

*Alpine Garden Club*  
*of*  
*British Columbia*



*Vol 54 No 2*

*Bulletin*

*Spring 2011*



## *Alpine Garden Club of BC*

Internet Home Page: [www.agc-bc.ca](http://www.agc-bc.ca)

<b>President</b>	Philip MacDougall
<b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	David Sellars
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b>	Karen Shuster
<b>Past President</b>	Linda Verbeek
<b>Secretary</b>	vacant
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Brooke
<b>Membership</b>	Ian Gillam
<b>Programs</b>	David Sellars
<b>Pot Shows</b>	Dana Cromie
<b>Library</b>	Pam Frost
<b>Annual Show</b>	Linda Verbeek
<b>Plant Sales</b>	Mark Demers
<b>Seed Reception</b>	Marilyn Plant
<b>Publicity</b>	Joan Bunn
<b>Open Gardens</b>	Lisa O'Donnell
<b>Refreshments</b>	Dorothy Yarema
<b>Webmaster</b>	Chris Klapwijk
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	Alan Tracey

### **Committee Members**

Margot Ketchum - Richard Hankin - Lisa O'Donnell  
Bob Tuckey - Ed Donaldson

### **Honorary Life Members**

Margaret Charlton - Francisca Darts - Pam Frost - Linda Verbeek  
Ian Gillam - Bodil Leamy - Amanda Offers  
Ian & Phyllis Plenderleith - Geof Williams - Bob Woodward

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month except, July and August, in the Floral Hall, VanDusen Botanical Garden. Doors and Library open at 7:00 pm and the meetings start at 7:30 pm. Please bring plants for the plant draw; the proceeds of which go toward paying for the hall rental.

Front Cover: *Dianthus callizonus*: Photograph taken by Bruny Monney

## **Programs**

### **David Sellars**

**May 11:** Our very own Glen Patterson will give a presentation on the **Flora and Fauna of the High Canadian Arctic**, featuring the islands about 600 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Glen is an avid world traveler and outstanding photographer.

**June 8:** Timothy McNitt will speak on **Yellow Aster Butte Trail and other great NW Botanical Hikes**. Timothy is a Fern Specialist and Photographer from Bellingham, Washington.

**September 7: Note date change.** This is the **first** Wednesday of September.

Gordon McKay will speak on **Dwarf Conifers: The Backbone of the Rock Garden**. Gordon trained at Threave School of Gardening in Scotland and Pershore College in England. He came to Canada in 1994 and worked at Island Specialty Nursery. He now owns and operates Alba Plants in Cowichan Bay and also works as a teacher/mentor in Horticulture Therapy at Providence Farm. Alba Plants strives to be a traditional nursery in the sense of raising plants on site. Gordon will have plants for sale at the meeting.

**October 12:** Paige Woodward will tell us about **Lilies of Western North America**. Paige Woodward is co-owner of Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery, [www.hillkeep.ca](http://www.hillkeep.ca). She grows plants from around the temperate world and sometimes organizes study-tours to visit them in the wild. Species lilies are a highlight of the nursery's display garden.

**November 9:** Bill Terry will give a presentation on **The Southern Alps of Australia**. Bill and his wife, Rosemary recently spent three weeks botanizing in the 'Southern Alps' of S.E. Australia. Their travels took them into the highest regions of the country with lovely alpine meadows, as well as along the coastal forests. Bill lives in Sechelt and many of us visited his marvelous garden on an AGCBC tour last spring. Bill specializes in plant propagation and has a splendid collection of Asiatic poppies featured in his recent book *My Blue Heaven*. More information at [www.meconopsis.ca](http://www.meconopsis.ca).

## Open Gardens Lisa O'Donnell

**Saturday May 14:** Please join us between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. in South Surrey for a tour of the gardens of David and Wendy Sellars and Ann Joliffe. While you are there, visit Free Spirit Nursery where Lambert and Marjanne Vrijmoed have spectacular plants for sale!

