

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

including

SAXIFLORA

Vol. 6

May-June, 1948

No. 3

CONTENTS:-

Page

- 34—Broad-leaved Evergreens for the Rock Garden.....Helen M. Fox
37—Through the Seasons in a Wisconsin Rock
Garden.....Genevieve Clark Dakin
40—Small Columbines for the Rock Garden.....Clara W. Regan
44—Aquilegia saximontana in Connecticut.....H. Lincoln Foster
44—New Colors in Aquilegia scopulorum.....Dr. C. R. Worth
45—In the Rock Garden of Mrs. C. Chanler
47—The Versatile Veronicas.....Dr. Lloyd P. Gray
48—Veronicas in the Rock Garden.....Stephen F. Hamblin
49—Ledge Garden at the Boston Spring Show
50—A Hot Trio.....Kathleen N. Marriage
52—The American Rock Garden Society
1948 Annual Meeting and Reports
Seed Exchange

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BROAD-LEAVED EVERGREENS FOR THE ROCK GARDEN

HELEN M. FOX, Peekskill, New York

BROAD-LEAVED evergreens not only bring the color of their flowers to the rock garden, but life and interest all the year round as well. Moreover, all through the growing season the dark and glossy foliage acts as a background and provides shaded masses that enhance the colors and shapes of more tenuous and dainty blooms among them. Up north, in very cold weather, some of the evergreens have the unattractive habit of curling in the margins of the leaves, while many others look brown and chilled and none of them, including the Yews, have as lush and green an appearance as they have in the south. Nevertheless, they are alive looking in an otherwise dormant garden, where stalks bare of foliage rise forlornly from ground mulched with leaves or manure.

This list excludes the Thymes and Winter Savories, since they lose their leaves in the area of my garden, Lavender because it looks forlorn and Rosemary, because it is not hardy. The creeping Junipers and Heathers are also omitted, because their leaves are not "broad."

Long stems clothed all the way with bright green leaves, trailing over rocks or forming wide mats, are provided by *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, known as Bearberry. The spring blooming, cylindrically shaped flowers are white edged pink and very dainty. The plants like a sunny exposure and are not fussy as to soil and easily increased by cuttings.

Three dwarf and hardy evergreen Barberries have been selected. They are *Berberis candidula*, *B. chenaultii* and *B. verruculosa*. The first two are prettier than the last. The leaves of *B. candidula* have twisted margins, which habitually roll inward and in winter are suffused with maroon, while the stalks become greenish buff and the thorns turn to old gold. The flowers come in late May and are not pretty but the fruit, grey with a purple bloom on it, is attractive. *B. chenaultii* is a hybrid between *B. verruculosa* and *B. gagnepainii*. In winter, its stiff Holly-like leaves are violet on the dull, under surface and maroon on the upper, glossy side. In summer, the young leaves are bronze while the old foliage is dark green. The flowers are larger than in most Barberries, resemble little yellow roses and grow in pairs. *B. verruculosa* is not as graceful as the preceding two, but the bronze tones of the Holly-like leaves are attractive and the violet-black, elliptically shaped fruits are unusual.

Gardeners in the north who envy southerners for their Box, can console themselves with *Buxus microphylla koreana* which is hardy. The plant is somewhat square and the leaves have a yellowish cast. Like all members of the family, it can be increased by cuttings taken in early fall, placed close together in a frame filled with sandy loam and left undisturbed for a year.

Much has been written about where and how to grow *Daphne cneorum*. For me, it has done well in a low wall facing south, in soil inclining slightly toward acidity. The flowers of rose shaded deeper bloom in full profusion

in early May but keep on intermittently all summer and, in fact, all the year except in very cold weather. Their fragrance with the quality of Tuberoses can be scented from far off. There is a white form.

The poetic trailing *Arbutus*, *Epigaea repens*, with its glossy leaves and fragrant white flowers, requires an acid soil and partial shade. There must be other essentials for it can be grown successfully in gardens only by the initiated.

Some members of the *Euonymus* family are very subject to scale in the climate of my garden, but *E. fortunei minima* and its variety *kewensis* are clean and healthy. They grow against rocks in close green sprays and make a lovely foil for *Iris* and *Alyssum*. The leaves in the variety *kewensis* are smaller than in *minima*. The plants can be divided easily and frequently, if and when an increase is wanted.

For a shaded place, Wintergreen, *Gaultheria procumbens*, furnishes a glossy dark green groundcover of leaves fragrant, when crushed, of wintergreen. The tiny white flowers are followed by bright red fruits.

Ever since *Helianthemum nummularium* and other species of Sun-roses were seen ramping along the coasts of the Mediterranean, they have been desired for my garden. *H. nummularium* is entirely hardy, comes readily from seeds and can be easily increased from cuttings, and makes little bushes twelve inches high and sometimes two feet across. It thrives in sunny, rocky exposures. The leaves are long and narrow with a prominent central vein. The flowers with five petals are in terminal clusters and, because of their thin texture and airy stamens, form a contrast to the vigorous looking foliage. The flowers come in many colors from white to yellow, rose, orange and red, in single and double forms. One called *stramineum* is yellow with a dark blotch at the base of the petals. The only drawback in these plants is that the flowers close in the afternoon and on cloudy days.

A dwarf, compact, rounded shrub with oval leaves is *Ilex crenata* var. *helleri*. It is not graceful, but provides a spot of green all the year.

In my garden, *Kalmia polifolia* is untidy and unhappy looking except when in bloom, because of the pretty deep rose flowers growing in whorls. The plant is small and a contrast to its relative, *Kalmia latifolia*, one of the handsomest of evergreen shrubs. There are varieties of *K. polifolia*, called *rosmarinifolia* and *microphylla* which sound like attractive plants.

According to the letter, the glossy Holly-like leaves of Oregon-Grape, *Mahonia aquifolium*, stay on all winter, but with me, right after Christmas, they begin to wither and though they hold their leaves until late spring, they are unsightly. Because of this, the leaves are removed by hand in spring so as not to spoil the effect of the very early appearing clusters of yellow blossoms, later followed by beautiful grape-like blue fruits. The shrubs are generally three feet high. *M. repens* is lower, about twelve inches high, and not quite as striking as *M. aquifolium*.

Where a groundcover is desired, which will cast a lively patterned shade, *Pachistima canbyi* can be recommended. It is much more attractive, because of its daintiness and greenness, than the much coarser and much more ubiquitous *Pachysandra terminalis* with its yellowish foliage. *Pachistima* can be increased readily from cuttings and grows in sun or slight shade.

The type of *Stranvaesia davidiana* is tall but the form *undulata* is much lower and can be prevented from indulging in its habit of spreading too widely by judicious pruning. The leaves are lanceolate with wavy margins. Similarly to the *Rhododendrons*, the margins are rolled inward when it is very cold. The flowers, with anthers having magenta lines, are very like



Photo by Walter Beebe Wilder

Rhododendron carolinianum is a charming shrub for partially shaded spots.

those of Hawthorns and have the same unpleasant bitter smell. The fruits are red.

