

# Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia



Forfar Botanists garden see-through rock wall feature created by David F. Wilson

**Volume 57, No.2 Quarterly Bulletin Spring 2014**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 11, 2014 Kenton Seth:** Caucasus to Crevices-From Georgia to the Garden. This young plant freak from Colorado is hands-on guy & his show will reflect the gardener's position. More info here: <http://www.agc-bc.ca/events/Kenton-Seth-Caucasus-and-Crevices-from-Georgia-to-the-Garden> The picture of Kenton on our web shows the dangers of drinking too much Vodka when you're botanizing in the Caucasus.

**September 10th, 2014 Grahame Ware:** Prometheus Unchained- Exorcising Pontius Pilate So That Mountains Can Be Savoured- The True Fathers of Alpine Gardening in the West. Your Bulletin editor takes a cultural and historical look at the beginnings of alpinism. A fresh and revealing take on how our attitudes and beliefs of mountains have changed to where we are now in alpine gardening.

## ROCK ON! EDITOR'S COLUMN

**Its been nice knowin ya...**

I've had to say goodbye to a number of plants in the garden this Spring. The dreaded late Winter -15C temps of mid-February followed by 14" of snow that froze at the bottom, proved too much for many especially those precocious Californian genera such as *Arctostaphylos* and *Mimulus*. The loss that really hurt was *Ceanothus* 'Vandenburg', a really wonderful dwarf woody that was in a pot near the studio greenhouse. So long too, *Arctostaphylos* 'Bert Johnson'. I'd had them both since moving to Van Isle. The Mediterranean and Antipodean species that have become fashionable over here also got a rude awakening such as *Pittosporum spp* and *Coprosma x kirkii* 'variegated form'. This late season event slagged 'em.

In a sense, this is good for the garden- vanquish the *poseurs* and free up the space for genera and species that can take this not entirely unusual event. The event also illustrated that which we all know about our gardens- namely, that some areas are more protected. Thus, one of my Alplains seed-grown *Diplacus calycina* (syn: *Mimulus longifolia*) is still alive to live another season. All the rest were mush.

However, the alpinists took this event without any decaying umbrage and they shone as if to say, "*See...I told you!*" The alpinists as a group came through this swimmingly. A quick survey reveals a number of plants that are looking better this Spring due to the cold. It would seem that the pussycat Winters of the past few years did not agree with

*Edraianthus serpyllifolium* 'forma Major' as it failed to flower last year. I was worried that it had lost interest but this Spring it is (as you can see) loaded with buds.



*Edraianthus serpyllifolia* forma major

Grahame Ware photos



*Lewisia nevadensis* 'forma rosea' with *Phlox* 'Temiskaming' on left

*Lewisia* seemed supercharged after the cold especially the *nevadensis* forms, my 'own selection 'Ruby Birch' (from a seedling batch of Ingwereson Nursery Birch hybrids I grew in the early 90's), as well as a plethora of *Lewisia* species (*glandulosa*, *leeana*, *brachcalyx*, etc.) from Brent Hine via the collection of the late Roger Simpson. Then, there is the exquisite L. 'Norma Jean' which is looking better than ever. See link here for a detailed, personal account on Rick Lupp's jewel in the IRG: [http://www.srgc.org.uk/logs/logdir/2013Oct241382632259IRG46\\_October2013.pdf](http://www.srgc.org.uk/logs/logdir/2013Oct241382632259IRG46_October2013.pdf)

Some of the *Penstemon* bought the farm including *P. teucroides*, that wonderful mat-former of high Colorado as well as a few other Intermountain species that I'd grown well up in the N. Okanagan. The notable exceptions were (as usual here on the east side of Van Isle), *P. virens*, *P. pinifolius*, *P. spatulatus* and the Sunset Crater Park form of the delectable *P. clutei*. I was thankful that *P. 'Schooley's Coral'* seemed unaffected by the deep freeze/14" snow combo. These are really good *Penstemon* for the west coast.

