

# BULLETIN

of the

## AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

Vol. 22

July, 1964

No. 3

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## BULLETIN

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Albert M. Sutton, Editor

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#### REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING—1964

The annual meeting of the American Rock Garden Society was held on May 2, 1964, at Snuff Mill, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York. The morning was devoted to a competitive show, the first such show in many years. A high quality of plant material was entered in the 12 classes and competition was keen, though the total number of exhibitors was smaller than had been hoped. Many who did not exhibit were interested to see plants, which previously they had only read about, well-grown and in flower. There was sufficient enthusiasm among the members to make the officers feel that competitive shows should become a regular feature of future meetings.

Judges for the show were Rex Murfitt, Dr. Gordon Pollock, Harry Logan, and Harold Epstein. Ribbons were awarded for the top three entries in each class and there were two silver trophies, one for the best plant in the show, and one for the highest aggregate point score. The former, a new award donated by John Osborne, known as the Epstein Cup, in honor of the retiring president, was won by Richard Langfelder for a magnificent pan of *Gentiana acaulis*. H. Lincoln Foster won the other silver trophy.

The annual business meeting of the Society was called to order by President Harold Epstein after a recess for lunch. The president gave a report of recommendations made at an executive meeting on March 22, 1964. Foremost among these was a suggestion that the dues of the national organization be increased to meet rising costs and to expand the services of the Society to its members. The recommendation of the executive committee was that the dues be increased as follows:

Single membership .....	\$ 5.00 per annum.
Family membership .....	\$ 7.00 per annum.
Patron membership .....	\$ 25.00 per annum.
Life membership .....	\$150.00
Overseas membership .....	\$ 3.50 per annum.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made and passed without dissent that the recommended dues schedule become effective beginning July 1, 1964.

A second recommendation was the possibility of having the Society make available to its members desirable rock garden plants not readily available through commercial sources, as a supplement to the seeds made available through the Seed Exchange. A committee, previously appointed by the president and headed by John Osborne, is currently investigating the various aspects of the proposal, but had no specific recommendations to make at this point. The proposal was discussed

at some length and it was voted to have the committee continue its investigation, and report as soon as possible.

The president announced that the matter of the Society's emblem, for many years a subject of debate, would be brought to a conclusion by an announcement in the July issue of the *Bulletin*.

Before calling on the nominating committee, the president announced with sorrow the resignation, for reasons of health, of Edgar Totten, who has served the Society as secretary so ably and with such devotion for so many years. Secretary pro-tem, Lawrence Hochheimer was instructed to write to Mr. Totten expressing with sincere affection and admiration the gratitude of the members.

Henry Fuller, chairman, reported for the nominating committee, other members of which were Mrs. Dorothy Hansell and Henry Fleming. The proposed slate was:

President	H. Lincoln Foster
President Emeritus	Harold Epstein
Secretary	Lawrence Hochheimer
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	Mrs. Coulter Stewart
	Brian O. Mulligan
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Directors	
Terms to expire in 1967	John P. Osborne
	Mrs. John Knippenberg
	Claude A. Barr
Term to expire in 1966	Mrs. Sallie D. Allen
Term to expire in 1965	Alex J. Summers

The nomination of Mr. Summers is to fill the unexpired term of Kurt W. Baasch, whose recent death takes from the Society one of its founders and a devoted friend. Mrs. Allen is to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Foster.

A motion was made and passed that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate as proposed. Mr. Epstein welcomed the new officers and directors and turned the meeting over to the new president.

Following Mr. Foster's speech of acceptance in which he outlined his hopes for the future of the Society, a report was given by Harry Logan on the ARGS exhibit at the International Flower Show in New York City in March. Following his report a motion was passed that the president appoint a committee to consider the possibility of participation in the New York Flower Show another year.

The following resolution was then presented and passed with acclamation:

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the American Rock Garden Society, assembled in annual meeting, Snuff Mill, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York, on Saturday, May 2, 1964, that they express their sincere appreciation of the dedicated leadership and devoted service Mr. Harold Epstein has rendered so unselfishly to the interests of the American Rock Garden Society during his sixteen years in office as president; that they further express their appreciation of his kind generosity and enthusiasm, his encouragement and inspiration, and his outstanding contributions to the advancement of rock gardening—all of which has contributed so much to the growth of the American Rock Garden Society.

Mr. Harkness then reported on the 1964 Seed Exchange which was a notable success.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, a sale of plants contributed by the members was held, netting a total of \$170.00. In addition, the winner of the Epstein Cup, Mr. Langfelder, donated the prize winning pan of *Gentiana acaulis* for auction. Lively bidding brought in the handsome sum of \$15.00.

Many of the members stayed on for a dinner in honor of the retiring president. The arrangements for the dinner were made by the Chairman of the North Atlantic Region, Mr. J. A. Lukins, who also acted as Master of Ceremonies. Hostesses for the cocktail hour before dinner were the three retiring directors; Mrs. Dorothy Hansell, Miss Alida Livingston, and Mrs. Mortimer Fox. All three have been active in the affairs of the Society for many years and Mrs. Hansell and Mrs. Fox are founding members.

### MR. H. LINCOLN FOSTER ACCEPTS THE PRESIDENCY

I am pleased to be asked to serve as the president of an organization that has for many years meant a great deal to me. But it is with some trepidation that I succeed Harold Epstein, who has for so long carried the responsibility for this national society with such ease and grace.

During his distinguished presidency he has given the American Rock Garden Society a distinctive flavor of friendliness, of quality, and of unharried good will. He and our equally devoted secretary, Edgar Totten, have carried on most of the administrative duties of the Society without the general membership realizing how much time, energy, and money they have expended in our behalf. Things ran so smoothly that I suspect most of us thought things ran themselves without human guidance and intervention.

I am only too conscious of the fact that I cannot begin to measure up to Mr. Epstein's example of quiet accomplishment and unflinching self-sufficiency. I am going to be begging loudly for a great deal of assistance. Fortunately Harold has agreed, with his customary generosity, to permit me to lean heavily on him for help. But he well deserves a rest. I shall be calling on our host of devoted members to assist in achieving the goals I hope we can reach during the next two years. By myself, I know I would fall below the goal; with your assistance I think we can accomplish much. Most especially since we are fortunate in having Mr. Lawrence Hochheimer to take over the essential and gigantic task of the secretaryship, and in our good fortune that Mr. Albert Sutton will hold things together and keep us informed and ignited through the *Bulletin*. The Seed Exchange, thank Allah, will remain in the expert hands of Mr. Bernard Harkness, and the treasury in the competent grasp of Mr. Alex Reid.

At this time I would like briefly to suggest a few things I am hopeful we can accomplish together, but before I do so, I wish to emphasize as strongly as I can that the ARGS can accomplish only what the members themselves want. Please, every one of you, feel free at any time to let your wishes be known, either directly to me, or to the other officers, or through the pages of the *Bulletin*.

This brings me to the first plank of what might be called a platform on which I would like to stand. There are currently close to 1,000 members of the ARGS in the United States and foreign lands. They are too widely separated geographically to get together often to exchange experiences and to share enthusiasms; but they are bound by a common love of the bright flowering gems of mountain meadows, craggy peaks, and of all wild places. They can meet in the pages of the *Bulletin* and they can share their enthusiasms through the Seed Ex-

change. But it is when they meet together during winter conclaves, during garden visits, during group explorations into the wild haunts of plants that they get the greatest delight and satisfaction from belonging to our special kind of society.

I do hope that we can find individuals willing to make that extra little effort necessary to organize and spark the small neighborhood groups within our organization who are ready and waiting to be called together. For instance, I visualize within the North Atlantic Regional Group, which now includes four states with over 200 members, a group or chapter in Philadelphia, one in New York City and environs, one in New Jersey, and one in Connecticut. Let geography and accessibility be the spur to keep rock gardening a shared, not a solitary or highly formal, concern. Ten people meeting regularly can make a vital chapter of the ARGS. Let's have many of them! The movement has already started in various sections of the country as reported in the April *Bulletin*.

The second most important plank—No! Let me say the very framework on which the planks rest, is made up of stalwart timbering; the *Bulletin* and the Seed Exchange.

If other members are like me, they read every syllable of the *Bulletin*; and when the Seed List arrives they stop all other pursuits while they study, mark, select, and finally come to terms with our marvelous list.

Through the pages of the *Bulletin* we get those wonderful insights and inspirations which enrich our gardening experience and spur us on to new adventures. The rock gardeners' anguishes and delights in New Zealand, Scotland, California, Washington, and Maine are ours through the pages of the *Bulletin*. It must include articles for the beginner who wants to know the first things to do with a package of seed, or whether *Phlox subulata* will grow in sun or shade. It must also carry articles for our many experts who are looking for some clue about how to succeed with *Eritrichium elongatum* or *Phlox adsurgens*—or whatever their particular crux is. The editor is doing a magnificent job in addressing all the members. But you must remember that you write it; he edits it. We do want more of our modest experts to share their experiences with particular plants with us, their failures and successes. Has anyone, for instance, succeeded in striking roots on cuttings of *Pyxidantha barbulate*?

There are other planks of the platform which I shall merely mention now and develop with your assistance later, if you approve. One is a concerted effort on the part of our members to collect, select, propagate, and disseminate desirable forms of our native American flora suitable for rock gardens. To quote from the 25th anniversary issue of the *Bulletin*, "The rich flora of our country remains, as yet, a largely unworked source of treasures. We tried them in our early days and found that they presented problems too great for our experience. Now, with maturity, we can more reasonably hope for success." It seems to me that the ARGS has, indeed, reached a stage of sophistication and expert knowledge which most of you are too modest to admit.

Another suggestion I would like to put forward is formal recognition by some kind of appropriate award to illustrious members of our society who have made special contributions to rock gardening in America. Many names must spring to your mind.

Also I would like to suggest the possibility of a rock gardening handbook to be published and sold by the society. Over the years there have been many outstanding articles in the *Bulletin* which if collected under one cover would make a noteworthy book.

Most grandiose of all, I dream of the possibility of the ARGS sponsoring a symposium of outstanding horticulturists in many fields for an exchange of ideas on native North American plants valuable in all branches of horticulture. Before

it is too late, I think we should give some special attention to our native plants.

Because we are a national organization, with keen growers from coast to coast, my most cherished hope is that we can work out some scheme of close and frequent communication among our far-flung members. Perhaps the annual meeting can move from section to section. Our distinguished vice-presidents and directors are representatives of various sections of the society. These fine men and women are your representatives with whom I shall make every effort to keep in touch frequently on American Rock Garden Society matters.

In closing may I emphasize again my hope that together we can carry on the generous and friendly traditions of the American Rock Garden Society which this year marks its 30th birthday, and that we may extend its joys and inspirations into new fields and to many new members.

## OUR EXHIBIT AT THE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW

On March 7, 1964, the International Flower Show, held in the Coliseum in New York City, opened its nine-day exhibition, and the American Rock Garden Society was well represented there.

