

# BULLETIN

*of the*

AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

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No. 3

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## CONTENTS:-

*Page*

41—Scented alpins .....	Keith Lamb
42—Four Little Known Native Violets .....	Mary G. Henry
44— <i>Oenothera caespitosa</i> .....	Myrtle P. Herbert
45—June Bloom in the Rock Garden .....	Edgar T. Wherry
46— <i>Petrophytum hendersoni</i> .....	W. H. A. Preece
48—A Beginner's Rock Garden in the Misty Past .....	Clara W. Regan
51—Exhibits at Philadelphia Flower Show	
52—The American Rock Garden Society News	
53—Year Book	

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## AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

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### SCENTED ALPINES\*

KEITH LAMB

WHEN WE THINK of scented flowers the mind naturally recalls the rose, the honeysuckle or the many heavily scented orchids of the tropics. It is colour rather than odour we associate with alpiners, many of them being popular on account of the bright splashes of colour they form. When we remember the aubrietias, the gentians, the mossy phloxes and the great hosts of saxifrages, we may perhaps conclude that scent is rare in plants of the high mountains.

Yet there are quite a number of scented flowers to be discovered among those that adorn the rock garden. To challenge the honeysuckle of the lowland hedges comes their alpine relative *Linnaea borealis*, the almond-scented twin flower of such modest and yet such real charm as to be chosen by the great Linnæus to perpetuate his name. The tropical orchids have their relations in temperate zones, many of them scented, and at least one alpine representative in *Nigritella nigra*, that carries the vanilla scent of the family up to the alpine fields, while our own *Habenaria albida*, found only in mountainous districts, is an orchid with honey-scented flowers.

How many have noticed the scent possessed by the familiar *Erinus alpinus*, Mr. Elliot's candidate as the typical alpine plant? Although it is not an orchid, a good bunch of the flowers gathered on a warm day will show how distinctly they carry a scent almost exactly like that of our wild fragrant orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*).

The night scented stock earns a well-deserved place in the border by virtue of its delicious penetrating smell at night, while the broomrape stock smells almost too strongly by day. An alpine stock that rivals the broomrape in strength of perfume is *Matthiola tristis*. This forms low tufts of grey leaves bearing above them spikes of flowers that not only resemble the night scented stock in appearance, but have the same habit of exhaling their odour only by night.

Columbines have always been grown for their beauty of form, and many of the modern hybrids are of wonderful colours. The dwarf *Aquilegia viridiflora* has graceful arching 8-in. stems and quaint chocolate-brown flowers, against which the golden anthers look doubly bright. On bending near to examine the flower we notice a delicate yet distinct fragrance.

*Omphalodes luciliae* requires protection from slugs when grown out of doors, but in the alpine house the pale blue flowers are safe from enemies and the curious scent can be observed—it has almost an artificial quality about it.

\*Reprinted by permission from My Garden.

The hardy cyclamens are plants of the greatest charm, thriving under trees where few other plants will grow. *Cyclamen neapolitanum*, *C. coum*, and *C. repandum* are well known, but surely *C. europaeum* deserves wider cultivation, for its ruby flowers have the added charm of a sweet scent. We have but two plants and find they do not set seed so freely as the other kinds, so perhaps this is the reason for its scarcity. We sow every seed and hope to have a colony some day. Report has it that the lovely white variety discovered recently is shy of setting seed, so we fear it will be long before many people possess a plant.

Among shrubs the alpine daphnes are surely some of the most sweetly smelling of all woody plants, though not the easiest to grow. Still, perseverance should bring success with the white *D. blagayana* and the rose-pink *D. cneorum*, but few can boast of possessing the lovely *D. petraea*.

The scent of cowslips is characteristic of English pastures, but from far away Tibet comes a giant cowslip in *Primula florindae* which will scent damp corners of the rock garden in July and August, though the smaller and earlier flowering *P. sikkimensis* is more suitable for the small garden and is equally fragrant.

The great sedum family has a hawthorn-scented member in *S. populi-folium*, which is also unusual in being sub-shrubby and deciduous. The campanulas are another big group of plants not usually associated with sweet odours, but, according to Farrer, the curious yellow-flowered *C. thyrsoides* has a "sweet delicate fragrance."

As our garden is on limestone, *Arnica montana* will not thrive with us, so we have not enjoyed its scented, golden flowers. Nor have we encountered *Polemonium confertum* var. *mellitum* which, Farrer warns us, smells of beer. From weeding in the neighbourhood of *Codonopsis clematidæa*, we are familiar with the odour of the whole plant, one which will only please the fox-hunting man. In fairness we must say that the smell is only noticeable when the plant is brushed or injured, though it is a nuisance when we want to show friends the curious markings in the interior of the flower.

Much indeed might be written of alpinines with scented foliage. The "seed-cake" thyme and the lemon-scented edelweiss come to mind. The gardener with a nose curious for such plants will no doubt discover other alpinines scented in leaf or flower, while his mind may theorise to account for their rarity, real or apparent.

