

# Alpine Garden Club of B.C.



## ***Big Sheep Locale – Shulap Range***

Vol.50, No. 1

Bulletin

WINTER 2007



**Web Address:** [www.agc-bc.ca](http://www.agc-bc.ca)

<b>President</b>	Doug Smith	604-596-8489
<b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	Linda Verbeek	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b>	Philip MacDougall	604-580-3219
<b>Past President</b>	Ian Plenderleith	604-733-1604
<b>Secretary</b>	Sara Jones	604-738-3297
	2891 West 29 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6L 1Y2	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Amanda Offers	604-885-7532
<b>Program</b>	Philip MacDougall	604-580-3219
	14776-90 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Surrey, BC, V3R 1A4	
<b>Pot Show</b>	Ellen Smith	604-596-8489
<b>Membership</b>	Ian Gillam	604-266-6318
	4040 W.38 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver, BC. V6N 2Y9	
<b>Seed Exch.</b>	Ian & Phyllis Plenderleith	604-733-1604
	2237 McBain Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6L 3B2	
<b>Library</b>	Pam Frost	604-266-9897
	6269 Elm St. BC, V6N 1B2, BC, V6N 1B2	
<b>Spring Show:</b>	Ian Gillam – as above	
<b>Plant Sales:</b>	Mark Demers	604-254-5479
	2222 Napier St, Vancouver, BC, V5N 2P2	
<b>Bulletin Editor:</b>	Sue Evanetz	604-885-3356
	3731 Beach Ave, RR 22, Roberts Creek, BC, V0N 2W2	
<b>Production</b>	Moya Drummond	604-738-6570
	3307 West 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Vancouver, V6R 1T2	
<b>Copy Editor</b>	Ian Gillam (as above)	

### **Committee Members**

Ann Dies, Len Gardiner, Diana Hume, Joe Keller,  
Stuart Scholefield, Brian White

### **Honorary Life Members**

Rosemary Burnham, Margaret Charlton, Grace Conboy,  
Francisca Darts, Pam Frost, Daphne Guernsey, Bodil Leamy,  
Jim MacPhail, Fred Rogers, Geoff Williams, Bob Woodward

**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 & Photos on Page 9 - *Shulap Mountains & Still Creek*: Alan Tracey**

**Photos on Page 8 - *Nikko Botanical Garden*: Brent Hine**

## PROGRAM:

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Brenda MacDonald was a participant in the tour of Yunnan led by Steve Hootman in the spring of 2005. While the focus was rhododendrons Brenda also documented the alpine flora of this region. Join us for an informative talk on this exceedingly rich flora.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Come meet the new garden director at VanDusen. This evening Chris Woods will present an overview of some of the past gardens he has worked on and perhaps share his vision for VanDusen.

**April 11<sup>th</sup>:** Scott Vergara is presently the executive director of the Berry Botanic gardens. This legacy to Rae Selling Berry focuses on Northwest native material and with the largest public rock garden on the west coast: how could you miss someone who wants to recreate an entire bed devoted to *Gentiana acaulis*!

**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** Garth Wedemire has long been a pillar in the Rhododendron community. We get the first presentation of a new talk that takes us through several years of Species Study Days held at the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Ericacea rule!

**June 13<sup>th</sup>:** To be announced.

**Fall schedule subject to change.**

**September 12<sup>th</sup>:** Philip MacDougall will give an account of one of his hit and run botanical tours. China Lite presents an alpine flora travel-log of Taiwan, the beautiful island.

**October 10<sup>th</sup>:** In October 2006 Margaret Charlton and Charlie Sale returned to New Zealand. Charlie will take us on a tour of some of the best gardens on this island. Blessed with a benign climate, almost anything can be and is grown, sometimes your only problem is to keep the sheep off the lawn.

**November 14<sup>th</sup>:** The March 2006 on-line issue of "*The Plantsman*" contains Graham Wares informative article on the climbing Aconites. Tonight he will present an over view of the full genus. That such a diverse group of horticulturally significant plants has not had a significant treatment only speaks to the complexity of this group. Prepare to be enlightened.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Christmas party and auction.

