

Alpine Garden Club of B.C.



Colchicum ?agrippinum



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Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month except July & August, in the Floral Hall, VanDusen Botanical Garden. Doors and Library open at 7:00pm and Meetings start at 7:30pm sharp with the educational talk. Don't forget to bring a prize for the raffle which goes a long way to paying for the hall rental.

Cover: *Colchicum ?agrippinum* drawn by Linda Verbeek – see p.73



SEED LIST: Your seed list, instruction sheet and order form should be enclosed with this Bulletin. If they are missing, please contact Ian Plenderleith immediately: 604-733-1604 or by email. Orders must be postmarked no later than **December 12th**.

PROGRAM:

December 13th: We will have our annual Christmas auction to support the CKNW Orphans Fund. This is a very lively event and raises a considerable sum to support this very worthwhile cause – plus you get to bid on some outstanding plants. Start potting now to prepare your contributions to the auction – plants are definitely the most popular items. Get baking too to ensure our potluck refreshments are up to their usual higher than high standard !

January 10th 2007: Members' slide night. Bring along your photos either as slides or on CD or USB memory stick and share your adventures and joys with everyone. This is a very popular event which depends on YOU!



**REPORT ON THE 2006 INTERNATIONAL INTERIM ROCK GARDEN
PLANT CONFERENCE July 21 through July 26, 2006
~ By Charlie Sale, North Vancouver**

Conferences are always a source of great pleasure. One gets to share plant talk with seldom seen friends. The International Interim Rock Garden Plant Conference is particularly special in this respect because it draws participants from all over the world. This conference is held every ten years. In 1976 the conference was co-hosted by our Club and the Seattle chapter of The American Rock Garden Society, now the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). Events in Vancouver were at UBC; the alpine troughs in the Lohbrunner Alpine Garden, created for the occasion, are an ongoing reminder. The last conference was in Christchurch, New Zealand and Margaret and I were there. It was a huge success.

This years meeting was sponsored by NARGS and hosted by their local chapter, the Wasatch Rock Garden Society. The venue was Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort at Snowbird, Utah. This ski resort is located about 8000ft/2400m up the Wasatch mountains high above Salt Lake City. The conference was timed to capture the peak of the wildflower season in the high mountains. While the lectures were first class, the highlight for us was the alpine meadows.

The conference offered a variety of hiking venues. We chose to see the local mountains; these have been so highly touted over the years that to miss them was out of the question. An additional benefit was that because Salt Lake City hosted the 2004 Olympic Winter Olympics, venues were close at hand and these offered knee-friendly access to the alpine areas by ski lift. Our first hike was to Snow Basin, one of the

Olympic sites. Here we saw massed in a meadow the Mountain Sunflower, *Heliathella uniflora* in combination with mauve pink *Agastache urticifolia*, Giant Hyssop. Then we came to the magnificent blue *Penstemon cyananthus* growing with the yellow *Descurainia richardsonii*, California Tansy. Also seen were *Linum lewisii*, *Gilia aggregate*, and *Erysimum asperum*. There was also a nice golden meadow of Showy Goldeneye, *Viguiera multiflora*. Unexpectedly, at the very top of the ridge on the western edge was a group of calochortus. This Mariposa Lily was not on our plant list and caused some excitement. The views to Salt Lake below were spectacular.

On the second hiking day we headed for Catherine Pass. This pass separates Little Cottonwood and Big Cottonwood Canyons. Because Snowbird is located near the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon, we were able to climb easily to the pass. This hike took us past Alta, site of the remains of an extraordinarily rich 19th century silver mine. The meadows along the trail were truly amazing for the abundance and variety of wild flowers. They were as species rich as we have seen anywhere. Here we saw gorgeous fields of violet pink *Agastache urticifolia* with *Polemonium foliosissimum* and blue lupins. Further along were the lovely pink *Monardella odoratissima*, the white *Veratrum californicum* and *Aquilegia caerulea v. albiflora*, and the delightful yellow flax, *Linum kingii* and its relative *Linum lewisii*. Once again we saw the amazing blue *Penstemon cyananthus*, this time growing with mouth-watering pink *Castilleja applegatei*. Another delightful combination was *Geranium viscosissimum*, *Polemonium foliosissimum* and *Penstemon cyananthus*.

