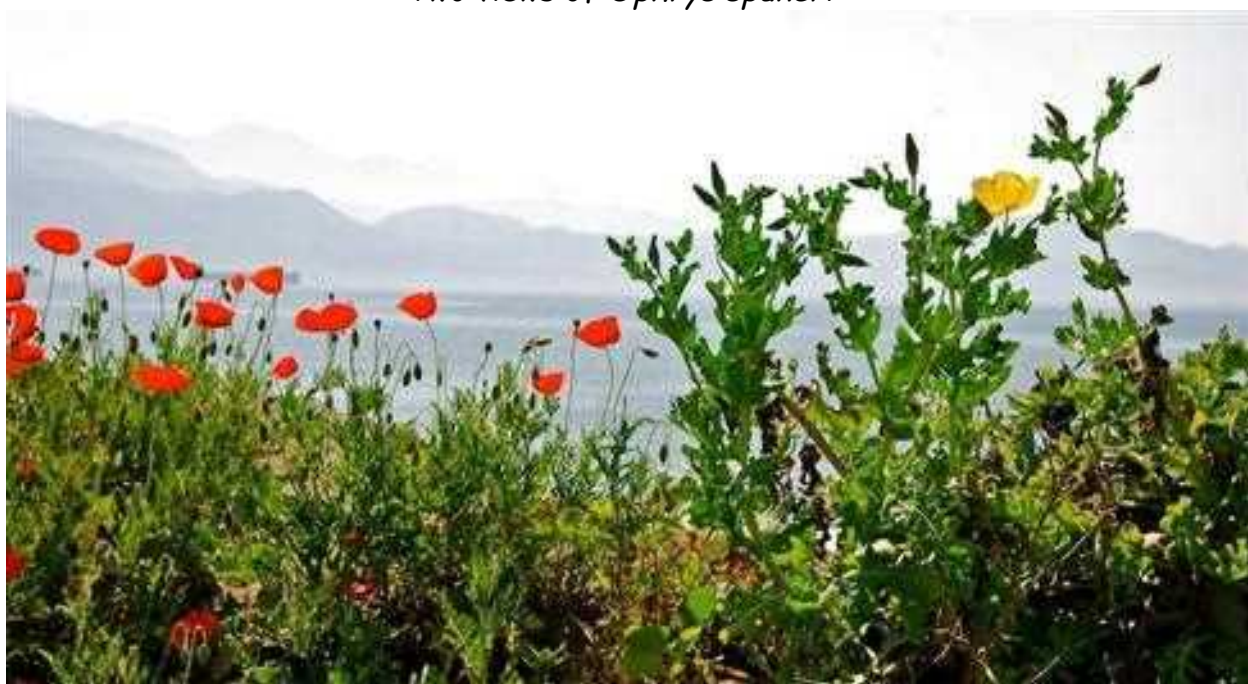
*Muscari* array

A Wonderful Array of Bee Orchids - *Ophrys*





Two views of *Ophrys spheerodes*



Poppies and *Glaucium flavum*



Flowers everywhere



*Cistus salvifolius*

## LOCAL FAUNA



*Gonepteryx Cleopatra* butterfly



Predator and prey on *Cistus creticus*



Sentinel



And another of the locals on a *Cistus creticus*



Southern Festoon Butterfly - *Zerynthia polyxena*

The food, the hospitality, the scenery and the wines were each as wonderful as the flora and we can thoroughly recommend this amazing part of Greece to anyone with an inclination to visit.

We will conclude our visit to the Peloponnese in the next edition of 'The Crevise' with descriptions and multiple images from our sultry days in the lush mountains encircling Dimitsana.

Cliff and Sue Booker - June 2013

*A link to a wonderful identification site for plants of The Peloponnese:*  
[http://www.botanik-jagel.de/diplom/Elafonisos\\_FotosBluetengelb.htm](http://www.botanik-jagel.de/diplom/Elafonisos_FotosBluetengelb.htm)



Stoupa sunset (enhanced)

## FOLLOW UP ON ALPINE SIG EVENTS

### CHRIS CHADWELL'S SEED STARTING METHOD

Report by Valerie Melanson

As you will have read in Linda Derkach's report last month, Chris Chadwell recommends starting all his Himalaya collected seed outdoors in pots dampened from below and covered in polyethelene bags. He mentioned you could do this up to June and get results. I decided to try this out. I used 2 lettuce boxes of 6 seed pots each, all surface sown, covered with Ziploc vegetable bags (they have perforations so they breath a bit, similar to polyethelene I figured), and put them under a grow light outside daytimes. I started the following (NB: I had tried two pots of each with OT & 20C treatments back in January with no success except for *Primula munroi*):

*Primula macrophylla*, CC7385 - 1 pot

*Primula meeboldii*, CC7386 - 2 pots

*Primula moorcroftiana*, CC7382, CC7383 - 2 pots

*Primula munroi*, CC7363 - 1 pot (I did have success with Jan 2013 sowings of 1 pot OT & 20C, but the seedlings are delicate and survival rate not high)

*Primula reidii*, CC7341 - 1 pot

*Saxifraga jacquemontiana*, CC7397 - 1 pot

*Saxifraga moorcroftiana*, CC7377 - 2 pots

*Saxifraga pseudo-pallida*, CC7366 - 1 pot

I also started 1 pot of *Ranunculus andersonii* from Alplains # 20815.72

June 28<sup>th</sup> - thought I'd better check them and four pots had several sprouts each - both pots of *Saxifraga moorcroftiana*, and the one pot each of *Primula munroi* and *Primula reidii*.