At the annual meeting of the ARGS, in May 1963, it was decided that the Society should participate in this extravaganza which annually is viewed by some quarter million people. Mr. Harry Logan, of Westport, Conn., was appointed to take charge of the ARGS exhibit. Arrangements were made with our member, Mr. Fred Read, who was managing the booth and exhibit for the New Jersey chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, for the ARGS to share both space and booth with them. For exhibiting we were to have 50 to 60 sq. ft. in the form of a raised rock garden.

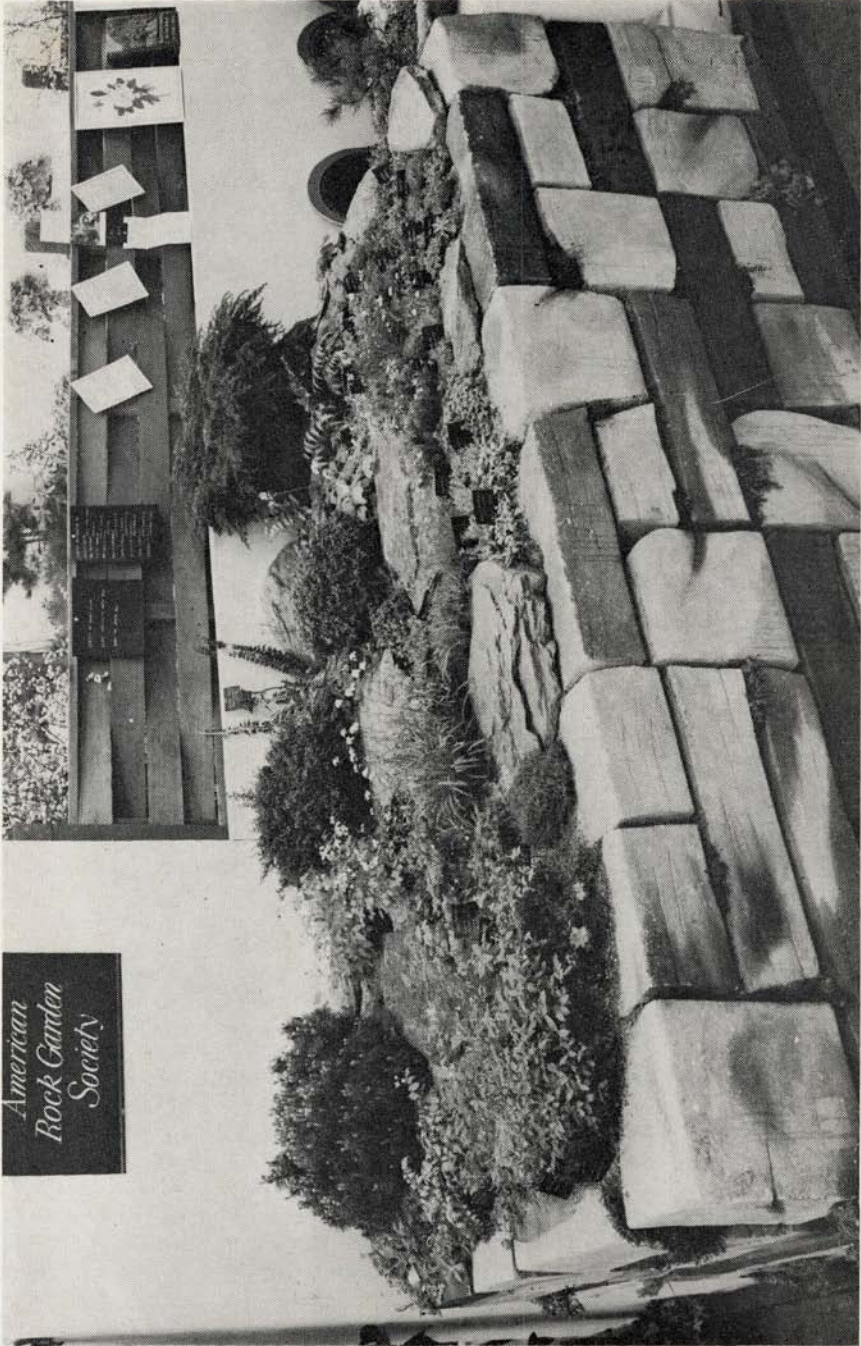
Because of the early date of the show, arrangements had to be made in the fall to secure commitments of plants to be used and for the forcing of these plants, that they might be in flower on March 7. Mr. Drew Bill, of Stratford, Conn., agreed to force the plants. This project, stretching over several months, entailed much careful planning and considerable work. Plants were contributed by H. Lincoln Foster, Mrs. Fred Read, Walter Winkler, Mrs. Henry Fleming, Nabel's Nursery, Samuel F. Bridge Nursery, and Ferndale Nursery. Later Park Gardens and the Stonecrop Nursery furnished plants for the exhibit at show time.

Mr. Logan made these comments: "The construction and planting of the rock garden exhibit was done by Drew Bill and me, and in the Coliseum this is not a simple affair, for it involves many wearisome hours, getting the material into the building and unloaded, then at the close of the show, the removal of the exhibit is quite a job. The preparation of the labels took considerable time, too.

"Plants shown in the exhibit included *Draba*, *Iberis*, *Tiarella*, *Sedum*, *Armeria*, *Dianthus*, *Saxifraga*, *Aquilegia*, *Iris*, *Epimedium*, *Athyrium*, dwarf boxwood, Mugho pine, dwarf hemlock, low blueberry, and dwarf Japanese holly. For demonstration in the booth, Mrs. H. Lincoln Foster brought to the show a planter of her own making, with placards to illustrate how it was made. This received a great deal of attention.

"Our volunteer attendants offered ARGS membership blanks to interested show visitors. The number of new members gained through this means is difficult to estimate. There were some who paid dues at the show, and others who later mailed their applications for membership to the secretary."

Since it was decided at the 1964 annual meeting to consider the possibility of participation in this show in future years, it might be well to listen to Mr. Logan's recommendations, made after his experience with the 1964 show. He



At the New York International Flower Show



said, "For next year's show, it would be desirable that members force their own plants, make their own entries, and exhibit the plants individually on a bench especially provided for rock garden plants. As a preparation for this, one might exhibit at the monthly shows of the Horticultural Society of New York."

The accompanying illustration, sent in by Mr. Logan, will undoubtedly provide a much more comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the ARGS exhibit than could be obtained from any written report.

## ROCK GARDEN RHODODENDRONS IN PENNSYLVANIA

VIRGINIA JEFFERIS, *Media, Pa.*

Dwarf or rock garden rhododendrons are not undersized representatives of larger species but are normal-sized members of distinct species, bearing faint resemblance to the rhododendrons commonly found in border or foundation plantings. Experimentation with more than 50 of these dwarf or semi-dwarf species of rhododendrons has shown most of them to be hardy and tractable in the Philadelphia area. Add to these the ever-increasing number of dwarf hybrids which have been developed, and there is an imposing array of superb evergreen material, beautiful, out of the ordinary, and particularly suited to rock garden culture.

Variation is the keynote to the charm and usefulness of dwarf rhododendrons. There is a complete range of growth habits and foliage types from mats a few inches tall, like *R. radicans*, with pointed leaves only a fraction of an inch long, to compact mounds like *R. williamsianum*, whose height in 20 years may be four feet, and whose broadly rounded leaves are from one to two inches long. Their flowers may be brilliant bells of scarlet in clusters of two or three like those of *R. forrestii*, or they may cover the plant with an azalea-like blanket of vivid blue-violet as on *R. 'Blue Diamond'*; they might form miniature trusses of lilac as on *R. hippophaeoides*, or be mauve saucers, back to back in pairs, as on *R. calostrotum*. Their colors include the shades of white to red commonly found in other flowering evergreens, plus yellows like *R. chryseum* or *R. keiskei*, and many shades of blue-lavender and purple. In combination with the pinks and whites making up much of the early spring bloom on other plants, this range of so-called "blues" is particularly welcome.

Dwarf bloom starts here with the delicate pink and white of *R. 'Seattle Springtime'* in the first warmth of early April, followed almost immediately by the brilliant pink of *R. 'Pioneer'*, which was in full bloom last year on April 10th. By the beginning of May the maximum has been reached, but there are several individuals which extend the period well into May and beyond. Last year the unusual weather caused *R. intricatum* to flower late in July, and as often happens, *R. fastigiatum*, *R. 'Blue Tit'*, *R. 'Rustic Maid'* and *R. 'Elizabeth'* put on a minor display in the fall.

Flower beauty is a primary consideration of any gardener, but foliage determines the ultimate value of an evergreen, and in an endless variety of foliage interest dwarf rhododendrons excel. Immediately after the bloom comes the first surprise when the plants unfold the soft fingers of new growth. On *R. williamsianum* and most of its hybrids these expanding tips are reddish brown, in pleasing contrast to the apple green of mature foliage. The older leaves of *R. yakusimanum* are a deep green and slightly convex, with a pale fawn to rust-brown indumentum on the under side, but the new growth is covered with silvery down which lasts for several months. The young shoots on several species are noticeably glaucous, and a few, like *R. lepidostylum* and *R. drumonium*, maintain this unusual blue-green color through the warm months.

During the summer attention is drawn more to annuals and perennials, but from fall into winter the dwarf rhododendrons are again a feature attraction. The branches are now hung with the jewel-like flower buds of next year's bloom, and the leaves of many plants have taken on colorful hues of wine, mahogany, or brown for the winter.

Not all the dwarfs present such a felicitous picture in winter, however. A few, like *R. hippophaeoides*, *R. uniflorum*, and *R. scintillans* curl and droop their leaves to such an extent that the whole plant appears dead. Their rejuvenation with the first warm days of spring is one of the unexpected rewards of growing rock garden rhododendrons.

Among the dwarfs are several on which the undersurface of the leaves is very different from the top. For example, the deep green leaves of *R. degrobianum* are heavily indumented with buff-colored felt, *R. brachyanthum* var. *hypolepidotum* has oblong leaves of unusual copper-washed green backed by shining white. The beauty of such plants can be emphasized by a position in a rock garden at eye level so both surfaces of the leaves are visible. A bonus provided by many of the dwarfs is the delightful aromatic fragrance of the foliage, more enjoyable if the plants are located where they can easily be touched.

Looking to the native haunts of these rock garden gems for a clue to their successful culture we find that one or two are undershrubs or epiphytes in warm regions, a few come from arctic areas, but the vast majority are from various altitudes of mountainous areas of the temperate zone. Yet from such diverse backgrounds they have adjusted successfully to the British Isles and the Pacific Northwest, and now we find that many are adaptable enough for Pennsylvania, as well.