**The Annual Alpine Garden Club of BC Spring Show** will be held in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Garden, 37th & Oak Street, Vancouver **on April 14th and 15th 2007**. Hours of opening are Saturday, 12 noon to 4pm and Sunday, 10am to 4pm. Plants may be entered for the Show between 6 and 9 p.m. on Friday the 13th. The B.C. Primula Group will hold a sale on the walkway from 10 a.m. on the 14th.

**The Western Weekend is in San Mateo, a suburb of San Francisco**, from March 2 – 4<sup>th</sup>. Information, program, hotel info and a registration form are at [www.nargs.org/meet/WWSW07](http://www.nargs.org/meet/WWSW07). The subject is "*Rock Gardening in a Mediterranean Climate*" it is hosted by the Western Chapter of NARGS.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Thanks to all members who have promptly renewed their subscriptions. To those who haven't yet done so, this is a reminder that this is the last issue of the Bulletin they will receive until they do. Due to the seed list being mailed with the previous Bulletin, the membership list could not be included. This contradicted a statement on the renewal form (printed beforehand) stating that it was. To members who remarked on this I was able to e-mail an explanation. It can be very helpful to have members' e-mail addresses in such cases. These will not be published without your express permission. I hope that a list of members who have given permission for inclusion, including those who have not yet renewed, will be found with this mailing. I hope that an addendum with e-mail addresses will also be present.

A proportion of members have signified that they would be willing to receive the Bulletin by e-mail. While this is not yet set up, the previous month's Bulletin – in full colour – is currently available on our website, [www.agc-bc.ca](http://www.agc-bc.ca), should you wish to check it.

Ian Gillam, Membership Secretary



Portion of trough display, UBC

G.A. Williams

"The hard work that must have been put into organizing, planning and planting so many troughs brought living plant material of the widespread Americas before our gaze, so much more realistic and lasting than slides to educate us. The multitude was grateful to the few who did all this." *Marshall Mitchell, Australia*

*From the Report of the First Interim International Rock Garden Plant Conference, 1976 jointly organized by the American Rock Garden Society, Northwestern Chapter and the Alpine Garden Club of British*

Columbia in Seattle and Vancouver. Jim McPhail, Ed Lohbrunner and others put together this superb display which was highly praised. Bob Woodward chaired a panel discussion of AGCBC members on their favourite plant from each area – you can now check out his current favourites on pages 14 & 15 of this issue.



***Autumn visit to Nikko Botanical Gardens, Japan  
by Brent Hine, Vancouver***

During three pleasant late October days I was thrilled to visit Nikko Botanical Gardens (NBG) in Japan, accompanied by my wife and new son. I was anticipating this visit on several fronts: its location in the mountains, the area's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the area's famous fall colours and its botanical garden. For those who may not already know, NBG is an adjunct of Koishikawa Botanic Gardens in Tokyo, itself a part of the Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo. Like the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden which I work for, NBG combines a research base with public amenity display components. Finally, some facts about Nikko's climate will help round out the environment. Unlike Tokyo (at sea level and 2 hours distant) Nikko has cooler summers and much snowier winters. This is not surprising, considering its elevation of 1239m/4240ft. Intriguingly, I discovered that Nikko and Vancouver BC's mean annual temperature is only a half degree apart, at about 10C/50F. However, a significant difference between these two locations is the norm of approximately 50cm/32in of snow on the ground at midwinter in Nikko; Vancouver is widely known for its winter rainfall.

After we stepped off the train and looked around, a distant reminiscence surfaced of a town somewhere in the Alps, even of Whistler BC, in Vancouver's case. Nikko town also has its full share of jostling tourists and buses, good-naturedly elbowing through the central square surrounded by small friendly shops. Atmospheric background is provided by the close arrangement of steep dark mountains on three sides. We met our host, Dr. Tateno, who had graciously offered to pick us up at our pension accommodation.