On our own we rode the ski tram to the ridge above Snowbird. Here an excited Norwegian shouted to us to come see the rare red *Primula parryi*. On the high ridge we saw once more the lovely *Linum kingii* in association with an unidentified delightful dwarf blue erigeron.

On our last field trip we visited Red Butte Botanical Garden. This 1500 acre/600 hectare garden has as spectacular a setting as one can find. Amongst its large collection of drought-tolerant plants are gardens for the whole family, including a fragrance garden and a children's garden. This garden is worth a trip.

Other groups at the conference spent 3 days on field trips to the Tetons in Wyoming, the Snowys also in Wyoming, the Rubys in Nevada, and Cedar Breaks in Utah. All reported enthusiastically about their experiences at the conclusion of the conference. Additionally there was a post-conference tour to that alpine paradise, the Bighorns in Wyoming.

Prior to the field trips we were treated to a series of interesting lectures. The keynote speaker, Lorraine Yeatts, presented some of her decades-worth of photographs of the alpiners in the areas we would be seeing. Saturday was lecture day. Dr. William Parry started it off speaking about the extraordinary geology of the local chain of mountains. We had all seen the tortured layers of rock as we drove up Little Cottonwood Canyon to Snowbird, but to have Bill Parry explain

their origin was truly fascinating. Rock that was once on the surface of a plain is now 30,000ft/9,000m underground. The twisted and folded rock layers have given great variation in surface rock and the consequent floral diversity. Limestone is beside granite, vertical beside horizontal. Botanically the growing conditions are almost endless.

Dr.Noel Holmgren, who specializes in the intermountain flora, roughly between the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada/Cascades and the eastern border of Utah, followed. He gave a comprehensive lecture on western endemic penstemons. We saw photos of about 75 species from this area. It was quite overwhelming, particularly to those of us who only can grow a meager few. After these talks there were six lectures on the highlight of the conference, the specific areas of our three day field trips. Margaret and I took in Bill Parry's great overview of the flora of the Wasatch Mountains, as this was our chosen field trip. Within 15 miles of Salt Lake City there are about 1200 species. The upper end of Little Cottonwood Canyon, including our base at Snowbird, has 550 species crammed into just a few miles. In the middle of these presentations Sean Hogan of the superb Portland nursery, Cistus Nursery, spoke about Lewisias and their associates. That evening the wonderful alpine growing duo of Rick Lupp of Washington State and Graham Nicholls of the U.K. spoke of their own approaches to alpine plant cultivation.

Early Sunday before the field trip departures James Reveal spoke to us about eriogonums. Our extraordinary field trips in the Wasatch followed. The wrap-up was Wednesday evening and featured photographs taken of all the field trips. In this way we got to see what we had missed. All trips looked to be exceptional.

The NARGS annual meeting also took place after dinner. Of particular interest to the Canadian contingent at the conference was that three of the four NARGS awards made for 2006 were given to Canadians: the Edgar T. Wherry Award to Marilyn Light of Quebec, the Marcel Lepiniec Award to Roger & Debbie Barlow of BC, and the Award of Merit to Bernard S. Jackson of Nova Scotia. Canadians are an important part of NARGS and it was nice to see the organization recognize the contribution that these three have made to rock gardening in North America.





Penstemon cyananthus growing with *Descurainia richardsonii*
~ Photo Charlie Sale



Mountain Highlights: Ashnola Hills and Placer Mountain

~ by Alan Tracey, Port Moody, B.C.

