

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

including

SAXIFLORA

Vol. 5

November-December, 1947

No. 6

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THIS IS THE FINAL ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN UNDER THE
PRESENT EDITORSHIP. FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 112.

ALPINE PLANTS IN WINDOW BOXES

HENRY TEUSCHER, Montreal Botanical Garden

THE AVERAGE window box gardener does not usually even consider the possibility of raising alpine plants in his boxes. This, however, is less surprising than the fact that rock garden enthusiasts and lovers of alpine plants, with few exceptions, likewise seem to have overlooked so promising an outlet for the pursuit of their hobby.

Perhaps, to the majority of the latter group the mere suggestion will appear like sheer folly. Is it not a well-known fact that few alpine plants produce a creditable display of flowers during the first year after planting? Yet, how can anyone expect any type of plant to live through the winter in a box on the window sill or on the balcony where it is exposed to all the winds of heaven and will, of course, freeze solid? The writer does not deny the justice of such arguments. What is wrong with them is that they are based solely upon conventional window box practices. There is nothing to prevent us from adjusting procedures, so as to suit our special case.

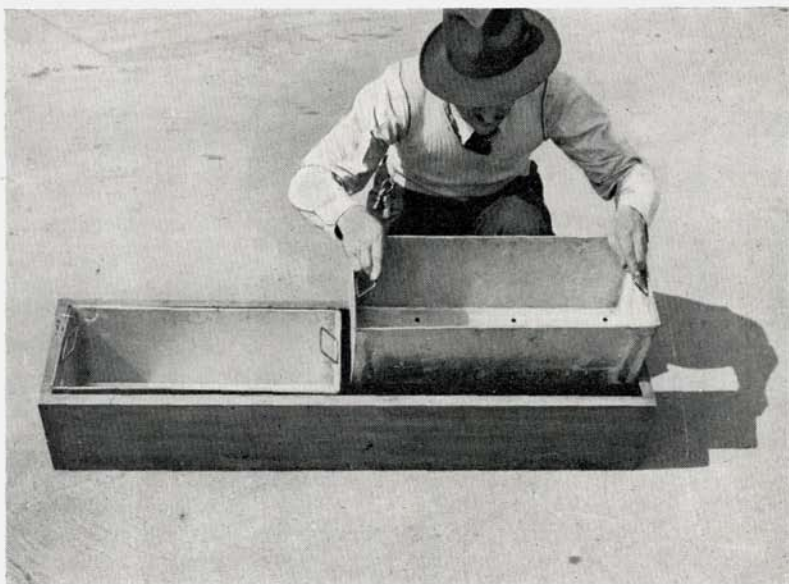
As soon, for instance, as we consider preparing tin insert trays, of a size approximately 2 ft. long, 7 to 8 inches deep and 8 to 10 inches wide, so that two of them fit into an average-sized wooden window box, the whole outlook changes. Actually, the use of removable tin inserts has opened an entirely new field of endeavor to the window box gardener, since it enables him to succeed to perfection not only with alpine plants but with spring-flowering bulbs, roses, cushion chrysanthemums, etc., as well.

As far as alpine plants are concerned, two main lines of procedure may be followed.

1. One may concentrate on a brilliant spring display with the use of brightly colored early-flowering varieties. Such combinations, for instance, as: bluish-white *Phlox bifida* with purple *Aubrieta* "Dr. Mules," or golden-yellow *Alyssum saxatile flore pleno* with blue *Phlox lilacina* "G. F. Wilson" are always sure to be effective. Red- and white-flowered varieties of *Phlox subulata*, when planted together, may likewise be counted on to produce a pleasing contrast. Rock garden fans will readily be able to select other favorites which flower early and freely.

2. One may arrange a miniature landscape in the tin tray by means of tufa rocks and plant this with the smallest of the alpine plants such as *Thalictrum kiusianum*, small *Saxifrages* of the Kabschia section, etc. which are easily lost in a large outdoor rock garden. Such a planting scheme, of course, never provides a brilliant display, but it enables the rock garden enthusiast to give his tiny treasures the best possible care and to enjoy them more by having them at a level where they can be viewed conveniently. The tin tray, furthermore, affords a chance to prepare a separate home for equally minute and capricious acid-loving plants which usually are particularly difficult to maintain in open soil.

The average rock garden enthusiast needs no directions for the preparation of the soil. Consequently, no attempt is made here to go into detail concerning the second procedure mentioned above. The first, however, is of a more general appeal, since it offers definite possibilities for ornamentation. Let us consider the main lines of a routine treatment which leads to success with a tray planted, for instance, with *Phlox bifida* and *Aubrieta* "Dr. Mules."