The garden is located about five minutes by car from the train station in a tight valley, with the town's main road on one side and the tumbling Daiya river exiting the mountains on the other. The entrance to the main garden reminded me of the UBC Botanical Garden's Asian garden, featuring restrained plantings of mature rhododendrons with various herbaceous perennials beneath on both sides of the gravel road. Tateno-san took us immediately into the staff area where we were introduced to several smiling and down to earth horticulturists. We then took "tea-time" together in a cozy communal kitchen/lunchroom overlooking the garden. During this interlude we were able to relax a bit and share snacks while getting to know each other and asking

questions. After the civilized workers pause we began our tour. We entered the garden's plant yard where several hundred potted plants (mostly alpinists it seemed) were arranged on benches awaiting imminent transport into a cool-house prior to winter. I was grateful to find the Japanese plants' labels written in both Latin and Japanese. As I peered and asked questions I also began to understand how late in the season we had come; most plants were already in late stages of dormancy. We then moved on to look inside a propagation greenhouse. Following the plant yard viewing, I was surprised to again see only clay pots used, this time for all growth stages. I was told that clay is extensively used due to its recyclable properties as a cost saving measure. We rounded out this portion of the tour with a peek at their potting area. It was stacked to head height with bags of commercial "soil". Typically, aggregate of various sizes is combined with finely chopped and dried hardwood leaves. This is the entire standard alpine soil mix with occasionally added trace elements. Everything I had seen up to that moment, from several trips to botanic gardens in Japan, convinced me that alpine gardens in Japan strongly depend on one point over and above everything else: drainage!

When we entered the main garden the first component we were able to view was the rock garden. It is Japan's oldest at more than 80 years. Looking like the venerable grandparent to all others that it is, its miniature mountain crags and pockets hold rare and impressive specimen plants (eg. *Tanakea radicans*), many of which I had not seen before. The garden is also renowned for its collection of Japanese endemics although it includes many other plants from Hokkaido to Yakushima, and indeed, from around the globe. A few major points which I observed speak to its practical design. The garden is free standing allowing pathway access from all sides. It also offers a single narrow earthen path, like a winding mountain trail, up and through the interior. The site lies just north of a grove of tall evergreen trees, yet is far enough away to allow for the high-angled summer sun to reach 90% of it; during winter it is under snow. Last not but least it relies on a naturalistic planting and maintenance approach, the effect of which lends a quiet foundation to the botanical display. Looking at this model of nature is to feel at home in the mountains. This rock garden might be 80 or 800 years old, quite as timeless as mountains are to us mortals.

Following this great entrance to the collections we strolled into an extensive area planted with many trees grown to impressive maturity, all in a natural-looking setting. Though the day was overcast it was brightened for us along the way by various native *Acer* species. Our host informed us that the garden was frequently visited by larger mammals such as deer (seen) and even black bear (not). The beauty of the river alongside, overhung here and there with mossy trees and slippery rocks, was appreciated by us all. There are also many understory shrub and herbaceous plantings which although mostly finished for the season, undoubtedly add another dimension to the garden's overall interest.

Along the looping trail system we eventually came upon a clearing at the top of a rise. There stood a bent old tree and a plaque. We were told that a former Emperor would occasionally visit and that this was his favourite spot in the garden and that he would hang his hat upon the sapling of that gnarled old specimen. It was at that moment we glimpsed a deer dashing in retreat into the deeper forest – perhaps the Emperor had returned again to his favourite place.

We were led back to the administration buildings, where we stopped briefly to chat with a grad student about her project to propagate (using "leaf discs") and reintroduce *Glaucidium palmatum* 'Shirane aoi' populations into the local mountains. Along with its research prerogatives, native plant conservation is another integral part of the garden's ecology-based mission. Overall, my wife and I observed that in spite of a noticeable scarcity of staff for such a large garden (a problem associated with many botanic institutions) maintenance levels appeared consistently high throughout our tour.

The rest of this visit was taken up with an excursion into the surrounding countryside. We drove up a spectacular hairpin road to 1600 metres and nearby Chuzenji Lake and then higher still to a viewpoint offering a stunning overview of the lake and across to Mt. Nantai (Nantai san, 2484m), second highest in the immediate area. As with iconic Fuji san, its classic cone shape displays its obvious volcanic origin and also makes it fairly straightforward to ascend on foot. Along our way the autumn colours, particularly of several maples, was intense as any I have seen. As we ventured no higher during this visit I long to return and see for myself the changes in vegetation from local valley bottoms to mountain tops. There are four sub-alpine zones from 1700 to 2300 metres and an alpine zone to the highest peak at over 2500 metres.