If there were only one low growing, broad-leaved evergreen to be chosen, it would be the Azalea. According to E. H. Wilson and Alfred Rehder in their "Monograph of Azaleas," these plants are descended from *Rhododendron obtusum*. In Japan, good looking variants of this plant were chosen from specimens growing wild and brought to the nursery districts of Kurume and Kirishima several hundred years ago. American hybridizers, notably Mr. B. Y. Morrison, have continued to cross and select from these plants with the result that they are grown from Florida to Massachusetts in all the variety of their colors—from shrubs with brilliant scarlet to pale pink, white, violet-blue or red-magenta flowers to those with blossoms spotted and streaked on white or pink grounds, some with single and others with double, as also plants with very large or very small flowers.

The summer leaves of the previous year are a different shape from those grown in spring. Some of the plants are wide spreading, but in my garden are pruned back and, therefore, most of them remain dwarf. The taller forms are not permitted to grow over two feet high. They grow in slight

(Continued on page 51)

THROUGH THE SEASONS IN A WISCONSIN ROCK GARDEN

GENEVIEVE CLARKE DAKIN, Madison, Wisconsin

A GORGEOUS old Oak and a sunny slope influenced our decision to purchase a half-acre lot in suburban Madison a dozen years ago. When I caught sight of rocks in a gully overgrown with underbrush, a new rock garden took form in my mind. Little did I realize the number or size of those rocks until men and a team spent several days moving them! The stones were truly indigenous to this vicinity, deposited centuries ago by glaciers, but their residence in the lot dates from years when street and sidewalk construction was in progress. Home builders, too, must have taken full advantage of a short haul.

With the stone and prepared soil, we built a naturally sloping rock garden on the rear fifty-five feet of the lot. A four-foot dry wall supports this fifty-five by one hundred-ten foot terrace, separating it from other garden areas. Broad steps at two points give easy access to the upper level. A pool nestles in a curve in the wall toward the south end. This wall and low ones elevating perennial borders, with part of the embankment, provide homes for thousands of rock plants easy and difficult.

Native Spruces, White Pines and Hemlocks frame the terrace with White Birch and flowering trees introduced to give light shade in the heat of Wisconsin summers. Low evergreens and dwarf shrubs add backbone and distinction to the setting. Stone paths with an occasional step or two tie together the levels and sections of the rock garden. In the woody side, rotted pine bark covers the paths.

Except where treated, the soil is alkaline. Lime in the city water presents added difficulty in coping with acid lovers.

Late March sees the first Snowdrops forcing their way through glass wool's winter cover and here and there a Johnny-jump-up shows his saucy face. If we lift the cover, we may find tiny *Armerias* exposing fat buds or even color. Soon species *Crocus* outline paths and clumps of *Chionodoxa* and *Scilla* make patches of blue or white. Under Birches and along woody paths are drifts of Hepaticas. Early bulbous *Iris* show blue and purple. All through the background of the terrace, Daffodils scintillate sunshine among blue *Mertensia* and Trilliums. Tall ferns begin to unfurl and in shady corners Denticulata Primroses push their heads towards the light. Masses of dark blue *Pulmonaria* complement the yellows of Daffodils and Primroses.

Under native Shadbush and Birches are colonies of Bloodroot. Fascinating Dutchman's Breeches and its grayer-leaved cousin, Squirrel-corn, with yellow Dog's-tooth Violets and *Phlox divaricata* seem here, there and everywhere. Spring-Beauties and pink-flushed Anemones mingle with the blue bells of *Polemonium* and taller yellow Bellwort. Jack-in-the-Pulpit looks quite dressed up in his go-to-meeting clothes. Delicate white Erythroniums from California lean against a rock to be admired. It isn't long until yellow and then pink Ladyslippers are the center of attraction.

In acidified soil, *Azalea mollis*, Andromedas and a Laurel have settled down happily to bloom well. Heathers made a brave attempt for a few years but gradually disappeared.

Primroses like this shady side of the garden where peat and leaf soil abound. *PP. rosea*, *acaulis*, *juliae* hybrids, *polyanthus* and *sieboldii* bloom in close succession, with Asiatics finally joining the procession. Whenever

a spot lends itself to their culture, new colonies of *Primula* find homes. They border paths, hug the base of rocks or make a splash of color under a Crab. Auriculas like a sunny slope all to themselves with plenty of limestone to give toehold. Under a Meyer's Juniper, rock ledges are outlined with tiny claret blooms and green rosettes of intriguing *P. juliae*.

Arabis procurrens, *kellereri* and *androsacea* with the pink and double forms of *A. albida* make groundcovers. Pastel Phlox with *Iberis* and Thymes fill in between steps or accent path intersections. Tiny *Phlox Schneewitchen* clambers over stones in its effort to edge a broad patch of Primroses.



Upper—View of the wall from the entrance to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dakin, Madison, Wisconsin. The seat faces the pool

Lower—Pool at left of steps to rock garden.

Groups of slender Jonquils, *Narcissus* February Gold and *N. triandus albus*, colonies of white Guinea-hen Flowers (*Frittilaria meleagris*), stands of *Bergenia cordifolia* (*Saxifraga cordifolia*), fans of *Iris tectorum* and erect, dwarf Iris all bring interesting and varied line to the spring composition. Later in the season, Heucheras, Astilbes, Alliums and St. Bruno's-Lily with low Roses take over the role.

Potentilla nana with *Ranunculus montanus* and *Alyssum saxatile citrinum* or *idaeum* are attractive companions to Grape-Hyacinths and Forget-me-nots. *Iris cristata* and *I. lacustris* combine well with white *Epimedium* and *Aquilegia flabellata nana*. *Phlox bifida*'s periwinkle-blue is an excellent foil for a deep pink, almost magenta, *Phlox subulata*. *Salvia jurisicii* and

prostrate Veronicas accent the soft pink of *Saponaria ocymoides*.

One of my treasures is a colony of tiny *Trillium nivale*. Close behind is a small stand of double Bloodroot. Several Gentians are neighbors and in a sunny nook *Helianthemum*s promise summer bloom. *Dryas suendermanni* seems contented between two rocks, its woody stems and Oak-like leaves clinging to a rock. Genistas falling over large stones contribute line and color. *Linum* shares a corner with a few Hypericums. Closeby is a stand of prim little *Bellis* Dresden China. *Viola jooi* does well there, self-sowing freely.

Erodiums, Geraniums and Dianthi enjoy a sunny spot. *D. deltoides*' ubiquitous seedlings would crowd out choicer plants along a woolly Thyme-bordered path, if permitted to do so. *Campanula poscharskyana* outlines a large rock, its delicate blue blossoms almost obscuring the foliage. Across the path, wide-open chalices of *Campanula pseudo-raineri* consort with *Potentilla tonguei*. The gray of *Artemisia schmidtiana* brings out the apricot tones.

In the moraine, encrusted and mossy Saxifrages bloom freely. Alpine Poppies self-sow occasionally. Kabschias, Douglasias, prostrate Penstemons, *Potentilla nitida*, *Geranium Farreri* and other discriminating alpinas are given scree treatment. *Androsace sarmentosa* grows rampantly along the margin of the moraine. I was surprised to find one coming up between stones in the steps.

Dwarf Cypresses, Arbor-vitae, Spruces, Junipers and other conifers, maintaining the scale, add charm to groups of alpinas.