## FOUR LITTLE KNOWN NATIVE VIOLETS

MARY G. HENRY, Gladwyne, Pa.

ONE OF THE most precious gems in a family that is full of treasures is *Viola walteri*. In Mrs. Viola Brainerd Baird's book it is called "The Prostrate Violet," rather an apt name. On several occasions I have collected this dainty little plant in the "Red Hill" section of Georgia. It is perfectly hardy here where the temperature falls to zero and below practically every winter.

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Should any of our members know of scented alpinines additional to those described in the above article, we will be glad to receive accounts of them for future Bulletins.

*Viola walteri* is a sort of mat-forming little leafy stemmed violet with evergreen foliage that spreads slowly in a very tidy fashion. Although it soon makes fair sized clumps, it is not at all an invasive plant and never becomes coarse or weedy. The rather small well rounded and daintily scalloped leaves are attractively mottled and shaded with silvery gray-green white. The edges and undersides are usually prettily tinged with purple. The longish spurs on the pretty little violet flowers give them a pert and perkish appearance.

It succeeds here both in full sun and in part shade. When in the former, the soil should not be too dry but when situated in shade a dry slope is advisable. The attractive evergreen foliage makes a neat appearance in winter. There is a variety, a delightful and decidedly showy little plant, with deep purple flowers prettily striped and flaked with white.

*Viola tripartita* is such a rare and unusual looking violet that finding it gave me a real thrill. It is a yellow flowered "cut leaved" stemmed species of very interesting and distinctive appearance. I found it in a rather rich shady woods in northern Georgia. The leaves are mostly divided into three rather narrow sort of wedge-shaped leaflets, hence its name. This species has made itself at home, is an excellent doer and increases and produces seeds readily at Gladwyne. It seems entirely happy in my "Trillium Garden," which is really a shady rock garden.

*Viola rostrata* is another favorite of mine, as indeed it must be to all lovers of violets. It, too, is leafy-stemmed. The type has lavender flowers with charmingly expressive "faces" neatly decorated with dark lines. Over a period of years I have found some nice variations: (1) Charming pale lavender flowers without any markings, very pure and dainty in appearance. (2) White flowers neatly striped and dotted with lavender, very decorative indeed. However sweet and pretty these kinds are, far and away the most outstanding variety of *V. rostrata* that I have ever seen is: (3) Flowers of palest lavender, adorned with patches of deep plum colored velvet, a showy and very lovely combination.

There is another species of *Viola* here that has been identified as *V. septemloba*; I collected it in the Georgia mountains. It seems to especially like to grow in shady ravines in dry loose soil. At Gladwyne it thrives in full sun in my Rock Garden as well as in full shade in my *Trillium* Garden. The flowers stand up well above the foliage and are freely produced. Each plant makes a fine specimen. Of this species too I have found some remarkably handsome variations. The type bears flowers that are a nice rather deep purple. There is here a grand dark rich plum purple colored variety that is very striking. Another, with flowers of pale nearly sky blue, that is simply enchanting. A pure white one of course is lovely and still another bears deep purple flowers freely striped with white, creating a gay and wholly delightful effect. The leaves of the type and also the dark one and the last described are all of a deep bronze or purple green with very dark stems. The pale flowered ones have pale foliage.

All the foregoing *Violas* take what comes in the way of weather, be it excessive drought or sub-zero temperatures, and weather changes. They all come "smiling through."

## OENOTHERA CAESPITOSA

MYRTLE P. HEBERT, Denton, Montana.

THE MID-WEST has many lovely wild flowers, but few that have accepted domestication as gracefully as the Cowboy Lily which grows in the Bad Lands of the Missouri River and in scattered patches throughout neighboring sections. It has numerous local names, including Gumbo Lily, Sand Rose, and, across the border in Saskatchewan, Rock Rose. Botanists who like to split classical genera call it *Pachylophus caespitosus*. Whatever name it carries, however, it is one of our finest and most adaptable wild flowers.



BY FLORENS DE BEVOISE

Though native to the west-midland region, *Oenothera caespitosa* can be grown in rock gardens over a wide area. Its huge white flowers open in the evening.