Regardless of their origin all dwarf rhododendrons like a soil on the acid side, but even more vital is aeration and good drainage of the planting medium. Even in a rock garden which provides excellent drainage, rhododendron roots will suffocate, or wilt will set in, if the soil is heavy and airless. To aerate a clay soil is theoretically possible by the addition of large quantities of sand and humus. In practice this often results in only temporary alleviation of the difficulty; in a couple of years the soil is once more too compacted. Planting on top of the soil is less troublesome and more successful in the long run. A raised bed is easy to make by putting a layer of coarse sand or small stones on top of the ground to a depth of an inch or more, and on top of that a mixture of  $\frac{1}{2}$  coarse builder's sand,  $\frac{1}{4}$  peat moss, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  top soil, with perhaps a little perlite to help hold air and moisture. These beds can be built up as high as desired and the slopes held in place with rocks, or they need not be any deeper than the root balls of the plants. All rhododendrons will root laterally near the surface if they can. To cool the ground and encourage this a mulch is helpful, and because the mulch will sink and the roots will grow up into it, a fresh layer should be applied periodically. In a dry or sandy area the mulch might be oak leaves or pine needles or peat moss. Sand, or a sand and peat moss mixture, works better here.

Keeping dwarf rhododendrons cool in summer and protected from sun scald in the winter are important considerations. Shade is one way, evergreen shade being preferable. The statement has often been made that dwarf rhododendrons should be given as much sunlight as possible in order to produce bloom and keep them compact. That may be true in a more northerly latitude, or where there are fewer sunny days in the year. Even here there are a few individuals which will stand 100% exposure. But in this area it would be far safer to say, "Give them as much thin high shade as possible." A second way to keep plants cooler in summer as well as warmer in winter is to provide air circulation and air drainage by planting on a slope or elevation.

Two final suggestions: 1—Having provided the plants with very rapid drainage, they will be benefited by an occasional cooling sprinkle during hot dry spells. 2—All rhododendrons are communal by nature, and the dwarfs will look better and remain healthier if planted in groups or drifts, close enough together to protect each other and to keep the ground cool. It is easy to thin them out if they become crowded after a number of years.

The following are recommended species and hybrids which we are growing in Media, with an attempt, based on experience to date, to evaluate them for ease of culture and general desirability:

\*\*Denotes those which might be the first ones to acquire.

\*Denotes those which might make up a second list to acquire.

Those with no evaluation may be more difficult or less spectacular, or those which we haven't had long enough to judge.

1 Indicates those which are found easy to grow.

2 Indicates those which we found a little more demanding.

3 Indicates those which are very worth while, but difficult.

## SPECIES

Name	Eventual height under 1 foot: Ease of culture	Flower color	Comments
* <i>R. campylogynum</i>	1	Deep purple	Box-like foliage colors nicely in winter. Needs shade; sharp drainage.
* <i>R. camtschaticum</i>	1	Pink to purple	Deciduous. Needs shade; rocky soil.
<i>R. forrestii</i> var. <i>repens</i>	3	Scarlet	One of the most beautiful for a collector.
** <i>R. imperator</i>	1	Rose	Aromatic foliage, relatively large bloom.
* <i>R. keleticum</i>	1	Red-purple	Blooms large for size of plant.
<i>R. pemakoense</i>	2	Mauve-pink	Needs air drainage; shade.
* <i>R. uniflorum</i>	1	Mauve-pink	Like <i>R. pemakoense</i> , but easier.
Eventual height 1 to 2 feet:			
<i>R. chryseum</i>	1	Yellow	Aromatic foliage. Needs air drainage; shade.
** <i>R. hanceanum</i> var. <i>nanum</i>	1	Yellow	Beautiful, lance-shaped, dark green leaves.
* <i>R. impeditum</i> F.C.C.	1	Purple-blue	Aromatic gray-green foliage. Needs air drainage; shade.
** <i>R. keiskei</i> , dwarf form	1	Clear yellow	One of the earliest and most desirable. Colors nicely in winter.
<i>R. kotschyi</i>	1	Rose, white	Attractive plant, slow to bloom.
<i>R. microleucum</i>	1	Mauve, white	Tiny leaves. Interesting.
<i>R. nitens</i>	2	Mauve	Needs shade. Late bloomer.
Eventual height 2 to 3 feet:			
<i>R. brachyanthum</i> v. <i>hypolepidotum</i>	2	Greenish-yellow	Beautiful aromatic foliage, interesting flower. Likes shade.
<i>R. calostrotum</i>	2	Mauve	Dislikes heat. Gray-green leaves.
<i>R. caucasicum</i>	1	Cream-white	Fine foliage plant. Slow to bloom.

** <i>R. fastigiatum</i> F.C.C.	1	Deep purple	Dark blue-green foliage turns bluish-red in winter.
<i>R. haemaleum</i>	2	Dark red	Needs shade.
* <i>R. intricatum</i>	1	Lilac-blue	Tiny-leaved, many-branched, delicate appearance.
<i>R. lepidostylum</i>	2	Pale yellow	Unusually blue foliage. Must have evergreen shade.
** <i>R. racemosum</i>	1	Pink	Rates at top of dwarf list for ease of culture and beauty at all seasons. Colorful red stems, dark green foliage silver on back. Forrest #19404 best.
* <i>R. saluenense</i>	1	Bright rose	Very handsome. Leaves aromatic.
<i>R. sanguineum</i>	2	Blood red	Fine foliage. Needs 100% shade.
<i>R. scintillans</i>	1	Good blue	Rather sprawling habit.

These are classed as dwarf or rock garden rhododendrons because of their very slow rate of growth, although their eventual height may be from 3 to 5 feet.

Name	Ease of culture	Height in 10 years	Color	Comments
** <i>R. degonianum</i>	1	1	Bright pink	Similar to <i>R. yakusimanum</i> .
** <i>R. ferrugineum</i>	1	1	Rose	Known as the "Alpine Rose".
<i>R. haematodes</i>	3	2	Red	Fine indumented foliage. Needs 100% shade.
* <i>R. hemitrichotum</i>	1	2-3	Pink	Small blue-green, hairy foliage, graceful habit.
* <i>R. hippophaeoides</i> 'Haba Shan'	1	2-3	Blue-lavender	Needs a wetter medium than other dwarfs.
** <i>R. williamsianum</i>	1	2-3	Shell pink	Reported slow to bloom. Ours in filtered evergreen shade.
** <i>R. yakusimanum</i>	1	1	Pink buds, white bloom	No. 1 on list of larger dwarfs. Outstanding in every way.

## HYBRIDS

* <i>R.</i> 'Augfast'	1	3	Violet-blue	Will take a lot of exposure; flower color better in shade.
* <i>R.</i> 'Bluebird'	1	2	Lavender-blue	Will take a lot of exposure; flower color better in shade.
** <i>R.</i> 'Blue Diamond'	1	3-4	Violet-blue	Will take a lot of exposure; flower color better in shade.
* <i>R.</i> 'Blue Tit'	1	2	Lavender-blue	Will take a lot of exposure; flower color better in shade.
** <i>R.</i> 'Bow Bells'	1	3	Bright pink	One of the 10 best all time rhododendrons.
* <i>R.</i> 'Cowslip'	1	2	Pale yellow	Apricot buds. Believe this hardier than rated.
** <i>R.</i> 'Cutie'	1	2	Phlox purple	Very floriferous even in bad years. Tidy habit. Needs shade. Colors nicely in cold.

<i>R.</i> 'Brandywine'	1	?	Rose	This and the next six hybrids were developed by Mr. Nearing for hardiness and ease of culture. They are known as "Guyencourt hybrids". <i>R.</i> 'Hockessin' is the only one we have had long enough to bloom.
<i>R.</i> 'Chesapeake'	1	?	Apricot fades white	
<i>R.</i> 'Delaware'	1	?	Apricot fades white	
** <i>R.</i> 'Hockessin'	1	?	Apricot fades white	
<i>R.</i> 'Lenape'	1	?	Apricot fades white	
<i>R.</i> 'Montchanin'	1	?	Apricot fades white	
<i>R.</i> 'Mary Fleming'	1	?	Apricot fades white	
* <i>R.</i> 'Humming Bird'	2	2	Deep rose	
** <i>R.</i> 'Jock'	1	2	Rosy red	
<i>R.</i> 'Little Joe'	2	Prostrate	Bright red	
<i>R.</i> 'Moonstone'	2	2	Cream	<i>R.</i> <i>williamsianum</i> type foliage.
** <i>R.</i> 'Pioneer'	1	4	Pink	Low, spreading. Takes exposure.
** <i>R.</i> 'Puck'	1	2	Pink	<i>R.</i> <i>forrestii</i> hybrid, similar to parent, but easier.
** <i>R.</i> 'Ramapo'	1	2	Violet	Slightly less hardy than some.
** <i>R.</i> 'Sapphire'	1	1	Almost sky blue	Never fails to bloom heavily.
* <i>R.</i> 'Seattle Springtime'	1	3	Opens pink fades white	Improvement over <i>R.</i> <i>spiciferum</i> which isn't quite hardy. Flowers in feathery pink balls.
* <i>R.</i> 'Treasure'	1	½	Dark pink	Mr. Nearing's. Floriferous.
** <i>R.</i> 'Wyanokie'	1	2	White	One of the dwarfest "blues". Dislikes heat.
				Attractive hairy leaves. Very early.
				Very neat spreading habit and rounded leaves.
				Larger leaves and flowers than some of the others.

## INTERCHANGE OVERFLOW *PYXIDANTHERA BREVIFOLIA* AGAIN

(Editor's Note)—The case of *Pyxidantha brevifolia* presents a direct challenge to the American Rock Garden Society. Does the Society wish to stand by and through indifference allow a rare plant of possible garden worth to vanish from the earth? If not, then the following steps should be taken by the Society, through official action, or by members thereof acting on their own:

- 1—Take immediate action to assure the continuance of this plant in its native range.
- 2—Find methods of successfully transplanting to other areas, undoubtedly through trial and error. (Mr. Uttal has already started on this quest, and Mr. Shinn has tried without success).
- 3—Evaluate the plant's overall desirability for use in the garden by competent and critical appraisal.
- 4—Determine through experimentation the possibilities of and the methods to be used for the successful propagation of this plant.
- 5—Balance the difficulties of readying this plant for garden acceptance against its ultimate worth as such, and make an interim decision as to its

fate.

- 6—Explore the means by which an adequate supply of this plant can be accumulated for subsequent distribution to members.

This will be a long-range project and can well be one of the items taken into consideration by Mr. John Osborne's committee for the possible formation of a rare plant distribution center to supplement the Seed Exchange. Should this rare plant, rapidly nearing the end of its earthly tenure, prove garden-worthy and, in time, provide early spring delight for many gardeners throughout the world, the efforts put forth by the Society will be well repaid. Read what two close observers write about *Pyxidantha brevifolia*!

Mr. Leonard J. Uttal reports from Madison Heights, Va., "When our editor asked me last fall to investigate *Pyxidantha brevifolia*, my location was his motivation. Little did he realize that he whetted my innate appetite to chase down rare, endemic plants any chance I found. So I chafed impatiently from prolonged rains and ordinary duties until on March 24th, well into the flowering period of this rare flowering moss, I stood beneath the loblolly pines and the turkey oaks on its home sands.