In the wall, the May bloom of pastel Aubrietas and *Phlox Vivid* is set off by the gray foliage of *Dianthus*, Fescue and *Sedum*. Groups of encrusted Saxifrages and rosettes of *Sempervivum*s give contrast. At the wall's base, Primulas, dwarf Iris and Violas are accents.

In June, blues of *Campanula garganica* and *C. muralis* combine with rose and pink of *Dianthus*, *Aethionema*, *Armeria* and *Dicentra* to make the wall gay. In the steps, Veronicas, blue and pink, with various Thymes succeed white *Phlox*. Bulbous ferns find their way into crevices with pale yellow *Corydalis* following suit.

Gentian-blue *Plumbago*, dwarf Rosemary, *Sedum sieboldii* with late-flowering Astilbes, Gentians and dwarf Asters usher in autumn. *Campanula rotundifolia* and *Silene schafta* make a brave attempt to keep the wall colorful contributing its bit, *Chrysanthemum morifolium* sends billows of pink cascading down the face of the wall. The fragrance of *Daphne*'s fall bloom accents a corner. Here and there a Primrose is in flower.

When Dogwood turns rose and crimson and Birches are tall pyramids of gold, when Crabs and Cotoneasters flaunt crimson fruit, we know the garden year is passing.

Nothing daunts the Christmas Rose, however. Raw winds and snow flurries do not deter persistent blooming. Weeks before, Primroses were covered with evergreen boughs and choice alpinas were tucked in under blanks of glass wool. Silhouettes of bare trunks and branches stand out boldly against deep greens of Spruce and Fir. Low Yews and Cedars feel the weight of snow. Under a cold blue sky, purple shadows play over mounds of white in the rock garden. The pool is but a depression against the sleeping wall.

Looking from a window to watch cardinals and blue jays coming for food, some one says, "Your garden is as lovely in winter as it is in summer." I wonder if she knows I tried to make it so.

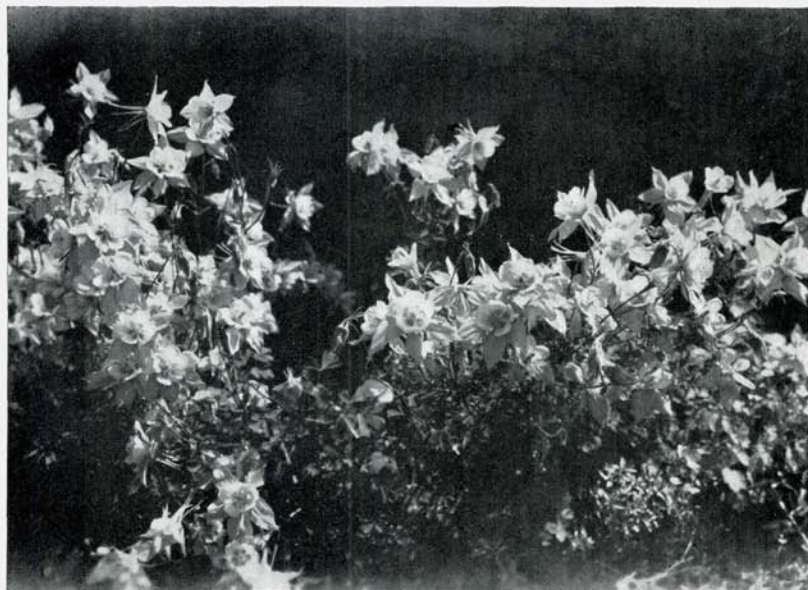
SMALL COLUMBINES FOR THE ROCK GARDEN

CLARA W. REGAN, Butte, Montana

TO BEGIN at the very beginning of my interest in the small Columbines takes me back to a day in Glacier National Park in the year 1921. I was, at the time, astride a sagacious quadruped (known to his friends as Whitey, because he was gray, with freckles, no doubt), riding up a series of narrow, steep switchbacks on a mountainside. I had come to a pin-pointed turn in the trail, overhanging nothing but atmosphere, and Whitey, with his admirable sense of responsibility, had bunched his four feet together and was slowly but surely swinging the rear part of his chassis over the yawning abyss. And that very instant, my interest in the dwarf Columbines began. My agonized gaze had fallen upon a beautiful small blue flower on the bank above me. Even in that moment of stress, I knew it to be one of the rare jewels of the flower world. It was the almost legendary *Aquilegia jonesii*, then known in only a few herbaria and, of course, quite unknown to me by name; since that day, somewhat domesticated, though never too tractable in gardens.

It was more than fifteen years after the foregoing incident before this plant, which practically grows on my doorstep, came to live in my garden. In the intervening time, however, several from foreign lands had become well established, and I can only think it was the wise guidance of Providence that led me to begin with the hardy, easy and beautiful *Aquilegia flabellata*, an encouraging start in a venture that has led rather far afield.

This plant from Japan is furnished with pale green, glaucous leaves and above them hang, in early spring, short, broad, almost globular flowers. In the light of their waxen perfection, these flowers look like the artificial ones found under glass domes on mid-Victorian tables. Often a suffusion of palest lavender spreads over the sepals; otherwise, the blooms are of a



Courtesy: National Horticultural Magazine
Aquilegia juncunda

delicious creamy white. The form, *A. flabellata nana*, raised recently from seed, is not nearly so pretty in flower nor is it more dwarf in stature.

Aquilegia faurei and *A. akitensis* came from seed personally collected by a Japanese gardener in the mountains of his country. The first is a most comfortable and delightful plant not over six inches, and often bearing blooms when only two inches in height. It is a small dome, in very early spring, of fine, dark, overlapping leaves; and when hung with the glaucous, purplish blue, pendant buds—which it produces with the utmost profusion—looks like an overloaded little plum tree. The flowers are broad and campanulate, dark blue, but the cup is cream-tipped. *A. akitensis* is slightly taller, more open in growth, graceful in appearance, with a brighter flower and has its foliage curiously marked with pink in springtime. *A. VAR. kur. ilensis* differs from the type in being one-half as tall, with a more compact flower and lacking the pink leaf markings.

The last of the small Aquilegias, native to lands that rim the cold north Pacific, and a newcomer to my garden, is *A. sachaliensis*. It is a very beautiful thing. Not even *A. flabellata* can outdo it in broadness of beam nor shortness of flower. The campanulate blossom is a very vivid blue for a Columbine. The petals have a quarter inch border of warm, rich yellow.

These four Asiatics are certainly "sisters under the skin," having similar habits of growth, a certain leaf appearance that stamps them as related species and, very noticeably, a firm, heavy-textured, satiny flower. They are as good as they are beautiful; amiable under all conditions, free-blooming and so incredibly long-lived that they become veritable Methuselahs of the rock garden. My first plant of *A. flabellata*, purchased from a nursery, died last year at the ripe old age of sixteen years. My original plants of *A. faurei* and *A. akitensis*, raised from seed twelve years ago, are still with me.