July 11<sup>th</sup> - another check and now a couple of sprouts each on both pots of *Primula moorcroftiana*

Do give this method a try, especially if you have small numbers of pots to start or no room for full trays and domes.

## **PARADISE MEADOWS - JULY 4, 2013**

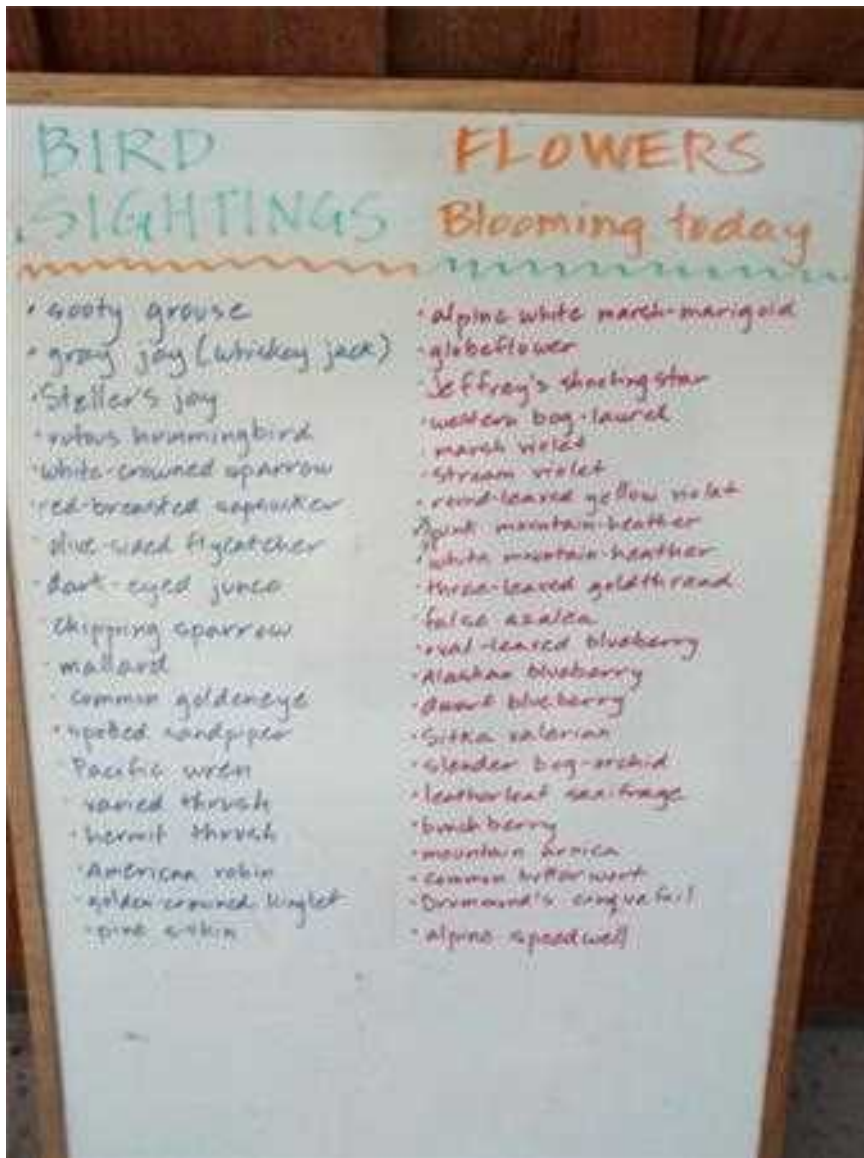
**Report and photos by June Strandberg**



Mount Washington

Bernie had already been up and tested the waters - so to speak! There is also an excellent website we can access that shows us the weather and trail conditions, what flowers are in bloom and what birds have been sighted. The snow went early this year - last year there was skiing on July 1<sup>st</sup>!

Margot, Mike, Sue, Steve and Sylvia met at my house 9am, we picked up Barb in Bowser and met Bernie at the parking lot - which was being worked on and a bit rough, let's hope it is being made bigger. Margot, Sylvia and I managed to miss the Mt. Washington exit! We had to go a long way to turn around. I don't know how many signs we missed coming up but I counted four big ones coming back!



List at the Naturalists' Hut

The false hellebore *Veratrum viride* was in full leaf, I like looking at the little 'torpedoes' before the leaves burst out but they were past. No flowers yet though.

There was *Kalmia*, false azalea, various blueberries, crowberry, white rhododendron and I have never seen such a show as put on by both the pink and the white mountain heather this year - they were lovely.

Lots of blue and yellow violets, coptis, butterwort and buttercups, cinquefoil, shooting stars, green and white orchids, lousewort, our twayblade we found last year and more, also a new one for us sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*.



*Drosera rotundifolia*

Bernie showed it to us as we would never have found it growing at the lake edge and very tiny. Margot has a full list of all the plants we have seen in the Meadows and around with their Latin and common names. Mike has a printed list but it has to be up-dated from last year.



L to R: Bernie, Mike, Steve, Sue, Barb, Sylvia, Margot

It was a beautiful day - some wore shorts and all had short sleeves - there were a few bugs but not bad. We had our lunch sitting at the edge of the boardwalk by one of the lakes enjoying the view and wondering what plants are growing on the little island.

We all had a very good day and plan to go again next week and make the loop trip to Lake Helen Mackenzie and Battleship Lake - we will have to move along a bit faster than we did on Thursday!



*Tsuga mertensiana*



*Trollius laxus* in flower



*Menziesia ferruginea*



*Pedicularis racemosa*



*Phyllodoce empetriformis* & *Cornus Canadensis*



*Listeria caurina*