"One visit to the habitat, an hour's perusal, a couple of transplants do not make one an expert on a plant. Since so much interest in this species seems to have been generated recently, and if the readers will excuse possible botanical and horticultural slips, here are the impressions of one who has seen one of America's rarest plant species in its native habitat.

"The botanical aspects of *P. brevifolia* were well presented in the April *Bulletin*. Summarizing: *P. brevifolia* is found in an area about six miles square in the Sandhill country of North Carolina, famous for peach orchards and exclusive resorts. There it forms wide mats of seeming antiquity. Though locally abundant where found, it is threatened by rapidly encroaching civilization. The site I visited was around an expanding public dump surrounded by ramshackle trailer camps. Plants were overrun by cars, trucks, and children. That this plant survives is testimony to its compactness and toughness.

"Botanists report the species appears to have lost the ability to set fertile seed. Perhaps it has become homogenic, or is not cross-pollinated. Thus it survives only vegetatively. If a population is removed, its loss is probably permanent. How ironic that a species discovered as recently as 1928 should already be in danger of extirpation!

"The mats are gray-green, truly moss-like in habit, so closely do the tiny, scale-like leaves overlap on the complex and compactly branching stems. In February, the mats turn pinkish from the color of the sepals of the swelling buds. Then the mats are in flower, sheets of chalky white from the myriad of tiny, wheel-shaped pyxie flowers, looking exactly like the flowers of its more familiar relative, *P. barbulata*, but a third smaller. From a distance I have mistaken a pile of marble chips for the plants; in some ways bringing to mind the famous "flowering stones" of South Africa. In fruit, the mats are reported as reddish in hue from the color of the capsules.

"The species is reported as having been tried once in the rock garden, with success. *It appears to this observer* that *P. brevifolia* may, indeed, be easier in cultivation than is its notoriously difficult cousin, *P. barbulata*. This is because the present species is densely compact throughout, including the roots, which form sods, so that after the sands are compacted from prolonged rains, it is possible to lift out entire sods intact. Plants of *P. barbulata* are looser, more open, the root systems thinner and deeper, altogether difficult to lift out, as it does not form sods and is easily injured. Two sods of *P. brevifolia*, transplanted to my Virginia garden, are apparently well and vigorous a month later. They were planted in

coarse sand to which a little chopped sphagnum and peat moss were added. This, I believe, approximates the native soil.

One more peculiarity—it is observed, both in its native North Carolina and where transplanted in Virginia, that the flowers of this plant were often visited by flies. The flowers have no odor that I could detect. I do not feel that the flies were involved in pollination except, perhaps incidentally. I suspect the flies were attracted to the sheets of white flowers as an expression of the proclivity of Diptera to alight on anything white and expansive.

"*P. brevifolia* possesses many attributes of a desirable rock garden plant: early blooming habit, various color aspects, compact mossy habit, sheets of showy, sequin-like white flowers. It probably would live in a somewhat colder climate; but I wonder what this would do to its winter flowering habit?"

"It is hoped people living in the district may see that some plants are saved by leaving them alone, or by transplanting to a similar habitat where populations are under immediate threat. Serious and concerned gardeners would know what to do.

"There seems little likelihood that this attractive little flowering moss will ever be more than a rare curiosity. Since it seems incapable of setting fertile seed, how are we to build up a stock? Where is the enterprising person to undertake research on the seeding of this plant, or to find out how to propagate it vegetatively, and to strive for its popularization?"

Mr. T. S. Shinn, 11 Rosewood Ave., Asheville, N. C. 28801, makes these observations in a letter dated April 27, 1964: "I have been following very closely the recent writings concerning this most unusual plant (*Pyxidantha brevifolia*), with the hope that someone would come forth with a story of success in transplanting it. I am very familiar with the location mentioned in the current issue of the *Bulletin*, and have been concerned for several years that this stand might be eradicated by the imminent advance of 'progress' in that area. Several attempts to persuade it to grow here have failed completely, and I have reached the conclusion that if the plant is to be saved, it will have to be done at some location nearer its natural habitat. The use of an underlying layer of the dry sand in which it grows did not seem to satisfy it. In moving it to this location, however, I was moving it one zone northward and increasing the elevation about two thousand feet.

"The situation which it calls home is a dry sandy ridge. Its companions are black jack oaks, a wiry bunch-grass, and an occasional lupine. When it is not in flower it is so unobtrusive that a person can walk over it without recognizing it, even though he knows he is near the right spot.

"The near relative, *P. barbulate*, is not so particular. Put it in a damp shady location and it will thrive and bloom, year after year. This more common species is, by far, the more attractive. Its tiny white blossoms are followed by bright green foliage which turns to a rich bronze as cold weather approaches.

"Even though *P. brevifolia* is not a spectacular plant, except when in flower, it represents a species which should be preserved. That preservation presents an urgent challenge which, I think, will have to be met by someone who can give it the climatic and soil conditions under which it is now growing."

## INTERCHANGE

*Meconopsis integrifolia*—Mrs. Shirlee Hutmire, 21 Columbia Ave., Takoma Park 12, Md., writes, "Does anyone in the east grow *Meconopsis integrifolia*? In July, 1944, Violet Niles Walker said in the *National Horticultural Magazine* that this plant bloomed in Virginia from May until August. I have tried to grow this plant three years in succession (from seed), but it always dies! Cultural directions, please!"

Seeds available—Mr. T. S. Shinn, whose address is 11 Rosewood Ave., Asheville, N. C. 28801, reminds us again, "In May or June the seed of *Shortia galacifolia* and *Sanguinaria canadensis* should be available. *Dionaea muscipula* should be ripe in August. I will be glad to furnish seed of these plants to as many interested persons as my limited supply will accommodate. A self-addressed and stamped envelope should accompany each request."

Quack grass—Mr. Robert J. Mattison, R.F.D. 2, Bristol, N. H., who is a new member, bought a new home with an established rock garden wherein quack grass had become even more firmly established. He has two questions: "What can I do to destroy the quack grass without removing the rocks and starting all over again?" and "Will I need to kill the plants already in the garden, in order to kill the grass?" Members who have met and fought this enemy to a standstill, please write to Mr. Mattison and give him the benefit of your experience. (The editor can give no personal help as he has remained all his life quack grassless).

Doretta Klaber's "Old Book" again—In the April *Bulletin*, under "A note of regret", in Interchange, it was reported that Mrs. Klaber's book, *Rock Garden Plants*, had been sold out and that the publishers did not propose to reprint it. Now comes Miss Esther E. Shaffer, 241 East Crockett Ave., Fostoria, Ohio, to the rescue of those who will wish to buy this very useful book. Her information is the same as received directly from the author, herself, who wrote, "My Old Book" has come out in a new edition, published by Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 56 East 66th St., New York 21, N. Y. (Not the original publisher). It is also hard cover and only slightly inferior to the original edition—Price \$1.49.

*Castilleja*—Prof. Victor H. Ries, 1241 Lincoln Road, Columbus, Ohio, adds an interesting bit about this genus. Perhaps the time will come when we will be able to enjoy a "No Host" paint brush in our gardens. Prof. Ries writes, "In the *Michigan Botanist* for Sept. 1962, William M. Malcolm (at that time at Michigan State University) says that *Castilleja coccinea* can be grown as a pot plant quite easily if adequate light is given and one of the many host plants is supplied. He found that plants of *Lactuca canadensis*, *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* var. *pinnatifidum*, and *Fragaria virginiana*, collected in the field and potted about a week in advance to allow them to become established, serve well as host plants. In the experiments, seed of *Castilleja* was sown directly in the pot. Sand was used instead of soil and tamped well. The pot was placed in a saucer with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of water. Germination was within three days. After a rosette of leaves had been developed, it was found necessary to give a month or two of cold treatment to produce a flower stalk. Once the rosettes were developed the plants were removed from contact with the host plants and they then grew satisfactorily on their own."

Seed List correction—Mrs. Madalene Modic, Rt. 1, Box 162, Sewickley, Pa., wishes to correct an error. She writes that seed sent to the Exchange as *Dianthus* 'Standhopi' was incorrectly named; that it might have been *D. sternbergii*, but even of that she is not sure. She added, "I do believe that all who received the seed will not be disappointed as it is from a plant which has a stiff mat of narrow blue-green leaves that are grass-like, and the pink flowers are fragrant."

*Vernonia*, not *Veronica*—See how pleasantly Mr. Leonard J. Uttal, of Virginia, corrects an editor's careless error. He writes, "April *Bulletin*, p. 54—*Veronica angustifolia* should read *Vernonia angustifolia*. An honest mistake. *Vernonia* (Ironweeds—Compositae) are not ordinarily thought of re: rock



gardens, being usually showy, but tall and weedy. The present species is an exception."

Violets—Mrs. Connie Green, who lives at 10682 S. W. Lancaster Road, Portland 19, Oregon, wishes to increase her collection of violets (numbering 50, at present). She would be very happy to communicate with others interested in this genus, especially if they have plants or seed for sale.

## ROCK GARDENING IN CALIFORNIA

MRS. D. S. CROXTON, *Folsom, California*

### PART II

So far I have merely mentioned *Androsace* and said nothing at all about my drabas. Among our first rock garden plants was *Androsace sarmentosa*. As it arrived here one early spring morning, it looked somewhat like a fat woolly sempervivum. This plant has done so well for us at a time when we knew so little about the treatment of rock garden plants and alpinists that I would like to tell about it, hoping that for some beginning garden enthusiasts, it will perform as well for them as it has for me.

We found that it can stand quite a bit of our strong California sunshine and take the Central Valley heat fairly well. It is growing here in a raised bed in a gritty mixture, positioned on the north side of a Pfitzer juniper, far enough away from the drip of its foliage.

This *Androsace* offers an interesting change of appearance as the season progresses. The woolly ball elongates into a leafy rosette from which a pink primrose-like flower cluster comes forth in early spring. After blooming it sends out radiating red-stemmed runners and suddenly there are at least seven more rosettes around the original one.

Some time after the blossoms had faded I put on a gritty mulch that had some bloodmeal and bonemeal mixed with it and this greened and plumped up the rosettes. When cooler weather arrives, each rosette again assumes a woolly appearance. This spring they surprised me with a wonderful display of flowers that lasted quite a while in cooperating weather. The yellow centers became dark pink with age and the flowers were fragrant.

I am glad to report that I am doing much better with my drabas. I felt that it was possible to grow them here. At Ray Williams' Alpine Nursery in Watsonville, I saw some beautiful stands of *Draba polytricha* and *D. mollissima* in pans. By now I know it is useless to try to propagate them from cuttings during the hot months of the year. In the fall, when it is cooler, they strike readily in a very gritty mixture and I have a few clumps of both kinds now from cuttings given me last fall by Mr. Williams.