Wendy and David Sellars (16877 30A Ave., Surrey) started their garden 24 years ago on an undeveloped one acre lot. Working with a clean slate, they shaped the sloping site to create topographic interest and developed a waterfall, stream and ponds. Species rhododendrons, unusual rhodo hybrids and specimen trees such as *Davidia involucrata* and *Magnolia denudata* form the garden plant structure. A rock garden on a high bank built with local glacial boulders and featuring cliffs formed with large tufa blocks extends along the front garden. Plants likely to be in flower include *Edraianthus serpyllifolius*, *Lewisia tweedyi*, *Helichrysum sessiloides*, *Aquilegia bertolonii*, *Androsace studiosorum*, *Androsace villosa*, *Meconopsis betonicifolia*, *Penstemon rupicola* and many Silver Saxifrages.

There are a number of plants in tufa in the rock garden and David will provide a demonstration of tufa planting at 2 p.m.

Jean Olsen has unfortunately had to withdraw her garden from our tour schedule. We are very lucky, however to have Ann Joliffe's lovely garden to visit. The property is 10 acres with 1/3 acre of garden, which includes perennial borders, a young woodland and a rock garden/ alpine area that is under expansion. Ann's interests include alpines, small bulbs and woodland plants grown from seed. The address is: 21372 32 Ave, Langley V2Z2E7, and the telephone number is 604-533-2512.

Free Spirit Nursery Nursery (20405 32 Ave., Langley) is owned by Alpine Garden Club members Lambert and Marjanne Vrijmoed. This is a wonderful nursery laid out with beds containing plants across from the plants in pots for sale- this way you can see how they grow! About 90% of the plants are grown and also propagated at the nursery, many are only available here! There are dynamic planting schemes in which not only colour and flowering time play a role, but

character, texture and flower shapes also create a garden that is always interesting. Lambert will be on hand to answer questions and show us 'what's hot!' The nursery is open from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

**Saturday May 28:** 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Glen Patterson's Rooftop Garden (302-323 Jervis St., Vancouver): This is a wonderful opportunity to see the 2000 square foot rooftop garden that Glen built in 2001. Many of the plants were transferred by flatbed truck from his West Vancouver home. Some that were unable to be planted on the rooftop were donated to the park in front of the building. The collection includes many conifers, an *Acer japonicum dissectum* that is over 100 years old, rhododendron, perennials and alpine, some planted in tufa. In the center of the garden there is a 3 pond water feature with large Koi fish that Glen has had for years. The trees are kept root pruned and cloud pruned to control size and damage from the seaside wind. He has a wonderful Japanese gardener, Jim Nakano, who has worked with Glen for years. Come and be amazed and hear from Glen about how the garden was built and how the soil was created to support this amazing garden.

Lisa O'Donnell's garden (4872 Queensland Rd., Vancouver) was also started in 2001. The deck, fences and other infrastructure were built by her husband John, and the garden evolved gradually over the last 10 years as plants were found! Particular interests include Japanese Maples, conifers (especially dwarf), daphne, gentian, arisaema, podophyllum, polygonatum, clematis, hosta and fern. Many conifers are featured in pots on the decks and there are several bonsai.

You are welcome to bring lunch and eat in either of the gardens!

Near Lisa's Garden you will also find The Natural Gardener Gardening Store (4376 West 10th Ave, Vancouver), owned and run by Bob Tuckey, member of the Alpine Garden Club. There are rare, unusual and native plants in the nursery as well as other gardening essentials (including seeds) and giftware. Come and visit Bob at the store and receive your usual 10% discount and a surprise gift!

## **Plant Finder**

In order for this section to be of value to all club members, those who submit enquiries should provide some details of the plant

characteristics: size, shape, flowers, and other properties that make this a desirable plant. The native habitat of the plant would also be of interest. The request for information or a reply can be directed to [Chris Klapwijk](#) or [Alan Tracey](#).

