

Alpine Garden Club
of
British Columbia





Alpine Garden Club of BC

Internet Home Page: www.agc-bc.ca

President	David Sellars
1st V.P.	Ann Jolliffe
2nd V.P.	vacant
Past President	Linda Verbeek
Secretary	Lynn Batt
Treasurer	Philip MacDougall
Membership	Ian Gillam
Programs	David Sellars
Pot Shows	Dana Cromie
Library	Mirka VINTR
Annual Show	Linda Verbeek
Plant Sales	Mark Demers
Seed Reception	Linda Verbeek
Seed Packaging	Diana Hume
Publicity	Joan Bunn
Open Gardens	vacant
Refreshments	Dorothy Yarema
Webmaster	Chris Klapwijk
Bulletin Editor	Alan Tracey

Committee Members

Richard Hankin - Ed Donaldson - Sue Evanetz - Rosemarie Adams

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 on 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: *Cyclamen parviflorum* var. *parviflorum*, Zigana Pass, Turkey. Photograph by Paul Krystof.

CLUB BUSINESS

David Sellars

Amendments to the Alpine Garden Club of BC Constitution and Bylaws

Under the leadership of executive committee member Richard Hankin the Executive has been working on modifying the club constitution to comply with the BC Societies Act. This will allow the club to be incorporated which will provide a number of benefits most notably reducing financial liability of the executive committee members.

Under the current constitution, amendments are required to follow the following procedure:

1. Proposed amendments shall be considered at the annual general meeting.
2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the executive by June 30.
3. Proposed amendments shall be published in the bulletin at least thirty days before the annual general meeting.
4. Proposed amendments shall require the approval of two-thirds of the members present at the annual general meeting.

The proposed revised constitution and bylaws has been included as a leaflet with this Summer Bulletin. Please read the document and come prepared to vote on the revised constitution and bylaws at the Annual General Meeting.

The current constitution of the club is provided at the end of this bulletin.

PROGRAMS

David Sellars

**Wednesday, September 12: Philip MacDougall
Plant hunting in Hokkaido, Japan**

A past president and presently the treasurer of our club, Philip always gives an entertaining and highly informative talk. He has previously told us of his escapades in Taiwan, I am sure this will be no less entertaining

**Special Meeting: Monday, September 24: Kristl Walek
Seedy Perspectives: Collecting, Cleaning and Storage of Seed**

Kristl Walek is the owner of [Gardens North](#), a Canadian seedhouse offering an eclectic mix of perennial and woody seed as well as fern spores. In 1992 Kristl started Gardens North as a humble, small dining-room operation with the seed of plants from her own backyard. Since then the business has grown to international proportions; as of 2012 sales are in over 40 countries and still growing. A large proportion of the seed she sells is wild collected.

Kristl is considered one of the leading experts on seed germination and has written and lectured on the topic to many international organizations. She was a contributor to [Norm Deno's "Seed Germination and Theory"](#) and in 2008 was the 1st recipient of the [NARGS Geoffrey Charlesworth writing prize](#) for her article on seed collecting, cleaning and storage. She is currently finishing a book about the propagation of eastern Canadian native plants from seed.

October: No Meeting

With a special meeting late in September and another in early November the Executive has decided that there will not be a regular meeting on the second Wednesday of October.

Special Meeting: Wednesday, November 7: Harvey Wrightman Growing Alpine Plants

Established in 1985, [Wrightman Alpines](#) in Ontario grows about 2000 species and varieties of alpine plants. The mail order catalogue lists over 600 alpines and perennials which are shipped to enthusiasts throughout Canada and the United States.

The display gardens demonstrate a variety of landscaping techniques using stone as the main building material. Dry-laid stone walls and flagstone pathways along the foundation of the house hold tufa crevice gardens and are a collaboration of Josef Halda and Harvey Wrightman's construction. Hand-chiseled stone troughs are displayed as examples of container gardening. Crevice gardens constructed of tufa and limestone and a backyard scree garden, form the backdrop for a myriad of colours, texture and forms of favorite alpine plants.

Wednesday, November 14: Chris Czajkowski Alpine Flora of the Remote British Columbia Coast Range

Chris Czajkowski grew up in England, travelled the world with a backpack for a decade, and arrived in Canada in 1979. Three years later she was building her first off-road cabin in the wilderness, about 150 km inland from Bella Coola. In

1988 she moved to a higher location on a fly-in lake where she built three more cabins and created the Nuk Tessli Alpine Experience, an ecotourism business catering to hikers and naturalists. She has written ten books about her nearly thirty years of wilderness living.

