

Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia



Penstemon acaulis

photo Alan Bradshaw

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DIGITAL EDITION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Speakers Series starting at 7:30 in the Floral Hall at Vandusen Botanic Garden

Click on this link for the most all the information: <http://www.agc-bc.ca/events>

FAVOURITE LINKS

Applicable to the Lisa O'Donnell story, here's more on conifers:

<http://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/conifers> aka Conifers of the World, the project and book headed by Aljos Farjon of Kew.

The Gymnosperm Database <http://www.conifers.org> led by Chris Earle.

Coenosium Gardens of Bob Fincham. Wonderful descriptions by one of the leaders of the dwarf conifer movement. <http://www.cnos.biz/Catalog/2010/2009.htm>

So you'd like to start a conifer collection? See this from Bob Fincham: <http://www.coenosium.com/text699/collecti.htm>

Longtime AGCBC members Andree Connel and Paige Woodward have some info-rich articles in the RHS Lily Group online: http://www.rhslilygroup.org/RHS_L&RPs_2011_2012.pdf

Scampton Succulents is a UK-based seed company operated by Robert Boatman. They have an impressive array of seed of maritime garden-tested SAfrican plants especially *Gladiolus* and *Watsonia*. <http://scamptonsucculents.mybisi.com> and eBay.

WillowGlenn Landscape is the blog of a young landscaper/gardener, Jason Doran, and he calls it Xericoasis. <http://xericoasis.blogspot.ca> There is a nice blogpiece on making a flagstone walkway (March 16th, 2013) that is one of the best I've seen. There is also some detailed blogs on fruit pruning and vertical garden constructions as well.

The Galloping Gardener is a very well-written and knowledgable blog (unlike sooooo many). Charlotte is a photojournalist with this super edition on the *best British gardens to visit*. Super photos. <http://thegallopinggardener.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/the-galloping-gardener-recommends-best.html>

Bart and Andrea Arenson's Rain Garden Arts bills itself as Choice Plants, Alpines and Sustainable Living on Vashon Island <http://raingardenarts.wordpress.com/category/alpines/> It is worth checking out.

ROCK ON! Editor's Column

My first year as your editor is in the books. Members have expressed appreciation of the pictures and links and all the things that make for a stimulating read and go-where-ever-you-want digital edition. Lateral learning. I'm looking forward to many more Bulletins as well as doing some new things as well. Thanks for all your pictures. In this Bulletin, we are pleased to have the first articles by two younger members- Jay Akerley and Lisa O'Donnell. It is apparent that the enthusiasm and energy of these rock gardeners will transcend their age or demographics. Both articles are by terrific people who just happen to be young. And, no...we won't hold that against them!

And speaking of firsts and new, I must say how pleased I am to report the formation of a new rock garden club here on Vancouver Island- **The Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island**. Based in Qualicum Beach/Parksville, they have been active the past few years as the Alpine Study Group of the Qualicum Beach Garden Club. At the heart of the club is Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden in Nanoose, created initially with alpine plants from the garden of club founder, the late Eswyn Lyster.



Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden in Nanoose

Elaine Bohn photo

June Strandberg is the President of the new club- the newest alpine garden club in N America. Other stalwart members include **Valerie Melanson** and **Mike Miller**. Many members of the AGCBC are familiar with them as they are members of our club too. The AGCVI will continue to bring in speakers, hold workshops and generally fan the flames of all things alpine. Congratulations guys! To join the club or find out more contact or email June at normjune@shaw.ca

Jim Almond is Glad To Be Surprised!

by Jim Almond *including all photos*

From Almond's very good blog <http://alpineenthusiast.blogspot.ca> with permission.

Jim says: *The blog is devoted to my photographic activities whilst out on the alpine scene, whether it be an AGS show, a friends garden, out and about speaking or simply in my own garden. Much more information and news is on my website, see the link below but there are few space restraints here so you can enjoy larger, less compressed pictures!* <http://freespace.virgin.net/almond.jim/index.htm>

Isn't it nice when 'surprises' pop up in the garden? I'd discarded some 'dead' pots from the alpine house following the killer Winter of two years ago. Clearly, it was not as lethal as I thought...This was the sight that caught my attention on the 10th of September, gorgeous salmon coloured flowers over a fan of foliage a mere 6"...