Against that pretty creature, *A. ecalcarata*, I had a violent prejudice for some year, owing to its repellent description by nurserymen. Curiosity finally got the better of bias; I purchased a plant and at once fell a slave to its quaintness and charm. No plant is more subdued in coloring and less flaunting of its personality, yet it attracts the notice of everyone. The leaves are lacy and a somber, dark green, enhanced by a line of crimson on the edge of each leaflet. They are arranged in a sparse huddle at the base of the flowering stem. These are dark maroon, four to six inches tall, and the flower a warm claret throughout; nothing "dingy" about it, and certainly nothing remotely resembling "chocolate." The blossoms, small and delicately made, swing out from the main stem on thin, curving, graceful pedicels, and being quite spurless, resemble little lanterns swaying in the breeze.

This plant is a native not only of Japan, but of the Asiatic mainland as well, extending into the borders of Thibet. No treatment comes amiss in its cultivation and it adds to its good qualities by producing true seed, something that Columbines, as a race, are not too particular about. Perhaps, this is because it is not a true *Aquilegia*; some botanists place it in a genus of its own and call it *Semiaquilegia adoxioides*.

So far the Asian Columbines seem only too eager to please, but the next on my list has no such idea. It is *A. jucunda (glandulosa)*, a celebrated Siberian beauty about which so much is said and yet is so seldom seen true in gardens. It has been described as the most sumptuous of its race and I can find no better word for it. It is a highly individualized plant. The sepals are sapphire-blue, widely flaring and starlike; the cup is creamy

white, broad and shallow, and deep down in the heart of the flower the base of the petals is again deep blue. A tuft of golden stamens sets off this lovely flower. It is attached to the eight to ten inch stem vertically so that the flower faces outward and looks its admirers straight in the eye. To the casual glance, *A. jucunda* is spurless, but looking closely one sees tiny spurs, very short and rolled up like a snail shell, mere appendages to the petals. The leaves are small and lacy and quite profuse.

I have dwelt in some detail on identifying points of this beautiful and distinct plant because, unfortunately, seed has been sent out under the name of *A. glandulosa* (*jucunda*) which is not *A. glandulosa* at all, nor anywhere near it. But if you have a Columbine that is affixed to its stem like a Jonquil and reminds you of a blue Jonquil with a white cup, then you have the real article.

Its culture is not at all easy, as has been said. It does not like a peaty, leafmold soil. In this respect, I can do no better than quote a noted English grower, Mr. Clarence Elliott, who says he has great success with it in "a rather stiff, yellow loam." My own original plant did not bloom for years, nor was it noticeably robust. Never one to be deterred from bold measures when orthodoxy does not seem to pay, I gave my plant, one fall, a dose of old plaster and followed up the next spring with a generous measure of stable manure. This did the trick. It not only bloomed, but set uncontaminated seed from which my present planting has come. (Mr. Elliott says to his knowledge it always sets true seed.) The seedlings, when a year old, were put into a raised bed of loam and limestone chips. Each season, they are given a trifle of superphosphate (worked into the soil) and every second year an application of barnyard fertilizer. *A. jucunda* is a very fussy plant and bitterly resents disturbance. The seedlings should be set out when very young and then left forever alone.

I cannot heap such high praise upon the two Spanish members of the clan, *AA. discolor* and *pyrenaica*. The former lays a wreath of fine leaves upon the ground and from its center arises a straight stem, four to six inches high, bearing one to three flowers of bluish white. It is rather impermanent. *A. pyrenaica* has the same scant foliage and attenuated habit, but the flower is a very somber dark blue. This Spanish gloom is somewhat alleviated by a bunch of really nice yellow-orange stamens. It is much longer lived than its paler sister and is one of the last rock garden Columbines to bloom, thus giving a three months' season from mid-April, with the advent of *A. jonesii*, to mid-July, with the end of *A. pyrenaica*. Both of these Spaniards seem curiously lacking in what it takes and can put up no competition with the voluptuous charm of the Orientals.

America may be short of the wide diversity of Campanulas that Europe knows; of the colorful Gentians and the glowing Dianthi; but in the matter of Aquilegias, it need not take a back seat for any other continent. There are at the moment four charming dwarf Americans in cultivation, with the promise of others as exciting to follow. What is more they are as different, one from another, as plants can be that belong to the same genus. Three of them are Aquilegias gone mad in their desire to be different so that, looking at them with the gardener's eye, one is not sure until they bloom, that they are Aquilegias at all.

They are natives of the Rocky Mountains, outlying spurs and isolated mountain groups of the west, where they are found on high ridges and lofty screes of limestone or sandstone. Many other species, not so well suited to rock garden culture, are found in canyons and middle to low elevations.

Botanists say that many have a close relationship to either *A. coerulea* or *A. canadensis*. If so, they show remarkable variations in leaf and flower and, odd as it may seem, certain local and restricted areas (if you don't mind a hundred or two hundred miles either way) are the home of a certain Columbine. So, in my mind, I always associate *A. saximontana* with Colorado; *A. jonesii* with Montana; *AA. rubicunda* and *scopulorum* with Utah; and *A. laramiensis* with Wyoming, of course. Not to say that some do not step over the state lines occasionally, but the states mentioned seem to be the center of distribution for these species.

A. saximontana alone of these keeps to the traditional lines and is unmistakably a tiny, tidy Columbine of great charm. The small blue and white flowers hide shyly under the huddle of fine leaves at blooming time. It lives in crevices in my rock garden, where it looks entirely at home and presents no difficulties of cultivation.

A. jonesii, in nature, makes its home in limestone screes at or near timber line. It is a very tiny plant, the most lilliputian of its race, as far as I have seen them. The leaflets are so fine and so close upon the stem that it looks like some curled, stripling parsley just starting out in life. In the case of *A. jonesii*—or just plain "Jonesy," as it has been affectionately known to us for years—the color is a most delightful blue-green and velvety in texture, owing to the presence of fine, soft hairs. In the heart of the wee tuft, a bud forms as soon as the leaves emerge in spring and opens as a large blue flower, with one-half inch spur, borne upright on a one and a half inch stem. There are never many flowers even on a mature plant, three on one plant is as many as "Jonesy" has ever obliged with. In the course of five or six years, it may become quite a fat little plant, say an inch across and all of an inch high, building up on last year's leaf bases, but it never does more than this, always saving some of its tufts for blooming next year or even the year after.

The two *Aquilegias* from Utah go to unprecedented lengths in their eccentricities. *A. scopulorum* sends up many stems from the root and with the leaflets crowded upon them, makes little mounds of herbage much like *A. faurei*. But instead of being dark green, the leaflets are ashy grey, very lovely in themselves, and quite un-*Aquilegia*-like. The blossoms come in multitudes and are very large for the diminutive plant. The sepals are pale blue; the petal cup so flattened out that it is no longer a cup but a saucer. The petals are white. Most of the family are content with a shaving brush of stamens, but *A. scopulorum* has a solid ring of them in its center of a very pale yellow. But the really amazing thing about it are the spurs. They are two to two and a half inches long—by actual measurement—and stick straight out. When you consider that the stems are not more than six inches high, the plant not more than four inches across, that there may be from twenty to thirty flowers open at once and each has five spurs, you will agree with me that the sight of *A. scopulorum* in full bloom is really something! It is so pert, so wide awake, that I always smile at it as I go by.