## **Spring Plant Show 2011**

### **Ian Gillam**

Our final Spring Show in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Garden was held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Access to the Hall was somewhat obstructed by work on construction of the garden's new facilities, to open within the next year, and the Show attracted a modest number of visitors over the weekend.

It's usual to begin these reports with complaints about difficulties due to the previous winter's weather. Compared with most parts of the northern hemisphere, here on the coast we had mostly minor problems. A couple of outbreaks of arctic air, one unusually early in November, were quite damaging and we had several falls of snow that fortunately soon evaporated or melted away. After the snow, the snowdrops and a few crocuses appeared as usual but then spring stopped in its tracks and we had a succession of cool nights followed by mostly dull days when temperatures hardly rose. As a consequence our season has been three, perhaps even four, weeks behind normal. Complicating matters was high demand for use of the Hall on spring weekends and we accepted a date three weeks earlier than usual. In autumn, when this was arranged, it seemed a chance to have some earlier flowers in the Show. Hardly so this year, though we did have representation of early saxifrages and hepaticas, often over by April. Fortunately there were a few warmer days in the week before the Show and members responded well to pleas for plants though a few regulars were unable to bring any. As a consequence, it was a smaller show than in past years with a total of 120 pots (plus a further 10 contributed as a display by Joe Keller), about half the total in other years. However, it was a good show with an encouraging amount of flower and variety of plants including several new to the public and, in a few cases, also to the judges.

Adding to the interest were contributions from the small Primula Group (composed mostly of a subset of AGC members). Ruth Anderson again created an installation, this time representing the

cramped living room of one or more plant enthusiasts who were briefly absent. Their narrow outdoor garden crowded into a space that was also filled with potted primulas and other hardy plants. The occupants had been celebrating a winning lottery ticket and had been Ruth Anderson's 'Living Room' display. Photograph by Ian Gillam



examining the real estate listing for more spacious high-end property. As can be seen, a quantity of furnishings as well as large pots of shrubs and other props were involved and we must thank Trevor for the heavy haulage involved in implementing Ruth's visions.

The Primula Group had a sale table at one side of the Hall, as did Joe Keller, and these added to the attraction for members and visitors. The Seed Distribution too was selling seeds. Particularly in demand, of course, were seeds of plants in the Show. On Sunday afternoon the Primula Group organized a presentation by Rhonda Porter on *Primula allionii*, its forms and hybrids and their cultivation. Due to the late season Rhonda had rather few plants of even this early-flowering species in bloom but they were supplemented by showing some virtual flowers. This was a positive addition to the Show, attracting a fair number of AGC members as well as some visitors and spreading a little education about our plants.

Our judges were Brent Hine and Rex Murfitt in the general section, Roger Low for the bonsai and Jean Hausermann for primulas. They seemed to be favourably impressed with the general quality of exhibits even if a little low in numbers.

Phillip MacDougall entered a number of large containers, 2 gallon or more, growing a collection of Chinese epimediums recently come into cultivation. Most are large plants whose wiry stems at present reach scarcely a meter. In the ground some can apparently grow to twice that. Leaves and flowers are also considerably larger than in the species familiar to gardeners and their flowers vary in colour from creamy to pleasant pinks. Phillip's large exhibit of six different forms won Best in Show and he also had a few more in another class. It's going to be interesting to see how these develop.