Gladiolus oppositifolius 'short form'

The flowers lasted nearly a week before shrivelling up - only to be replaced by just as many new ones. The whole plant by now was less than 12" tall and, as you can see, pretty stunning too! Eat your heart out *Gladiolus flanaganii* - I may have a new favourite! I had suspected what I'd bought as *Gladiolus oppositifolius ssp salmoneus* would be 'one for the garden' when sowing this amongst a dozen or so other species from **Silverhill Seeds** several years ago. And, of course, I planted it there with that in mind ...So, c'mon now, where's all my other *surprises* waiting to shoot up?

For those of you unfamiliar with **Jim Almond**, he was Assistant Director of Shows for the AGS under Jim McGregor for 10 years before becoming part of a committee that oversaw the same responsibilities. From his home in Shrewsbury, UK he has worked so hard with his cameras to show us what all of these great plants look like and, naturally, want to grow. Thanks Jim for all of that and the story and superb pictures! ED: Goldblatt & Manning believe that the *salmoneus* subspecies status is not warranted and they call it 'short form'. This is what we shall call it. Kew keeps the subspecies epithet, *salmoneus*.

Silverhill Seeds <http://www.silverhillseeds.co.za> lists this as a "cliff dweller" that should be Zone 6 hardy. It may also get a little taller over time. Seed of this species is available also from Cameron McMaster's <http://www.africanbulbs.com>. I received seed of it from Cameron last year and the germ was good. Their seed list should be out shortly.

Far Reaches Farm lists this as a wild-collected seed product (Silverhill) getting 18" and Zone 7A hardy, they reckon. www.farreachesfarm.com/Gladiolus-oppositifolius-ssp-salmoneus-p/p1469.htm