Photos for this article appear on pp.76 & 77

Southern British Columbia offers a multitude of mountainous areas that are readily accessible but perhaps a little less known to those who want to combine mountain hikes and alpine plants. Hikers in the Vancouver area are well acquainted with areas in Manning Park. However, just east of the park are access routes to the Ashnola Hills that overlook the Ashnola River valley and Cathedral Park. One that gives access to the Ashnola region proper represents a rather long day trip from Vancouver and is much better served by a more leisurely two day excursion involving driving, camping overnight and spending a full day hiking. A second, to Placer Mountain, can be treated as a one day excursion but requires a vehicle with high clearance, though not necessarily 4-wheel drive. The Ashnola region is home to 10 or so rare taxa, including such species as *Botrychium paradoxum*, *Calyptridium umbellatum*, *Erigeron leibergii*, *Eriogonum pyrolifolium* var. *coryphaeum*, *Lomatium brandegei*, *Lupinus minimus*, *Ranunculus suksdorfii*, *Ranunculus pedatifidus*¹.

Access to the Ashnola is via a logging road that follows along the Pasayton River for about 30 km and ends in a sandy, rather flat log landing area adjacent to Peeve Creek at about 1450 m. A three-hour hike from the parking area through a logged over area then upward, gives access to a mostly grassy, rounded ridge at about 2200 m that can be explored at leisure. Going in a southerly direction along the ridge for several kilometers, one comes to the high point of the hike, at 2375 m, directly above Border Lake and overlooking Cathedral Park, located to the east on the opposite side of the Ashnola River valley. In the distance, north of this location, can be seen Flat-Top and Placer Mountains.

Along the Pasayton road one will see various arnica and penstemon species, *Rosa acicularis*, *Aquilegia formosa*, *Corallorhiza maculata* (Photo 1), *Ledum glandulosum*, *Rhododendron albiflorum* (Photo 2) and numerous other plants. Many of these will also be found as one hikes along from the parking area. At higher elevation there will be other plants such as *Erigeron aureus*, *Silene acaulis*, *Veronica wormskjoldii*, pedicularis, penstemons, eriogonums of various types and dwarf willows. In some of the higher locations, *Lupinus lyallii* carpets the ground while lower down *L. arcticus* forms such large stands that it fills the air with perfume. The heaths, cassiope and phyllodoce are common here and, if one keeps a careful watch, the hybrid *Phyllodoce x intermedia*, a cross between *Phyllodoce empetriformis* and *P. glandulifera* will be spotted.

¹Reference: 1/. R.T. Ogilvie in Smith, I.M., and G.G.E. Scudder, eds. Assessment of species diversity in the Montane Cordillera Ecozone. Burlington: Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network, 1998



Placer Mountain



*Corallorhiza
masculata*

1



*Rhododendron
albiflorum*

2



Phyllodoce x intermedia # 3



Dodecatheon dentatum # 4



Erigeron aureus # 5



Pezostemon davidsonii v. *davidsonii* # 7



8 *Silene acaulis*



Lupinus lyallii # 9

There is much variation in the crosses. The photo (*Photo 3*) clearly shows there are characteristics of both the parent species in the flower of this particular cross.

In the moister areas of the lower region will also be found the elegant, white shooting star, *Dodecatheon dentatum* (*Photo 4*). It certainly is not a common plant in this area and so far, we have found it in only one location. It is also known to occur in an area across the Ashnola valley in Cathedral Park. A particularly nice form of *Erigeron aureus* was encountered in the logged over area, but this erigeron is found throughout the region in drier locations from the parking area upward (*Photo 5*).