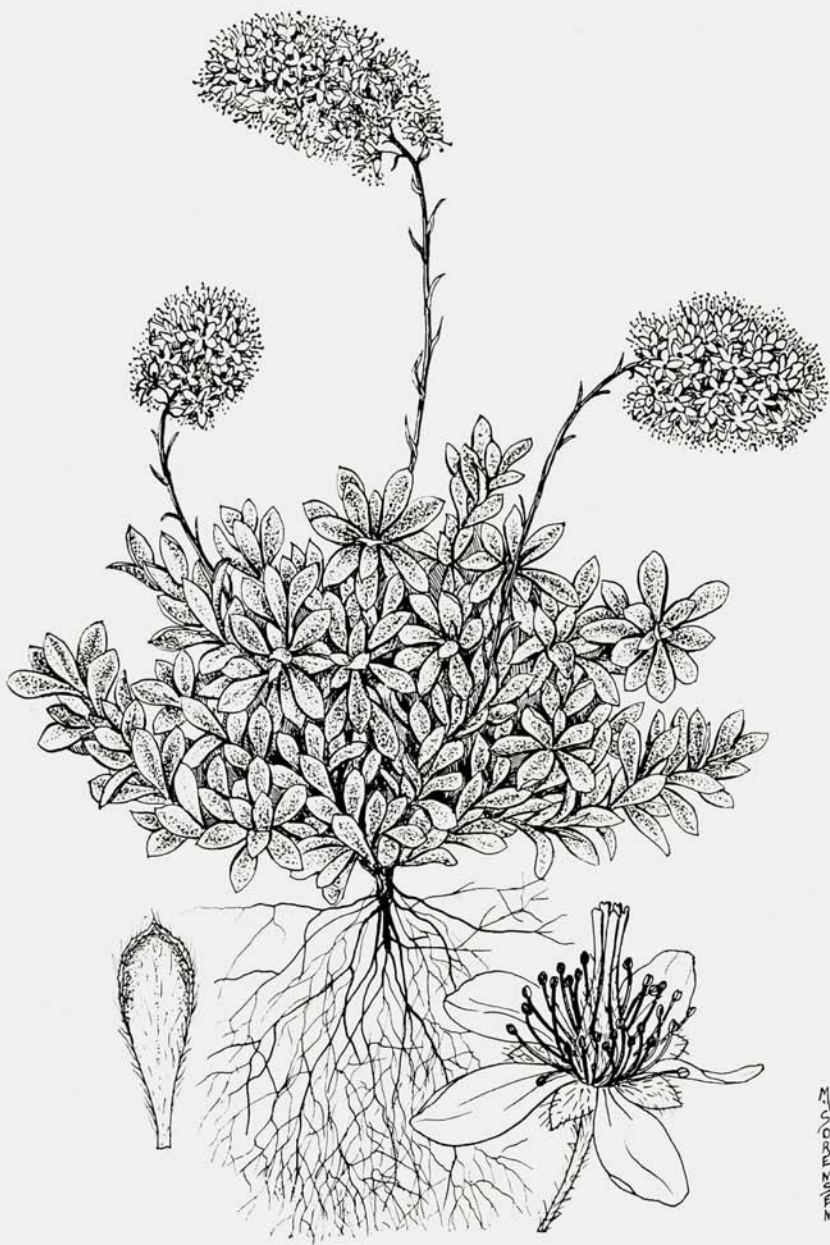
Dependably perennial, this forms thick spreading clumps of leaves, somewhat resembling dandelions, with a reddish tinge during the winter months. It grows six inches or more in height and blooms from May until late summer. Its huge white flowers open in the evening and scent the garden with their exquisite perfume; then, under the hot sun of the following morning, they turn pink and wither.

They mature quantities of seed, the woody seed pods burying themselves in the soil at the base of the plant. Although in their native haunts they prefer dry, sandy knolls, in the garden they have volunteered generously in any sort of environment. My first plants were secured from the edge of a field of summer fallow, and carried two or three miles on foot, and set out in the garden, in full bloom. Only a few of them survived the ordeal, but these were enough to furnish the beginning of my *Oenothera* plot, which has spread until it now forms one of the main features of my prairie garden.

## JUNE BLOOM IN THE ROCK GARDEN

WHEN THE May display furnished by so many of our popular plants comes to an end, the rock garden becomes comparatively dull. The pages of the Bulletin have, however, contained accounts of at least 30 species which can be counted on to produce considerable color in early summer. Since requests for the names of plants for this use are often received, the list is published herewith; we hope our readers will send in the names of additional ones which they have found satisfactory.