These are growing in a cooled greenhouse with filtered sun. I carefully moved one of the little plants into a compartment in a strawberry jar on our patio, where it has morning sun. I wedged the plant between a few pieces of tufa and it is growing well there, too, without benefit of a cooler. Also in the greenhouse, in pans, are *Draba oligosperma*, *D. athoa*, *D. borealis* and a species from Beartooth Pass, Montana (looks like *D. incerta*), and *D. densifolia* (?). These were all raised from seed obtained from the Seed Exchange of the ARGS. On the patio is *Draba sibirica*, which does very well in another strawberry jar, while *D. olympica* is just holding its own. This draba arrived here in good condition in the spring while in flower, but after a while it started to wilt and die back. But some new shoots developed and when it gets cooler it might become better established.

I like to raise drabas from seed as it gives me a chance to experiment some-



*Draba* and *Saxifraga* in a  
Strawberry Jar

Mrs. D. S. Croxton

what. If I can get the plants established in the garden in a gritty mixture, especially on top, they have a good chance to come through the warm months. It is important here, though, that the soil surrounding the finer roots should be somewhat more moisture retentive. I seem to get good results by using a base of silty, sandy loam mixed with fine haydite rock and coarse sand, with extra haydite and sand on top.

I have an arrangement growing in the garden of *Hebe cupressoides* against black lava rock with *Globularia cordifolia* and a dwarf spruce, *Draba athoa* and *Alyssum alpestre* and a couple of violets at the edge. All these are shaded from the midday and afternoon sun by a 'Tropicana' tree rose which is planted to the west of the rock arrangement. The purists will frown about this, but it works well and the rose nicely breaks up the wall of the greenhouse that was too dominating.

I so much enjoy raising plants from seed obtained from the Seed Exchange! My *Viola floraiensis* is blooming, as is my *V.* 'Nora Leigh'. *Viola calcarata* looks good but has not yet bloomed. I have plants of *Potentilla nepalensis* 'Miss Willmott', and for the longest time I was comparing it with our strawberries to try to tell them apart. The reverse of the strawberry leaf is gray-green but *P. nepalensis* does not have any gray on the reverse and the nerve system is a little different. Now that the plants are older, they have developed the true five-lobed leaf. Then I have a number of forms of *Pulsatilla* from Correvon seed and some tiny hebes from New Zealand. I am so thankful to these good people for contributing to the Seed Exchange, and I was pleased that I could buy some special seed from the expert growers—a small contribution to help to keep them in business.

My reference to 'strawberry jars' may puzzle some readers, so I am sending a picture of one to accompany this article. As the name implies, a strawberry jar is for growing strawberries and at first we did use them for that purpose. Soon we found that the berries grew better in the ground, so we started using the jars for alpiners, especially the smallest of the saxifrages and some of the encrusted ones that like to grow on walls. I filled the jars with a very gritty mixture, using almost pure dolomite limestone (roofing gravel—white). The saxifrages seem to do very well in it and some sections are starting to spill over the edges of the pockets, and that is what I had in mind.

Cooler weather has come and now in November all of the alpiners, saxifrages, drabas and such are on the patio and whatever tender plants we have are now in the greenhouse where a small heater will keep the temperature above freezing. I hope the plants left on the patio will get enough of the cool temperature they like. The sun is on them in the morning hours and all drabas are beginning to show buds. The saxifrages, to my delight, clearly show a few buds, too. Experts have been telling me that it can take years before these plants will condescend to bloom, but if I have buds developing already, it will prove that it is possible to get them to bloom here.

## A BEGINNING

LOUIS BUDD MYERS, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Somewhere in the soft to hard layers of Earth's soil lies a mystery so staggering that one begins to contemplate the magic, but soon banishes the intellectual pursuit in favor of simpler, perhaps easier, activity—doing, rather than thinking.

For many, speaking chiefly within our American culture, the idea of a piece of land, housed or unhoused, has the therapeutic emollient that offsets the need to compete. Such a fantasy must be accepted with positive force, even though it implies a sense of retreat, a place to go, an unfettered place.

Our present and constant literature, mostly of nihilistic retreat, eulogizes our sense of loss, failure, not living up to preconceived standards that may be defined differently by each person willing to discuss such abstractions. For each there is the need to make conscious amends for his personal retreat, for his anomalous fantasies that may be completely hidden from others, but for which he feels he must compensate by being an integral and often flamboyantly outgoing part of the so-called scheme of things.

And though it may be retreat, one's experience with the dedicated soil lover evolves as a description of a type, not a scientific or clinical description that would bring stature to an author in a professional capacity by being published in a scholarly journal; quite the opposite; perhaps one should say merely an indication of a type, an indication that may be emotional in category, for the emotions are duly involved.

One finds the soil person considerate without, in any way, lowering the standard of who he is or who he thinks he should be; one finds him imbued with an intangible tenderness, one so subtle that without belaboring masculinity or femininity, without struggling to make a case for the existence of such an adjective, not in gesture, voice, or vision particularly, but in attitude really, that he communicates a sense of well-being, of ease, and above all, of insatiable curiosity, our only possible reality.

And when a part of the fantasy (that has been a great part of our life's creation, let us not forget) turns to reality—after the land has been found, the mortgage arranged, the lawyers feed, the deed received; only then does the groundwork begin.

In the tangle of blackberry, goldenrod, scrub cherry—a temperate jungle,

one spends hours, first just sitting, studying contours, surfaces, insects, the unbelievable and durable girth of an overwhelming oak, or sorrowing for a large black walnut tree slowly recuperating from a late frost that charred its translucent foliage. One can feel a rush of accomplishment, though nothing physical has begun. One relaxes, not intensely, but simply, with a vague notion as to how and where one will proceed.

A walk about the property may bring a fulfilling discovery that on a slope, covered by years of accumulating humus, there is an outcropping of rock. With a few jabs of a stick, not wanting to make the trip to get a proper implement, one finds that the rock formation is extensive, the crown of a ledge mounded here by eternity, then hidden. And one feels relief suddenly, sits down and studies the bit of exposed rock, realizing that the anticipated exertion of hauling great loads of proper rock for an alpine crest, has been greatly minimized. Then, without knowing the nature of the exact formation, a long and varied array of words botanical fall into place. The chance has come for finding what the *Kabschia saxifrages* look like, if they can be made to prosper, *cassiopeas*, the *phyllodoceas*, *cypripediums*, the many words that have caught the mind's imagery through untold longing of book and catalogue pouring.

Since the soil is humusy and acid and the property is hugged with huckleberry, pine, oak, and mountain laurel, the great adventure of choosing the proper location for a limey scree begins. The fantasy takes on a more engrossing extension: the place to find proper crushed stone or riverbed wash, the right humus, the best system of drainage, all with the view toward the plants that will crown this new reign, always with an eye toward color and form.

Where will a group of cold-hardy cacti show to advantage? One is not sure about their aesthetic value in the great project, but then the nagging of curiosity has to be answered, and a beginning must give vent to one's ultimate fulfillment.

With this beginning the curiosity rages through smiles as a suitable location on the edge of the forest is chosen for a *rhododendron* plot, experimental bed number one, to be filled with members of this vast family; those that are small and unusual and those that are just on the doubtful side in this climate. Perhaps a hardy clone, or several, will come through from the trays of strange little plants already sitting on shelves in the city apartment, crushing one another, but growing sturdily. *Enkianthus*, *Oxydendrum*, *Stewartia*, *Loiseleuria* will join the *Rhododendron* to pass their youth in this plot for, although one has never seen them growing, one can readily envision their delicate bells, vivid from pictures, many years from maturity.

One steps into the woods where a garden is complete, ready to be admired. Discovery so nearby is exciting; *Mitchella repens*, *Rhododendron nudiflorum* and *R. maximum*, *Vaccinium laevifolium*, *Cornus stolonifera*, *Epigaea repens*, *Kalmia angustifolia*, aside from great massings of *Kalmia latifolia*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Monarda didyma*, *Gentiana andrewsii*, *Polygala pauciflora*, *Gaultheria procumbens*, and a seemingly spurned sweet fern, *Comptonia peregrina*, invasive, one supposes, but aromatic and decorative. Recognition comes easily if one has known most of these native plants throughout one's life, but the knowledge of their importance to some others, of the lives devoted to them by botanists, makes them, somehow, new and more relevant. And because of knowing that others care, are dedicated and inspired, another excitement is upon one—the proper botanical names chosen for the proper plants, an area of knowledge once so forbidding, now quite natural and without an undue strain at remembrance; in retrospect a simple process of learning or, more important, allowing oneself to open to it.

With each plant and its name combined into a unit of completeness, the

mind plows on, remembering the awe accompanying the respect for the skill with which meritorious botanical articles, expeditions, and discoveries were handled in journals, and one readily envisages one's self joining the ranks with the authoritativeness one once was intimidated by and all but spurned, perhaps writing articles of discovery and love and sharing the fantasy.

Not knowing where one is headed when one begins a writing such as this, one is not sure where one has gone. One does deduce a need to communicate a bit of one's self, to retreat for self-exploration without negative consequence, to extend a portion of one's reality to others so that one, as well as they, may read the words and know that one has experienced something meaningful and communicable with the least possible reliance on cliché; perhaps only to insure one's self that one is heading in the right direction, at least a direction.

## IRISES OF THE PACIFIC COAST

ROY DAVIDSON, *Seattle, Wash.*

In answer to Mr. Henry Fuller, of Connecticut (Interchange, *Bulletin* of October, 1963), and as an 'aside' to Mrs. Raleigh Harold after her story of the white forms of the west coast irises (January, 1964 *Bulletin*), I submit that good white forms are extremely lovely, but then I am likely to NOT be impartial, as I nurse this perverse fondness for all white flowers. I only wish it were possible for me to tell how to grow them, white and colored alike, in climates not akin to that of their homelands, the Pacific slope of the three western states. I might hope to give some clues, however, in reviewing first, the irises, and then the climate in which they have developed in nature. I will preface these remarks with the observation that the climates of England, Scotland, and parts, at least, of New Zealand and Australia are to their liking to the extent that in these places seedlings will be found, self-sown, about gardens where plants have been allowed to seed.

It seems that cold-tenderness is the limiting factor for *Iris douglasiana* to any further distribution northward from the central coastal area of Oregon. In the southern portion of its range along the Pacific shore, it apparently is denied success below the general vicinity of Monterey Bay, in California, by the extreme drought of summer. This species seldom is found inland more than a mile or so, and then always within the Pacific Ocean's summer fog belt, and only between the arid coast of southern California and the incidence of heavy frost north of central Oregon. In gardens, as well as in the wild, its greatest dormancy is in the summer; it will grow throughout a mild winter with periodic 'hot' and cold cycles, and be severely injured by the latter. In areas where it will survive the winters and remain in dormant condition, it is less subject to injury. Thus it appears to be a plant for mild climates with dormant winter conditions. White forms are not unknown. I have four in my garden, two of my own collecting.