Alan Tracey entered a trough garden that deservedly won the trophy for Best Miniature Garden. This was a medium-sized hypertufa trough



Trough Garden. Photograph by Ian Gillam

trough was supported on a concrete block. Other saxifrages of the Kabschia section were flowering on other parts and encrusted (Engleria) types were also present. It was an inspiring exhibit and particularly praiseworthy for the effort involved in bringing it, perched as it had to be on its support, not only heavy but somewhat unstable.

that contained a large lump of tufa planted with saxifrages, all now well established after a good number of years. One formed a green curtain with flower buds not yet opening and hung down from the rock to the floor, probably 45 cm or so considering that the



*Trillium ovatum* ssp. *maculosum*. Photograph by Ian Gillam



Alan also won the trophy for Best in the Expert Class. His entry was a large pot with several flowering shoots of *Trillium ovatum* var. *maculosum*. This form, from northern California, is hardly recognizable as the same species as our native trillium. The plants and flowers are somewhat smaller and the leaves bear long, dark blotches. The flowers open white so the pink colour of those exhibited suggested they already had been open for some time. The plant had been established in this container long enough for about a dozen seedlings to be appearing with their single cotyledons. One visitor suggested these “weeds” be removed but was fortunately restrained before starting to do so.

In the class for saxifrages there were several Kabschias in flower or almost so, including a few of the many hybrids raised in the last 25 years yet not widely available here. ‘Galaxy’ with large flowers of yellow-apricot was particularly impressive. However the old classic *S. X irvingii* ‘Jenkinsiae’ with pink flowers, raised about 90 years ago, took the First ribbon and also won David Sellars the trophy for Best Cushion Plant.

A Chinese plant unknown to most was Phillip MacDougal’s *Asteropyrum peltatum*. A small, white buttercup (it’s in that family) on a stem of around 8 cm arose from a few rather large, angular leaves pressed to the ground. The leaves were of thick texture and marbled in paler green to yellow, reminiscent of a *Podophyllum*. (Plants are available from a local nursery.)



*Narcissus watieri*. Photograph by Ian Gillam

The reporter’s entry of a pan of *Narcissus watieri* was fortunately in full flower for the Show, bearing 28 perfectly formed, small-cupped, white flowers with a couple of buds in reserve. This North African bulb survives well in an unheated greenhouse but hasn’t yet been fully tested outdoors.

The new trophy presented by the Verbeeks in memory of Vera Peck stimulated 11 varied entries in the class for plants raised from seed. The winner was David Sellars’ *Androsace laggeri*, very nicely

presented. It seems that members do indeed sow some of the hundreds of packets of seeds sent out by the Seed Distribution and some at least produce interesting plants not otherwise available in many cases. It would be encouraging to all if we could hear from more members on their experiences, whether successful or not, with these seeds that require considerable effort on the part of many people to collect and send out. Even a brief note would be appreciated.

Thanks to a dedicated group of workers the Show was rapidly and efficiently set up and later taken down in record time. It was a busy weekend but I hope all enjoyed it.

## TROPHIES AWARDED

Best in Show	Philip MacDougall	<i>Epimedium</i> sp.
Best Alpine Plant	David Sellars	<i>Douglasia nivalis</i>
Cushion Plant	David Sellars	<i>Saxifraga X irvingii</i> 'Jenkinsoniae'
Best Fern	Joe Keller	<i>Polypodium glycirrhiza</i>
Best Plant in Expert Class	Alan Tracey	<i>Trillium ovatum</i> var. <i>maculosum</i>
Best Dwarf Shrub	Diana Hume	<i>Salix nakamuraana</i> var. <i>yezoalpina</i>
Best Bulb or Corm	Ian Gillam	<i>Narcissus watieri</i>
Best Miniature Garden	Alan Tracey	<i>Saxifraga</i> garden
Best Bonsai	Lawrence Wick	<i>Chamaecyparis</i> <i>obtusa</i> 'Nana'
Best Primula	Ann Jolliffe	<i>Primula farinosa</i>
Best Rhododendron	Lawrence Wick	Unnamed Japanese azalea
Best Woodland Plant	Philip MacDougall	<i>Epimedium</i> sp.
Best Plant from Seed	David Sellars	<i>Androsace laggeri</i>

Best Native Bulb or Corm	Alan Tracey	<i>Trillium ovatum</i> var. <i>maculosum</i>
Best Native B.C. Alpine Plant	David Sellars	<i>Douglasia nivalis</i>
Highest aggregate points	Phillip MacDougal	30 points

## **Plant Sales**

### **Mark Demers**

The spring sale is on Saturday, May 7, at St. David's Church at 1525 Taylor Way in West Vancouver. Set up is 5-8 PM on Friday evening and 8-11 AM on Saturday morning. The sale is open to the public 1-4 PM with a pre-sale for volunteers at 12 noon. There will be a potluck lunch for volunteers and dealers.