If ever a name gave a false impression of a plant, that name is *A. rubicunda*. Misled by the word "rubicund," I expected a hearty, rollicking soul, red or rosy at the very least. So it was somewhat disappointing, after a three-year wait, to see what I did when *A. rubicunda* finally deigned to bloom. It was a very genteel performance. A stiff, gaunt stem arose above the leaves, rigidly uncompromising, bearing two or three tiny flowers of the most ladylike delicacy. The sepals, three-quarters of an inch long, are very pale at the tips, shading darker as they near the petals. The inch-long

spur is very slender; it is a still deeper pink. The petals are palest buff, forming a straight-sided little cup, one-half inch high and as much across, from which protrudes a long tuft of stamens of the same color. The coloring is very harmonious; the pink is a true pink, quite untouched by what the horror-seekers call "a touch of magenta." The leaves, ascending on long petioles from the root, stand erect and the leaflets, unlike those of the other small Americans, are very widely spaced on the stems. They are light green, thick and waxy, and so glossy that they seem to reflect the sunlight; also very stiff and rigid, as are the eight-inch stem that bears the flowers. While *A. rubicunda* will never add gaiety nor glory to the rock garden, yet it is a most interesting species, just because it is so different.

Of *A. laramiensis* I cannot say anything from personal experience. It is said to have greenish white sepals and white petals, and so gives us a dwarf in white, or will when it is in more general cultivation. There are even whisperings going about of a very tiny red *Aquilegia* hidden in the mountains of the southwest. Now, won't some enterprising collector find a wee yellow to complete the score? Surely, there must be one in the Rocky Mountains.

AQUILEGIA SAXIMONTANA IN CONNECTICUT

H. LINCOLN FOSTER, Norfolk, Conn.

AQUILEGIAS are easy from seed, but the choicer dwarfs frequently try our patience with their wayward manners, shriveling away to a ghost during a muggy spell in summer. Even the easier border Columbines are notoriously short-lived. But a hint from the behavior of our eastern *Aquilegia canadensis*, as it thrives in the meager crevice of a ledge, suggested a similar treatment for the western *Aquilegia saximontana*.

Grown from seed and potted up with extreme care as to drainage, the plants were set when still very small. A crevice-like opening was sought, where a flat stone butted up to a more erect one on the south side to cast shadow on the plants during the hotter part of the day. Here, with a good supply of rich leafmold at the roots and plenty of grit about the crown, the plants have flourished and hung out there short-stemmed bells in scant but exciting fashion.

NEW COLORS IN AQUILEGIA SCOPULORUM

DR. C. R. WORTH, Groton, New York

THE PUBLICATION of a photograph of an all-too-lush plant of *Aquilegia scopulorum* under the name of *A. jonesii* has led to an inordinate demand for the latter species, a delight in the wild, but in the garden extremely show-flowering, short-lived, and generally perverse, even refusing to germinate in less than a year or two.

Aquilegia scopulorum, on the other hand, is spectacular, flowers very freely, accepts a wide variety of soil conditions, and self-sows, though none of its babies has been true, in spite of its flowering at a time when no other *Aquilegia* is in bloom. Its one fault, in gardens, is that instead of remaining a mite of three inches, over which the breath-takingly lovely, long-spurred flowers float, it usually grows to a foot, flowers in great quantity, and provokes the greatest enthusiasm from those who have not seen its elfin beauty on the high screes of Utah and Nevada.

The flowers of Utah plants are almost always of a soft blue-lavender, with cream to yellow "cup," though rarely there is a flower of uniform deep blue. Last summer, in two limestone ranges of Nevada, I encountered



Above: Beginning at the left, pink *Arabis*; above, deep rose *Armeria lauchiana*; middle, *Erinus alpinus*, deep rose but less brilliant; at extreme right, sky-blue *Linum narbonneuse*; lower right, shell-pink *Geranium lancastrisense* (*G. sanguineum* var. *prostratum*).

Left: *Cytisus kewensis*

Mrs. C. Chanler, a sustaining member of the American Rock Garden Society since April, 1934, has a very interesting rock garden at Lloyds' Neck, Huntington, Long Island. These two pictures bring to mind how lovely the garden is in May, during which month we visited it some years ago.

the color variants of this species which Clokey has called *A.s. ssp. perplexans*. There is actually no variation in the habit of the plants of one range from those of the type in central Utah, but in the other mountains the plants had sought refuge from drought on the shady side of a limestone canyon, and there grew to a foot in height. Only a few plants were able to bloom because of an abnormally dry season, but their color range was dazzling; rich purples, clear yellows, pure pinks and even brilliant reds. Later, at the station of the type species in Utah, I was astonished to find a large tuft bearing flowers of clear rose, with cream centers. Four crowns were carefully removed and all have established themselves in the sand bed. These, with a few plants and some doubtfully mature seed of *ssp. perplexans*, give hope that in a year or two it may be possible to enjoy the full color range of the most gorgeous of all dwarf Columbinas.

VIOLETS IN A NEW ENGLAND GARDEN

DR. HELEN C. SCORGIE, Still River, Mass.

OF THE Violets in my garden, my preference is for those distinctive of coloring, neat of growth and easy of culture. Others, too recently acquired, may in time join these favorites but as yet their virtues and their faults have not been sufficiently appraised. These of which I write are tried and true sorts that have done well for a number of years, with the exception of two, one of which came late last Spring. However, its cheerful acceptance of its new home has so endeared it that I have added it to the others. *V. cucullata*, also, is not yet quite secure in its position, a shy wildling but now at last appearing willing to remain in my small bog.

One of the most desirable Violets for a New England shade garden is *V. eizanense*. Its finely cut leaves are held firmly upright, making a dainty frill just below the abundant flowers, white with finely etched lavender markings. The trimness of its form excels that of any other Violet in my garden, even that little miff, *V. rotundifolia*, which, like as not, is not there.

V. eizanense has been a dependable standby since it came from Mr. Fred Borsch in the fall of 1942, blooming freely over a longer period than any other species and setting seed abundantly. One thing puzzles me. Every catalogue description I have seen has stressed its fragrance, but my plants are nearly scentless.

Here, it appears to be short-lived, but it seeds so freely that I am never without plants. Despite this free-seeding and the close proximity of twenty or more other varieties, there has never been any sign of hybridizing, even with *V. pedata* to which it looks most nearly related. The seedlings appear at considerable distance from the parent plant but always in well-drained leafmold. As the seeds seem to be thrown with some force from the bursting pod, some of them must, at times, fall on the well-limed Saxifrage bed across the path but they have not germinated there. Nor have any seedlings appeared in the more moist and more acid ground where *Dalibarda* and dwarf Cornel find a congenial home.

Viola nephrophylla is not a native here, although it is said to grow in the western part of this Commonwealth. It takes most kindly to my garden in a heavy moist soil, black and very acid. Mrs. Baird says that it is as "nearly blue (Roslyn blue) as any of our so-called 'blue Violets'." It is the most vivid of my Violets and, in the wild, a swale dotted with these brilliant jewels in the slanting spring sunlight is an unforgettable memory.

Our native Marsh Violet (*V. cucullata*), while abundant in our meadows, is far more difficult to grow than *V. nephrophylla*. Whether this is because my miniature bog lacks the depth of black soil to which it is accustomed or that the bog dries out too much during the midsummer drought, I do not know. But for all its temperament, it is lovely and distinctive, with a dark throat contrasting happily with the clear lavender of the petals.