Also looking very good this Spring are some of the seed-grown species from Jeanette Fryer, co-author of the *Cotoneaster* book from Timber Press and a retired botany Prof at Cambridge. Outstanding among so many is *Cotoneaster roseiflora*. This alpine Taiwan species was not received as named from Fryer but subsequent research by yours truly uncovered detailed research that straightened out the identity. This one has luscious foliage and pink flowers and a prostrate habit. It is quite simply the most attractive rock garden *Cotoneaster* that I've come across.



*Cotoneaster roseiflora* nestled among *Iris blowdovii* and *Thymus polytricha*

But there was also an upside to this late season, frozen smack-to-the-side-of-the head, namely that late-arriving seed that needed some real chill and wintry oscillations, would get it. So, it was and worked out nicely with a good collection of seed from **Kurt Vickery** especially *Tulipa* species that he collected in Kyrgyzstan and environs as a tour leader with Greentours. *T. lehmanniana* was the first to germinate followed by *T. albertii*, *T. berkariense*, *T. greigii* 'Berkara Valley form', the recently described *T. lemmersi* from Kazakhstan, *T. orthopoda* and *T. patens*. Also, late-arriving *Crocus* and *Colchicum* species from **Alan McMurtrie** have germinated as well.



*Tulipa orthopoda*, an AM (*Award of Merit*) winner in 2009

It appears too that all my October/November/December bulbous plantings are flourishing and that this more than enough to keep me happy. My latest mantra is: "New gardens for an old man." Thus, I design accordingly- going for floral magic that is relatively instant and a rocky backdrop that looks eternal. Such an approach engages my imagination long enough to trick my body in to doing more garden construction. This sweet illusion puts a smile on my mug and works. Even a garden variety Las Vegas magic hack would be impressed. The Siren of rock gardening is alive and well at Yellow Point.

Once Spring got under way here it has been a very strong and floriferous one. I hope too that everyone out there has enjoyed the unfolding of this great season. Please keep the articles and photos flowing to me for subsequent issues of the Bulletin. Thanks for the support and helping to make the Bulletin rock!

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### Links and such

One of the most interesting cultural projects that I've seen happening anywhere- as it relates to rock gardening and its history- is occurring in Scotland. The **Forfar Botanists** project pays homage to the native sons of Forfar that achieved lasting fame as a botanists namely, George Don Sr., George Don Jr., the exceptional botanist, David Don and James and Thomas Drummond. The nursery at Doo Hillock (Dove Hill) started

by George Don Sr, was taken over by Robert Drummond when he was just twenty years old. <http://www.forfarbotanists.org/index.html>

Robert later gave up the nursery at Doo Hillock and went botanizing in Arctic Canada and western Canada where many plants contain the specific epithet *drummondii*.

The magnificent rock wall work and artistic seed spheres made of stone provide a sterling example of what projects like this can be when there is a commitment *and* talent (David F. Wilson) all on the same page. Note this as you read Ian Plenderleith's report on the Vandusen Rock Garden "project" on page 58. David F. Wilson has a great blog about the process and his involvement with building the walls and other sculptural aspects of the Forfar Botanists Garden. <http://dfwilson.co.uk/forfar-botanists-garden/> A terrific read. Pictures below provided by David F. Wilson



Wilson told me in a recent email that, "*Working on the project was a delightful experience & was probably the project that I have enjoyed the most in my career. This was due to various factors: it was an interesting build, with some technical challenges provided by the designers scheme & my own artistic input. In addition, the clients were such a committed bunch full of passion for the project & provided great support to my efforts. The garden aims to tell such an interesting & generally unknown story.*"

Finally on Forfar, credit also has to go to the artistic garden designer, Inglis Thorburn <http://www.inglisthorburndesign.com> for transforming the neglected area.

And staying in Scotland, here is another project centred on saving the Botanical Cottage, the original cottage built at the **Royal Botanical Garden of Edinburgh**. <http://www.botaniccottage.org/botaniccottage.org/Welcome.html>

Paul Slichter continues to have the best botanical photo web of all things flora in the Pacific Northwest. For a little sample of his fine work, let's look at the section entitled *Onions East of the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and Washington*: <http://science.halleyhosting.com/nature/basin/3petal/lily/allium/allium.htm>

Is it just me?...or does *Allium tolmei* make you want to get your knapsack and thermos ready for a little trip down to Washington? Paul is a retired high school teacher from Gresham, Oregon and is now doing some great work in so-called *retirement*. Here is a link to a good piece on him in Vol. 20 of *Kalmiopsis* by Barbara Robinson when he received a well-deserved Fellowship last year: <http://www.npsoregon.org/kalmiopsis/kalmiopsis20/kalm20fellows.pdf>



*Allium tolmei*

Slichter is certainly one of the best sources of botanical info on PNW flora. On behalf of the AGCBC, I want to thank you Paul for everything you do.