## **La Rambertia: the alpine garden of the Rochers-de-Naye**

### **Bruny Monney, curator**

La Rambertia, located in the Alps above Montreux in Switzerland, is a private garden, named in memory of Eugène Rambert, who was a professor, historian, author and an enthusiastic naturalist from Clarens near Montreux. It belongs to a society with about 100 members. The statutes of the garden mention that it was created to grow and study especially the flora of the Alps, but also that of other European mountains, as well as alpine plants from the other continents. Some of the financial support needed to maintain the garden is received from a train company, Goldenpass Services.

In the year 1892 a Russian botanist, named Scheluchine tried to create an alpine garden lower down on the Rochers-de-Naye near the small lake of Jaman. But his difficult work was soon stopped by health problems. Two years later the botanist Janckzewski, also Russian, made a new attempt by moving the garden to a northern slope near the top of the Rochers-de-Naye, unfortunately this situation proved to be too cold and wet for most of the plants.

After Janckzewski left Switzerland for the Imperial Institute of Botany at St. Petersburg in 1896, Henry Corrèvon, a botanist from Geneva,

created the garden in its present location. The garden is situated on a ridge between two tooth-like rocks or "Dentaux" and has mainly a south-facing exposure. It lies at an elevation of 1980 m above sea level and found at a latitude of 46° 25' 54" N and longitude 6° 58' 58" E. The cultivated area is 2500 square meters.



The average annual temperature is 1.8°C. Fog occurs in this location about 150 days of the years and the annual precipitation is about 2500 mm. The garden is snow-free for about four months of the year. However, snow may appear at any time, even in July or

The top of "The Rochers-de-Naye" with the railway (the terminal station is under the building), with "Yurts" at the right hand side and a path going towards the entrance of the alpine garden. Photograph by Bruny Monney.

August, and continuous frost can start as early as the middle of September. Wind and fog are quite usual during the season and thunderstorms with hail are, unfortunately, not a rarity. These can damage all the plants and of course it spoils the flowering season and reduces the seed harvest. But when the weather is fine the garden is very pleasant and the view is remarkable.

Entrance to the garden is free and a keeper welcomes visitors during the short season, which usually runs from the middle of June until the middle or end of September. Access to the garden is impossible before the beginning or even the middle of June as the path by which we reach it and also one part of the garden, are situated on the north side of the ridge, which is usually covered, with several metres of snow during the winter.

When the garden was first created, about 650 species of plants were introduced. By 1971 the inventory had grown to 1500 plants, and now we try to maintain at least 1000 different species. Most of them are native to the northern hemisphere, especially from the Alps, but also

from the Pyrenees, the Caucasus, the Altai, the Arctic regions, Asia and of course from North America.

As the garden offers a number of different exposures we try to find the most appropriate situation for each plant, therefore they are not



grouped in accordance with their origin. The only exception is the "Himalayan" rockery, which was recently created to commemorate the centenary of the garden. It is on the north facing side and contains a collection of mainly Himalayan plants.

A southerly view from the garden with the snow-covered Bernese Alps in the background. Photograph by Bruny Monney.