BY HENRY TEUSCHER

Two insert tin trays fit into a four foot long window box

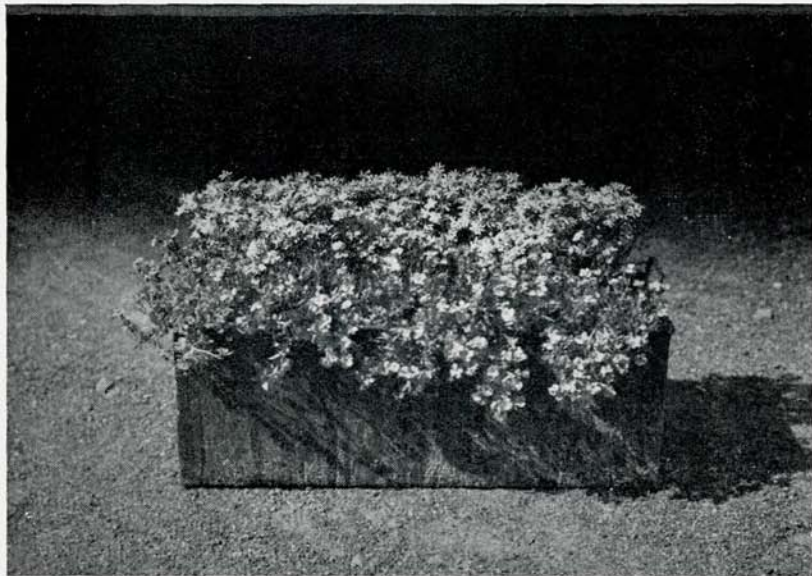
The tin tray must, of course, be provided at the bottom with several drainage holes as should be the wooden flower box itself. However, in order to make sure that surplus water may drain out freely, the tin tray should not be fitted too tightly into the wooden box. It is even advisable to place two thin and narrow strips of wood under both ends of the tin tray, so as to raise the latter slightly over the bottom of the wooden box. A small air space, between the walls of the tray and those of the wooden box, will serve, furthermore, to provide welcome insulation against the rays of the sun and accordingly prevent overheating of the soil, a condition to which alpine plants are particularly sensitive.

Soil and planting: A serviceable average soil mixture consists of: 2 parts leafmold (or a similar quantity of light topsoil, not clayey soil), 1

part crushed limestone ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch size), $\frac{1}{4}$ part granulated peat-moss and $\frac{1}{4}$ part sand. In addition, 2 teaspoonfuls of powdered limestone and 1 teaspoonful of bonemeal should be added to each tin tray full of soil (2 ft. x 8 inches x 8 inches). Do not add any manure nor any commercial fertilizer whatever. These ingredients must, of course, be thoroughly mixed with each other before the soil is placed in the box. A 1-inch layer of crushed limestone ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch size) should be spread over the bottom of the box beforehand to facilitate drainage.

The best time to set out rock garden plants in tin trays is early spring. Young pot-grown plants, such as are available from most nurseries, may be counted upon for good results. A layer of crushed stone over the surface of the soil after planting will help to prevent the soil from heating up and drying out in an undesirable manner.

Care after flowering.—When the plants have finished flowering, which usually will be the case towards the end of May, the tin trays are taken out of the window boxes, thus making the latter available for their usual plant-



BY HENRY TEUSCHER

Aubrieta Dr. Mules (foreground) and *Phlox bifida*
bloom profusely in the tin inserts

ing of summer-flowering annuals. The tin trays, with the rock garden plants in them, should be removed to the garden, where they may be sunk rim-deep in the ground. A sunny spot should be chosen for this purpose. Perfect drainage must be assured by placing a good layer of crushed stone over the bottom of the hole into which the box is to be sunk. Regular watering has to be continued for the rest of the summer. After the first frost, in fall, the plants should be covered with pine branches (never with leaves or other moisture-holding litter), and one should see to it that as far as possible they remain covered with snow throughout winter.

In early spring, the pine branches are removed. As soon as the soil has thawed out, all dead stalks and dead leaves remaining on the plants should be cut off. Once the first flower buds show color, or even earlier if desired, the tin trays may once again be placed into the flower box.

In general it is undesirable to leave rock garden plants, such as those mentioned at the beginning as particularly suitable for the purpose discussed here, for more than two years in the tin trays without dividing them. Contrary to usual belief, plants such as *Aubrieta*, *Arabis*, rock garden phloxes, etc. greatly benefit through division every second year, providing this is done immediately after flowering and the plants are trimmed back sharply at the same time. Therefore, it is here proposed that the plants, after flowering in the tin tray for the second year, be taken out, divided and replanted in fresh soil. This same procedure should be followed every second year thereafter. Treated in this manner, the same plants may be used for window box displays for many years on end.

To avoid misunderstanding, it may be once more stated that the routine of cultural procedure just outlined applies only to the first of the two alternatives mentioned earlier. Trays planted with small and delicate alpine plants, some of which may flower at any time during summer, should, of course, be left in the window box until fall, since in this case the purpose is to have the plants under close and constant observation. In fall, such trays may be removed to a coldframe, sinking them in gravel to the rim. Doing so will afford the opportunity to cover them with glass whenever protection against fall or winter rains is needed. Naturally, such plants should not be divided and replanted either. However, they are definitely benefited by an occasional and cautious feeding with a weak solution of a complete commercial fertilizer.