- Callirhoe involucrata*, Prairie-mallow (vol. 3: p. 29). Cups of brilliant magenta hue, produced over a long period.
- Campanula divaricata* (synonym *flexuosa*), Fairy Bluebell (1:6). Clouds of tiny lavender-blue bells in June and July.
- Chrysogonum virginianum*, Golden-star (4: 43). For the shady r. g.
- Coreopsis auriculata*, Creeping Coreopsis (1: 45). A splendid early summer golden daisy.
- Dicentra eximia*, Appalachian Bleeding-heart (1: 7). Bronzy pink, also a new white form; everblooming in a cool spot.
- Erodium chamaedryoides roseum*, Rose Heron-bill (5: 9). Lovely little pink flowers through the season.
- Helianthemum nummularium*, Broad-leaf Sunrose (3: 53). Shrublet with vari-colored flowers, white, yellow, orange, pink, etc.
- Heuchera sanguinea*, Coral-bells (3: 29). Red, pink, or white-hued.
- Jasione perennis*, Sheeps-bit (3: 89). Lavender-blue heads.
- Lilium* (2: 84 to 87). Five superior summer rock garden lilies are:
- L. hansonii*, Korean Yellow Lily. To 2 ft.; partial shade.
- L. martagon*, especially var. *album*. Also best in shade.
- L. pumilum* (syn. *tenuifolium*), Coral Lily. A rock garden ruby.
- L. rubellum*, Japanese Pink Lily. A subalpine, barely a foot high.
- L. scottii*, Scott's Hybrid Lily. Scarlet flowers on 18 in. stalks.
- Nierembergia frutescens*, Tall Cupflower (3: 29). Lovely 1½ in. lavender-blue cups through the summer.
- Oenothera caespitosa*, Tufted Evening-primrose. See page 44.
- Penstemon*. Five selected western Beard-tongues comprise:
- P. ambiguus*, Sand Beard-tongue (4: 71). Flat-faced pinkish white fls.
- P. angustifolius*, Narrow-leaf B. (1: 14; 4: 66, 72). A bit of the sky.
- P. cardwellii*, Shrubby Purple B. (4: 68). An evergreen shrublet.
- P. humilis*, Low Blue B. (4: 67). A rock garden sapphire.
- P. rupicola*, esp. var. *alba*, Cliff B. (4: 71). Flower-starred mats.
- Phlox*. Here are 5 long-season bloomers:
- P. carolina*, esp. var. *gloriosa*, Thick-leaf Phlox (1: 6; 4: 26).
- P. floridana* var. *bella*, Pink Gulf Phlox (1: 7; 4: 27).
- P. nana* (*mesaleuca* of recent English writers), Santa Fe Phlox (4: 24).
- P. nivalis*, varieties, Southern Moss-phlox (1: 2; 3: 11; 4: 25).
- P. ovata*, vars., Allegheny Phlox (4: 26). These various Phloxes range from phlox-purple through pink or lavender blue to white.
- Potentilla fruticosa* var. *mandshurica*, Manchurian Bush cinquefoil. The correct name for the plant discussed in vol. 5: 15, line 11.
- P. nepalensis*, Himalayan Rose Cinquefoil (3: 29). Fine rose-red flowers.
- P. tridentata*, Wine-leaf Cinquefoil (5: 12). White with yellow stamens.
- Rosa chinensis minima*, Roulett Rose (1:57; 3: 90). Also other dwarfs.
- Townsendia parryi* variety, Colorado Townsendia (1: 109). A lavender daisy with large heads arising from a leaf-rosette.—E.T.W.



**Petrophytum hendersoni**

Originally published as Plate 13 on December 31, 1940



## PETROPHYTUM HENDERSONI

THE OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS of Washington have, endemic to them, several plant species of very considerable rock garden value and, in my opinion, the subject of this leaflet is their outstanding contribution.

*Petrophytum hendersoni* has no noticeable fragrance, but otherwise has all the qualities and characteristics required to rate it as an absolutely first-class rock garden plant. In addition to beauty of foliage and blossom and to ideality of habit, it has the merit of being easy to grow and to propagate and is also perfectly hardy and very long lived.

This species has been accused of being a shy bloomer in cultivation; this libel is probably due either to the very long time it takes for a collected plant to become properly established—a matter of years—or to the delusion, under which most growers appear to labor, that this species requires a southern exposure. At the present moment, one of my plants is carrying no less than forty-two racemes, which is surely adequate refutation of the accusation.

In the rock garden, this species will be found to thrive best when planted in a crevice or at the foot of a large rock on a steep slope with a northern or northeastern exposure. A cool root-run seems to be the prime essential with actual diet of quite secondary importance, since the plants will flourish in any light, well-drained, lime-free mixture moderately enriched with humus.

Propagation is by seed or cuttings. Most of the seedlings will bloom in their third year. Cuttings strike readily, if taken as the flowers commence to fade, but I have found them very reluctant to make roots if taken at any other time. Well-established specimens increase to some extent by means of underground stems but, since other methods of propagation are so simple, the removal of the little plants that appear in the lee of their parent seems rather unnecessary vandalism.

*Petrophytum hendersoni* is a dwarf evergreen shrub which forms dense, more or less prostrate mats in its natural habitat but makes compact, dome-shaped hummocks in the garden. Plants of this species have not been in cultivation long enough to enable one to hazard a guess as to the dimensions they will eventually attain; my largest plants, which I believe to be about twelve years old, are about four inches in height and nine inches in diameter, though one which is growing in a pan in my alpine house has reached a height of six inches.

The evergreen foliage consists of oblanceolate leaves three quarters of an inch long, arranged in attractive little rosettes. These leaves are a most unusual shade of bluish green, flushed with rosy lavender on the under sides and they assume vinous-purple tints throughout fall and winter.