Except for the water-loving plants found in the boggy areas traversed by the Ashnola hike, most of the same plants will be found on Placer Mountain. Placer Mountain is accessed by means of the Placer Mountain logging road that exits from the highway about 12 km east of Manning Park. This road has the advantage that it goes to an altitude of 2040 m and very little hiking is required to reach the summit, close to 2200 m. Basically, once the first 30 or 40 meters are gained from a little to the west side of the parking area near the base of the cliff (*Photo 6*), the remainder is a gentle stroll of exploration. One should, however, spend time looking at the plants around the base of the cliff. One of the surprises of this area is *Penstemon davidsonii* var. *davidsonii*, the southern form of the species (*Photo 7*). In our area we normally find the variety *P. davidsonii* var. *menziesii*. If you cannot resist the urge to have this particular plant, then return when the seed is ripe. This plant is not even listed in the *Rare Native Vascular Plant of British Columbia*. It is likely that it is also found in other locations in the Ashnola. Unfortunately, we failed to examine closely the *P. davidsonii* found during the Ashnola hike but the photographs suggest they were also variety *davidsonii*. Both forms are small penstemons that are excellent plants for a rock garden and seeds are generally available from seed exchanges.

It is well worth the effort expended in clambering to the top of the cliff, which is accomplished via a rather steep, but not excessively so, slope to the west of the parking area. Alternatively, one can walk east for half a kilometer or so through a draw that circles around and allows access to a rather more gentle grassy, lightly treed slope leading upward. The second route will bypass the plants growing on and around the cliff itself that can be approached by the first route. Once one is above the cliffs, *Dryas octapetala*, *Silene acaulis* (*Photo 8*), *Lupinus lyallii* (*Photo 9*) and other small compact plants such as phloxes, drabas, antennarias and senecios will easily be located. Also, very small forms of polemonium, as well as numerous larger flowering plants will be found as one meanders in the direction of the summit.

All in all, these are two areas well worth visiting. The hike from Peeve Creek requires a reasonable level of fitness and one should plan on a full day of hiking in order to explore the region properly. The

weather in this area can change rapidly so one must be prepared for anything from hot bright sunshine to cold wind with hail or snow. On the other hand, exploration of the Placer Mountain area can be carried out in a leisurely manner but always with a view toward a quick return to the motor vehicle should the weather turn bad.



FALL 2006 PLANT SALE ~ by *Linda Verbeek, Burnaby, BC*

The first impression I had, when I wandered around the sale area in the morning, was: this is a small sale. And perhaps it was, but there was in the end no shortage of wonderful things – and luckily no shortage of buyers. It was an absolutely splendid late summer day, and even the most dedicated plant lovers could be forgiven for wanting to spend time outside rather than inside a hall, however full of marvelous plants it might be. But enough people spared us some time to make it a very satisfying sale for most of us I think.

Maybe this time I'll walk you around as though you came in with the public. Mind you, the tables are set up with an island in the middle, so you can go two ways.

The first table everyone would find belonged to Margaret Charlton and Charlie Sale. They have a wonderful garden which they have hacked out of rain forest. It boasts a lot of shade and lots of shrubs so they usually bring larger plants. One thing that immediately drew my attention was a variety of *Hydrangea* (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Hanabi', to be exact). It has the standard flat inflorescence of white flowers, but the large marginal flowers that serve to attract the pollinators were completely double in this case and the effect was very decorative.



Hydrangea macrophylla
'Hanabi'

They also had a *Hydrangea* relative, *Dichroa febrifuga* – to me completely unknown². It is a shrub that grows to about 3ft, with blue flowers that become persistent, bright blue berries, so it produces a show for a very long time.

² There are mature examples in the Asian Garden at UBC Botanical Garden and a name search on the internet will demonstrate the stunning blue berries in [Daniel Mosquin's botany photo of the day August 3rd, 2005](#).

Saxifraga fortunei is a hardy garden plant that is very similar to the familiar houseplant *Saxifraga stolonifera* (mother of thousands, which actually survives in the garden remarkably well, too). *S. fortunei* is a little larger and the leaves go pinkish in the fall. It likes shade and moisture and produces a panicle of small white flowers in midsummer.