I returned briefly the following day to photograph the rock garden and entrance areas. Upon leaving, my final impression was that we had witnessed a unique garden, a rough gem that with some gentle polishing might yield some beneficial results for both UBC Botanical Garden and Nikko Botanical Garden. With time, patience and good people like Dr. Tateno I will be working toward that end. I am immensely grateful for the financial assistance of various donors including the Alpine Garden Club of BC, that have allowed me to forge a valuable new connection with an important (and linguistically challenging!) region and garden.

*Brent Hine*

Curator, [\*E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden\*](#)

*University of B.C. Botanical Garden, Vancouver, BC*





*A portion of Nikko Botanic Garden plant yard*



*Herbaceous propagation greenhouse*



*NBG rock garden, looking south*



*Brent and Keita Hine with Tateno san*



*Nikko's Shinkyo Bridge*





*Epilobium latifolium*



*Erigeron humilis*



*Pedicularis langsдорffii* v. *arctica*



*Phacelia sericea*



*Senecio fremontii*



*Stellaria longipes* v. *montana*

## **Mountain Highlights: Shulap Mountains and Slim Creek** **by Alan Tracey, Burnaby, BC**

North of the Vancouver area are numerous mountain ranges that provide entertainment for only the most experienced of those who want to combine the pleasures of packing their homes on their backs with exploring for alpine plants. There are, however, other more accessible areas that allow exploration in a somewhat less strenuous environment.

The Shulap Range of mountains lies just north of Carpenter Lake and has a number of peaks over 2400 m. Of these, Shulaps Peak tops out at 2877 m with Big Dog Mountain running a close second at 2862 m while Big Sheep Mountain rises to 2438 m, an elevation similar to a number of other peaks in the Shulaps Range. Just west of the Shulap Mountains are the Leckie and Dickson Mountain Ranges which are separated by the Slim Creek valley. The headwaters of Slim Creek are the Sorcerer Glacier and a small lake fed by groundwater. A hike from the top of Slim Creek allows access to Nichols Creek which provides drainage for several other glaciers but its source is the ground water flowing out of Griswold Pass which in turn derives mostly from the glacier overlooking the pass. Both the Shulap and Slim Creek areas require back-packing, a reasonable degree of fitness and wilderness hiking experience.

Big Sheep Mountain is accessed by a logging access road that turns east from the Noaxe Creek forestry service road. From the end of the road, a hike of about 6 km up a disused mining road allows access to Big Sheep mountain and its environs. From here exploration of the surrounding area can be carried out. The ridges and slopes to the east of Big Sheep Mountain exhibit a wide variety of plants. In the mountain springtime of early July, tight cushions of drabas are covered in a mass of yellow flowers. For those who do not like yellow, only a little hunting will reveal one of the great species of pedicularis, *Pedicularis langsdorfii* ssp. *arctica* growing in association with grasses, dwarf willows (*salix*) and other plants. Some of the dwarf willows found in this area are quite special, often with highly coloured catkins. *Silene acaulis* in shades from dark pink to white is found in abundance in the higher areas. In some locations it is virtually carpets the ground. The neat, rather compact *Erigeron humilis* with its purple wool covering the flower stems and buds is sparsely located throughout the area as are the blue-flowered, forget-me-nots (*Myosotis*), Jacob's Ladders (*Polemonium*) and phacelias (*Phacelia sericea*) that are also found here, some places in abundance, other places not at all. Numerous other plants such as *Dryas octapetala*, *Kalmia polifolia*, *Stellaria longipes* v. *monantha*, *Lupinus lyallii*, *Cassiope mertensiana*, and *Saxifraga caespitosa*, to name a few, are also found in this area. The rock in this area is quite variable, in some patches the soil is so deleterious to plant life that nothing grows, in other places, often directly adjacent, plants grow in abundance.

The camp in this region will be at about 2100 m. As is also true for the Slim Creek headwaters, it can snow or freeze any day of the year so proper preparations are mandatory. At least two days for exploration should be allowed for.