Of the others, only *Iris munzii*, which comes from a very limited warm area at the base of the Sierras in south-central California, is limited for garden use by its tenderness. It, likewise is for mild climates.

This leaves us about ten (who is YOUR authority?) species or sub-species, some of which are more to be coveted than others for their beauty and usefulness. Of these, *Iris tenax* may well be the most worthwhile for trial in really cold climates, since it is the northernmost in nature's distribution of this closely related group, and loses its leaves in a complete winter dormancy; the only one to do so. At the moment we are not considering the three western species not closely related, *Iris longipetala*, *I. missouriensis*, and *I. tenuis*).

*Iris tenax* comes in both purple and yellow color forms, the latter having once been known as *I. gormanii*. Although the depth of the yellow is not that of

*I. innominata*, its best forms are as lovely, and where both color forms of *I. tenax* are interbreeding, in nature or in gardens, the most pleasing array of 'art-shades' will result. In Washington Co., Oregon, everything from white, through yellow, pale blue, lavender, orchid, lilac-pink, raspberry, and fuchsia-purples is to be found, both with and without contrasting deeper markings, besides the yellow median-lines usual to these species. In general, *Iris tenax* becomes deeper in its purple tones the further south it is found, and in the southern Willamette valley and over into the Umpqua drainage, both in Oregon, there are fewer of the orchid ones and more deep purples; even some that are 'pansy-black'. It is, perhaps, significant that white ones are not unusual in the northern part of its range into Washington state, but are quite rare in the southern part.

*Iris chrysophylla*, rather widespread in western Oregon, is slightly more of a mountain plant. It has evergreen leaves ordinarily protected from winter cold by snow, which falls heavily in most of its natural range. This species is limited in its colors to near-white and pale yellows; in the southern populations heavily patterned on the falls with deeper yellow or brown. Nature has allowed the merge of the ranges of *I. chrysophylla* and *I. tenax* in numerous areas, and lovely hybrids have been found, some of which exceed the beauty of either species, or, at least, there are color patterns to be found not usual in either parent, as, for instance, bicolors, and white with orchid standards and heavy butterfly-wing patterns on the falls.

Probably *Iris innominata* has elicited more interest than all the others combined since its official 'discovery' about 35 years ago, and its immediate adoption as the 'darling' of its kind. Until the advent of recent highways through the mountains of Oregon's southwest coast, this part of the state was accessible only by boat, though there were short roads along the less precipitous coastal stretches, mainly along the headlands and not, of course, into the higher inland areas. This is where *I. innominata* is found, inland from the fog belt, in areas of cold winters and hot summers. It comes in both yellows and purples, and in a great array of intermediate and blended colors. In yellows, it varies from lemon and pale primrose to the depth of the 'egg-yolk' family of oranges. Some wild populations are very mixed and do not have the charm of either the pure purple or the yellow colonies; calico-coloring does not become it at all. This is the species that enters into all the hybrid strains generally known, usually in combination with *I. douglasiana*. The glowing color of *Iris innominata*, the width of the flower parts and its indefinable 'charm' endear it to all who love the irises. There is at least one white one known; several near-whites with large yellow spots have been found.

Of great similarity to the yellow form of the above, is *Iris bracteata*, found in nature even further inland in southwest Oregon, in an area of extremes of hot summers and cold winters. This comes only in yellow, with the falls veined ordinarily in brown, as are the majority of the yellow *I. innominata*. However, *I. bracteata* is about twice the size and height with coarser foliage, also evergreen. Further south on the 'dry' side of the Redwood belt of northern California's coastal mountains, *Iris purdyi* makes its home. It has both orchid and pale yellow forms. Nearby, but in most extreme conditions of heat and cold, *Iris tenuissima*, a taller 'look-alike' for *I. chrysophylla*, populates the mountains and canyons of northern inland California, west of the Cascade-Sierra axis. This is a very narrow-petaled or 'spidery' flower, but a clump in blossom is very graceful.

Another of the California species is the variable *Iris macrosiphon*, which can exist in nature in the hardest adobe soil in the baking sun of summer. It comes in a pale yellow form, but its best is in its purples and rich deep blues. The areas where yellow and blue grow together produce another of those 'art colonies', where smoked salmon, peach, and pearl gray have been discovered. This species

has a handsome, grassy, tough, glaucous gray-blue foliage, and is not successful when moved to a cool, moist climate, even though it is evergreen. It tolerates some degrees of frost.

*Iris fernaldii* is a light yellow species from a similar area, though preferring to grow in the light shade of bracken and deciduous oaks, rather than in the open sun. Since most of its growth is in a period when neither agent is casting much shade, the oak not being in foliage until late spring, the actual shade is more of a protection from the extreme drought and heat of summer during the resting stage of the plant, than a necessity to its cultivation.

The charming pale yellow Sierra Iris, *Iris hartwegii*, is found on the lower slopes of the Sierras and the foothills; good forms are among the loveliest of the irises. It should be winter-hardy and drought-resistant. The purple color form is found exclusively further south in the general area of the San Bernardino Mountains, a high upthrust, at 6,000 feet and above. This latter is variously called *Iris hartwegii australis*, or *I. tenax australis*, or *I. parishii*; take your choice. It is, in general appearance, like *I. tenax*, but not as pretty. It might take to cultivation in an area where *I. tenax* would not succeed. So much for these, the major species, of this, the botanically-termed Californicae Apogon Irises.

*Iris missouriensis* and *I. longipetala* belong to another group, the former a deciduous meadow plant of the arid, inter-mountain western United States, and the latter is its fog belt 'look-alike' from the vicinity of San Francisco Bay, where it grows on hillsides and in meadows, wet in winter and spring and parched in summer. It has reversed the dormancy period of *I. missouriensis*, and prefers to grow all winter in its frost-free climate, while going completely dormant as soon as flowers and seed are past. These two are deceptively similar, the chief difference being in the stockiness of *I. longipetala*, as contrasted with the slim grace of *I. missouriensis*. Both are veined heavily, a blue-violet on creamy-white ground, and albinos are known in both.

The last to be discussed is the most misunderstood of western irises, *Iris tenuis*. Why this species was considered with the Californicae group until a few years ago, is not readily understandable, for it is not at all similar, and has recently been reclassified with the similar-appearing *I. cristata* and *I. gracilipes*. It looks as though it should have arisen from the mating of these eastern American and Japanese species. It is white, with some lines on the flower in purple or brown, it 'runs' by stolons, and grows in the cool humus of the north Cascades of Oregon in a small area only.

Now as to the WHY of how these irises got where they are in nature and the HOW of why they are difficult to grow elsewhere than in their own Pacific slope, the best way to understand these plants is to study their home environment. Here, where they have evolved to become among the most prominent of wild-flowers, there are two marked seasons, wet and dry; it is wet in the cold season and dry in the hot season. A distribution map of their occurrence is co-incident with a similar map for the natural distribution of the coniferous forests of the same area. They enjoy the same soil and moisture conditions as firs (*Abies*), Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga*), western cedar (*Thuja*), and Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis*). The coastal species will be found also with the beach pine (*Pinus contorta*, a 'wet' pine species), redwood (*Sequoia*), and the coastal Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). The dry, inland species of irises may be found in the pine belt with such dry pines as digger pine (*P. sabiniana*), and either of the two yellow pines (*P. ponderosa* or *P. jeffreyi*). Like almost all irises, they like plenty of light and are to be found in the openings in the forests. In general, the soils where they grow are disintegrated mineral soils, with often a high percentage of coarse debris; gravelly and well-drained soils, but high in humus content, and also

probably slightly acid, if not neutral, never alkaline. Such soils are retentive of moisture, but the three-month drought of summer makes it necessary for any plant to root deeply to survive.

Excess moisture is quickly drained away, usually very rapidly, because of the steepness of the terrain. Only *Iris douglasiana*, the maritime species, will tolerate much standing water, and then only in the growing period; wetness in the summer dormancy is fatal to it, as to the rest. Temperatures have been discussed roughly. These irises, as a group, have a cold tolerance of below zero, to a heat tolerance of over 120 degrees F., as it gets that hot in the homeland of *Iris bracteata* not infrequently. This species may survive the greatest extremes of any of the group. In general, the humidity is relatively high, except in the coldest part of the winter, when there is actually freezing, or in the summer. The fog belt along the coast is an exception to this.

Whether or not any of this will help to overcome the factors that make these charming plants difficult to grow in gardens, I can but hope that it will. Perhaps the future of their becoming good general plants for most climates lies with the plant breeders who are combining all the species and growing the resultant hybrids in a variety of climates, in the hope that a tolerant strain may be evolved. Toward this end a great many amateurs, as well as some professional breeders, are at work with them, both here and abroad. To the purist, who would grow only nature's 'species' I would say that here is, at least, one case where there is a perfect excuse for tampering with nature's products. We want everyone to be able to enjoy growing irises.

## MONTANA'S DODECATHEONS AND THE EMBLEM

FRANK H. ROSE, *Missoula, Montana*

I would line up against *Dodecatheon meadia* except for two things. It is the type species and with its wide eastern range is known to more people than any other species of the genus. I think of it as a prairie and woods plant for the wild flower garden growing too rank, under favorable conditions, to represent a rock garden organization. Perhaps, fortunately, it does not grow so large in cultivation.

I didn't intend to write an article on Montana dodecatheons at this time, but Mr. Sutton has forced my hand.

Two recent publications have this genus well covered. The *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, by Hitchcock, Cronquist, Ownbey, and Thompson (1959), gives Montana three species, *Dodecatheon jeffreyi*, *D. conjugens*, and *D. pauciflorum*, of one, two, and four varieties. This is a great simplification from the 30 or more names previously used. No sooner was Hitchcock in print, however, than John Ingram comes out in *Baileya* (September, 1963) with his classification of "Dodecatheons in Cultivation" raising one of Hitchcock's varieties to full species and changing the name of the species under which the other three varieties are left. He had reasons; they all do. All we have to do is to remember the numerous names each of the 10,000 or more plant species may carry into print. This isn't so very complicated as long as someone furnishes us with the names, but wait until you try to apply them in the field! How big is large? With one plant in hand how do we distinguish between a variation and a difference? Can site be inherited? And what happens when a plant is moved?

Ingram says that *D. pauciflorum* is a synonym of *D. meadia*, and that the plants that have been parading under that name should be called *D. pulchellum*. *D. radicum* seems to be another synonym recognized by both authors, so to remain neutral, why not use that? Ingram raises *D. cusickii* to a full species. I like that because it is here in Montana, and I am already acquainted with it.



Besides I have seed and much prefer to type two words than three. Better carry a magnifier to the field with you, though, to be sure of the thickened capsule walls and the pointed valve tips that separate it from *D. conjugens viscidum* which is equally or more glandular pubescent, but usually shows clearly the operculate capsule (flat tipped points on the capsule valves), or if the pods only are available, the style thickened at the base.