The soil is exclusively limestone and the indigenous lime-lovers are naturally present in and, of course, also around the garden. Some of these are: *Allium lusitanicum*, *Androsace helvetica*, *Anemone narcissiflora*, *Aster alpinus*, *Astrantia major*, *Campanula cochlearifolia*, *C. scheuchzeri*, *Daphne mezereum*, *Dianthus sylvestris*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Gentiana bavarica*, *Gentiana clusii*, *Lilium martagon*, *Primula auricula*, *Primula elatior*, *Pulsatilla alpina* ssp. *alpina*, *Ranunculus alpestris*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *Soldanella alpina*, *Traunsteinera globosa* and *Viola biflora*.

Lime-avoiding species are difficult to maintain and very often they waste away in spite of regularly adding of peat and granite sand. Others do not persist because of the especially tough climate of the Rochers-de-Naye. It seems, that elsewhere in the Alps similar conditions are found at about 3000 m. In the addition to that, we have to deal with mice, snails, and all kinds of pests and even with unscrupulous visitors, who occasionally serve themselves. Chamois, of course are at home up there and they often thank the garden for their takings with some "fertilizer".

The season is very short not only for the cycle of vegetation of the plants, but also for all the maintenance work such as cleaning up in spring, repairing of rockeries damaged by freezing and thawing, planting, labelling, seed collecting and last, but not least, weeding. All this work is done by a small group of volunteers.

One of the local species, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, opens the season as soon as the rocks are out of snow, too early to be admired by visitors as the garden is still closed. We can only get a close up view by walking across the deep snow, remaining between the rocks.



*Saxifraga oppositifolia* and *Primula auricula* are two of the native lime-lovers. Photographs by Bruny Monney.

Many spring flowers appear while the last snow is melting and the flowering season is probably at its best in the beginning of July.

The following list of some of my favourite plants is quite subjective, but it may give you a little idea about nice or rare species, growing at La Rambertia.

*Adonis vernalis*, *Androsace helvetica*, *Buglossoides gastonii*, *Campanula raineri*, *Clematis alpina f. alba*, *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Dianthus callizonus*, *Epilobium luteum*, *Erigeron aurantiacus*, *Erodium manescavii*, *Fritillaria pyrenaica*, *Fritillaria tubiformis*, *Geranium argenteum*, *Geum coccineum*, *Globularia repens*, *Iris bloudowii*, *Leontopodium* (about 10 different species), *Lilium pyrenaicum*, *Merendera pyrenaica*, *Mertensia primuloides*, *Penstemon whippleanus*, *Petrocallis pyrenaica*, *Potentilla nitida*, *Primula glaucescens*, *Primula warshenewskiana*, *Primula wulfeniana*, *Pulsatilla vulgaris f. alba*, *Ramonda myconi*, *Ranunculus seguieri*, *Rhododendron hirsutum album*, *Rhododendron myrtifolium*, *Salix*

*subreniformis*, *Saxifraga squarrosa*, *Senecio abrotanifolius*, *Trollius pumilus*, *Veronica satureioides*, *Viola cornuta*, *Vitaliana primuliflora*.



*Adonis vernalis*  
Photographs by Bruny Monney.



*Androsace helvetica*.

One of my most loved of these plants is *Buglossoides gastonii*, a rare endemic of the western Pyrenees, where it is found from about



*Buglossoides gastonii*.  
Photographs by Bruny Monney.



*Leontopodium alpinum*.

1700m to 2500m. It's not easy to multiply, but does quite well in a limestone crevice in the alpine garden and its sky-blue flowers open at the end of June.

The Edelweiss is the visitors' favorite and the best known of all alpiners. About ten asiatic species thrive in the garden, beside our indigenous *Leontopodium alpinum*. This allows us to admire one or several of these white stars during the whole season.

Most of the plants are grown from seed acquired from seed exchanges of various societies, botanical gardens and from friends. Some are also collected in the wild. Criteria used to choose the species are: Does this plant persist in the hardiness zones 2 to 6? Then, it should be showy or rare, not invasive, lime tolerant and it should not need a long period of dryness as, for example, some species of the genus *Lewisia*.