The headwaters of Slim Creek are accessed by a moderately long trek of almost 20 km from the end of the Slim Creek logging road. This distance is ameliorated by the fact that the total elevation gain to the Slim Creek headwaters is only about 400 m starting at about 1600 m at the logging road and going to 2000 m. About two-thirds of the way in, a small creek drains the Leckie Lakes/Wolverine Pass area. If so desired, this is a good place to break the trek to the Slim Creek headwaters. The Leckie Lakes area can be accessed from here by a rather steep trail that follows along the creek draining the lakes. This side trip (5-6 km; return) is well worth the effort if time is available. Completion of the trek along Slim Creek provides numerous good places for setting up camp in the headwaters area.

The trail itself does not diverge much from Slim Creek but mostly follows rather closely alongside it. Often the sandbars will have incredible displays of *Epilobium latifolium* (photo 7), certainly one of the better epilobium species. Of course, arnicas, erigerons and other flowering plants will be found alongside the trail. Occasionally, rather boggy areas will be traversed and *Pinguicula vulgaris* will be found in such abundance that it is impossible not to occasionally step on them. Here and there in grassy areas one will also spot the compact spiraling flower spike of Lady's Tresses, *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*.

The Slim Creek area offers ready access to two glaciers. Of these, a day hike to Griswold Pass which sees you leave the Slim Creek watershed and follow upstream along Nichols Creek to the pass and the glacier hanging over it should be planned for. The second glacier, the Sorcerer, lies above the Slim Creek headwaters but even so, a full day will be needed to explore the glacier and its surroundings.

The upper Slim Creek/Nichols Creek area offers many of the same plants found in the Big Sheep area plus others not frequently seen there such as *Mimulus tilingii*, *Mimulus lewisii*, *Pedicularis ornithorhyncha*, *Gentiana glauca* and some ranunculus species that do not appear to be very common. The display of *Mimulus tilingii* along Nichols Creek is exceptional. Additionally, in the rock bluffs and scree to the side and below the glacier ice can be found solidagos, senecios (*Senecio fremontii*, photo 8), *Crepis nana*, and erigerons that are not common outside the region of the glacial till. A dwarf erigeron (photo 9) that we have not seen elsewhere is also found here. These plants seem to be located in the granite scree where the air sliding down the glacier keeps them cool.

It is to be noted that both the Shulap and Slim Creek areas are home to Grizzly bears. Appropriate precautions should be taken by all who choose to visit these areas, not only for the safety of the visitor but for that of the bears themselves. Further information about these and other areas can be found in the internet site, [www.mountainflora.ca](http://www.mountainflora.ca)



**Drainage in Containers, Part 2**  
**~ by Douglas Justice, Curator of Collections,**  
**UBC Botanical Garden, Vancouver<sup>1</sup>**

As **inferred** in my previous installment, drainage is required for the good growth of most plants in containers. Drainage, meaning “free water that drains by gravity” is only one part of this important discussion, however. Of equal importance is the soil's aeration porosity.

Aeration porosity is defined as that portion of the soil filled with air after all of the free water drains away by gravity. All of these soil-moisture/soil-aeration phenomena are intricately related. Oxygen in the root zone is necessary for both respiration (and hence growth) and for overall root health. Most living tissues begin to die in the absence of adequate oxygen. **The converse is also true.** Without sufficient and timely application of moisture roots will die. Of course, there are numerous exceptional cases. Many succulents and geophytes survive for extended periods without appreciable moisture, and aquatics and marginal plants are adapted to submergence and minimal root zone oxygen concentration. For most plants, however, a **plentiful** balance of moisture and oxygen is beneficial.

In native alpine soils, where soil moisture is usually neither plentiful nor consistent, roots seek out spaces close to the soil surface: at the margins of channels created by the roots of other plants, animals and intruding stones; or in naturally occurring soil aggregates. Aggregates are created by the intimate mixing of the organic and mineral components of a soil by plant roots and soil organisms such as earthworms. They resemble crumbs and in agriculture crumb structure (tilth) is a measure of a soil's productivity. These sites are the best aerated parts of the soil profile; under drier conditions, they are among



---

<sup>1</sup> For Part 1 cf. *Spring 2006, Vol.49 #2 p46*



the most water-retentive and easily moistened by rain or condensation.