Staying in the biosphere of the PNW, here is a gem- the *only good key available online* for the *Penstemon* of Oregon: <http://www.npsoregon.org/kalmiopsis/kalmiopsis04/lodewick.pdf>

Finally, do you wanna *art up* your garden and have some disposable income to do it? Well, here's your chance! <http://www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2013/antique-show/> The antique garden furniture event at the NY Botanical Garden has been rebranded as the **Garden Sculpture and Antiques Fair: 1750-2013** and 'tho it may be too late for this year, you may want to check out one of the artists featured, **Michael Hogg**. Go to <http://mfogg.com/> and then klik on **Gallery** and scroll down to **Garden Sheds**. Now we're talking! I'm sure that there are local craftsmen that could do much the same actually.

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## Update on *Penstemon* treatment for the Flora of North America

(from the Spring 2014, **Penstemaniac**, Quarterly Journal of the APS and courtesy of Craig Freeman) by **Craig C. Freeman**, University of Kansas

At the 2012 American Penstemon Society meeting in Laramie, Wyoming, I had the pleasure of serving as a banquet speaker. My talk focused on my work associated with my recently completed draft of the taxonomic treatment for the genus *Penstemon*, north of Mexico. It was written for Volume 17 of the Flora of North America (FNA). Volume 17 will include 9 families, 94 genera *and more than 940 species* (Ed: my emphasis) with contributions from 52 authors. However, delays in the delivery of treatments and the need to shuffle editors to assist with other volumes in the FNA production queue have prevented that goal from being realized. Fortunately, progress has been made. As of January 2014, 99 of 104 manuscripts covering 85% of the species in the volume have been submitted. Two volumes nearing completion are now slated to go to press ahead of Volume 17. Editors soon again will be able to focus on Volume 17.

Efforts to refine the *Penstemon* treatment have continued: thousands of new distribution records have been accumulated from herbarium studies, many morphological data missing in the draft have been obtained thanks in part to APS members who provided material for examination and discussions and thus, keys have been improved. I hope to complete my review for the treatment this coming Spring or Summer (2014).

If we receive the last five treatments and have a little luck, Volume 17 may be on its way to press later this year. After the bulk of the work for FNA has been completed, I hope to explore ways to make some of the spin-offs of my work available through the APS website- such as regional keys, distribution data, descriptions, and other items of interest.

## A SMALL SAXIFRAGE REPORT FROM 2013 PRAGUE SPRING SHOW

by Zdenek Zvolanek, photos by ZZ and Milan Halada



**Outside show bench at Prague Spring Show**

There are always a few thousand people excited with the idea of planting new pretty plants for Spring in their gardens. The Prague Club of Rock Gardeners have been holding their Spring shows (along with a plant sale) for more than 40 years. It is still going strong and brings in good money for the club and helps subsidize its expensive quarterly rock garden journal, **Skalničky**.

The Spring show is held in May and lasts usually 7-9 days taking 3 weeks to prepare. Plants are always outdoors and sometimes part of the show is spoiled with bad weather. I will write about the Spring 2013 show, where during building the show pavilion, the garden was white with snow and plants for selling were protected with plastic sheets against frosts. Of course, the Saxifrages are the stars of this show and I will concentrate on them in this report.



**Sales plants protected with plastic covering**

It is well known that this show is great for showing large collections of *Saxifraga* from the Porphyron (formerly Porophyllum) Section and many newly bred and named cultivars can be seen here.