THE ALPINE HOUSE

ROBERT M. SENIOR, Cincinnati, Ohio

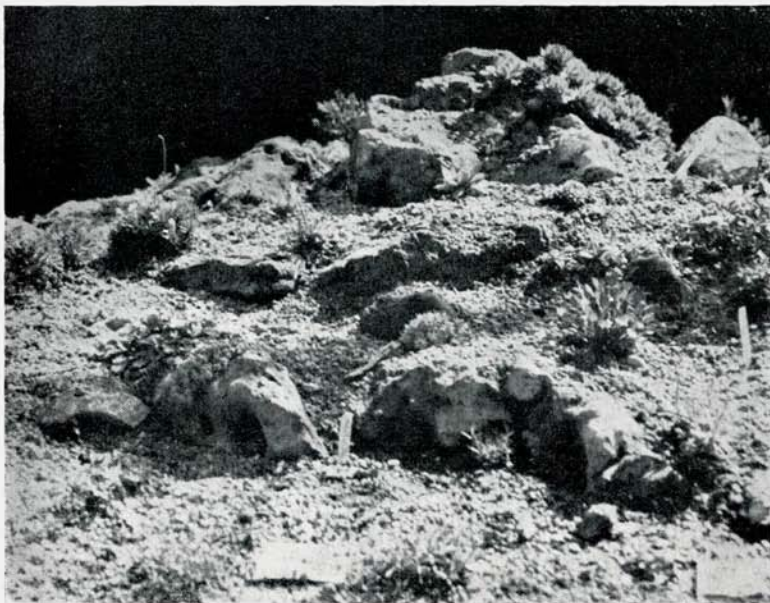
THOSE ROCK GARDENERS who have small alpine houses no doubt spend many delightful hours tending their plants. In winter particularly, when there is little work that we can do in the garden, the alpine house always holds something to interest us: and even in midsummer, when most of the rock plants are taken outside, we can nevertheless keep many low growing plants, particularly those coming from hot, arid sections of the country as, for example, those indigenous to parts of Arizona and southern California. And even some of our common rock plants, though they may have finished blooming, can be kept in the house all summer. Of course, during this period, it is necessary to cover the glass roof with slats or with whitewash.

A number of years ago, we constructed a table, five feet square, in the center of our alpine house, and nailed boards, about eight inches high around it; here, every winter we build up and plant a miniature rock garden. The drainage is excellent, and the plants thrive much better than if they were kept in pots. Moreover, if an equal number of plants were put in pots and placed on the benches, they would require considerably more space.

Of course a miniature rock garden could be constructed on a bench, or even part of a bench. If you have an alpine house, try constructing one: I believe you will be delighted to find how many of your choicest plants will thrive on it.

When constructing a rock garden, we start placing our "outcrops" at the base, gradually building up to the top, where we place a prominent rock to cap our "mountain." Incidentally, in the Fall, when we remove at least some of the old dirt, and replace it with fresh soil, we often reconstruct the garden by changing the rock formation, in order to give it new contours.

We have found from experience that it is inadvisable to plant our garden too early in the Fall. By leaving many plants outdoors, possibly in a cold frame, and thus giving them a resting period before bringing them indoors, they bloom much more profusely. If we bring them inside too early in the Fall, they seem to thrive vegetatively, at the expense of some bloom. As a matter of fact, this year we didn't start to plant the garden until the first week in January.



BY ROBERT M. SENIOR

Miniature rock garden in our alpine house

With us, the procession of bloom starts in February, and continues till summer. First come the Primroses, usually followed by *Arabis*, *Drabas*, *Silene caroliniana*, and other Spring blooming plants. On the rocks themselves, wherever we can find a tiny crevice that will hold a thimblefull of soil, we place *Sempervivums* and low growing *Sedums*. For example, that delightful little *Sedum*, *S. dasyphyllum*, with its tiny egg-shaped leaves, after a few weeks, will drape a large part of a good sized rock.

The photograph shows one side of our garden, about two weeks after planting. By blooming time these plants spread over a considerable part of the ground. Altogether, about 150 plants are used.

HOUSTONIAS FOR THE ROCK GARDEN

DOROTHY EBEL HANSELL, Summit, N. J.*

THE MEMBERS of the genus *Houstonia* in Eastern North America fall into two groups. First there are the Bluets or Quaker Ladies,—tiny creeping-stemmed plants with the flowers short-tubed and wide-faced, lavender blue to white in color, often with a yellow eye. The more widespread species of this group, *H. coerulea*, makes a dense mat of small ovate dark green leaves, thickly decked with the little four-pointed stars from late April through May. It grows in the wild in a variety of habitats,—dry open woods, sterile sandy slopes, and damp grassy meadows. While generally found in acid soil, it has done well for me in one of more neutral reaction. It seeds liberally, and the seeds, scattered by the wind, develop into delicate beauty in the most unexpected places.



BY EDGAR T. WHERRY

The pale lavender 4-pointed stars of *Houstonia coerulea*

The other member of this group, *H. serpyllifolia*, is a native of the southern Appalachians, where it creeps over the ground in Thyme-like manner. It thrives best in strongly acid soil, provided with a never failing supply of moisture; even where it creeps up from the sphagnum bogs over seemingly dry rocks, the fogs so frequent in the high mountains keep it moist. This is not always successfully handled in rock gardens, because it gets planted in too dry situations, and is moreover often injured by the addition of neutral leaf-mold instead of its favorite acid humus. It blooms over a longer period, from April to July.

The second group, often called Summer-bluets, comprises a number of species. They grow taller, bloom later, and have flowers with a relatively long tube and narrow face, the hue being mostly lilac. Unlike the early-blooming group, they do not occupy strongly acid habitats, some of them thriving, indeed, in neutral limestone gravel.