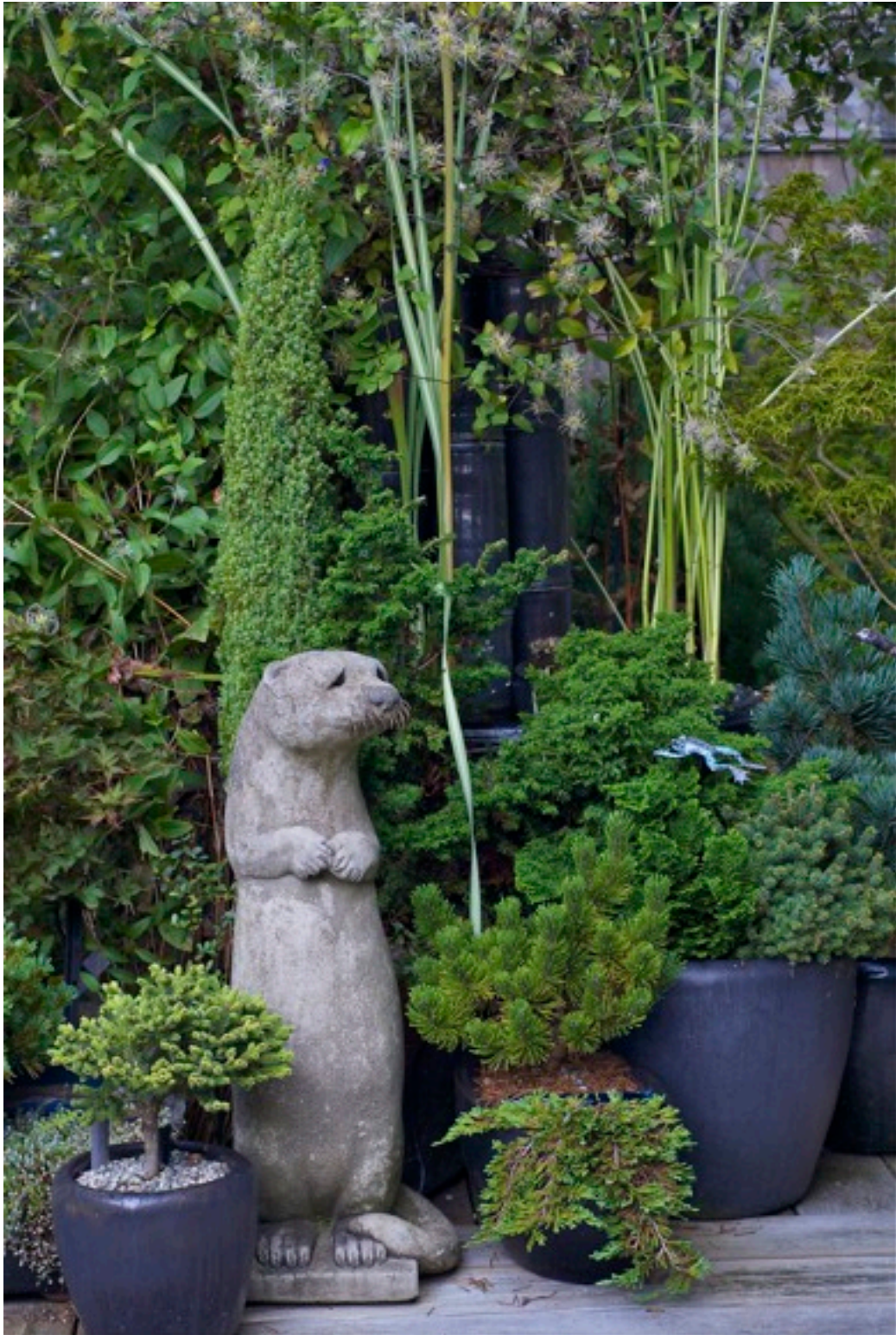


Gladiolus oppositifolius 'short form' seen *in situ* in the E. Cape.
Note the rocks and very well-drained soil. Cameron McMaster pic

For The Love of Conifers

by Lisa O'Donnell

Photos by Grahame Ware unless otherwise indicated



Foreword: *I'd heard that Lisa was a conifer nut but I didn't know what to expect. Thus, in this state of no expectations nor having had anyone tell me anything about her garden, I wandered out on a September morning to her place on the endowment lands at UBC. Incredible! I've rarely seen conifers used so tastefully and grouped so wonderfully. Her use of slate grey/blue pots gave an ambience unto itself along with her lovely integration of glass and funky statuary. Oh, and there wasn't just conifers. There were plenty of other plants with *Acer palmatum* being the group most widely used especially of the *linearlobum* type. All in all, it is one of the most handsome and harmonious gardens that I've seen in quite awhile. But it never rests which is quite likely why it is so charming and delectable. Lisa is already planning on this or that removal to enhance the plantings. I think her garden could get even better.*- Grahame Ware

I am not sure when my love affair with conifers began. I was lucky to grow up on a large city lot, surrounded by huge trees. My father was a keen gardener with the eye of an artist. I remember him waxing poetic about the beauty of the woods and trees of this region and the family would regularly go for long walks in places like Lighthouse Park or Stanley Park.

I grew to appreciate the scale, the shapes, the foliage of the trees and the exquisite details of the bark. Perhaps it was when Dad placed a fastigiata pine in the garden and dubbed it his *Pinus erectus* that I really sat up and took notice!

Now, in my own garden, and because I still live in the city and space is at a premium, I have concentrated on collecting small trees. I particularly love conifers- because they grow slowly, and add a sculptural quality to the garden. They also stay where I put them! I like their permanence in my landscape as our winters can be long and grey. Like everyone, I can't wait for my garden to emerge in the spring but I need the bones to be there all year! Don't get me wrong, there is plenty of excitement in spring when the bulbs and the perennials start to poke their heads through the soil to join their needled companions. I'll readily admit, there's nothing like clematis in full bloom in summer or red maple leaves in autumn.

But my true love is for the conifers- these stalwarts that form the backbone of my patch of earth. The new growth in spring- lime green against dark; silver against blue- it is unbeatable for texture and spectacle. And when the cones emerge, they are something else! To me the cones are like flowers- blue on *Abies koreana*, and red on *Picea*- its all icing on the coniferous cake!