During the last 16 years, two outstanding wild species were used with greater frequency as the seed or pollen parent for the new hybrids. Both are from dolomitic limestones of Caucasus Mts: 1) the *enfant terrible*, *Saxifraga dinnikii*; and, 2) its sister *Saxifraga columnaris*. As we will see later in this report, these two species have overlapping habitat and there is a natural hybrid, initially called *S. x dinninaris*, that is now being used for hybridizing.

(Ed: NB: The International Code for Naming Cultivated Plants frowns on combining two species name into an apparent fixed hybrid cross "name" as there would undoubtedly be many genetic variations within this cross. Thus, they like to use the Group designation for a better handle on the hybrid designation. This info can be found in the latest edition of *Hanburyana*: 7: 11-13 (2013), "A proposal to amend the ICNCP by extending the category of grex to plants other than orchids (H10)" Adrian Young, International Cultivar Registrar for Saxifraga, Waterperry Gardens, Wheatley, Oxon OX33 1JZ.)

*Saxifraga dinnikii* has outstanding, large flowers with deep pink petals, with fine folding surfaces and a shining crystalline texture. Unfortunately, the kids obtained always have pale pink colours and are poor performers in hotter and drier gardens. All cultivars with this blood must be grown out of scorching sun. They do better in semi-shade, behind a house where there is good air circulation and preferably grown in tufa (soft travertine) boulders. One of the first hybrids, 'Verona' (*S. marginata* x *S. dinnikii*) is still grown only in an alpine house. However, many believe that other combinations as 'Vitus Bering' (*S. ramsarica* x *S. dinnikii*), 'Tromso' (*S. poluniniana* x *S. dinnikii*) or 'Zita Markova' (*S. albertii* x *S. dinnikii*) will be able to be grown outdoors with a little care. It seems there is reason to be hopeful for growing *S. dinnikii* hybrids outdoors with the success of 'Crisp Cloud' (*S. burseriana* x *S. dinnikii*), a new combination which for four years now has been happy in Bavarian tufa stone in semi-shade. A colour break has also been achieved in the cultivar 'Moulin Rouge' (*S. lilacina* x *S. dinnikii*) but, unfortunately, it is another baby for alpine house cultivation. Another lovely colour break is the white form (*forma alba*) of *S. dinnikii* which was discovered at the German nursery, *Flor Alpin*. See the beautiful picture taken at the altar of this show.

Similar care must be given to the saxatile, dwarf beauty *S. columnaris* although it accepts drier and sunnier conditions better than *S. dinnikii*. It is ideal for miniature gardens in troughs but in cool places. In Vancouver, it must be given some protection against Winter's wet weather if placed outdoors. Worth trying outdoors- in a cold-frame for example- are the following hybrids of this cross (Ed: now referred to as Prominent Group)- *S. columnaris* x *S. kotschyi*: 1) 'Czech Karst'; 2) 'Moravian Karst'; and, 3) 'Berounka'. *S. 'Bohemian Karst'* (*S. kotschyi* x *S. columnaris*) could also be promising outdoors too. Another noble combination is *S. 'Bohemian Paradise'* (*S. cinerea* x *S. columnaris*) (Ed: Region Group). As well there is a hardy, lovely white-flowered hybrid *S. 'Sněhurka'* (Snow Lady), a selection of a cross between *S. burseriana* and *S. columnaris*. (Ed: Fenomen Group).



*Saxifraga dinnikii*



*S. 'Bohemian Karst'*

You may not believe it, but all of these aforementioned hybrids except 'Crisp Cloud' are the fruitful work of one quiet man, Karel Lang. He runs a nursery that specializes in saxifrages exclusively. Many *Saxifraga* hybrids now carry the botanical handle

*caroli-langii* as a tribute to their origins from Karel Lang. His perfection in showing exhibits in pots (under no. 10) is well seen in his *Saxifraga* 'Emil Holub'. The mother is the Turkish saxatile yellow *Saxifraga kotschyi* while the father is the natural Caucasian hybrid *S. x dinninaris* (*S. dinnikii* x *S. columnaris*).

The Prague show has plenty of other Czech and English *Saxifraga* cultivars, *Primula*, *Dionysia*, etc. including early bulbs like *Narcissus bulbocodium* varieties. Some beds and crevice gardens have exhibits sunken under gritty top dressing and quite popular are the clubs' stony troughs. All plants are in the open and have natural light, which is fine for photography.