The creamy white blossoms, like minute *Spiraea* flowers, are borne in dense arching racemes throughout late spring and early summer. They always remind me of woolly lamb's tails. The racemes may be from one and a half to three inches long and about one-half inch in diameter and are carried on quite sturdy stems just comfortably above the foliage. The petals persist for a very long time after the flowers have faded, turning to light tan and gradually deepening to brown, so that a plant in seed is very nearly as beautiful as it is in flower.

*Petrophytum hendersoni* well deserves to be ranked amongst the very best of the World's alpines; that it is also a native species should give it an additional claim to far wider recognition by American gardeners than it has yet received.—W. H. A. PREECE.

*Petrophytum Hendersoni* (Canby) Rydberg, N. Am. Flora 22:253. 1908.

## A BEGINNER'S ROCK GARDEN IN THE MISTY PAST

CLARA W. REGAN, Butte, Montana

**T**WENTY-FIVE years ago I read a short article in a garden magazine that started me off on the rock garden path. The author told, with simplicity and charm, of her rockery with a bird-bath atop, and added that "a family of worthy batrachians had moved in and made it their home."

My imagination was fired and I resolved that I, too, would have a rockery "with bath." Getting the rocks was a mere trifle, but selling the idea to the family was not. The thought of skinning off a ten foot square of lawn and putting rocks in the space filled them with amazement, if not with horror and indignation; and nothing but the firmness derived from a long line of Dutch ancestors pulled me through that battle. Remember this was in the "early twenties" when the word "rock garden" was almost unknown. I was one of that band of pioneer women who paved the way, I was about to say with blood and tears—well, with tears anyway—for the present rock gardens of America. For it was, in that day, no uncommon mental phenomenon, that the reaction of the ordinary male to the word "rock garden," was a very hearty one against it.

Following my guide to the letter I built a contraption designed somewhat on the lines of a wedding-cake, and like hers, the top was dedicated to improving the sanitary condition of the robins. They scorned it, however, but history repeating itself, toads moved in from all the adjoining country-side, and could always be found there enjoying life in their own philosophic manner.

I know now that my creation would outrage the sensibilities of the merest rock garden tyro of today, but I was completely charmed with it and resented bitterly any jeering remarks against it. But now that I had the framework built what to pad it with was the problem. No nursery had the special plants that I felt my endeavor deserved, and certainly no information was to be had concerning their needs and habits. At long last I found a nursery on the Atlantic Coast, and from it I ordered, what was to me a most thrilling collection of plants, including *Arabis alpina*, *Aubrieta*, *Alyssum saxatile*, and *Sedum acre*, (called by the rustics of England, "Welcome-home-husband-be-you-ever-so-drunk," because, growing on the roofs of the thatched cottages, its bright yellow blooms proved a guiding beacon to befuddled mates.)

All lost their lives on the journey except the *Sedum*; and to make my first rock garden a complete washout, someone gave me a wad of that predatory land-grabber, Creeping Charlie. I planted that innocent-looking mass of greenery, thinking how well it supplemented the dwarf Iris, which, with the toads, provided the only living interest in my rockery. In one year's time every nook and cranny sprouted with this vagabond plant, and I had to dismantle the whole thing—an experience which taught me "to look a gift-horse in the mouth," an old saying that is worthwhile for every rock gardener to remember.

This reverse only served to fix my unwavering purpose more firmly on a rock garden and the driveway to the garage became the object of my attentions; I made my new rock garden along its length, using larger rocks. I had, by this time, secured seeds of the commoner rock plants and had seedlings of Maiden Pink (*Dianthus deltoides*), *Helianthemum*, two kinds of *Alyssum*, *Aubrieta*, and other pretty dwarf flowers to garnish it with. These, with native ferns, made a pleasing picture.

After catering to the wants of this rockery for several years, I felt it no longer came up to my—by now—more ambitious conception. For by this time the word “rockery” had been retired in favor of the more comprehensive “rock garden;” and the word “alpine” had dawned on the gardening world, with its implications of austerity and aloofness. The moraine was spoken of, in the highest rock gardening circles, as something guaranteed to make the most recalcitrant alpine forget its high mountain home. At present the scree has superseded the moraine and “rock plant” is a more representative word than “alpine” unless a plant is indeed a dweller above timberline.

A scree is a broken-down rock out-cropping, mixed with varying amounts of humus, in which most alpiners and many sub-alpiners are found. My own early experiences with it was founded on the concept of the English rock garden, and I promptly came to grief. I lost more valuable plants by setting them in the Sahara-like stretches I made in my rock garden than from all other causes combined. In England or our Pacific Northwest where copious rain and a continually humid atmosphere can be counted on at all times, the extra drainage from large amounts of sand and crushed rock with a minimum of soil, is a very good thing. In my semi-arid climate it was poison. I am turning more and more to a compost of loam, leaf-mold and crushed rock, using no sand (our soil is rather sandy one) except for the sand-loving genera, notably the Penstemons. In this most plants find a congenial home, with only a little catering to special appetites. For *Campanula* I use compost-heap soil with crushed rock, and for *Gentiana acaulis* stiff clay lightened with a little peat moss, crushed rock, and cow-manure. I experimented a bit with the last plant and in my regular rock garden mixture it simply sickened and died. So no hard and fast rules can be laid down in so vast a country as ours. It's every man for himself, unless you can find a skilled grower in your locality.