At first she lived At Nuk Tessli full time, but in 2006, she bought a derelict homestead not too far from the mountain resort but with rough road access. Ginty Creek is still quite remote, being three and a half hours' drive from the nearest bank, traffic light, supermarket and cellphone tower. It is ideally located to pursue Czajkowski's love of wilderness and the natural world. She has several more books in the works. For more information on her books and artwork, and an update of her adventures, visit her blog: www.wildernessdweller.ca

SEED EXCHANGE 2012

Linda Verbeek

Please note that there is a change in the address for the seed exchange this year:

Seeds should be sent to Linda Verbeek, 5170 Sperling Ave, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, and arrive by Friday 26 October 2012.

Because the seed list has to be sent out with the fall bulletin, the seeds have to arrive by that date to be listed. If you cannot manage to get them there by that date, you can send or e-mail a list, alphabetized if possible, to arrive by that time, but please be sure the seeds you list are indeed available. Send me an email [here](#)

If seeds are wild collected, please send us information about where they were collected, and any information you have about flower colour, height, etc., especially for unusual plants or plants that cannot be completely identified. A description of a garden grown plant that exists in more than one form or which, again, cannot be completely identified is also helpful to us. If possible, include an alphabetical list of your seeds with the package, this is enormously helpful.

Seed donations should be sent in an envelope marked Flower Seeds of No Commercial Value and mailed as early as possible to

ALPINE GARDEN CLUB OF B.C.

c/o 5170 Sperling Ave

Burnaby, B.C.

CANADA V5E 2T4

No permit is needed to send non-commercial seed to Canada.

Any Club member may order seeds but Donors get special privileges. To qualify as a Donor a minimum donation of five different species is required. North American members should donate this minimum in seeds that are native to North or South America. After that seeds from any region are welcome. Overseas donors receive donor status for seeds from any area. The success of the exchange depends on the donors so they do get special privileges. They are able to order up to 60 packages (non-donors receive only up to 30), and they get priority where seeds are in short supply, so it does pay to make the effort to become a donor. It really isn't that difficult to go out in the garden a few times and collect seeds. You'll get donor status before you know it. And you may find that you enjoy it.

Detailed ordering information will be sent out with the Seed List in the Fall Bulletin.

Many thanks to all the donors who sent in so many interesting seeds and made last year's Exchange a success. I hope you all keep seeds in mind as you enjoy your gardens and your summer travels!

Happy collecting.

ARTICLES

Alpine Beds at Darts Hill Garden **David Sellars**

It has been said that Darts Hill Garden <http://www.dartshill.ca/> started as a fruit orchard and it was a display by the Alpine Garden Club that prompted Francesca



Darts Hill, area 1. Photograph by David Sellars

and Ed Darts to develop an interest in growing other plants. In October 2011 the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society approached the Alpine Garden Club of BC to see if there was interest in restoring some of the rock garden areas at Darts Hill Garden. On November 19, 2011 some members of the AGC of BC visited Darts Hill Garden accompanied by members of the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society. Three areas were considered where there

was the potential for rock garden development. All areas are located relatively close to the original Darts residence.

Area 1 was a small rock garden southeast of the house consisting of a level bed above an attractive rock retaining wall. There were a number of rock garden plants growing in the bed but many had become too large. This bed was considered ideal as an alpine display garden as it is very accessible and in full sun.



Excavating the bed. Photograph by David Sellars.

overgrown and is partly shaded by a tall tree. There are some pieces of tufa beside the path below. The area would be very suited to a Saxifrage garden plus other alpines that prefer, or are tolerant, of some shade.

The third possible area is the part of the garden adjacent to the entrance to the property north of the original driveway. This large area would need a major

Area 2 is a triangular bed just east of Area 1 with a concrete retaining wall on the east side. The area is rather



Planting the ridge. Photograph by David Sellars

effort in terms of planning and development but has the potential of providing a superb rock garden with the possibility of displaying plants of various ecosystems, for instance plants preferring alkaline growing conditions and those that prefer a more acidic environment or even a serpentine habitat. It would require considerable work and also rock, fill and possible removal of parts or all of the holly hedge, which no longer serves a function as a property line divider.



Completion of Alpine Bed.