Next you find Page Woodward, with her wonderful selection of natives (and others!). In fact, the only native I noted (you must realize that if I really wanted to talk about all the fascinating plants, I'd fill 3 bulletins) was *Arctostaphylos rubra*, also known as *A. alpina* var. *rubra*. It grows as flat as the more familiar *A. uva-ursi*, but doesn't spread as far, and the leaves are deciduous. But before they fall they turn the most brilliant red. This plant is supposed to colour whole hillsides in the arctic in the fall. The berries are also red, and somewhat translucent. I have found it hard to grow, or keep, even a plant from Page. In the wild we have almost always seen it on or near rocks, and so that may be a clue, but I don't think it likes being dry, which *A. uva-ursi* tolerates very well.



Drawing by Walt Fertig – Wyoming Natural Diversity Database {reproduced with permission}

Dryopteris sieboldii is a very striking fern from China and Japan and one could wonder why it is in the genus. *Dryopteris* mostly have what we think of as real fern leaves, with many small pinnae. This one has only 3 – one large terminal one which can be up to 12" long, and two smaller, but still large, lateral ones. The effect is like a *Phyllitis scolopendrium* that decided to divide – I'd never seen anything like it and it is very handsome.

Primula reidii is one of those difficult Primulas, a smallish one, with one umbel of nodding ivory-white flowers. To my knowledge I have never seen this plant, only in a picture, but I would have loved to have it. However, there was only one and it must have disappeared very quickly. The last plant of Page's that I noted was



Dryopteris sieboldii

Codonopsis grey-wilsonii. The genus *Codonopsis* is closely related to *Campanula*, but they are mostly climbers. *C. grey-wilsonii* is a fairly new one (I think it was first described in 1996, when someone divided it out of a previous species. It is named after Christopher Grey-Wilson, the editor of *The Alpine Gardener*, and a great plantsman). It has much more open flowers than the more common *C. climatidea*, of a deep, clear blue. I think the *Codonopsis* are all hardy.

Next you come to our own table. I shouldn't sing my own praises too much, but I will mention a *Colchicum* I called *byzantinum*. The fall sale is a great time to look for *Colchicums*, as they are usually all in bloom at that time, and there was a great selection. My "*C. byzantinum*" is unusual in that the petals are checkered, not plain. I acquired the plant at least 15 years ago from Holland, and it has multiplied over the years, but this is the first time I have had a surplus. Over the years the labels have also been lost and mixed up and it doesn't fit the description of *C. byzantinum*. Maybe it is *C. agrippinum* or *C. variegatum*. (See cover drawing).

We also had two species of true *Crocus* that are fall blooming. *C. kotschyanus* is the earlier of the two; it has egg-cup shaped flowers of a delicate lilac, with a white-and-yellow throat. *C. speciosus* is larger, comes later and has flowers of a much deeper lilac-blue. They also open up wider in the sun. The true crocuses do not make as much of a splash in the garden as the *Colchicums*, but then on the other hand they don't make such bulky foliage either, and they die down by May sometime, so they are far less obtrusive in the summer garden.

Next to us you find Ann Jolliffe, whose table was awash with colour – quite a feat at the end of September. A lot of it was *Schizostylis coccinea*, which some years is available on almost everyone's table, while this year I think Ann was the only one who had it. More colour was provided by *Rehmannia elata*, a foxglove relative. It grows to about 50cm tall, with softly hairy leaves and huge foxglove-like flowers, which are mauve-pink. It blooms through late summer and fall, but it is only marginally hardy here, though it overwinters in a pot. For Ann it grows beautifully; I have never managed to keep it and have more or less given up on it.

Penstemon kunthii was also still in bloom. It is an upright plant, with racemes of very dark flowers, a sort of dusky wine colour. *Dianthus amurensis* was new to both of us this year, so I don't know how big it will grow. My plant, when it bloomed, was still a small, compact cushion (not as tight as *Dianthus petraeus*, which Ann also had, more like *D. alpinus*), but the flower stem was 15cm or so, and the flower was huge, 3 or 3.5cm across, and deep magenta.