Rock garden No. 3 was on a quite ambitious scale, considering that it had to be built from the ground up; and now, just as years before the commoner plants had been hard to find, the lack of the rarer kinds added a zest and interest not found in other forms of gardening. The combination of rarity and difficulty of culture appeals to a class of gardeners who like to pit their wits against Nature. The growing of alpiners became something of a sporting event with some of the elements of the chase, but partaking more of the piscatorial art, for a dyed-in-the-wool rock gardener is akin to the patient fisherman who sits on a bank and angles for what he hopes to get.

After building the third rock garden, the sum of my treasures steadily mounted and my little plant world was beginning to attain a pleasant internationalism. About this time it dawned upon my backward intelligence that we had alpiners and rock plants of our own that were highly desirable from a garden standpoint and that, no doubt, would be greatly coveted by enthusiasts in America and in foreign countries. When I wrote of some of

the minute exquisite mountain treasures of Montana, the response quite startled me. It was unbelievable that so many had heard of the little *Phlox bryoides* that grows just over my garden fence; of that rare and tiny Columbine, *Aquilegia jonesii*; of the beautiful pink *Douglasia montana*, so like the European *Androsace wulfeniana*. Fellow gardeners in our own and other countries were eager for seeds and plants; and from them, in return, I received many choice plants and seed. Barter plays as important a part in the life of a rock gardener as it did in the lives of the Pilgrim Fathers.

My choicest small Pinks came from an elderly botanist in Bavaria, who shared with me the seed sent him by collectors in the Balkans. In that way the very rare *Dianthus simulans* came to my garden and the equally choice *D. microlepis* and the closely related *D. freyni* and *D. musalae*. From him came seed, too, of the odd and very tiny *Saponaria pulvinaris* and *Dracocephalum boytrioides*, both natives of the mountains of Asia Minor.

The Caucasus mean more than a name to me after an English friend went there collecting new plants and seeds, and not only generously sent me seed but a description of his party's adventure in that primitive country. His account of their ascent of the Greater and Lesser peaks of Mt. Ararat was interesting indeed, and made that historic spot emerge from the legendary into the real. What a grand opportunity Noah had!

Add to these treasures the tiny compact *Gypsophila aretioides* and some Campanulas from Iran; little Columbines from Japan; Primulas and Gentians from Thibet and China; various plants from the Himalayas, and you can plainly see how fascinating rock gardening can be. Then there is a wealth of alpine plants from Europe and now, thanks to many public-spirited nurserymen, many of our own beautiful native plants. And again, thanks to these same nurserymen, there are untold riches in their plant lists, from foreign lands, that in the old days of rock gardening, would have driven the devotee mad with longing and frustration. Truly the path of the rock gardener is made smooth these days.

After you have indulged in this diversion for some time you will begin to experience a spiritual affinity to out-of-the-way places. I gaze upon photographs of the high mountains of central Asia with a warm friendliness, because I know that in the not very far distant past, those icy spires probably housed the ancestors of my tiny Primroses. And as a refresher course in geography,—but perhaps this is a subject best left alone these days.

Nevertheless it is a pleasure and an inspiration to look up the source of one's plants. Besides never in my palmiest geographical days did I know where the Karawanken range was—but I do now—nor the boundaries of Bhutan, nor how high is the plateau of Thibet. And before the rock gardening mania seized me I thought of Japan, casually, as a country of rice-fields and cherry trees with Fujiyama sticking up in the middle. Now I know it is a mountainous country with a wealth of rock garden treasures, with many already available to us.

I started to tell the story of my rock garden from its humble days of being a "rockery," complete with bird-bath, toads and Creeping Charlie, to its present day opulence. I find instead that I am involved in rock garden propaganda, so not knowing how to retreat gracefully, I will come right out in the open and say that I hope everyone will make a rock garden and have all the fun and pleasure that I have had since I read of a rockery so many, many years ago.

## EXHIBITS AT THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

**T**HIS YEAR the New York Flower Show lacked rock garden exhibits, but there were several at the Philadelphia show held that same week in March: An elaborate woodland garden including a number of rock plants, by Vick's Wild Gardens; a small rock garden by Charles S. Swayne, of Springfield, Pa.; and another by Roy B. Nichols of Torresdale (Phila. 14) Pa. The last won first prize in its class; it is pictured below.

The space allotted to this exhibit was long and tapering, so to create the effect of depth a waterfall and pool were placed at the wide end, to be viewed obliquely, and dark-foliaged trees occupied the narrow end, yielding a highly effective picture.