Containers offer a root environment significantly different from that of open soil. In fine-textured container media, roots seek out the best aerated spaces—typically the surface and the gap between the pot and the potting medium.

This leaves the bulk of the root

zone under-utilized. Similarly, in uniformly coarse-textured media, rooting is often restricted to near the bottom of the container where moisture persists. Not surprisingly, most plants benefit from media composed of a moderate amount of fine material held in a matrix of relatively coarse particles. Root hairs terminate amongst the finer-textured, most nutrient-rich and water-retentive fine particles, while the coarse particles increase aeration porosity and drainage.

The tolerances and water requirements of particular species often determine the choice of both container and soil medium. Unglazed ceramic pots are better suited to filling with fine-textured, water-retentive media than with coarser, faster draining media, since it may be difficult to keep adequate moisture in porous pots during warm, dry weather. Plants which have low overall water demand—especially in winter—are well-served by such containers. Plastic pots are lighter-weight and often more durable than clay although they provide considerably less aeration and poorer drainage characteristics.

Container depth also has a marked effect on water retention and drainage (recall that a sponge held horizontally will hold more water than when tipped vertically). But while a tall pot theoretically provides the quickest drainage for a given volume of soil, this is offset by the tendency of any medium to compress, to reduce air space and to accumulate moisture at the bottom. In contrast, shorter containers have a larger evaporative surface relative to overall volume and are less prone to waterlogging in the growing season when moisture rapidly moves up through the soil profile. This is accentuated under glass or in warm, dry weather. The bulb pan is perhaps the best example of this, but such containers are risky if moisture-sensitive plants are to be left out in cold, wet weather. These conditions, where there is neither transpirational nor evaporative demand (sounds like Vancouver in the winter) promote a saturated zone close to the surface. In a deeper container, gravity ensures a saturated zone further from the surface.

What media to use and type container to employ is a personal issue. I find that by concentrating on the factors that influence aeration porosity, I can usually work out the best combination for a given plant. Now if I can just get the sun to shine... !



**ONLINE POLL ~ From our Editor, Sue Evanetz – Bob Woodward's response below .....**

Here in Canada we seem to be temporarily beneath the interest of the persistent pollsters...a situation that can't possibly last. But to fill the vacuum, your Editors, with the assistance of long time members, Bob Woodward and James MacPhail, seek enlightenment from the membership with the following POLL. Generously, Bob has been the first responder. We now invite all of you to write in, sharing your opinions and experiences, agreeing or not with the published pronouncements. Let the revelations begin!

Please forward your choices (preferably with commentary) to Sue Evanetz

**QUESTIONS**

1. Which is your favourite alpine?
2. Which alpine (or genus) in your opinion, is the most overrated?
3. Which plant (or genus) is your favourite bulb (or corm, tuber etc)?
4. Where is your favourite place to see alpine in the wild?
5. Which plant is in your experience the most difficult to grow?
6. Where is the best garden (public or private) to see alpine?
7. Where would you like to visit (a place you have not yet been to) to see alpine in the wild?
8. Which author is your favourite writer about alpine?
9. What is your favourite colour in an alpine plant?
10. Which is your favourite plant to grow for foliage effect alone ("not mucked up with flowers")?
11. Which plant (or genus) is your favourite non-alpine plant?
12. Which plant would you describe as "I wouldn't grow it if you paid me"?
13. Which plant in an alpine show most lingers in your memory?
14. What do you consider a horticultural triumph?
15. Which plant are you most proud of growing and flowering?
16. What is your favourite fern?
17. Which plant (or genus) is your favourite woodland plant?
18. What is your favourite "ordinary alpine"?
19. Which plant (or genus) is your favourite shrub?
20. Which plant (or genus) is your favourite climber?
21. Which plant would you describe as "I look at it and it dies"?
22. Which is your favourite orchid (terrestrial or exotic or none)?
23. As the saying goes, which plant would you describe as "I'd kill to be able to grow it"?
24. Which is your favourite conifer?
25. Which is your favourite non-coniferous tree?