'Thor Heyerdahl'

'Emil Holub'

#### Endnotes:

- 1) For more on Karel Lang's breeding efforts and *Saxifraga* breeding history, read **Malcom McGregor's** book, "**Saxifragas**" (Timber Press, Portland, 2008) especially p.115. Pages 127-9 give fairly up-to-date breeding efforts and their hybridizers including Lang.
- 2) *Saxifraga x dinninaris* was discovered in 1996 and formalized in 2001 with authorship to **Vojtěch Holubec**. He led an expedition to the Caucasus (that included **Josef Halda** & **Josef Jurasek**) to collect and identify *Saxifraga* species and their natural hybrids. A report of this botanical expedition can be found in the ***Saxifrage Magazine 11***.
- 3) **Karel Lang** wrote an article on the **Red Porphyrion Saxifragas** in the *Alpine Garden Society Bulletin* 72(1) in 2004.
- 4) Some very good pictures of Karel Lang's *Saxifraga* hybrids by **Paul Kennett** here. <http://www.saxifraga.org/plants/saxbase/portfolio.asp?Credit=10>
- 5) **Alpigena Nursery** in Holland has a superb website devoted to *Saxifraga*. Check them out for exact crosses and nomenclature and many great pictures and info. It is the work of *El Barto* and his senora aka **Bart and Hannelore Moerland** <http://alpigena-saxifragas.nl/page1.html>. This is what they say about *S. dinnikii*: "*Stunning and breathtaking species. Tiny rosettes, very close packed. Give a sheltered spot for harsh weather and enough shade during hottest hours. The soil must be bit more humus-rich but the drainage is very important in autumn/winter for this Sax. A marvelous saxifraga and one of the best overall botanical plants!*"
- 6) Both *S. columnaris* and *S. dinnikii* rec'd PC's in 2001 from the AGS showing that it didn't take too long to establish them in cultivation.
- 7) **Kabschia Saxifraga- Adrian Young** shares 40 years of experience in how to grow them in the *AGS Bulletin* December 2013, Volume 81 No 4.

## The Ultramafic Slopes and Rich Meadows of Grasshopper Mountain

Text and photos by Jay Akerley



Having Googled Gary Lewis' and Gary Bradfield's papers on the Tulameen Ultramafic Complex Northwest of Princeton, BC (see Endnotes for link). I had a pretty good idea where I could find a plant that I've sought for several years, *Eriogonum ovalifolium* v. *nivale*. Grasshopper Mountain, accessible from Tulameen, would afford me the opportunity to collect cuttings and/or seed for my garden. In addition, I would be able to photograph the plant for E-Flora BC- [www.eflora.bc.ca](http://www.eflora.bc.ca) -as there were previously no photos of Canadian specimens. Lewis and Bradfield's papers indicated that there were also a number of other special natives likely to be encountered in this zone.



*Eriogonum umbellatum* v. *subalpinum*

On June 22 of last year, I was joined by Brent Hine, for a botanizing excursion to this special place. It is accessed via Tulameen River Road, a forest service road winding through the Hozameen Range along the Tulameen River, westward from Tulameen, BC (access it by heading west on 2nd Street from Otter Avenue). Brent and I found the road to be in suitable condition for access in my all-wheel drive SUV, but any pickup truck with good tires would've been able to negotiate the occasional rough patch. At the Britton Creek bridge, about 10 km West of Tulameen, we parked the car, walked eastward about 100 metres and turned North straight up the hill.

Grasshopper Mountain's sparsely wooded south face is a challenging, vertical hike. I immediately knew we were in a special place. As Lewis and Bradford explain, "the chemical and physical properties of ultramafic soils often have adverse effects on plant growth (the "serpentine effect"). These soils generally contain elevated

concentrations of the heavy metals nickel, chromium, and cobalt, and especially high levels of magnesium, all potentially toxic to plants. They are generally deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and calcium, thereby further restricting plant growth.” The resulting effect is that ultramafic sites such as Grasshopper Mountain support a unique diversity - there are plants here that are outside of their normal range, while other plants are simply endemic to ultramafic soils. On more than one occasion climbing the rugged south face, I remarked to Brent how strange the rocks appeared - rusty red with a light sheen as if they had been coated in shellac.