Across the aisle you find Fragrant Flora – Glen Lewis has retired, but not quite, so there were lots of neat plants again. He loves Peonies, and there were several: *P. delavayi*, is a tree peony with deep red flowers, *P. peregrina* is similar to the more common *P. officinalis*, a herbaceous plant with single, open red flowers and lots of yellow stamens, and *P*

mlokosewitschii is also herbaceous, with large, somewhat glaucous leaves and beautiful creamy single flowers.

(a hybrid of *C. acerosa* and *C. repens*, from New Zealand) is a small shrub looking like a dwarf form of the variegated *Euonymus fortuneii*, but neater. Glen said it had survived the winter in a pot.

Ligustrum japonicum is a privet with a difference. Glen said it is nearly dwarf and the leaves are so thick they almost look succulent. Perhaps it was the variety 'Rotundifolium', because the type will grow to 3 m, according to my book.

Finally there was *Ozothamnus hookeri*, from Tasmania, a shrub belonging in the Asteraceae. It is the stems, though, that make it special – they are covered in white felty hairs, and the tiny leaves are appressed, making little green triangles in all the white felt.

Next is Dan Sierzega, who, as usual, had mostly not-so-hardy plants. However, *Maihuensis poeppigii* is hardy, he says. It is a cactus from Patagonia, and makes mats. The stems are cylindrical and not very thick, dark green. It probably doesn't grow more than 15 or 20cm high with yellow, diurnal flowers. It is most unlike other cacti in that it likes, even needs, rain in winter, and doesn't like to get too hot, ever.

Sarracenia leucophylla, from the southeastern US, with beautiful slender pitchers, is also hardy, apparently, if you keep it dry. I found that interesting, because I was told long ago that you need to keep *S. purpurea* sitting in water over the winter. The latter is hardy enough for me. Dry spots in winter are very much at a premium in my garden, so I didn't try it, but it would be interesting.

Solanum pyracanthum is a shrub with very decorative, toothed leaves of a colour between glaucous and bronze, decorated with orange spines along the vines – and along the stems as well. It hails from Madagascar and is definitely not hardy, but it is a splendid foliage plant for a patio tub or something. The flowers are rather ordinary bluish *Solanum* flowers, nothing to write home about.

Across from Dan was the Club table - not as rich as usual, but still with some interesting plants. One I not only noticed, but also bought, was *Diplarrhena latifolia*. The genus *Diplarrhena* belongs in the Iridaceae and comes from Australia and Tasmania. I've seen *D. moraea*, which has flat white flowers – somewhat like a Japanese Iris, with beautiful blue markings. *D. latifolia* is purple and yellow, according to the Seedlist Handbook. We'll see.

Also on the Club table I spotted both *Adiantum capillus-veneris* and *A. pedatum*, the native Maidenhair fern. Also a yellow *Phlomis*, probably one of the Mediterranean shrubby ones. These members of the Mint family get big, but are very handsome, with bold, usually hairy foliage – at least underneath – and stout stems with whorls of large yellow flowers.

Most spectacular was a dwarf pine that had grown on a rock – you could see quite thick roots growing down at least two sides of the rock into

the soil below. If you ever wanted a dwarf conifer, that would be one to go for, I'd think.

The Club had also ordered in some plants from Roger Barlow and that forms the next section. *Edraianthus pumilio*, is a Campanula relative with a rosette of narrow leaves and sessile blue bells. As far as I know, all the *Edraianthus* come from the European mountains, and they must get a reliable blanket of snow, for they resent winter wet. I, for one, have never been able to keep one alive through the winter, so I have given up, although I adore them.