*With ecological data supplied by the Editor.

Several members of this group are known in horticulture. The largest, *H. purpurea*, reaches a height of a foot or more; unfortunately its leaves are rather coarse for the flowers, so it is not popular among rock gardeners. One which came to me as *H. tenuifolia* had on the other hand attractive slender leaves, and its tiny rosy lilac flowers had a fleecy cloud-like effect similar to that of Babys-breath. These two were obtained from North Carolina dealers. In northern New Jersey I found another delicate species, identified as *H. longifolia*.

The above five species were planted on a low bank, slightly shady and always moist; no special effort was made to keep the soil acid, but the plants thrived anyway. For several years that bank was a heavenly picture in spring, but, alas, it was a war casualty.

One member of this group, *H. montana*, is as near to being an alpine as is possible in the southern Appalachians. It is known to grow only near the summit of Roan Mountain and adjacent peaks on the border between North Carolina and Tennessee. The altitudes reached here, 5,300 to 6,300 feet, do not extend above tree line, yet there are occasional scree-like areas where the larger woody plants fail to become established, and diminutive shrubs and herbs find a "place in the sun." It is here that patches of the exquisite Mountain Summer-bluets thrive in moist, mildly acid granite gravel. Plants of it were distributed by the late Mrs. G. Latta Clement, and it is reported to have grown successfully in some lowland gardens, such as that of Mrs. De Bevoise. It is not nearly as widely known, however, as it should be.

In Hortus II the above and three other species are listed. *H. floridana* (synonym *filifolia*) grows in southern Florida and would scarcely be hardy in the north. *H. minima* and *H. nigricans* (syn. *angustifolia*) range from the Gulf up to Illinois. Have any of our members had experience with these?

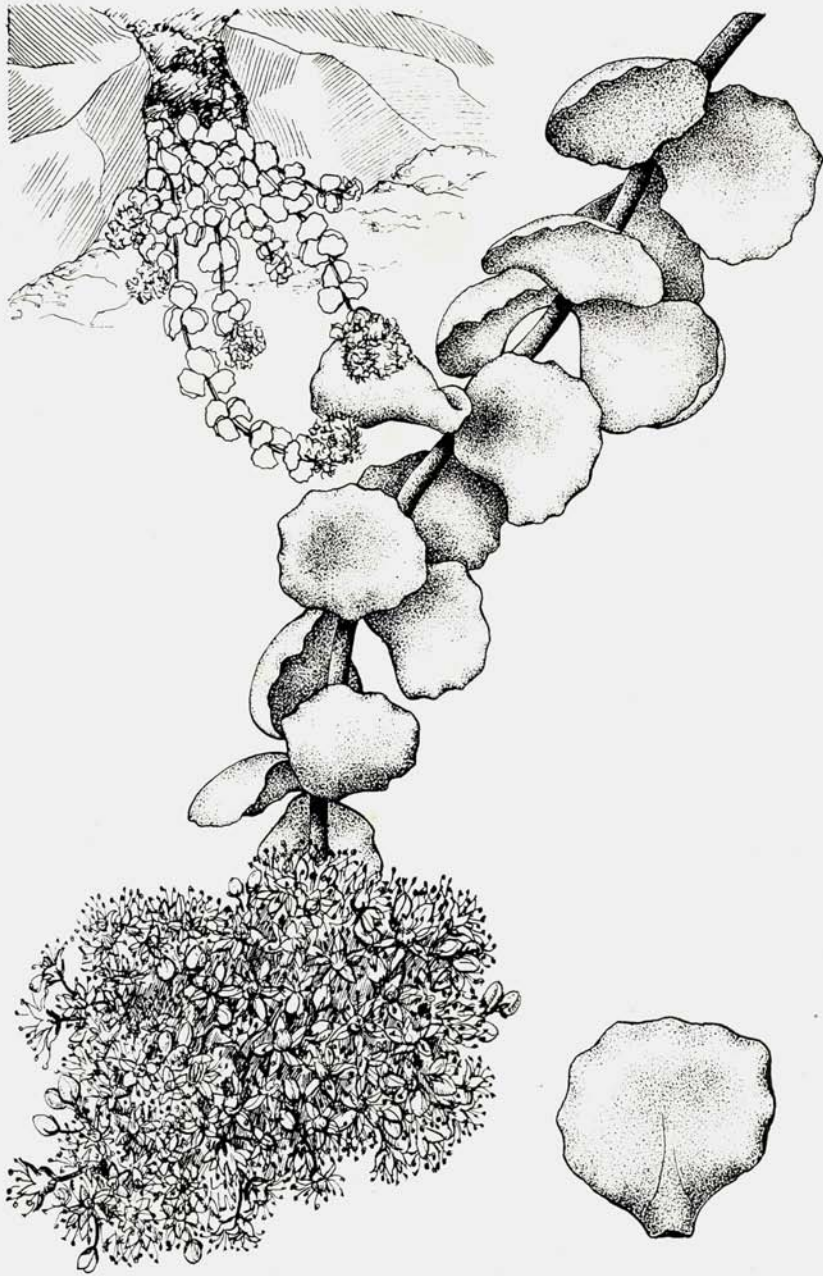
OMPHALODES LINIFOLIA

NOW THAT we again get seeds from England I want to recommend *Omphalodes linifolia*, even though it is an annual. The seeds can be scattered over places where early bulbs grow or among ferns or in drifts on the edge of shrubby borders. It is a delightful little plant wherever it grows, with glaucous blue foliage setting off the milky-white flowers which in themselves are decorative. The throat is crowned, and five heavy veins run from this to the margins of the petals.