V. affinis also is not indigenous here, but I have found it in the region of the Connecticut River. It is more compact than the two swamp Violets and the petals are of a rich, deep violet with a conspicuous white throat. It grows for me in light shade, in a well-drained, heavy, acid soil.

Many of my Violets send up stray blooms in the fall, particularly in the Indian summer that usually follows our first hard frost. *V. fimbriatula* is particularly prone to do this. These, however, are chance blooms, occasional and quite inconspicuous. Last October, the Ozark form of *V. pedata*, newly acquired in the late spring, burst into bloom, rivaling its Crocus neighbors

in brightness. It was still going strong when the December snows hid it. I have been told that fall-blooming is its habit in its native haunts. I can only hope that it will not resent the three-foot blanket of snow that has covered it for two months, as it added brilliant color to the garden when that was most needed.

The small flowers of *V. nuttalli* are surprisingly showy, glowing in the sunshine like live embers. It has a hard glitter unlike the gentle radiance of the "dim Violets" of wood and meadow. It flowers freely here but does not set seed.

One other Violet would be on this list if I could find it, the delicate little trailing *V. odorata*, both blue and white. Of the large hybrids, I cannot have enough but they are not substitutes for their small progenitor with its illusive fragrance. Of this, Miss Rohde writes: "Garden varieties of the sweet-scented Violet have a richer scent but they have not the exquisite keen, pure, almost rarefied scent of the wild Violet." To me, it seems the quintessence of its delectable family.

THE VERSATILE VERONICAS

DR. LLOYD P. GRAY, Clayton, N. Y.

IN ADDITION to the taller Veronicas of the herbaceous border, there are a number of low-growing, mat-forming members of the genus that are desirable and useful subjects in the rock garden. The evergreen, shrubby forms from New Zealand are now classified under the genus *Hebe*, according to Bailey.

Some of the Veronicas are obnoxious weeds. *V. filiformis* is considered so by some, yet it is a useful groundcover for shady, moist situations. Although it spreads rapidly and will invade shady portions of a lawn, it may be mowed over and still make an evergreen mat. *V. filiformis* may also be used in the crevices of a shaded wall, where its terminal shoots curve gracefully upwards as they fan out; and at the base, they sprawl out upon the ground. In early spring, it is covered with small light blue flowers. I do not recommend using it in the rock garden proper, as it is too rampant and the filamentous runners root at the nodes, making it difficult to weed-



Photo by Walter Kolaga

Veronica rupestris nana

out. (Mr. Arthur H. Osmon, in the November-December, 1944, issue of the Bulletin, described *V. filiformis* as one of the most pestiferous and beautiful plants he owns—so, members, use it with discretion.—Editor.)

Of those Veronicas, which are good rock garden subjects, the first to bloom in this northern New York state area is *V. armena*. It forms a dwarf mat of light blue-green foliage which is very fine, almost needle-like. In early spring, it is covered with sky-blue flowers of delicate substance. It may also bloom sporadically during the summer.

While still in flower, *V. armena* is followed by *V. rupestris nana*. The latter forms a prostrate, trailing plant and blossoms at the terminal growth, which lifts its flowering ends slightly off the ground. The flowers are an ultra-marine blue, practically identical to the color of *Gentiana acaulis*, which is in bloom at the same time. As *V. rupestris nana* is not a very vigorous grower, it should be given a position of prominence in the foreground planting where it can be nurtured and protected from its more aggressive neighbors. The pink form, *V. rupestris nana rosea*, is quite similar but slightly larger in all its parts and has a more vigorous growth habit. It blooms a little later and the flowers are a mauve-pink.

In late June and early July, *V. spicata nana* sends up its five to six-inch flowering spikes, which are a clear, dark blue. Of garden origin, it is a miniature form of *V. spicata* of the herbaceous border. As a companion, there is *V. spicata nana alba*, which is similar in habit but has a clear white flower. *V. montana* is also very similar but comes into flower slightly later and the leaves are a little more deeply notched.

Also, in early July comes one of the most interesting and attractive of them all—*V. incana*. This forms a neat little clump of silvery gray foliage, furnishing very good contrast in a planting even when not in flower. The flowering spikes are ten to twelve inches tall and are a good clear blue. Although "gray with age," it is a stately, dignified and altogether charming subject. It blooms while *V. spicata nana* and *V. montana* are still in flower, so the three make an interesting colony with their contrasting foliage and somewhat different flowering spikes—that of *V. incana* frequently droops gracefully, especially in the hot sun, while that of *V. spicata nana* remains strictly upright.

Next comes *V. incana rosea*, of garden origin, which is similar to *V. incana* except its leaves are narrower and the flowering spikes of a deep rose-pink are somewhat taller, being, perhaps, twelve to fifteen inches.

All these Veronicas are easily grown in any good garden soil, if provided with good drainage and sunny situation, with the exception of *V. filiformis* which requires shade. This list is by no means exhaustive. There are other dwarf forms suitable for the rock garden, but a planting of the ones mentioned will give an interesting succession of bloom from early spring to the middle of summer.

VERONICAS IN THE ROCK GARDEN

STEPHEN F. HAMBLIN, Lexington, Mass.

THE GENUS *Veronica* is large and diverse, from tiny weedy annuals and coarse weeds in the brook to tall border perennials. Of the species suitable for the rock garden, as now in the trade, a classification by habits of growth might be made in the following manner:

| ERECT HABIT | Height | Color | Foliage |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>incana</i> | 12 in. | deep blue or pink | oblong, very white wooly |
| <i>latifolia (teucrium)</i> | 12 in. | clear violet to blue | narrow, deep green |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>latifolia</i> var. <i>Trehane</i> | 8 in. | deep blue | golden-yellow |
| <i>multifida</i> | 5-6 in. | pale blue to violet | deeply cut and lobed |
| <i>peduncularis</i> | 4-6 in. | white, tinted rose | oblong, very thin toothed |
| <i>spicata nana</i> | 8-10 in. | deep blue | oblong, toothed |
| DROOPING HABIT | | | |
| <i>armena</i> | 3 in. | deep blue | much divided, evergreen |
| <i>fruticans</i> (<i>saxatilis</i>) | 3-4 in. | dark blue, wh. eye | narrow, evergreen |
| <i>fruticulosa</i> | 6-8 in. | violet to pink | thick, oval |
| <i>latifolia rupestris</i> | 4-5 in. | blue, rose, white | narrow, evergreen |
| <i>saturejoides</i> | 3 in. | dull blue | rounded, toothed, 4-ranked |
| CREEPING HABIT | | | |
| <i>allionii</i> | 2 in. | small, deep blue | leathery, evergreen |
| <i>alpina</i> | 2-6 in. | small, slate blue | large, oval, hairy |
| <i>filiiformis</i> | 2-in. | pale blue | in tangled carpet |
| <i>officinalis</i> | 2 in. | small, pale blue | oblong, evergreen |
| <i>pectinata</i> | 5-6 in. | pale blue or pink | deeply toothed, hairy |
| <i>repens</i> | 2 in. | palest blue, whitest | tiny, ovate, evergreen |
| <i>serpyllifolia</i> | 1-2 in. | tiny, palest blue | tiny weed in lawns |
| TUFTED | | | |
| <i>latifolia rupestris nana</i> | 2 in. | deep blue | tiny evergreen tufts |