Eriogonum compactus and *Calyptridium umbellatum* are native to western North America, the first is a daisy, the second the so called Pussy-paws. It makes a rosette of fairly fleshy leaves, and the ball-shaped inflorescences tend to flop around it. The flowers look quite a bit like an *Eriogonum*, but the plant belongs in the Portulacaceae, not the Polygonaceae. *Campanula chorubensis* makes a tidy mat of 4" by 8" (according to the label), with white, pink-flushed bells. Sounds wonderful.

The plant of *Polygala sibirica* that I bought looks like a very tidy little shrub. It is supposed to look like *Polygala chamaebuxus*, which is one of my favourites, but without the yellow in the flower. Being from Siberia (one assumes) it might be quite hardy. There were still a few plants from Vera's collection. I noticed *Veronica allionii*, a speedwell from dry meadows in the Alps, with deep blue flowers in solitary spikes. *Degenia velebitica* is a plant I have mentioned before, a crucifer from the Velebit Mountains in Croatia. Its foliage is pure silver, and in spring it produces flat clusters of rather large, moon-yellow flowers. It hates winter wet, though, and only does well for me in a trough with winter cover.

Jason Nehring, next door, stayed true to his love for the *Tricyrtis*. He had lots of *T. hirta* this time, with the lovely speckled pink flowers. Also several plants of *Viola pedata*, from eastern North America, and a very intriguing gentian relative, *Tripterospermum japonicum*. It is a climber and carries tubular, purple-blue flowers. It gets about 1 ½ ft tall, which is not very tall for a climber.



Tricyrtis hirta
Drawn by
Linda Verbeek

IV

Turn around and you are at Joe Keller's table. Joe is fair set to rival Roger Barlow one of these days. Not only does he also have wonderful, unusual plants, but they all look so beautifully neat and uniform, just like Roger's. At least Joe lives in the Lower Mainland, so we are not likely to lose him any time soon. *Aeonium cabulica* belongs in the Crassulaceae, and it looks like that, a rosette of many rounded leaves, grey-green with beautiful markings. The *Aeoniums* are mostly subtropical and don't tolerate any frost, but if this one really comes from Kabul, as its name would indicate, it might be a little hardier. It gets quite cold in Kabul. *Ophiopogon japonica nana* (Liliaceae) is a tiny form of Mondo grass, only 5 or 7 cm high, with little clusters of tiny pink flowers, which later turn into shiny black berries. It is very slow growing, so you don't see it very often. *Potentilla nitida* is another all silver plant. It forms a mat and is supposed to make pink flowers. Mine has only ever made one flower in over 15 years, but Joe's is cv 'Allana' which is supposed to bloom more freely. I've planted it beside the other – see what happens. If 'Allana' will flower for me, the other one will go on the scrap heap.



Libertia peregrinans - Wikipedia

Libertia peregrinans is an Iris relative, this time from New Zealand, with dense spikes of flat white flowers. I've never seen this one, but I know *Libertia grandiflora* from Scotland, and like it very much.

Now there is only one table left, and it is shared between Anna Burian and Daphne Guernsey. Anna also had various *Colchicums*, including the large white *C. speciosum album*, a very handsome plant. She also had *Miscanthus*

sinensis, an ornamental grass that grows at least 2 ft tall, with stripy leaves, I think with some red in it.

Daphne, as usual, had lots of bulbs – *Fritillaria bucharica*, *F. camschatcensis*, *F. severtzovii* etc. Also *Cistus creticus*, which is a beautiful pink one, but probably not the best suited to our winter downpours. I have found all of the *Cistus* temperamental anyway. I bought from her a pot labeled: *Arenaria* sp., pink flowers. Of course it isn't blooming now, but the plant looks very similar to *Erysimum kotschyannum*, which I bought a year and a half ago from Vera and then killed (at what turned out to be the last sale she ever attended). I have since grown it again from seed. I didn't know *Arenarias* came with such very long narrow leaves, so I am curious to see what develops.

And now we are back where we started, and all that is left is to go and pay for our purchases.