I first saw this plant in borders in an old garden on San Juan Island. Perhaps seed had been brought by Indian dug-out in early days from Victoria, B. C. The elderly Scotch lady in the garden called it "bride's wreath." If it were not so easy we should probably regard it more; perhaps even with some of the awe with which we look upon its difficult cousin, *Omphalodes luciliae*.—ELSE M. FRYE.

SAXIFLORA

No. 35

**Sedum Sieboldii**

Originally published as Plate 10 on December 31, 1940

SEDUM SIEBOLDII

EVER-POPULAR among rock garden enthusiasts, the sedums are among the most dependable and easy to grow of low-growing plants. They are especially suitable for rock-work, as that is their natural home, and their rapid growth is frequently the cause of banishment from areas where more choice plants are grown. *Sedum Sieboldii*, however, is never weedy, but always forms a slow-growing, neat plant, and its display of carmine-pink flowers coming just before frost makes it one of the last flowers of the season. This Japanese species is the finest of all the sedums, its foliage just as attractive as the flowers, but it must be grown in a rather dry, thoroughly drained spot, preferably on miniature cliff-work. It grows equally well in sun or shade, but in the shade the red coloring on the stem and the leaf margin is faint if at all present. The fountain-like form of growth, however, is more pronounced than in the sun. Its liking for acid soil is evidenced by the manner in which it benefits from a mulch of used coffee-grounds, which is a popular but effective way of obtaining robust growth.

The variety *variegatum* has the leaves variegated with white; there is also a form with a central blotch of yellow and a green margin.

The species and varieties are easily propagated by cuttings.

In 1917, there was discovered on the cliffs of the southern coast of Yezo, Japan, a similar plant with opposite, stalked leaves, and a loose leafy inflorescence. When this plant was studied in England, it was found to differ still further from *S. Sieboldii* in having narrowly oblong sepals, not united at the base and carpels which were more narrow, longer-styled, and tapering at the base. It also flowered three weeks earlier, the flowers being darker colored. This plant, which Praeger named *Sedum caucicum* has not yet made its appearance in American gardens, but is surely worthy of introduction.

Sedum Sieboldii is a hardy perennial species, its stems growing anew each year from a cluster of tuberous roots. The stems are unbranched, at first arching in a fountain-like form, at length becoming prostrate, or even hanging if on cliff-work, reddish in the sun, and up to about ten inches long. The leaves are in whorls of three, nearly round, about one inch in diameter, abruptly narrowed to a very short stalk, a beautiful glaucous blue-green, the margins dark red or purplish, erose-sinuate. The inflorescence, borne at the end of each stem, is a much branched, compound cyme one to three inches across. The flowers are short-stalked, nearly a half inch across, the sepals triangular, blue-green, united at the base. The petals are carmine-rose, lanceolate, pointed and spreading. The stamens also are spreading, the ones opposite the petals equalling them in length, the alternate ones slightly longer, all with pink filaments and purple anthers. The pistils are pink, upright, broadly ovate, abruptly narrowed at the base into a distinct stalk. The matured carpels are erect, green with red streaks.—E. J. ALEXANDER.

NATIVE ALPINES IN A MAINE GARDEN

MRS. EDWARD M. BABB, Portland, Maine

MOST OF MY rock garden plants are natives, but it must be admitted,—lovely as they may be,—lowlanders, and not true alpins. I have, however, a few alpins here and there, including several mentioned in Stephen Hamblin's article in the Bulletin for January-February, 1947. The most choice are planted together on one little slope where I probably spend more time "gloating" than anywhere else in the garden. This is a small and gentle slope, facing northeast, lightly shaded on the south by a shrub of *Rhodora* (this is of course too large for a true alpine effect, and should be replaced by dwarf evergreens.) At the very top the ground is level, but two rather large boulders backed by *Potentilla fruticosa* keep the little valley partially cool and shaded. The soil is a loose sandy mixture, rich in hemlock woodsoil, and topped with rock chips.

The first comers for which the slope was chosen were *Salix uva-ursi*, *Empetrum nigrum*, and *Loiseleuria procumbens*, received as tiny potted plants about five years ago. (I believe *Diapensia* came at the same time but promptly died,—one of the things to be tried again!) These are settled down and growing so fast that the slope will soon be too small. *Salix uva-ursi*, the Bearberry Willow, is near the top, and covers at least a foot in area, sending out leafy branches curving in every direction. This is deciduous, showing only rather scrawny branches all winter, but suddenly decked in April with tiny snowy "pussies," soon followed by the new light green leaves. The mature foliage is a deep lustrous green, much paler beneath, with the newer leaves making a pretty contrast. Some new branches stand around the center to a few inches high, but most are completely prostrate.