Climbing the steep vertical south face of Grasshopper Mtn.

Brent and I stopped to observe *Packera canus*, a favourite of mine, on a scree slope at approximately 1000m elevation. The loose, ultramafic talus was unlike any medium I had seen before, like broken, slightly metallic brick. Scanning the slope to the east, I saw more whitish clumps and at first assumed it was more *Packera*. However, I shouted at Brent to have a look when it became apparent that the foliage was similar in colour, yet smaller and more compact than the *Packera*. I scrambled over, traversing the slope and sending little landslides of serpentine talus down the hill, and began taking many photos, recognizing that the population might be limited to this one locale. It was my target plant, *Eriogonum ovalifolium var nivale*! The pale, tomentose foliage on this plant was striking against the reddish, metallic-looking ultramafic soils. While we were early for flowers, I was disappointed to note that these plants did not seem to be developing buds. I carefully took several cuttings and was careful to collect GPS data with my many photos, so that we could resume our hike onwards and upwards.

At about 1200 metres elevation on the South-facing slope of Grasshopper Mountain above the Tulameen River Road, the slope flattens out into a bench with absolutely exceptional meadows. *Eriogonum umbellatum v. subalpinum* appeared (see pic on p 51), with early red buds, among a myriad of other blooming gems including *Castilleja hispida*, *C. miniata*, *Arenaria capillaris*, *Senecio streptanthifolius*, *Silene parryi*, *Delphinium nuttallianum*, *Penstemon fruticosus var serratus*, *Erythronium grandiflorum*, the aforementioned *Packera cana* and a plethora of other Asteraceae.

The arrangement of the plants among the ultramafic boulders and outcrops was breathtaking. I took many photos of these meadows with *Picea engelmannii* and *Pinus monticola* in *krummholz* mode, with the peaks of distant Hozameen Range as a backdrop.

Our time at the site was drawing to a close as mid-afternoon approached, and Brent led our descent down the western slope of the mountain towards the canyon in which Britton Creek tumbles towards Tulameen River Road. And, if you're not Brent or me, don't descend here. On the way down, we found ourselves negotiating dangerous cliff ledges through boulders and talus above the box canyon that is occupied by Britton Creek. I was scared and told Brent- just in case these were my last words- "Its been fun." Imaginary tombstone epitaphs aside, we made it unscathed to within 200m of our vehicle when - on the final steep descent- each of us took a tumble and suffered superficial wounds. Your loved ones may prefer that when you begin your descent from Grasshopper Mtn, you take the easier and less dangerous south slope.

Grabbing refreshments from the car, we split up to contemplate nature. I disappeared underneath the Britton Creek bridge and as I set my beer on the rocks, I looked up and to my surprise, saw Brent scaling the sides of the box canyon upstream. After a few minutes, we rejoined to venture up the rugged Western bank of the creek, which is a difficult hike along heavily wooded, steep canyon walls. Brent shouted at me to join him in observing *Polystichum kruckebergii*, an ultramafic indicator species. (Ed: Named after the expert on serpentine endemics, Art Kruckeberg). In one glorious spot, it was joined by another ultramafic indicator fern, *Adiantum aleuticum*.



Brent Hine admiring *Polystichum kruckebergii* (left) and *Adiantum aleuticum* (right)

After Brent collected spores, we made our way back to the car. Driving back towards Princeton, we felt it prudent to stop for a beer at the historic Coalmont Hotel. Sitting in the hotel's saloon, we felt as if we had been transported back to the turn of the century, chatting with colourful locals, who were pretty curious about our activities on Grasshopper Mountain. On the 40 minute drive back to my cabin near Chain Lake, I stopped and harvested seed from *Happlopappus lyallii*- a perfect end to a perfect day!