Size, leaf shape, number of flowers, color, pubescence, and most other characteristics vary greatly, especially in *D. pauciflorum*, on different sites, and I still have a lot of plants to look at before I can always be sure.

My *D. jeffreyi* gives me no trouble. It grows where you would expect *Primula parryi* to grow, in a wet place, but sometimes on up the slope to where the ground dries quite hard in late summer. Its yellowish-white, thickened, brittle roots, tending downwards instead of horizontally, is quite characteristic, although unmentioned by botanists. Like *D. meadia* it is too big when favorably grown for the small rock garden. Its pale flowers open only inches out of the soil but seed may ripen a yard higher up. Like all Dodecatheons, it may be dug when the seed ripens and be kept out of the soil until the following spring, and still grow. It is better with this one not to let it dry to brittleness, as some others may, but keep it damp as under a tarp on the cellar floor.

*D. conjugens* grows all purple in some areas and half of them white in other localities. Oh well, color doesn't mean much; integration is accepted among plants, so note the wavy ring, the yellow to purple filaments and supposedly roughened connectives, its lanceolate to spatulate leaves, and glandular or lacking pubescence, but finally note the operculate capsule leaving square-tipped valves on the opened capsule, indicated by a thickened style base in the immature plants. All I know have drainage and may become quite dry in late summer with roots so brittle they can only be dug in moist weather. For yourself the root crown is all that is needed. Either full sun or the shade of a western yellow pine seems equally satisfactory. They mingle with and probably hybridize with *D. cusickii* and possibly *D. pauciflorum*. Our plant is chiefly the variety *viscidum*.

*D. pauciflorum*, or *pulchellum* or *radicatum*, if my determinations are any good, grows in a sunny wet meadow, timber-shaded bogs, under western yellow pine, as scattered clumps in grassland, or anywhere else. It usually has smooth tapered leaves, but these also vary. Its size may be anything depending upon the site, but its capsule should open with valves that come to a sharp point. *D. pauciflorum* var. *watsonii*, my choice for the emblem if a Dodecatheon species is used, is a tiny alpine plant with a large single flower. Like many alpines, the flower seems out of proportion to the plant and it is bright colored. *D. alpinum* is a prettier name but it doesn't come into my range. *D. p. watsonii* grades down hill into larger and multiflowered varieties, and perhaps would be so in your garden. It becomes *D. p. monanthum*, the book says, but its habitat is in eastern Oregon and Utah, so it must also grade into *D. pauciflorum pauciflorum*, of similar description, which is on the same hill with *D. p. watsonii*. Anyway this pretty little alpine is only a memory to me, as my high altitude climbing days seem over.

The best I can do at the moment is to list from Montana, and true to name, *Dodecatheon jeffreyi*, *D. conjugens viscidum*, *D. cusickii*, and *D. pauciflorum pauciflorum*. Then, in addition, *Dodecatheon* sp., that could be a mixture of anything. But let's get back to the emblem! Since *Dodecatheon meadia* is of two colors and sometimes too large, and not an alpine, and *D. pauciflorum* is so variable that it may be unrecognized on parts of its wide range, and all the others are more or less restricted in distribution, why not use just the genus as an emblem and not the species? I cast my vote for *Lewisia rediviva*, Montana's state flower.

## FLORAL EMBLEM REVERBERATIONS

The presentation of the emblem problem in the January, 1964 *Bulletin* had the necessary effrontery to elicit considerable comment from the members. To refresh your memories, it was there declared, "So it is our intention herewith to presume to dispense with further nominations; to declare a membership vote unnecessary, and to announce that *Dodecatheon meadia* is to be the plant whose stylized representation will be the floral emblem of the American Rock Garden Society. — Unless violent opposition develops from a representative number of our members, and at that time Mr. Epstein approves, the October, 1964 *Bulletin* will declare *Dodecatheon meadia* to be the official floral emblem or insignia of the ARGS by proclamation of the president."

Violent opposition *did* develop. The opposition was to *Dodecatheon meadia*, and the reasons given were that this species did not in many respects conform to the ideals established for an attractive and meaningful emblem. These ideals came into focus through the composite reaction to *Dodecatheon meadia* as appearing in letters written to express personal views.

The requirements for the flower to be chosen were thus established as follows: the flower must be American; it must be an alpine; it must be grown in gardens generally throughout the United States; it should be few-flowered, graceful, distinctive; and above all, it must lend itself readily to stylizing so that its representation in emblem form will be clear-cut and easily recognizable for what it is, whether reproduced on paper or metal.

While the opposition to the *Dodecatheon* species was almost without exception, in nearly every case the writer came back with a counter suggestion that the genus *Dodecatheon*, without reference to any particular species, seemed to meet all requirements. Two other considerations stood out clearly: one is that the Society is well advised to be considering an emblem, because of the many uses to which it could be put, and the other is that there be no further delay in making the selection of the flower to be used as the emblem.

Following are several excerpts from letters received: Mr. Claude A. Barr, Prairie Gem Ranch, Smithwick, S. D. writes, "I wish to register strong disapproval to the proposed designation of the species *Dodecatheon meadia* as the emblem. I do wish to cast my vote of approval for *Dodecatheon* as the floral emblem of the ARGS."

Mr. H. Lincoln Foster, Falls Village, Conn., said, "I do think some sort of emblem would have many uses and that the suggestion of *Dodecatheon* is excellent and should please the 'Twelve Gods.'"

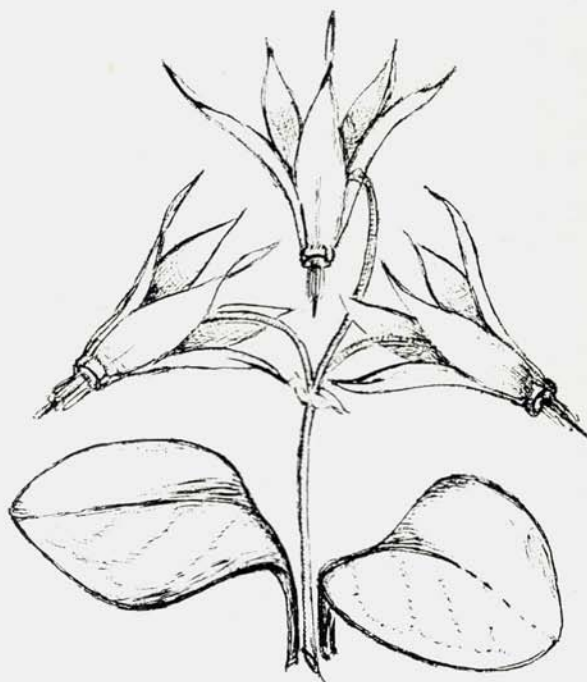
Mr. Ray Mackenzie, 1504 S.E. Oxford Lane, Portland, Ore., declared, "I want to join the many others to urge selection of *Dodecatheon* as the insignia of the ARGS. Whatever the outcome, I'm glad the subject was opened, as an emblem is needed."

Mr. Harold Epstein put it this way in a letter dated March 16, 1964, "The emblem might be a composite drawing of an ideal *Dodecatheon*, whether it be the species *D. meadia*, or any other one. I believe the species are all so similar that for our purpose we should forget the technical botanical variations. There are many people here who are in accord with this viewpoint, and I believe the selection will be of popular appeal. I am all for *Dodecatheon*."

To be impartial and to present impressions of the few who had ideas for flowers other than *Dodecatheon*, let us hasten to say that *Lewisia rediviva* was favored by one member while another suggested any alpine *Lewisia*. Several other genera were mentioned, among them *Phlox*, *Penstemon*, and *Aquilegia*. Roy Davidson, of Seattle, prepared a lovely shield-like design featuring *Dodecatheon*,



Edward W. Hutmire



Roy Davidson

*Phlox*, *Lewisia* and *Penstemon* beautifully arranged, but a bit elaborate for reproduction as an emblem.

All action recently taken by the editor in connection with the emblem has been co-ordinated with Mr. Harry Logan, of Connecticut, chairman of a committee appointed some time ago for the purpose of bringing the emblem problem to a conclusion. As a result, Mr. Logan wrote on May 2nd, "From all you report to me, it seems that *Dodecatheon* will be readily accepted by our membership. I am well satisfied with what has been done and quite agree. A simple design is needed."

This emblem discussion has provided the readers with a bonus in the form of an article on the dodecatheons of Montana, written by Mr. Frank H. Rose, 1020 Poplar St., Missoula, Montana, which appears elsewhere in this issue. Also appearing in this issue are two designs for our emblem. One was drawn by Roy Davidson of Seattle and the other by Mr. Edward W. Hutmire of Takoma Park, Md., and certainly the members will be grateful to these two men for their efforts. This brings us to the next step which is the selection of an emblem design. It is suggested that the necessary *modus operandi* be worked out by our new president and his aides, and then, when this last step has been taken and the emblem has become a reality, the ARGS will be able to introduce its new *Dodecatheon* to the *Dryas* of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and the *Gentiana* of the Alpine Garden Society thereby completing a floral triumvirate representing three fine gardening organizations.

Under the circumstances it seems pointless to wait until October to make an announcement that can well be made in July. This is a reversal of the established trend in emblem selection, we know, but action seems always better than lethargy. So, here it is!

Know ye all, that by proclamation of our two presidents, Harold Epstein and H. Lincoln Foster, emeritus and active respectively, the floral emblem of the American Rock Garden Society shall now and henceforth be a representation of the genus *Dodecatheon*, a distinctive and graceful American flower of great beauty, which boasts of wide distribution, both horizontally and vertically, and whose various species appear in the gardens throughout our country, and we hope, in those of the lands across the border and across the seas.

Let now our gifted ones put forth their best efforts in designing, in stylized form, this lovely genus for perpetuation as our floral emblem, so that a selection may be made of the best design submitted, in a manner to be determined at a later date by official action. So be it! Hail! *Dodecatheon*!

A. M. S.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Alpine Gardening*. By Roy Elliott. 320 pages, 68 photographs. Published by Vista Books, London, 1963. Price 42 shillings (approximately \$6.00 in England).

The author of this new treatise on "Rock Gardening" should be best known to American enthusiasts as editor of the *Quarterly Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society*. Prior to that and during the ensuing years he was and still is recognized as one of the most skillful growers and exhibitors of rock plants. I believe that this is his first effort in compiling a book on the subject that has so engrossed him, although he has previously written articles on various phases of this broad subject.

This volume is not a text book in the usual style—a few descriptive chapters followed by a long encyclopedic list of plants with a minimum of useful information—but the scope of the book results in a most refreshing and stimulating account of the author's garden and his plant experiences. Having visited this one quarter acre garden, there is, perhaps, a greater appreciation of the author's

enthusiasm and dedication to the subject. I believe that recording the story of one man's garden is a challenging project and one which seldom retains its value for absorbing reading and future reference. I place this volume by Mr. Elliott in a class with the garden stories of A. T. Johnson and Fred Stoker (accounts which always make delightful reading).