Empetrum nigrum, Black Crowberry, is at the foot of the slope, planted between two rather flat rocks, spreading out over them in a solid mat of short branches. This has evergreen, almost needle-like foliage, a dark bronze color when mature, but the new spring tips a bright coppery tone as effective as flower buds. These new tips appear first as tight clusters at the old branch ends, looking exactly as though they should be flower buds, but developing into tiny new branches. Each will bud again into multiple new branches next year, resulting in the close creeping mat of stems. This year for the first time I did find a few true flowers, somewhat like the squarish sepal blossoms of *Pachystima* but dark in color, and almost hidden beneath the leaves. Perhaps another year there may be berries!

Two plants of *Loiseleuria*, the Alpine Azalea, are between the other two shrubs, with all practically intermingling now. These two are oddly distinct in their habits of growth. One is completely prostrate, hardly an inch above the ground, while the other rears up on a definite woody trunk about two inches high, then bends down around itself to spread out over the ground. Each plant has a diameter of about eight inches, completely covered with the tiny oblong dark green leaves, almost as narrow as those of the *Empetrum*. The buds appearing in early spring are as pretty as the flowers,—deep red buttons, two or three on a branch tip, and developing very slowly. Finally open, they are pale pink miniature cups with reddish stamens, these the only apparent point of resemblance to the larger Azaleas.

In the meantime, the new leaf buds have appeared all over the clump. These are also bright red, soon turning to a bright copper tone much like *Empetrum*, darkening very slowly to the mature color. All these contrasting leaf tones provide a fascinating picture through the spring and summer.

Growing with one of the *Loiseleurias* was a tiny piece of *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, Mountain Cranberry, which has spread by underground shoots in every direction, often appearing several inches away. This too has leaf buds which so resemble the flower buds as to keep me guessing for a time. This has been slow to bloom, but this year had several clusters of five or six buds, very tightly clustered at the branch tips. They turn a lovely deep rose as they develop, and the open flowers are soft rose colored bells, totally unlike the turned-back "turbans" of the common Cranberry. The berries turn from greenish to yellow to a bright glowing cranberry-red in August. The leaves of this plant are round and thick, shiny surfaced and very pale beneath, with the newest ones repeating the same coppery red or yellowish tones of the other alpinas.

Last fall, after these treasures seemed established, some new ones were added. *Cassiope lycopodioides* has a jaw-breaking name, but one understandable by any one who knows the little Club-mosses. This lost its healthy color during the miserable wet spring, but seems to have recovered, and it was covered with its lovely blossoms in May. They are perfectly shaped tiny white bells, dangling on red thread-like stems, each capped with an almost microscopic red sepal-cup. The little red stems and sepals hold their color for some time after the blossoms have dropped. This grows into a low mound of tiny creeping stems, with its leaves reduced to greenish white scales closely imbricated on the stem. *Phyllodoce caerulea* and *P. glanduliflora* have not done so well. The first died down in early spring, but has since sent up a little new growth around the stem; the second stayed green until early summer, then disappeared with no signs of further life. Both these were on the level part and may have had too much hot sun. One tiny stem of *Salix peasei* showed bright yellow all winter, and is growing slowly with its ovate bright green leaves. This is further back between the rocks, more moist and shaded.

Other alpinas are scattered through the garden. *Solidago cutleri* is an easy doer, growing on a flat sunny expanse between large rocks. Its rosettes of long, dark green, toothed leaves increase year by year. Its stems are nearly prostrate, only curving upward at the ends, seldom over six inches in length, with the thick clustered buds crowding between the leaves. The first flowers open in mid-June here and last for many weeks. They have wide gold centers and several large showy rays. It always seems odd to have a Goldenrod in full bloom in June, but living down near sea level has never upset its schedule.

An alpine plant which often wanders down to the coast is *Potentilla tridentata*, the Three-leaved or Wineleaf Cinquefoil. When I first found this in the dry pastures here, its odd three-parted leaves baffled me for a long time. It grows anywhere in the rock garden in sandy acid soil, but looks its best along the path edges in cool partly shaded spots. Its shiny evergreen foliage is always good, dark green all summer and turning to glorious warm wine tones in fall. Its many white blossoms are pretty but too small to make any show. *Arenaria groenlandica* also grows along the coast, and proved easy to grow, but I lost it when I moved my garden several years ago.

Another choice evergreen of the coast is *Corema conradi*, called Broom Crowberry, and a cousin of *Empetrum nigrum*, though never an alpine. This was started from a tiny collected plant and is now a foot across, at the top of a rather steep slope facing north. It is well anchored between rocks, and always mulched with hemlock needles, under the thick clump of odd, bristled heath-like foliage. My plant luckily happened to be staminate, and is very attractive at bossoming time (early spring) with a cloud of purplish stamens at the branch tips. (The pistillate plants lack this display.)

Several other natives could be mentioned, both past and present occupants, but the above are the ones which attracted most attention from visitors this year. All are well worth an effort to grow them.



WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Corema conradii on Mt. Desert Island, Maine

A FRAGRANT PINK

IN CONNECTION with the discussion of Scented Alpines, I should like to call the attention of Bulletin readers to one with which I happen to be familiar, *Dianthus* Sammy. This was discovered a few years ago among a batch of seedlings raised from Swiss seed by Mr. N. A. Hallauer, and named by him for his grandson. Botanically it remains unclassified; it may be a natural hybrid or a sport from some well-known species. However this may be, it is a splendid subject for the rock garden because of its very tidy growth habit, and the attractiveness of its foliage when the blooming season is over.

Dianthus Sammy forms a neat, grayish blue cushion, covered in June with perfectly formed double pink flowers, averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter on stems about 5 inches tall. These possess to an extreme degree that characteristic spicy "old-fashioned pink" fragrance which to me is so delightfully refreshing. If the fading flowers are kept sheared off, it will continue to blossom and perfume the rock garden throughout the Summer.—DR. LLOYD P. GRAY, Webster, N. Y.

MORE SCENTED ROCK PLANTS

THE ARTICLE on Scented Alpines in the May-June number of the Bulletin brought to mind a number which have appealed to me over a period of years, a list of which may be of interest to our readers.—CLARA W. REGAN, Butte, Montana.

Allium species.—The flowers of some have a sweet odor, although of course there is no mistaking their being onions when bruised.

Androsace carinata.—This scents the garden for many feet around, yet the plant is so tiny that no-one knows where the delightful odor is coming from until after considerable search.

Artemisia, dwarf species.—Pungent sage odor.

Dianthus species.—Many of the fringed sorts perfume the whole garden when in bloom; some of the hybrids are especially fine.

Eriogonum multiceps.—When a large patch of this is in bloom it is rather cloying with its intense honey scent.

Erythronium grandiflorum.—The very delicate odor calls for close approach, and as children we were always coming home with the reddish pollen smeared all over our faces.

Grindelia squarrosa.—This has a pleasant, clean "medicinal" odor.

Mentha requienii.—Unmistakably a peppermint.

Oenothera caespitosa.—The strong, delightful fragrance perfumes the whole garden in the evening.

Penstemon fruticosus crassifolius.—We enjoyed this when young.

Phlox longifolia and relatives.—The foliage of these has a "slippery-elm" odor in which we used to revel.

Primula marginata and *P. microdonta alpicola*.—Very sweet and delicate, perfuming the air all around.

Pyrola species.—Our northern mountain species have a faint but delightful odor.

Tanacetum capitatum and *T. nuttallii*.—Pleasantly aromatic.

Thymus, various species and varieties.—The var. *lanuginosus* is particularly sweet, and very odorous when bruised. *T. herba-barona* has a Caraway-seed odor.

Valeriana alpina and *V. americana*.—Just like vanilla.

Not all rock-plant odors are attractive, however, and a list of some obnoxious ones may be worth while:

Arnica cordifolia.—Rank.

Cleome serrulata.—Its horrible odor fortunately does not have to be endured, as it grows too large for the rock garden.

Codonopsis ovata.—This is a late riser, and I always forget about it until weeding days arrive, then I am not long left in doubt of its presence; it's the skunkiest plant I know.

Erigeron compositus.—I find its musky odor unpleasant.

Nepeta mussinii.—Well, anyway, this delights the neighbor's cats.

Polemonium species.—The truth must out, they are vegetable skunks.

MORE SUMMER BLOOM IN THE ROCK GARDEN

SUPPLEMENTARY to the lists of summer-blooming rock plants published in recent Bulletins, I wish to add the following.—F. CLEVELAND MORGAN, Montreal, Canada.

<i>Allium cernuum</i>	<i>Hosta</i> (Funkia), several species
<i>flavum</i>	<i>Hemerocallis multiflora</i>
<i>odorum</i> (ramosum)	<i>Lilium callosum</i>
<i>pulehellum</i>	<i>cernuum</i>
<i>senescens</i> (montanum)	<i>duchartrei</i>
<i>Anthericum ramosum</i>	<i>formosanum pricei</i>
<i>Astilbe simplicifolia</i>	<i>Pardanthus</i> (Belamcanda) <i>chinensis</i>
<i>Cytisus carlieri</i> (nigricans)	<i>Parnassia glauca</i> (caroliniana)
<i>Dracocephalum grandiflorum</i>	<i>Polygonum affine</i>
<i>isabellae</i>	<i>Potentilla fruticosa mandschurica</i>
<i>ruyschiana</i>	<i>parvifolia</i>
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i> (& var. <i>alba</i>)	<i>Satureja montana</i>
<i>gracilipes</i>	<i>Saxifraga primuloides</i> , Elliott's var.
<i>kurroo</i>	<i>Scilla chinensis</i> (sinensis)
<i>linearis</i>	<i>Thalictrum kiusianum</i>
<i>loderi</i>	

In August, 1947, the Editor had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Morgan and spending several hours in his marvelous rock garden. Some of the plants in the above list were still in bloom, the *Cytisus* and the *Thalictrum* being especially fine. I was glad to make my first acquaintance with *Potentilla fruticosa mandschurica*, which was well spangled with the little white flowers. One surprise was *Calceolaria chelidonioides*, an annual which reseeds itself freely so remote from its South American home.—E.T.W.