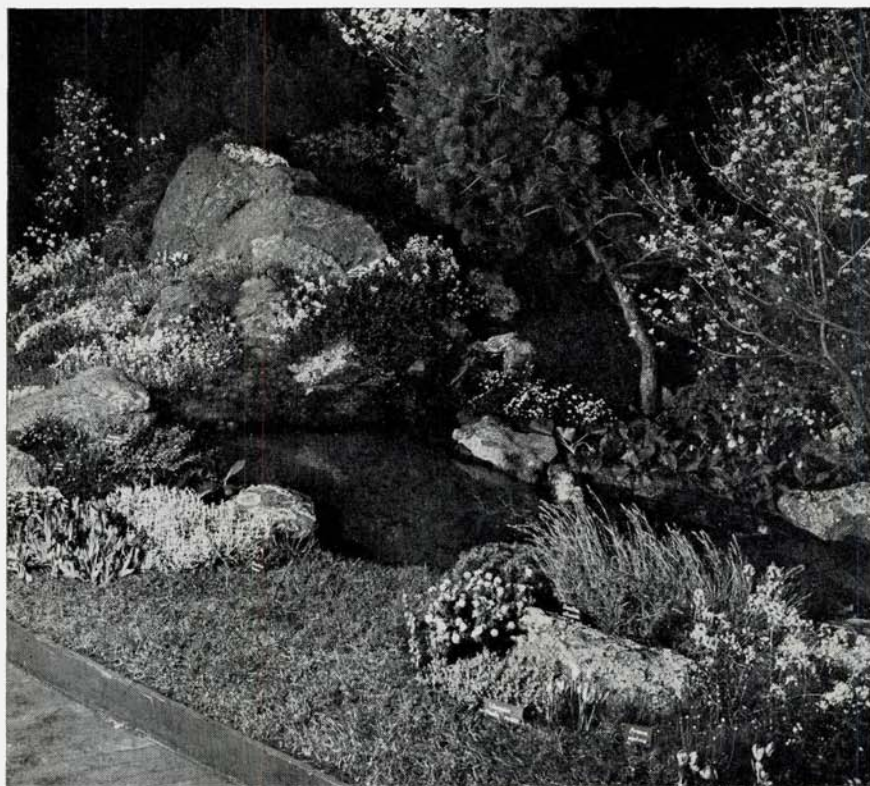


Photo by P. E. Genereux

The ledge garden, exhibited by Alexander Heimlich at the Spring Flower Show in Boston, was awarded the Bulkley Medal of the Garden Club of America and the gold medals of the Horticultural Society of New York and of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

A HOT TRIO

KATHLEEN N. MARRIAGE, Colorado Springs, Colo.

IF YOUR rock garden is porous enough to get away with autumn and winter moisture, here are three plants that like a baking hot place among rocks in full sunshine: *Zinnia* (*Crassina*) *grandiflora*, *Oenothera* (*Galpinsia*) *lavandulaefolia* and *Melampodium cinereum*. All three bloom literally from June till frost here in Colorado at 6,000 feet altitude, where air is light and dry, days often hot—sometimes soaring to 90°—and nights are cool. All three are restrained enough for the smallest rock garden; about a foot in diameter and six inches high are their mature dimensions.

Zinnia grandiflora, a miniature single *Zinnia*, carries its pale yellow to orange flowers just above its slender inconspicuous foliage. This seems to be the most permanent plant of the trio.

Oenothera lavandulaefolia is a choice petite member of the rather untidy *Onagraceae* family. Its open flowers are silky, crinkled, lemon-yellow and they have the pleasant trick of changing to deep apricot as they fade. A plant in bloom is a gay affair, both the present and the past. In conditions to its liking, it goes on for years but, like so many of its neighbors



Zinnia grandiflora

that must root deep in order to get enough moisture to exist, its roots are a challenge to transplant, a deep single cord often without even a sign of a fibre. Young plants are the only chance. It grows fairly well from seed and this is the way to acquire it, for it transplants cheerfully while roots are only a few inches long. Recently when on a plant hunt, I happened on an acre of this on a rock slope with a Pinon Pine background. The gayest yellow, silky flutterers with here and there a drift of lavender-blue *Penstemon*. On arriving in the midst of the riot, what did I find plump in the middle of it all but *Echinocereus gonacanthus* (*E. triglochidiatus*, I believe, it is now called), a Cactus of green fleshy domes brilliantly lighted with its red saucer flowers, all wide open. The most superb rock garden!

Melampodium cinereum is usually found in company with the other two of our trio. It has the same narrow inconspicuous foliage. In self-defense, they must resort to one dodge or another to oppose evaporation in such dry air. Here the flowers are white, like daisies with rather wide petals and the roots, while deep, are fibrous and quite amenable to trans-



Melampodium cinereum and *Echinocereus triglochidiatus*
nestled in the rocks, with a drift of *Penstemon* beyond

planting peaceably. This pleasant trait is, unfortunately, offset by its impermanence. There's a suspicion that it blooms itself into extreme fatigue and too late in the season to recover vitality to survive winter. Treat it as a biennial and it will be a welcome inhabitant of the rock garden.

These three seem to go on blooming blithely, if only they can go into the winter dry. They seem to care little about pH. However, in the wild we usually find them where lime is present and humus absent—sometimes on gravel slopes, sometimes on flats of stiff alkali clay. They can beat a camel or a prohibitionist at going without a drink!

BROAD-LEAVED EVERGREENS

(Continued from page 36)

shade and bloom from mid-May until August when the last of the batch, forms with salmon-colored flowers which came from a nursery in Summerville, South Carolina, are in bloom. The green branches, sometimes tinged magenta, against the snow of winter are most satisfying, as are the new leaves in May, which give the plants a vernal effect among spring flowering bulbs. A third effect occurs in midsummer when the darker summer foliage is blended with associated plants of *Campanulas* and *Foxgloves*.

A small and hardy plant is *Rhododendron racemosum* with blossoms of white edged pink. *R. carolinianum album* is scheduled to grow to six feet high, but in most gardens is much lower. The blossoms of plants ordered from nurseries are generally in different hues of pale pink. In winter, the stems are cinnamon as are the buds. It is a charming shrub and likes partial shade.

The most dwarf of the large Blueberry family is *Vaccinium vitis idaea*, which has creeping roots, dark glossy foliage, and nodding flowers followed by dark red acid and bitter fruits. It demands an acid soil.

A specimen of one of the taller broad-leaved evergreens, rightly placed, often gives the needed height to a planting. *Pieris japonica* is a beautiful plant and though it is its nature to grow to twelve feet high, it can be kept down to four feet in height and about the same in width by judicious pruning. The same is true of *Pieris floribunda*, *Ilex glabra*, *Kalmia latifolia*, and *Leucothoe catesbaei*.



THE ANNUAL MEETING

MORE than sixty members were warmly welcomed by Mrs. J. M. Hodson at her home on Rock Ridge, Greenwich, Conn., on May 22. After a box luncheon—with coffee and dessert graciously furnished by the hostess—the members met for the annual business session. Mr. Walter D. Blair presided in the absence of Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, retiring president, now in Oregon.