The story of the Elliott garden conclusively demonstrates the great joy that can be derived from a relatively small garden; the vast amount of plant material of all types that can be accommodated in such a limited area—all this accomplished in an industrial city in the midlands of England, an area that must be far from ideal. The entire story reflects upon the great skill plus the perseverance and keen interest of the author. His observations are adequately covered by his quotation from Reginald Arkell on the title page:

"A garden should be rather small  
Or you will have no fun at all."

The contents of this book flow from Mr. Elliott's original start with alpinism and the growth of this absorbing hobby. Following chapters cover physical aspects such as setting, varieties of stone, and growing requisites. A few unusual chapters follow and cover "Character in the Rock Garden", "The Naming of Plants", and then a description of many "architectural plants" and their practical use in the garden. The succeeding chapters are devoted to the plants throughout the various seasons of the year with many fascinating observations.

This volume is illustrated by a representative group of plant portraits, reproduced from the author's own photographs. They are excellent and artistic studies of many plant favorites. Summarizing: this is a superb and informal study of a garden, its plants and builder. It is recorded in a most enjoyable style and belongs in the library of both the novice and experienced rock gardener.

HAROLD EPSTEIN

(Editor's Note)—If Mr. Foster's allusion to the "Twelve Gods" as quoted in "Emblem Reverberations" is puzzling, you will be entertained and enlightened when you read Roy Elliott's half-humorous discussion of *Dodecatheon* on page 290 of the book reviewed above.

*Tradition of Japanese Garden.* By Sutemi Horiguchi. 181 pages, 140 photographs, 8 in full color. Published by The Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai, Tokyo, 1962; distributed by East West Center Press, Honolulu 14, Hawaii. \$15.00.

Fundamentally an historical presentation of the tradition of the Japanese garden, the text and magnificent photographs in Sutemi Horiguchi's book cover many types of gardens, public and private, sacred and secular, from 3rd Century shrines and mausoleums to contemporary roof gardens. Sutemi Horiguchi, Professor of Architecture at Meiji University, has received many awards for his writing and is also the author of a companion volume to this one, *Architectural Beauty in Japan*.

Two introductory essays by Professor Horiguchi and by Yuichiro Kojiro explain the traditions of this Japanese art and the various types of gardens created by the Japanese. These include the *shakkei* or "borrowed landscape" garden; the *kaiyu* or "rotating" garden, designed to be strolled through; the *rojii* or tea-house entrance garden; the *hiraniwa* or flat garden; the *tsuboniwa*, small enclosed garden; and the symbolic *karesansui* or "dry landscapes", created purely for contemplation. These essays are worth reading for their charm alone and are to some extent informative; however, though written in English, the idiom is frequently poetic and, I suspect, Japanese, so that the exact meaning is occasionally lost.

The remarkably beautiful photographs, several in subtle color, enlighten the text to a considerable degree, as do the maps and ground plans of some of the larger gardens. Several of the gardens are illustrated by more than one photograph, showing either different sections of a garden, the same section from various viewpoints, or details otherwise overlooked in a more distant overall photograph. In a few cases aerial views are also included. Some of the gardens such as the renowned rock and sand garden of Ryoan-ji in Kyoto, have been widely photographed before and will probably be familiar to many readers. Even these are shown with a fresh and knowledgeable eye. Others are probably known only to students of Japanese garden architecture.

Also included in the book are brief descriptive notes of the gardens pictured. These include the history, when known, and sometimes the legends attached to the gardens.

This is not a "how-to-do-it" book, neither is it over-burdened with scholarly treatises on the religious or otherwise symbolic meaning and placement of each stone and tree. It attempts mainly to interpret for western eyes the general purpose of Japanese gardens throughout the ages and the feeling the Japanese people have about their landscape and gardens. Though American rock gardeners may not get from a reading of *Tradition of Japanese Garden* any specific directions of how they may incorporate into their own gardens any of the traditional aspects of the Japanese art, a seeing eye will find in this book many hints about the use of rock and plants which may be translated into a western setting.

Laura Louise Foster

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### OMNIUM-GATHERUM

So much has happened lately within the Society at the national level; so much that must be reported to the members in this *Bulletin*, that several articles previously scheduled for July must be held over for the October issue. At the time this is written it is not known whose articles will be thus withheld, as it will depend upon the technical problems that arise at the time the dummy is prepared for the July number. The editor hopes that the authors of the withheld articles will understand.

Due to the near coinciding of the date of the annual meeting and the dead line for the July *Bulletin*, certain features that properly should appear now will also be held over since there has not been time enough for their preparation. We refer to the tributes to the retiring officers and the background sketches of the incoming officers. Awaiting these more formal features, the editor wishes to have his own say. He feels keenly a personal loss occasioned by the retirement from office of Harold Epstein and Edgar Totten, upon whom he leaned heavily in the early days of his editorship. He recalls those hectic days at the beginning of his task, his fumbling uncertainty in trying to produce, on time, a creditable *Bulletin* (October 1962), which would never have resulted in anything but failure had it not been for the friendly help and the constant tutelage of Ed Totten and the encouragement of Harold Epstein, and above all, the confidence Harold showed in giving the editor almost complete freedom of action. The editor will ever be grateful and full of admiration for these two understanding men.

He recalls, too, the frantic search for material for the ensuing two *Bulletins*, and how H. Lincoln Foster won his everlasting gratitude by sending him one article after another until four had been received. He is not forgetting, either, that Larry Hochheimer contributed his first *Bulletin* article at that time.

Old officers retire, but they do not leave us; new ones come to power and must and will be given our help and loyalty; changes are in the making and our members must surely feel the pulsating vigor which seems apparent in the affairs of the ARGs. The tempo is increasing and has been for some time. Your enjoyment and benefits will be enhanced in many surprising ways, and your obligations will increase, as well, for in any successful, self-supporting venture there must always be a certain balance between benefits and responsibilities.

There is sustaining power in the continuing interest and the proven ability

of our members of long standing and we are confident that, as they enjoy new gardening experiences, they will continue to refresh and instruct our members through further contributions to the *Bulletin*.

It is from our newer members that we hope for the recurring impulses that will send our Society surging forward. We need their uninhibited enthusiasm; we need their, as yet, untold experiences; we need their views on gardening, obtained from fresh angles; and we need their ideas, however unorthodox. We hope that they will accept willingly the implied responsibilities, which so often prove to be wonderfully rewarding conditions of membership, and that, by giving substance to their gardening concepts through the recording of them in articles, they will turn to the *Bulletin* that these concepts and experiences may be shared with other gardeners.

Now that the genus *Dodecatheon* is to be our floral emblem, the selection of a suitable design is the next step. In this issue you have seen two designs. Within the ARGS there must be many other members capable of preparing additional designs. All of you so gifted should prepare designs as soon as possible and send them to the editor. Undoubtedly, the October *Bulletin* will carry instructions from our officers for the final selection of a design, and such designs as have been accumulated will be forwarded as the instructions indicate.

It is not too early to begin thinking about our next seed harvest. The 1964 Seed Exchange had a wonderfully successful year in every respect and Director Bernard Harkness is looking forward to an even brighter year in 1965. Perhaps this year will prove to be more productive of seeds than last year in many parts of the world and last year's disappointed collectors may find seeds plentiful when they search for them this fall. Mr. Harkness writes, "Will our good northwestern scouts locate an acre of each species of *Lewisia* and collect the crop thereof?"

Fortunately, we do not know the number of years that lie ahead for us to enjoy all the things that we hold dear. For this reason it is incumbent on each of us to let no moment escape without savoring in full measure every emotional gladness; every delightful human experience; every bit of beauty; all of Nature's grand entertainment; the joys brought us by each season in its turn; each fleeting impression made by our association with plants, in the wild or in our gardens, that is indelibly recorded in our memory. Share them, and miraculously they become twice valued!

Now it is summer! The mountains beckon! Strain every nerve, every sinew, every resource to visit some high place this summer. There are rewards to be found there, rewards that can be shared, material rewards, perhaps; pleasurable experiences, no doubt; even relief from nervous tensions; but it is in the realm of the spirit that you will find your finest rewards. The mountains call, and you must answer—if you can. Otherwise, seek out the wild places of lower altitudes—the ridges, the forests, the rushing streams, or the remote seashore.

What are your favorite native plants? What are the ten native plants you would like, more than any others, to have growing happily in your garden? By native plants it is meant those that you could collect in the state in which you live or in states that have a common boundary with your own. Never mind that certain plants you might want, will not, can not, and absolutely refuse to be happy in any garden, or any other place other than where they have chosen to make their home. It is your desire for the plant that counts in this listing, not its gardenability.

In selecting your ten favorite plants you will find yourself doing some hard



thinking, some memory searching. Books of your native flora will be read with more care, and you will argue with your family and your friends. If you live in a floriferous area you may have between 50 and 100 plants on your trial list from which you must select your ten prime favorites. Your interest in your own natives will have been greatly stimulated and perhaps others will have been inspired to take more interest in plants, too.

Send your list to the editor. Limit it to ten. Do not list the plants in the order of your preference, unless you wish to. Use botanical names only. Include ferns, if you like, and shrubs, if you think they are suitable for the kind of gardening you prefer. Make a bare list. Do not embellish it with descriptions or comments. As many of the lists as possible will be published in the *Bulletin*—some in each issue. Questions arising from these lists, once they are published, can be asked and answered through Interchange.

It is especially important that our new members enter into the spirit of this tantalizing diversion. They will find that their knowledge increases, botanical names come more easily, trips into the mountains and the woods will be more frequent and more exciting, gardens will be benefited, and new friends will be made.

To show you what is meant and to guide you, two lists will be added at the end of this introduction. It isn't easy to limit your selections to ten. The flower that finally ranks eleventh will hang its pretty head in disappointment, and will, as a result, become very dear to you. Please try to submit your lists. Much botanical knowledge, area by area, will be spread among our members, and who knows, some one may be daring enough, and patient enough, to find ways to tame some of the more recalcitrant wildlings. Perhaps this may be the means of introducing some new plant into our gardens. The two lists follow:

#### THE EDITOR'S LIST

*Calypto bulbosa*  
*Campanula piperi*  
*Cheilanthes gracillima*  
*Erythronium hendersonii*  
*Lewisia tweedyi*  
*Moneses (Pyrola) uniflora*  
*Penstemon rupicola*  
*Phlox adsurgens*  
*Potentilla villosa*  
*Silene hookeri*

#### SALLIE ALLEN'S LIST

*Asplenium trichomanes*  
*Cassiope stelleriana*  
*Calypto bulbosa*  
*Erigeron compositus*  
*Fritillaria pudica*  
*Gaultheria ovatifolia*  
*Phyllodoce empetriformis*  
*Silene acaulis*  
*Vaccinium ovatum*  
*Viola venosa*

Both lists have been made up of natives growing in the same area—Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia, yet only one plant appears on both lists. Thus do tastes differ.

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