All the seed are sown as soon as it arrives, into small square plastic pots in our private garden situated at an altitude of about 650 metres. Then they are left alone in an open cold frame during winter and germination will usually start in March.

My experience is that more than 60 % will germinate during the first spring, some species of course will need one year or even two, and about 20% never will germinate. Seedlings need to be pricked out into individual pots as soon as they are big enough and a few species with quick and strong growth may be placed in an open cold frame in the alpine garden already in autumn, but most of them need at least one more season in the lowland to reach the size required to be able to survive in the hard conditions of the garden

During the first year, after they have been moved up to the mountain site, the development of the visible part of the plants is usually very poor even for those, which are placed in the cold frame. On the other hand, plants of flowering size coming from the lowland and being straight away planted in a rockery in the first weeks of the season, do quite well during the first summer, but they are often not flowering at all and looking rather weak during the second and sometimes even the following season.

Only very few species which naturally grow in the hardiness zone 7 are successful; some survive but never produce flowers and most of them disappear during the first winter. Plants from zone 6 are already easier, but those from zone 5 to 1 generally thrive best. As for the Himalayan species; it's almost useless to try to grow them if their natural habitat is situated below 4000 m.

In addition to the garden, the natural alpine flora, and the striking views over the lake of Geneva and the Alps, the Rochers-de-Naye offers another attraction for the summer visitor. Near the garden



there are seven enclosures in which may be observed six different species of marmots that are native to Europe, Asia and North America ([www.goldenpass.ch/rochers\\_de\\_naye\\_marmottes\\_paradis](http://www.goldenpass.ch/rochers_de_naye_marmottes_paradis)).

The easiest way to get to the garden is by train. It's possible to board the train at railway stations in Montreux, Glion, Caux or at Hauts-de-Caux, which is the highest train station that can be reached by car.

Active people, of course can go up to the garden on foot, following one of the several footpaths leading from:

- Haut-de-Caux
- Col de Chaude
- Sonchaux (Small village above Villeneuve)
- Col de Jaman (Manoïre)

There is also an advanced "Via Ferrata" on the last part of the way up for the more energetic.

Because of the uncertainty in the weather, the weather forecast should be consulted before starting out on the walk. The quickest and easiest way to know what the weather conditions are like up there is to have a look at the web cam of the Rochers-de-Naye ([www.goldenpass.ch](http://www.goldenpass.ch)).

## **Horth Hill**

### **Alan Tracey**

Horth Hill is a small regional park just outside of Sidney on Vancouver Island and a comfortable day hike from the Vancouver Area. There is ample parking in the area for those visitors with automobiles. However, from the Vancouver area it is more convenient to simply park at the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal and from there walk onto the Ferry that goes to Swartz Bay. If one takes the 9 am ferry, the 3 or 5 pm ferries can be caught for the return trip.

Horth Hill is a pleasant walk from Swartz Bay. After a short walk along a paved road there is a trail winding upward through a forested area to the top of the hill. This park has an abundance of early Spring flowers with calypsos, trilliums and erythroniums being found throughout the forested area and fritillarias, dodecatheons, mimulus, sedums and other plants being found in the more open areas at the top of Horth Hill. The following photographs were taken on April 7,

2011, a little bit too early for *Calypso bulbosa* and *Fritillaria lanceolata*. All photographs by Alan Tracey.



*Erythronium oregonum*



*Dodecatheon hendersonii*



*Dodecatheon hendersonii*. White form.



*Trillium ovatum*



*Mahonia aquifolium*



*Ribes sanguineum*

## **Honorary Lifetime Member**

**We are pleased to announce that Linda Verbeek has been made an honorary lifetime member of our club.**

During the many, many years spent as a member of our club, Linda Verbeek has served often, in capacities from member of numerous committees to president. She was a past editor of this bulletin and has continued as a frequent, and delightful, contributor to it, often on short notice. Thank you, Linda, and congratulations.