Because of space limitations, reports are condensed.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

THE appearance of articles on rock gardening in *HOUSE AND GARDEN*, *HOUSE BEAUTIFUL*, *HORTICULTURE* and other national magazines and in the newspapers of large cities points to real interest in this phase of gardening, for magazines and newspapers are not prone to print material unless they know it has a definite appeal to their readers. Two rock gardens at the Boston spring show and the rock garden and the wild garden (in which there were many plants suitable for rock gardens) at the Philadelphia spring show drew crowds—further proving that there are many potential rock gardeners who would gain knowledge and experience from affiliation with the American Rock Garden Society.

Mr. Arthur H. Osmun, Membership Chairman, is striving to increase our membership substantially and can achieve his goal within a reasonable period of time, provided every member is willing to cooperate with him. A larger membership will result in an improved, larger Bulletin for one thing. Through the courtesy of one of our members, the May-June issue will indicate what can be furnished regularly when a stronger membership is realized.

It was in fear and trepidation that I consented to follow Dr. Wherry as editor of the Bulletin. However, with his kindly counsel and the splendid cooperation of members in contributing articles—and barring a few errors on the part of the editor and the printer—I believe the issues which have been published so far in 1948, have been fairly creditable.

The Seed Exchange received 148 packages of seeds and distributed 763 packets to members. This, the largest turn-over in the Seed Exchange in any one year, was a task of no small proportions for our Seed Exchange director, Mrs. L. D. Granger.

In several of the regional groups—North Atlantic, New England, and Washington—the members have enjoyed splendid programs together. The New England Group recently sponsored a public meeting at Horticultural Hall, at which Mr. T. H. Everett, of New York City, gave an illustrated talk on the Thompson Memorial Rock Garden. The Northwest Group held a

special meeting in May to welcome Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, of Philadelphia, and listen to an account of his interesting trip across the continent. (En route, Dr. Wherry visited a number of the members of the society). In other regions, where distances are too great to permit holding meetings, the chairmen have been in touch with their respective members by correspondence and, in the Central Group, by means of a round robin letter. The Montana Unit is seeking to stimulate interest by a contest of natural colored slides and photographs of rock gardens and rock garden and alpine plants.

With the official board rests the responsibility for determining the policies of the society, with the officers the responsibility for fulfilling their duties as prescribed. But with the members themselves largely rests the growth of the society, and the lively interest manifested by the members at the present time speaks well for the American Rock Garden Society as it enters its fifteenth year.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. George F. Wilson, who had inadvertently left the treasurer's report home, stated that the balance in the bank as of May 1st, 1948, with all bills paid, was approximately \$1,400. The treasurer's report will be printed in the next issue of the Bulletin.

SEED EXCHANGE

Many letters have been written by your director, both to donors and to recipients of seeds. By these letters, she has tried to stimulate interest in the American Rock Garden Society by establishing friendly contacts with members. It has been her privilege to receive many delightful letters in return. Because of these contacts, your director is in a position to realize how much the articles in the Bulletin stimulate interest in the growing of certain plants. Many requests have been received for seeds of plants described in the Bulletin, sometimes far exceeding the supply.

If members receiving these seeds (and others, too) would report their successes or failures, we might have an interesting and valuable record of growing conditions in various parts of the country.

OFFICERS ELECTED

President: Mrs. Harold Epstein.

Vice President: Mrs. C. I. DeBevoise, Mr. Roland G. Gamwell, Miss Elizabeth Gregory Hill, Mrs. G. R. Marriage, Mr. Leonard J. Buck, Mr. Arthur R. Virgin.

Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy E. Hansell.

Treasurer: Mrs. George F. Wilson.

Directors to serve until 1950: Mr. Walter D. Blair, Mrs. J. M. Hodson, Mrs. C. S. Houghton, Mr. E. J. Totten, and Mrs. W. Jay Willson.

Director to fill unexpired term of Mr. Epstein: Mrs. Alex D. Reid.

Publishing Agent: Mr. Arthur H. Osmun.

Seed Exchange Director: Mrs. L. D. Granger.

In accepting the office of president, Mr. Epstein said it would be impossible to compute in dollars and cents what one derives from membership in the American Rock Garden Society — the Bulletin, the Seed Exchange, the contacts in person and by letter with others throughout the country interested in the same plant material. He added that the society covers a much broader phase of gardening than do other societies, for those who are engaged in it are gardening with native plants of the world,

and that this point should be emphasized and not the *Rock* in rock gardening.

REVISIONS TO BY-LAWS

The following revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted:

Article VI, Section 1 to read: The Officers shall consist of a president, six vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and regional chairmen.

Article VII, Section 1 to read: The affairs of the society shall be administered by an executive board, consisting of the officers and ten directors. The editor of the official organ may attend meetings of the executive board but is not entitled to vote unless a regularly elected officer or director.

Section 2 to read: The directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the society for a period of two years. Five directors shall be elected each year.

Article IV, Section 5, created, to read: Family membership shall be limited to two in a family, receiving one copy of the Bulletin and of any other official publications; dues of said membership shall be \$5.00 annually, payable on or before April 1 of each year.

Section 5 becomes Section 6.

Although the responses to the questionnaire indicated that the majority were in favor of increasing the annual dues to \$4.00, the executive board, after careful deliberation, recommended and the annual meeting voted that active dues remain \$3.50 annually.

The meeting was then adjourned to permit the members to inspect the well established, attractively planted rock garden with its waterfall and pool and adjacent wild garden. Ferns, Trilliums, Violets, Bloodroot and Christmas Roses (still blooming) made the latter a lovely spot.

SEED EXCHANGE. Mrs. L. D. Granger, director, Warren, Mass., announces that she has received the following seeds and that members may have same if their requests are accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes.

From Mrs. H. N. Hansen, Lafayette, Cal., *Polygonum capitatum*.*

From Mrs. A. P. Renton, North Bend, Wash., *Penstemon menziesii*, *P. unilateralis*.

From Dr. C. T. Hilton, Port Alberni, B. C., *Primula pulverulenta* (Bartley strain), *Papaver nudicaule* (pink, Empress strain), *Gazania* hybrids.

From Mrs. Clement S. Houghton, Chestnut Hill, Mass., *Aquilegia alpina*, *Boykinia occidentalis*, *Campanula antraniana*, *CC.imeretina*, *raddeana*, *sartori*, *thyrsoides*, *versicolor*, *Leucothoe grayana*, *Primula florindae*, *P. poissonii*, *Scuteellaria altissima*, *Sedum spathulifolium*.

From Robert M. Senior, Cincinnati, O., *Campanula lanata* (Greece), *C.celsii* (Greece).

From Dr. R. L. Fleming, Mussoorie, U. P., India (through the kindness of Dr. Wherry), *Polygonum capitatum*.

*It may interest members to learn that Mrs. Hansen received her plants from a friend who received the seeds in 1937 from a Japanese botanic garden. Mrs. Hansen writes that in California *P. capitatum* is a perennial "except when frosted down" and also grows from self-sown seed, and that it will be interesting to learn how this plant behaves where winters are colder. Since *P. capitatum* has grown in Mrs. DeBevoise garden in Greens Farms, Conn., it should be able to endure the winters in the vicinity of New York City.

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