All the different colours, forms and shapes keep things exciting even with a given genus and species for example, *Pinus parviflora*, *Abies koreana* or *Chamaecyparis obtusa*! The variations are amazing.

The most worthy shapes and rarest cultivars are given a 'contained home' so that I can place them where I see them closely, and often, as individuals.

As a result of this fascination (aka *obsession*) I now have a collection of over a hundred different conifers in pots.



Picea abies 'Karlotejn' showing watering system with the toad-in-a-tuxedo looking on

I remember this starting one day at the now closed “Murray’s Nursery”, a place that I grew up exploring with my father as it was close to where we lived. I stopped in my tracks when I saw a set of six matte, dark grey, extremely simple, pots. I was smitten! I scooped them up and went home to place them on the deck. Everything was right about them except the quantity! Gradually over the years I found more the same shape and colour and when I could no longer find the shape, I branched out to others—always very simple and always straight inside so that transplanting is easier. I find the matte pots in dark grey are strong visually but my eye sees the plants first. Even when placed in large groups, the plants remain the ‘stars’ and the pots disappear into the background.

The only exception I have made to this ‘strict’ rule of having all my pots the same colour came when, seven years ago, my dear father died. I inherited his potted conifers as we had bought many of them on shopping trips together. His wood-fired pots blended nicely with my grey and he had some gorgeous dark red pots that accent the red Japanese maples beautifully. They’re allowed to stay for sentimental reasons.



Acer palmatum cvs (mostly) provide a textural and protective foil to the conifers

Dwarf conifers do very well in containers of all sorts. Even in the tiniest pots, all of them are quite hardy in our relatively balmy winters. However, I do tuck them into a slightly warmer spot if temperatures below -5 C are expected- just in case. I combine potting soil half and half with grit or pea gravel for drainage. I top the soil with more pea gravel on the small pots, half-inch stone on the largest ones. Every pot has a drip sprinkler that runs on an automatic timer- I couldn't possibly keep up to watering all of them! I use slow-release fertilizer beads around the sprinkler head so that each pot gets a little feed every time they are watered.

I love the hunt for cultivars I don't yet own and am always looking for the smallest and slowest growing ones. There is constantly change in my garden- potted plants move into the garden and new treasures replace them on the deck in the pots.

Even though I love them all, I will confess to having a few favourites so- with a large nod to David Letterman- here is my Top 10:

10) *Larix kaempferi* 'Diana'- a large tree but the twisting branches are fantastic.

A smaller version of Diana is 'Little Boogie'. It is similar in habit. Try it.

9) *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Rasen'- the translation from Japanese for *rasen* is 'barber pole' a very fitting description as the needles wrap around the branches of this asymmetrical tree.

- 8) *Tsuga canadensis* 'Jervis'- this small eastern hemlock forms an interesting shape and habit that makes it seem carefully pruned as a bonsai- all without any help
- 7) *Cupressus glabra* 'Raywood's Weeping'- a silver blue weeping column- if you stake it! Fantastic against other greener foliage.



Cupressus glabra 'Raywood's Weeping'

- 6) *Abies balsamea* 'nana'- The fir is unrivalled for its emerald green new growth and the scent of the needles. Divine.
- 5) *Cedrus libani* var. *brevifolia* 'Kenwith'- This selection of a subspecies of Lebanon cedar has a tight, asymmetrical and, yes, kooky shape that seems like fingers of a hand twisted in the air. Marvellous.
- 4) *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Chirimen'- This Hinoki cypress cultivar is so sculptural and has such an interesting shape. It doesn't look like a tree, it looks like coral!

3) *Abies koreana* 'Silberlocke'. This German selection is a standard. 'Silver Show' is a brighter blue and more dwarf. For something on an even smaller scale there is 'Icebreaker' that originated as a witch's broom on 'Silberlocke' in Germany.



Abies koreana 'Silberlocke' showing cones John O'Donnell photo

2) *Pinus parviflora*- the Japanese white pine is one of my favourite species and I have several individuals. 'Aoi' is a particular stunner and a tiny perfect Christmas tree. Aoi means blue in Japanese. This species needs light to look its best.



Pinus parviflora 'Aoi' Elaine Petersen photo

And finally (drum roll please?!)