THE AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

WASHINGTON UNIT HAS ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual meeting, which took the form of a dinner-meeting at Laurel Lodge, Seattle, on the evening of October 17, Carl S. English passed the chairman's gavel over to Neill Hall. Mrs. English, who is also program chairman, will serve as vice-chairman and James Fletcher as secretary for the coming year. Allen S. Cary, a geologist of note and excellent photographer, who likes to invade the high mountains with Mr. English, showed slides and talked on the high Cascades.

A MONTANA MEMBER VISITS THE NORTHWEST

Last Spring, I visited a number of attractive rock gardens in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. The residents of Seattle certainly have the opportunity to make their city famous, if they will only cooperate by having well-designed and well-planted front terraces. Some of the rock ledges are well constructed and beautifully planted—others are very poorly done with ugly rocks. I believe much could be accomplished if an outstanding authority would give a talk before garden clubs on the subject.

While at Seattle, Mrs. L. N. Roberson took me to see some beautiful rock gardens. Mr. Otto E. Holmdahl is an expert on rock garden construction, and I saw the fine work he did at the Washington Arboretum. I also met Mrs. Else M. Frye, who has a fine scree and nursery; and Mr. and Mrs. Carl S. English, Jr., who have a wonderful collection of western alpine and are interested in taking colored pictures of them. The Northwest Group had a special meeting to see my slides of Montana alpine and rock gardens. Dr. S. R. B. Cooke loaned me twelve of his splendid slides of unusual Montana alpine. Mr. and Mrs. Burton J. Wheelon arranged for me to show my slides at their home so that Mr. Roland G. Gamwell, who could not attend the above-mentioned meeting, could see them. Mr. Gamwell lives in Bellingham and was on his way to be a judge at the Portland Rose Show.

In Portland, Mr. Carl Starker showed me two well-designed small rock gardens. He said the Oregon Sub-Group would doubtless hold some meetings in the near future under the direction of the new chairman, Floyd W. McMullen. The latter is a very enthusiastic rock gardener, particularly interested in native plants and has been very successful with them, even the most difficult kinds. He spends much of his time in his rock garden or in the mountains collecting and photographing them.—ALMA HIGGINS, Butte, Montana.

NORTH ATLANTIC GROUP'S 1947-48 PROGRAM

The 1947-1948 season of the North Atlantic Group opened with a luncheon-meeting on October 22 at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City. Mrs. Mortimer J. Fox, of Peekskill, spoke on French Plant Explorers in the Asiatic region. The schedule of coming meetings follows:

November 19, Mrs. A. C. U. Berry's wonderful collection of Primrose slides will be shown, with Mr. Harold Epstein as commentator.

December 17. Samuel H. Gottscho, of Jamaica, will show his slides of native plants and also give advice on photographing plants and flowers. Mr. Gottscho is a well-known photographer.

January 14. The always popular "Stump the Expert" program, with Dr. E. J. Alexander, of the New York Botanical Garden; Mr. P. J. van Melle, of Poughkeepsie, and Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, of the University of Pennsylvania, serving as the experts.

February 18. "Scenes in the Northwest." Mr. Harold Epstein will relate experiences of his trips to Washington and Oregon, accompanied by kodachrome slides.

March. The annual luncheon will be held on the Thursday of the International Flower Show Week. Mr. Arthur H. Osmun, of Plainfield, will discuss "Rock Gardens I Have Known," illustrated with slides of some of the best gardens in the east.

Plans for April are in the making and will be announced when completed—and May is again the month of the Society's annual meeting.

May 5. Talk before members of the American Rock Garden Society and New York Botanical Garden by Rutherford Platt on Greenland. This promises to be a most interesting event, as Mr. Platt is a noted naturalist and expert photographer and he will cover a heretofore unexplored territory.

Members from other units who may be visiting in New York City on the above dates are welcome to attend any of these meetings. Reservations should be made in advance with Mr. Harold Epstein, chairman, 5 Forest Court, Larchmont, N. Y.



THE AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

DR. WHERRY RETIRES

It is with very great regret that we announce the retirement of Dr. Edgar T. Wherry as Editor of the Bulletin.

Following the publication of the 1942-43 Year-book as Vol. 1, No. 1, Dr. Wherry worked out the plans for the bimonthly Bulletin. Despite brief periods of ill health and many demands on his time and talents Dr. Wherry has given of his knowledge, experience and devotion to the Bulletin and this has culminated in the enviable and deserved place in horticultural literature which it has attained. On October 22nd, 1947 the Board of Directors of the Society elected Dr. Wherry to the office of Editor Emeritus and we shall still have the benefit of his cooperation and knowledge.

We sincerely trust that Dr. Wherry will enjoy many fruitful years in his chosen field and that we shall often hear from him through the columns of the Bulletin.



DOROTHY EBEL HANSELL, Editor

We are indeed fortunate in being able to avail ourselves of the services of Dorothy Ebel Hansell as Editor of the Bulletin; Mrs. Hansell was our first Secretary and is conversant with the affairs of the Society from its inception; she has a wide acquaintance and experience through her former Editorship of The Gardeners Chronicle and her ability as a writer and critic is well known; she is thoroughly equipped to carry on the established tradition of the Bulletin and we bespeak for her your fullest cooperation in the conduct of the Society and the Bulletin; Mrs. Hansell assumes office on January 1, 1948.

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