## BOB'S ANSWERS

1. *Androsace vandellii* (what's not to like about a silver cushion studded with stemless white flowers?)
2. *Campanula* (but *Campanula zoysii* is an exception... there's always a "but")
3. *Corydalis* (who would have guessed?)
4. BIGHORN MOUNTAINS (think *Kelseya* and *Aquilegia jonesii* and *Eritrichium* etc. etc.)
5. *Paraquilegia anemoides* (although I once got to the two ...count 'em...two flower stage)
6. WISLEY GARDENS in London (mainly for the alpine houses and troughs)
7. NEW ZEALAND (I often dream in *Notothlaspi* and *Raoulia* and *Ranunculus buchaninii*)
8. REGINALD FARRER (look up his description of *Oncocyclus* irises and weep)
9. ORANGE (although I never turn down green or black flowered plants)
10. *Raoulia* (any species as long as it's a silver cushion. I'm not what you would call a "fanatic indumentum nut")
11. *Clianthus formosus* (and I once...emphasis once.. flowered it)
12. *Aucuba* (but I do! I do!)
13. *Tropaeolum tricolor* (in Vancouver at our own show) and *Nototriche aretioides* (at an AGS Show in England)
14. A flowering collection of *Dionysias*
15. *Petunia patagonica* (it looks like a dwarf conifer and has black and silvery stemless petunia-like flowers and it bloomed last spring and we took a thousand pictures to prove it)
16. *Asplenium ceterach* (although I can't find it anywhere anymore)
17. Erythroniums (thanks to Mr. Alleyne Cook and how we spend every spring trying to identify them. *Erythrinium hendersonii* is odds- on favourite. *Paris*, especially *Paris luquanensis*, is a close second.)
18. *Gentiana acaulis* (although perversely enough I search out different colour forms such as white and greeney white etc. etc. )
19. *Daphne* (all!)
20. *Wisteria* (or just maybe *Passiflora*: decisions! decisions!)
21. *Aquilegia jonesii* (although we once could grow it and flower it. I swear! Is this another of the curses of old age?)
22. *Cypripedium* (all, with the edge to *Cypripedium margariteceum* and *Phragmipedium bessaea* (exotic)
23. *Calochortus kennedyi* (it's the orange and black combo)
24. *Picea breweriana* ( it weeps and weeps in such an elegant manner)
25. *Davidia* (but I did go through a seriously obsessive maple period. *Acer griseum* was the fave)

## Notes from the seed exchange:

Firstly, best wishes to all for 2007 and success with your seeds which should all be in the post by mid January with the possible exception of US members who did not send permits. These will be in the post as soon as they are through the phyto. process. We sincerely hope that everyone got most of what they most desired. Some things (always those most requested it seems) are always in short supply and some listed do not arrive or prove to have no true seeds.

Second, apologies to those donors who were not recognized with the seed list due to their donations coming after the list went to the printer or simply because of my error. These include: R. Beecham, S. Duryee, J. Jens, M. Korizkova, J. Proctor, J. Schep, G. Sigurgisladottir, G. van Lochem, University of BC. Friends of the Garden and the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society. Extra apologies to any others who may have still escaped my notice. Thank you again to all our donors, without whom there would be no seed exchange.

Our thanks to those US members who sent Seed Import Permits. We agreed to put US seeds through the phyto process for the 2006 list but will not be able to continue to do so in the future. US members please apply for import permits before the 2007 exchange.

It may be of interest to know which items were the most requested from this year's list. Although these were the most requested, a number were in short supply and we regret being unable to meet all of the requests. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for our exchange or if the seed you received proves or appears to have been mislabeled.

1. *Galanthus peshmenii* (42 orders)
2. *Aquilegia jonesii*
3. *Cyclamen coum* 'Sterling Silver'
4. *Erythronium quinaultense*
5. *Nomocharis meleagrina*
6. *Tecophilea cyanocrocus* 'Leichtlinii' and *Arisaema candidissimum*
7. *Arisaema griffithii*
8. *Arisaema taiwanense* and  
*Cyclamen hederifolium*, white, long silver lvs.
9. *Gentiana verna*, blue & white mix and *Cyclamen repandum*