A considerable number of plants had been forced into bloom, while others were used for their foliage qualities; thus while *Iris mellita*, *pumila*, and *verna* were in flower, *I. giganteaerulea* and *pseudacorus* leaves produced striking foliage effects at the pool margin. Notable flowering bulbs included species of *Brodiaea*, *Hyacinthus*, *Scilla*, and *Tulipa*; of the last, *T. dasystemon* was especially good, being at the same time short and sturdy, yet dainty and woodsy enough for any rock garden.

Shrubs used included 5 species of *Azalea*, *Chionanthus*, *Kalmia*, *Photinia*, and *Pieris*. Among perennials were one or more species each of *Aethionema*, *Dianthus*, *Epimedium*, *Mertensia*, *Primula* and *Saxifraga*. Perhaps the most striking combination was of the compact *Doronicum* Madam Mason with deep blue *Anchusa*.—E.T.W.





# THE AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

## REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING

The weather man has been frowning and weeping copiously on garden meetings lately, but he smiled on the American Rock Garden Society and gave it a clear sky for its annual meeting on May 24th. Immediately on arriving at "Cronamere," Greens Farms, Conn., the board of directors retired for a short, but very important session; then joined the members who were gathering around the tables on the lawn where a delicious buffet luncheon was served by the hosts of the occasion, Genl. and Mrs. C. I. DeBevoise (box luncheon notice—to the contrary).

The business of the annual meeting was conducted without loss of precious time by the president, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson. He was mindful of the fact that everyone was eager to wander through the extensive rock garden—really a series of rock gardens blended into one harmonious whole, any unit of which would delight the heart of many a rock gardener to have on his own place. Easy doers for the novice, the rare and more difficult to test the mettle of the skilled rock gardener—for several hours members studied and compared notes on them. Space doesn't permit naming enough plants to indicate the wealth of plant material—one might better say, "Name it, you'll surely find it at Cronamere."

## ANOTHER UNIT HEARD FROM

The 1947 program of the Montana Unit of the American Rock Garden Society was received too late for inclusion in the March-April issue. Meetings were planned as follows: March, an illustrated lecture on "Famous Rock Gardens," by Mrs. Daniel J. Mooney; April, illustrated lecture on "Montana Wild Flowers," illustrated with slides from the Wild Flower Preservation Society and Montana Federation of Garden Clubs; June, "Our Waysides from the Driver's Seat"—Plains and Desert plants in Montana and Arizona—by Mrs. Guy P. Bliss; and a paper on Penstemons prepared by Mrs. Willian Hebert.

## DIRECTORS TO SERVE UNTIL 1949

At the annual meeting on May 24, the following were elected to serve on the board of directors of the American Rock Garden Society until 1949: Kurt W. Baasch, Harold Epstein, Marcel Le Piniec, A. C. Pfander, and P. J. van Melle.

All other officers of the society were elected for a two-year term at the 1946 annual meeting and, therefore, remain in office until May 1948.

# YEAR BOOK

OF THE  
AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN  
SOCIETY, 1946-1947



MRS. C. I. DE BEVOISE

In the Summer of 1933, in her beautiful rock garden at "Cronamere," Greens Farms, Conn., Mrs. C. I. DeBevoise conceived the idea of forming a society that would foster the interests of rock gardening in America. She and several friends subsequently made the necessary plans and drew up a Constitution and By-Laws, and in March, 1934, the American Rock Garden Society was formally organized.

During the intervening years, Mrs. DeBevoise has maintained her keen interest and active participation in the Society and its affairs, serving as a member of the Board of Directors and as an associate editor of *The Bulletin*. She has always been ready to share her knowledge of rock plants, and to open her rock garden with its wealth of beautiful alpinas and other plants to members of the Society.

Because we deeply appreciate all that Mrs. DeBevoise has done for our Society and for rock gardening in America, we dedicate to her this Year-book.—D.E.H.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to the members of the American Rock Garden Society:

There is a growing interest in rock gardens, perhaps a natural phenomenon in view of the let-down from war tensions and the resulting desire of people to get into pursuits that afford more recreation and contribute to good living. Rock gardening is one of the most delightful ways to accomplish this objective. Even more than other forms of gardening, it offers physical activity, an interesting hobby and a challenge to the grower in dealing with the more difficult subjects. This latter point makes it one of the most fascinating of all forms of gardening.

I hope that this renewed interest becomes a permanent one and contributes to the growth of the American Rock Garden Society in a substantial and lasting manner. It has seemed a long time since we had an opportunity to devote ourselves to constructive work in such wholesome peacetime activities, and it is my sincere hope that the growth of the Society and the spread of rock gardening will not again be interrupted by war within the lifetime of any of us.