Endnotes:

*Davidsonia*, Vol 14 (4): 121-128, 137-144

Authors: Gary J. Lewis and Gary E. Bradfield (Department of Botany, UBC)

[http://www.davidsonia.org/files/14\\_4\\_tulameen.pdf](http://www.davidsonia.org/files/14_4_tulameen.pdf)

## 2014 AGCBC SHOW AWARDS Van Dusen Garden April 5, 2014

<u>Best in Show</u>	Mark Demers	<i>Dionysia 'Anielle'</i>
<u>Best Alpine Plant</u>	David Sellars	<i>Androsace muscoidea</i>
<u>Best Plant in Expert Class</u>	Mark Demers	<i>Dionysia 'Anielle'</i>
<u>Best Native Bulb or Corm</u>	David Sellars	<i>Trillium kurabayashii</i>
<u>Best Native BC Alpine Plant</u>	Mark Demers	<i>Trillium hibbersonii</i>
<u>Best Miniature Garden</u>	Jason Nehring	
<u>Best Bonsai</u>	Larry Wick	<i>Cupressus duclouxiana</i>
<u>Best Primula</u>	David Sellars	<i>Primula 'Ethel Barker'</i>

### RIBBONS

#### General Section

#### 4. Collection of 3 pans of rock garden plants of same genus

1<sup>st</sup>: David Sellars- *Saxifraga 'Ben Loyal'*, *S. 'Aldo Bacci'*, *S. 'Allendale Frost'*

1<sup>st</sup> David Sellars- 3 *Androsace* native to Asia

#### 6. Any native Pacific Northwest plant suitable for woodland or bog garden

1<sup>st</sup> David Sellars *Trillium kurabayashii*

2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Demers *Trillium hibbersonii*

3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Demers *Dicentra cucullaria*

3<sup>rd</sup> Jason Nehring *Asarum marmoratum*

#### 7. Any plant suitable for woodland or bog garden, except native Pacific Northwest plants and ferns

1<sup>st</sup> Jason Nehring *Asarum asaroides*

1<sup>st</sup> Philip MacDougall *Ypsilandra thibetica*

2<sup>nd</sup> Philip MacDougall *Jeffersonia dubia*

3<sup>rd</sup> Philip MacDougall *Epimedium grandiflorum* "Rose Queen"

#### 8. Rock garden plant native to Europe

2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Nehring *Draba sp. (pygmaea?)*

2<sup>nd</sup> David Sellars *Androsace wulfeniana*

#### 12. Rock garden plant native to North America

1<sup>st</sup> David Sellars *Douglasia montana*

1<sup>st</sup> Jason Nehring *Phyllodoce caerulea*

**14. Rock garden plant raised from seed by the exhibitor.**

**The Vera Peck Memorial**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Demers *Trillium hibbersonii*  
2<sup>nd</sup> David Sellars *Andosace vandellii*  
3<sup>rd</sup> David Sellars *Fritillaria crassifolia*

**15 Rock garden plant out of bloom to be judged for silver or grey foliage effect**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Nehring *Dudleya sp.*

**16. Rock garden plant out of bloom to be judged for foliage effect and not eligible for classes 15 or 38**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Demers *Primula marginata*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Nehring *Cardiocrinum cordatum*

**19. Saxifraga**

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Sellars S. 'William Boyd'  
2<sup>nd</sup> David Sellars S. 'Rosemarie'

**Shrub Section**

**25. Other flowering dwarf shrub suitable for the rock garden, not eligible for classes 23, 24, 27 or 28**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Larry Wick *Polygala chamaebuxus* 'Kamniski'

**Bulb Section**

**32. *Fritillaria* suitable for the rock garden**

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Sellars *F. gussichiae*

**34. *Trillium***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ann Dies *T. kurabayashii*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Philip MacDougall *T. erectum*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jason Nehring *T. kurabayashii*

**36. *Narcissus* suitable for the rock garden**

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Sellars *N. rupicola*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Demers *N. obesus*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Demers *N. minor*

**37. Tulipa suitable for the rock garden**

1<sup>st</sup> Philip MacDougall *T. Duc van Tol*

**40. Any corm or bulb suitable for the rock garden not included in classes 31-39**

1<sup>st</sup> Mark Demers *Corydalis solida* 'red form'

2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Nehring *Ipheion* 'Rolf Fiedler''

**Primula Section**

**43. Species or species hybrids of the Auricula section**

1<sup>st</sup> David Sellars *P.* 'Airwave'