In the spring of 2012, a combined work party of the Alpine Garden Club and the Darts Hill Conservancy Trust society completed renovation of Area 1. About two to three tons of blasted basalt rock of varying sizes and four to five yards of Sechelt sand was delivered to the site with the financial support from the [City of Surrey](#). About a metre depth of clay was dug out and a sub-irrigation system installed. One-quarter inch crushed rock was used for top dressing. Plants were purchased from the AGC of BC plant sale and from Beaver Creek Alpines. Additional plants were donated by club members. The photos show the progression of construction.

Cyclamen: Flowers every Month of the Year **Wilhelm Bischoff**

We gardeners of the Canadian West Coast are a rather blessed lot as we can



Cyclamen coum. Photograph by Carla Bischoff



Cyclamen coum. Photograph by Carla Bischoff

enjoy flowering plants every month of the year. Without much of an effort, the cyclamen species will provide just that service for us. Especially the species from the mountainous areas of the lands around the Mediterranean Sea and the islands within it are well suited to adapt to our climate and weather conditions.

Let us start the blooming time of cyclamen in January. At about mid-month, rather suddenly and to our great delight the first blooms of *Cyclamen coum* appear and will continue blooming until mid-April, some even later, into May. The story however started much earlier, around Christmas, when a close inspection of the *C. coum* plants reveals unopened flower buds lying on the ground, all as small coloured dots. This plant is evergreen for the rest of the year, except for 8 weeks in mid-Summer. Many leaf patterns are available, as well colors from white to dark magenta. From seed *C. coum* will bloom in two years.

When the first flowery rush of the early Spring has slowed down, and the first cyclamen of the year, *C. coum*, have almost stopped blooming is when *Cyclamen repandum* starts to display its interesting foliage and very erect and elegant flowers; almost as to make up for the loss. *C. repandum* is very different



Cyclamen repandum. Photograph by Carla Bischoff



Cyclamen repandum. Photograph by Carla Bischoff

from its winter ever-green cousins. It has a very short foliage period. In mid-March the first leaves appear when they push well past leaves of the surrounding plants to be followed by its ever so elegantly displayed narrowly-petaled flowers. The different shades of magenta of the flowers contrast well against the Spring-fresh foliage of the rest of the garden. The blooming period is some 6 weeks long and the whole plant disappears in early July, where only the ripening seed pods are visible on the ground. The plant will remain dormant until next spring. The plant in leaf looks very similar to *C. hederifolium*. However, under closer examination the leaves are seen to have softly scalloped edges, very different from the serrated edges of the *C. hederifolium*. *Cyclamen repandum* can grow in light shade and full sun during the short time it is with us.

Next on my list is *Cyclamen purpurascens* (formerly *C. europeum*). This species is virtually evergreen because the old leaves await the start of the fresh growth before fading away. The shapely flowers are soft-pink to magenta, held nicely above lightly silvered foliage (there are many leaf



Cyclamen purpurascens. Photograph by Carla Bischoff

patterns available). This is a very hardy species that not only pleases with its good looks but is also scented like the “lily-of-the-valley”. Plants may flower continuously from June until December. Plant it in any, evenly shaded, situation. Keep evenly moist, not wet. Good drainage is important, as it is with all other

hardy cyclamen species. This plant shows wilting in hot exposed situations. Plants from northern Italy's "[Lago di Garda](#)" region may start blooming in May.



Cyclamen hederifolium. Photograph by Carla Bischoff

This species grows from south-eastern France eastward, throughout the Alps, hugging the northern and southern edges of the Alps, then north to southern Poland and south to Hungary. In your garden add 1 to 2 inches of mulch on top of the plant. The flowers and the leaves appear several inches to the side of the tuber. These plants will self- seed, watch for newly emerging plants. New plants usually start blooming 2 to 3 years after germination. Top-dress with a ½ teaspoon of crushed

limestone per year.

At the start of September watch for the first blooms of *Cyclamen hederifolium* (formerly *C. neapolitanum*).

C. hederifolium is the ideal cyclamen for the garden, as it will happily accept the rigors of our climate. A long-lived plant; tubers have been reported over one hundred years old. Found in the wild from the south of France through to Turkey, also on many of the Mediterranean islands including Corsica and Sardinia. The beautiful pink flowers appear before the leaves in early autumn. The leaves provide excellent ground cover until June. Due to the wide distribution, the leaf variation is very marked and provides an added interest for the collector. Large white, rose pink to dark magenta flowers with prominent auricles. Plant this cyclamen with the tuber covered about 2 to 3" deep. Most varieties will produce flowers well before the leaves appear. Expect flowers well into November. Plant in full sun or light shade.