NUMBER 1

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Wissel's Saguaro'- these gangly imitators of the Saguaro cactus become tall and slim and look fantastic planted in groves. My largest is 12 feet tall and 1 foot wide! They're great for narrow walkways. Dramatic and beautiful, their arms just cry out for a hug- thankfully they aren't as prickly as their namesakes!



Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Wissel's Saguaro'

John O'Donnell photo

There are so many more that I would love to have included on this list. It was not easy to choose only 10! I hope that you are inspired to try a few more interesting conifers in your garden- they are all well worth it!

And, yes, there is a memorial *Pinus erectus* in my garden!

The Plants of Inukshuk: Rock Gardening on BC's S. Thompson Plateau By Jay Akerley



A scene from Jay's garden in July. Clockwise from bottom left; *Opuntia* 'Namao Rose', *Eriogonum ovalifolium*, *Yucca glauca*, many *Opuntia*, *Heterotheca villosa*, *Opuntia* 'Smithwick' and *Sempervivum*.

Foreword: *Jay Akerley is beginning to build a reputation in rock gardening circles. With much of his alpine horticulture experience set in the south Interior, the 41 year old Bid Mgr for Kiewit Construction who lives in Surrey, spends a lot of time on the road commuting to his garden in the highlands north of Princeton. His attraction to xeric alpines and cactus family species is a fascinating story that we are pleased to present to the membership. -Grahame Ware*

In 2000, my parents retired near Chain Lake, about 30km Northeast of Princeton, British Columbia. As winter set in that year, I was fascinated with the prospect of gardening on their property, named "Inukshuk", which is dominated by lodgepole pine and aspen. All of my gardening experience to date had been accumulated in the mild

climes of the south coast, so I had no idea what would grow at 1000m elevation on the south Thompson Plateau, where there was far less annual precipitation, but 5+ months of deep snow and no reliable frost-free period.

My academic background is in Geography, so it should come as no surprise that I gleaned much gardening inspiration from plants that are iconic of the world's great landscapes. I remembered stepping on a cactus as a child, across the highway from one of the fruit stands in Keremeos.

I also remembered my grandmother describing her encounters with cacti as a child in the Badlands of Alberta. So I have to credit *Opuntia fragilis*, *Opuntia polyacantha* and *Escobaria vivipara* as the first plants I identified as candidates for my new garden. CACTUS to the fore!



Bankier / Chain Lake, BC - Climate Facts*		
	December	August
Avg. Daily Max.	-2.9C	23.2C
Avg. Daily Min.	-11.3C	4.7C
Record High: 36.5C (1988/09/04)		
Record Low: -42C (1990/12/29)		
Average Annual Precipitation: 492mm		
Average Annual Snowfall: 227.8cm		
Elevation: 1020m		
*adapted from Government of Canada's Canadian Climate Normals 1971-2000 Station Data		

In the Beginning, There Were Cacti

Over the following years, I researched and experimented with hardy cacti building a high desert rock garden. Some of the so-called “hardy cacti” were definitely not so for me. I didn’t have long-term success growing *Echinocereus* and even bone-hardy Plains species such as *Escobaria vivipara* were not reliable in the long-term. I suspect my biggest challenge with cacti is that despite a far greater continental climate influence than the coast, my garden’s moisture regime is still Pacific Maritime-influenced, with the vast majority of precipitation falling during the colder months. Cacti don’t generally appreciate wet weather outside of their active growth period. However, many montane-origin *Opuntia* and *Pediocactus* have enjoyed more and more success in my garden due to my own improved understanding of their requirements and culture.