1<sup>st</sup> David Sellars *P.* 'Ethel Barker'

**52. Any other Primula not eligible for classes 41-51**

2<sup>nd</sup> Philip MacDougall *P. darialica*

**BONSAI Section**

**53. Evergreen Bonsai**

1<sup>st</sup> Larry Wick *Cupressus duclouxiana*

**Miniature Gardens and Troughs Section**

**58. Alpines as Art, size and nature undefined**

1<sup>st</sup> Jason Nehring *Vaccinium membranaceum*

**59B. Miniature rock garden in a tray**

3<sup>rd</sup> Larry Wick *Larix* landscape forest

**61A. Miniature garden or trough**

3<sup>rd</sup> Larry Wick *Buxus* large landscape

**Rarity Section**

**63. One pan of a rock garden plant, new, rare, or difficult in cultivation**

1<sup>st</sup> Mark Demers *Dionysia* 'Anielle'

2<sup>nd</sup> David Sellars *Petrophyton cinerascens*

## The VanDusen Rock Garden Project: This year? Next year? Who knows!

Ian Plendeleith Reports

You may have been wondering why you have not received any reports about progress on the new VanDusen Rock Garden. Simply put, it is because there has not been any progress at the administrative level. When I reported here last Spring that renewal of the rock garden had received funding and was to begin construction in the Fall, I really should have known better. As Yogi Berra famously said, "It is déjà vu all over again".

Shortly after my report in the Spring 2013 Bulletin, **Harry Jongerden**, the VanDusen garden director, resigned to return to his old Ontario stomping grounds and take up the position as director of the woefully underfunded Toronto Botanic Garden. Around this time **Shawn Mitchell** was appointed the VDBG Association Director. But what was happening on the rock garden project?

It seems that without the motivation and leadership of Jongerden, the project floundered. However, we were assured that as soon as the Festival of Lights was over (and the decorations put away), that things would move forward. I had been eagerly watching for signs of activity.

Then it was recently announced that **Howard Normann** (appointed interim director, by the Vancouver Park Board with 32 years experience on Vancouver's public golf courses), had brought in a city landscape architect to "*draw up some plans*". Ouch! One hopes that he or she has some knowledge about rock gardens and access to the many discussions which had taken place previously.

Work now is set to begin in the Fall- one hopes that the Fall referred to is 2014. Discouraged?...who *me*? But maybe it is for the best. Possibly a more exciting plan will be realized and one that will actually happen.



the old rock garden site at Vandusen Gardens

## IN MEMORIAM ROBERT C. BROOKE

by Linda Verbeek and the Editor

Robert Brooke died very suddenly in early March at age 80. He had been a member of the AGCBC for more than 25 years. Robert was a quiet, unassuming person. He served as the Club's treasurer for a year in 2011-2012. He did a characteristically meticulous job, and, in accepting the office of Treasurer, even went so far as to enrol in an evening course to update his high school skills in bookkeeping. He also came to all the sales, and often volunteered to man the cash register, a very exacting job.

Robert was born in Salmon Arm, B.C. His early education was in a one room school and he completed high school by correspondence. Robert studied Forestry at UBC where he graduated at the top of his class. He was awarded a fellowship to Yale where he completed his Master's degree. After returning to the Pacific coast, he completed his Doctorate at UBC. Robert was an expert in subalpine forest ecology and published several papers on the subject.

He became one of the Charter Professors at Simon University in 1965 where he taught until his retirement in 2001. One person close to him called him "*fiercely private*" and also, "*His passion for the natural world was utterly captivating and inspiring. His understanding and research of our delicate ecology placed him far ahead of his time.*"

He loved visiting nurseries, and often had quite a collection of plants sitting on his back deck, waiting to find a spot on his steep hillside. Robert also had an extensive collection of slides, and once or twice shared these with the Club in his talks about the Canadian Arctic. While retired, Robert compiled a very comprehensive family history, travelled in Europe, enjoyed bird watching and walks around Deer Lake.



*Pinus mugo v. pumilio* 'Vandusen Mini'

G. Ware pic



*Pinus parviflora* 'Kinpo' in Editor's garden April 2014