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as your president for the past year. I hope that the limited time I have for the work has been of some benefit to the organization. Finally, I look forward to the day when I can again actively engage in this fascinating hobby.—IRA N. GABRIELSON.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

By reason of the fact that our secretary has been in office for only four and a half months at the time of writing, her report will not be the usual one of the year's accomplishments. A goodly portion of the time she has thus far spent in office has been consumed in getting re-acquainted with the workings of the Society and its activities during the past four years. It must be confessed that she was most pleasantly surprised to find a thriving membership. This augurs well for the future—for any organization which can come out of the awful war years with a well paid-up membership indicates lively and healthy interest. We must not, however, rest content with our laurels. Rather should it serve as an incentive for a marked increase in the number of members. With four hundred fifty on our roster now, by the end of the year we should be able to point with pride to a membership of more than five hundred.

Such a gain in membership, its seems to me, would be a fitting tribute to the officers of the American Rock Garden Society who carried on so nobly during such trying times. Especially does your secretary have in mind Mr. Arthur H. Osmun, who bore the brunt of the detailed work of the society and its correspondence, and Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, who carried the responsibilities entailed in editing the Bulletin.

The American Rock Garden Society has much to offer both full-fledged rock gardeners, and novices in this art. We who have been members for some years, perhaps, take these things for granted just as we naturally do with anything to which we are accustomed. This was illustrated recently when an air mail letter arrived from a new member from the Far West, inquiring what was required to take advantage of the Seed Exchange. It didn't seem possible that the Seed Exchange could be enjoyed—for only a stamped, self-addressed envelope!

Then lectures, luncheon-meetings, explorations, trips—under the auspices of regional groups or units thereof. These activities should be encouraged now that we have free time at our disposal. And another delightful custom of past years should be revived—that of opening our gardens to



members and friends, and to the public. Admittedly, the last few years, our gardens were not up to par—but they have been or are being rejuvenated and members and friends do enjoy seeing what we are doing in them. It's a polite and pleasant way, too, of spreading abroad the fame of the American Rock Garden Society.

Instead of a report of things accomplished in a given period, this has evolved into one of looking ahead. May this variation from the usual routine of a secretary's report be found acceptable at this time.—DOROTHY EBEL HANSELL.

Summit, N. J., April 15, 1947

## TREASURERS REPORT

May 1, 1946 to May 1, 1947

Balance on hand May 1, 1946 .....		\$1,111.30
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Meetings .....	\$ 220.50	
Dues .....	1,729.53	
Extra binders .....	3.00	
Extra Bulletins .....	10.50	
Gifts .....	100.00	
Advertising .....	55.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....		<b>\$3,229.83</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
Clerical .....	\$ 23.00	
Telephone & Telegraph .....	8.80	
Travel .....	12.67	
Printing .....	101.98	
Stationery .....	38.05	
Meetings .....	331.37	
Postage .....	124.26	
Regional apportionments .....	33.50	
Insurance .....	5.55	
Bank service charge .....	9.76	
Bulletin .....	870.47	
Salary .....	111.32	
Rent .....	95.00	
Express .....	1.41	
Seed Exchange .....	7.12	
DM .....	1.40	
Miscellaneous .....	52.82	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b> .....		<b>\$1,828.48</b>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND MAY 1, 1947</b> .....		<b>\$1,401.25</b>

MRS. GEORGE F. WILSON, *Treasurer*

## AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

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We regret to learn of the death of the following members:

Mrs. Samuel Colt, Pittsfield, Mass.  
 Mrs. Ruth Dormon, Shreveport, Louisiana  
 Mrs. S. W. Massie, Greenwood, Va.

The American Rock Garden Society records its sorrow at the death of Dr. H. H. M. Lyle, who for many years was a member and a vice president. He was delightful as a companion and his presence gave pleasure and distinction to meetings of our society. Keenly interested in the culture of rock garden plants, Dr. Lyle added his store of experience to our common fund of knowledge. It was our good fortune that he passed our way and in gratitude we shall remember him as a friend who knew and loved flowers.

—WALTER D. BLAIR

## REPORT OF THE EDITOR

Herewith is presented a list of members of the Society as of May, 1947. Every effort has been made to have the data correct, but when there are so many entries, mistakes seem unavoidable. Should any be detected, please notify the Secretary; and in cases where the postal zone is not given, we would like to receive word as to it, as this will make the receipt of Bulletins quicker and surer.

The Bulletin itself can be taken as equivalent to an Editor's report; but there are two places in its volume 5, No. 1, where errors call for correction. Somehow on page 11 the legend of the lower illustration got lost; it should read: *Phyllodoce glanduliflora* produces tiny pale yellow urns.

The last item in the Seed Exchange list on page 16 reads "Native blue *Gilia* (annual)." This had come in as a blue *Phlox*, but since there are no annuals of that genus in the west, the Editor guessed it might represent another genus of the same family, namely *Gilia*. Later Mrs. Granger kindly sent him some of the seed, and this proved to belong to a blue *Flax* instead. The species name will be ascertained when it comes into bloom.—E.T.W.

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