Cyclamen hederifolium. Photograph by Carla Bischoff

Large white, rose pink to dark magenta flowers with prominent auricles. Plant this cyclamen with the tuber covered about 2 to 3" deep. Most varieties will produce flowers well before the leaves appear. Expect flowers well into November. Plant in full sun or light shade.

There is also a close relative to *C. hederifolium*, *C. crassifolium* which has very large leaves. Both these species will benefit from the addition of small amounts of crushed limestone as a top dressing. Allow for extra space between plants as most plants will measure over 1 foot wide within only a few years.

To close the year, consider *Cyclamen cilicium*, from south-eastern Turkey. This



Cyclamen cilicium. Photograph by Carla Bischoff

is a mountainous species, superficially resembling *C. coum*. It blooms from late September well into mid-December, where the flowers usually appear before the leaves. It can be grown in light shade and full sun. The overall appearance is of a very elegant plant, as both the flowers and the leaves are held well above the plant and surrounding vegetation. Expect colors from pure white to dark pink, as well a good diversity of leaf patterns. Perhaps

plant some into your rock-garden. This plant appreciates a neutral to slightly acidic soil.

How and where to acquire cyclamen: The fastest way is purchasing plants wherever they are made available; in plant nurseries, at club plant sales, at club member's open-houses, from plant catalogues or at the internet. Seeds are available from club's seed banks, from the [Cyclamen Society](#) in England or from seed distributors in England, Holland & Germany. (Seeds can be imported into Canada without permits). Sow seeds whenever they are available, the best is in fall. If seeds arrive too late to work in the garden, keep them in the fridge over winter. Sow them whenever convenient in the spring. To get different species in an area, mix the seeds and thinly broadcast them, possibly in several areas of the garden. Cover seeds with 2" of soil and mark the spot well. Most of the seeds will germinate within 2 months, that is up to 95%, the rest will germinate over the next 2 to 3 years. No fertilizer is needed as these are wild plants. Expect the first flowers after 2 seasons. Most species will self-seed if seeds are not collected in late summer. Seedlings can be moved after one season, preferably in late spring to early summer. Perhaps cover your seed area with some netting to discourage cats from digging.

These plants are safe from damage by rabbits or deer. There might be some small damage by weevils to the leaves if planted under rhododendrons.

Blooming times

C. coum – Jan to April

C. repandum – March to May

C. purpurascens – June to September

C. hederifolium – September to November

C. cilicium – October to December

Alpine Garden Club of BC: Constitution revisions

The present constitution of our club is given in the following pages. Numerous changes have been suggested by the executive. The revised, essentially new, constitution is enclosed with this bulletin and also on the Club website. The new constitution will be discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting in November. The main objective of the changes in the constitution is to allow incorporation of the club under the B.C. Societies Act. This change has significant legal consequences under B.C. law. In particular, it relieves directors of the club of personal financial responsibility.

Constitution: As of November, 2010

1. The name of the club shall be "The Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia".
2. The club symbol shall be *Erythronium grandiflorum*.
3. Membership is open to any person or family upon payment of membership dues.

The objectives of the club are:

- A. To promote the growing, propagation and display of:
 - i. plants suitable for the alpine garden and alpine house.
 - ii. rare and unusual species of hardy plants, trees, shrubs and ferns.
 - iii. plants suitable for the art of bonsai.
- B. To promote an interest in the native plants of British Columbia and their preservation.

By-laws:

1. General and executive meetings shall be according to the constitution and Robert's Rules of Order. The chairman may waive the use of Robert's Rules of Order for a regular meeting if no business is to be conducted at that meeting.

2. Dues:

- A. Annual dues shall be set at the annual general meeting.
- B. Annual dues are due and payable on January 1 for one year in advance.
- C. A member whose dues are three months in arrears shall cease to be a member. Payment of the annual dues shall reinstate membership.

3. Honorary Life Membership:

Honorary life membership may be conferred upon a person who exemplifies to an outstanding degree the spirit and objectives of the club. Such a person must be recommended by the executive and approved by the majority at a regular meeting of the club. An honorary life member shall have all the privileges of the club without payment of dues.

4. Annual General Meeting:

- . The annual general meeting shall be held in November with one month's notice given to members.
 - A. The business of the annual general meeting shall include:
 - a. the election of the next year's officers.
 - b. the treasurer's annual financial report. This report shall include:
 - i. a balance sheet to and including the last day of August.
 - ii. a statement of the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending August 31.
 - iii. a proposed budget for the following year as requested.
 - c. the setting of the next year's annual dues.
 - d. reports from club officers and chairmen of committees.

5. Quorums:

- . The quorum at a regular or annual general meeting shall be twenty five members.
 - A. The quorum at an executive meeting shall be six voting members.

6. Meetings:

- . Unless otherwise directed by the general membership, the executive shall arrange for regular monthly meetings from September to June inclusive.
 - A. The executive shall meet at least eight times each year.

7. Elections:

- . All members are eligible for executive positions.
 - A. At the June meeting, the executive shall appoint a nominating committee.

- B. Members of the nominating committee shall not be eligible to run for a position on the next year's executive.
- C. The nominating committee's proposed slate shall be presented to the membership at the regular general meeting prior to the annual general meeting.
- D. Additional nominations for executive positions shall be accepted at the annual general meeting provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained and the member is present.
- E. No executive member, other than the secretary and treasurer, shall serve more than three consecutive years in the same office.

8. Executive composition:

- . The executive shall consist of these elected members:
 - . The club officers: the president, vice-president, second vice-president, secretary and treasurer.
 - a. Six additional members elected at the annual general meeting.
 - b. The immediate past past-president.
- A. The executive committee shall appoint members to the positions of:
 - . Bulletin editor
 - a. Plant sale chairman
 - b. Seed exchange director
 - c. Librarian
 - d. Program chairman
 - e. Membership secretary
 - f. Display chairman
 - g. Pot show chairman
 - h. Web site manager

Members appointed to these positions shall regularly report to the executive and general membership and shall have voting rights during executive meetings in their specific area of service.

9. Duties:

- . The executive shall be responsible and accountable for:
 - . All club money and property.
 - a. The discharge of the club's normal business
 - i. except such business as shall be deemed by the executive to require consideration at a general meeting.

ii. except such business that may be raised by any member for consideration at a general meeting.

A. Financial responsibilities:

- . The president, vice-president and treasurer shall be the signing officers.
 - a. All accounts in the name of The Alpine Garden Club of BC shall be administered by the treasurer.
 - b. The treasurer shall be bonded.
 - c. Expenditure of funds shall require the signature of the treasurer and one other signing officer.
 - d. Signing officers shall not be related by blood or marriage (legal or common-law).
 - e. The expenditure of funds in excess of \$500 shall require the approval of two-thirds of the members present at a general meeting.
 - f. Gifts in excess of \$100 shall require the approval of two-thirds of the members present at a general meeting.
 - g. The executive may authorize a total expenditure up to \$500 for public sales of plants without seeking approval from the membership.
- B. Except for the nominating committee, the president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- C. Executive committee vacancies may be filled for the remainder of current year by a resolution of the executive committee.
- D. Retiring executive committee members shall within one month deliver to their successors all club property, documents and funds in their possession at the expiration of their term.

10. **Auditor:**

An auditor shall be appointed by the executive at least one month before the annual general meeting. The auditor may be a club member. The audited annual financial statement shall be presented to the membership within ninety days after the annual general meeting.

11. **Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws:**

- . Proposed amendments shall be considered at the annual general meeting.
 - A. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the executive by June 30.
 - B. Proposed amendments shall be published in the bulletin at least thirty days before the annual general meeting.

- C. Proposed amendments shall require the approval of two-thirds of the members present at the annual general meeting.
- D. Should the constitution and by-laws be amended at the annual general meeting, a revised constitution and by-laws shall be provided for each member within ninety days.

12. **Removal of Elected Executive Members from Office:**

- . An elected executive member may be removed because of:
 - . A flagrant breach of club rules.
 - a. Bringing the club into public disrepute.
 - A. One month's notice of such a proposed action must be conveyed to the membership.
 - B. Removal from office of an elected executive member shall require the two-thirds approval of the members present at a general meeting.

13. **Suspension and Expulsion of Members:**

- . A member may be suspended or expelled on recommendation of the executive because of:
 - . A Flagrant breach of club rules.
 - a. Bringing the club into public disrepute.
 - b. One month's notice of such a proposed action must be conveyed to the membership.
 - B The suspension or expulsion of a member shall require the two-thirds approval of the members present at a general meeting.