Akerley's cultural practices for cacti at Inukshuk

- 1) A gritty, well-drained medium is imperative, but the almost pure mineral mix of road aggregate that I started out with was a serious mistake. Cacti did not enjoy it, and almost all companion plants were impossible.
- 2) Plant selection is critical. I no longer purchase plants, which are marketed and in circulation for reasons other than hardiest provenance. In addition to trading for plants that are proven in tough climates, I collect my own cuttings and seeds. Plants from montane habitats are best. Even the hardiest prairie species do not appreciate my snowy winters and wet *shoulder* seasons. In habitat, I prefer to look for *Opuntia* or *Pediocactus* growing in snowy USDA Zone 4 locales or colder.
- 3) I get excellent growth and plant health using a fish-based fertilizer every 2-4 weeks from snowmelt through to the end of July. My experience is that you cannot overwater cacti during their growth period.
- 4) Proven plants from my own garden in turn generate extremely hardy and moisture-tolerant hybrids. I keep careful records of planned pollinations and carefully observe hybrid offspring. In three years, it pays off. Even open-pollinated (or self-pollinated) offspring from hardy *Opuntia* (that are usually polyploid and thus genetically complex) can look and behave just like the parent plant, yet adapt better to my garden’s microclimate. Other times, self-pollinated plants are odd sports- apples that fall miles from the tree! They are fascinating plants that way.
- 5) I prune aggressively. I coppice almost everything I can in the Fall to maximize circulation and sun exposure in the Fall and Spring, and to minimize the amount of vegetation which attracts pests and fungi under the snow and soon after snowmelt. Many shrubs, such as *Artemisia*, would break under the snow load anyway. I prune cacti that, when dormant, will lie in positions that encourage damage (crossing or “sandwiched” *Opuntia* pads, for example).
- 6) I clean obsessively. Over the Thanksgiving weekend in October, I clean the garden with a shop vacuum, removing as much leaf litter as possible. Photos of this activity generate guffaws among my friends on Facebook. I make sure that cacti have a buffer of clean space around them; no leaves or other debris to cause problems during wet periods.

7) In the Spring, during snowmelt if I can, I take an active role to de-clog ice jams that prevent water runoff, as the daily freeze-thaw cycle of water is extremely detrimental due to expansion/contraction. I prune winter damage from cacti, and take measures to save any plants that have been critically damaged. This includes removal and relocation to the greenhouse for intensive care, or grafting of ball cacti such as *Pediocactus* if the roots or base are damaged.



Clockwise from centre bottom; *Pediocactus simpsonii* v. *minor* SB194, *P. simpsonii* v. *robustior* SB1590, *P. nigrispinus* JWA017, and *P. simpsonii* v. *minor* SB877 on far right.



The *Pediocactus* from the above photo rest among the native shrubs *Rhus glabra* and *Artemisia tridentata*, as well as *Eriogonum ovalifolium*, *Phlox subulata* and others.

Cactus Hybridizing: My Unexpected Gateway to Companion Plants

Another key to my increasing success with cacti, especially in the past decade, has been the development of my own hybrid varieties. Over the years, I met and sought advice from experienced individuals, who helped me establish my own hybridization program- the principal of aim of which was to develop hardier and more moisture-tolerant varieties of *Opuntia*, *Pediocactus* and *Echinocereus*.

As a result of my hybridization program, I amassed a collection of good breeding stock. I began organizing field trips to collect cactus cuttings and seeds from high elevations and generally cold locales across Western Canada and the United States. Field trips generated several outcomes, both intended and unexpected. First, as intended, I learned about and collected cacti from cold locales. Provenance is a key element in any plant breeding and selecting program and mine was no exception.

Unexpectedly but perhaps not surprisingly, I developed a keen interest in the plant community where I was collecting. Many plants were familiar from home in the Southern Interior of BC: *Castilleja*, *Penstemon*, *Sedum*, *Artemisia*, *Eriogonum*, many *Asteraceae* among others far too numerous to mention. Finally, as my interest in the montane plant community grew beyond the Cactaceae, I began to make contact with key people and organizations who continue to inspire my garden's further development and success. After frequenting the AGCBC club sales for several years, I finally joined the Alpine Garden Club of BC in 2013, in addition to the North American Rock Garden Society and the Vancouver Hardy Plant Group.

Going Forward: Finding Room in My Garden for All of this New Stuff!

In 2012 and 2013, I amassed large collections of seed and cuttings from a plethora of species, mostly in BC, Alberta, Washington and Colorado.

At the same time, my hard work with the selective (and accidental) breeding of cacti is coming to fruition. A gratifying consequence has been the gasps of joy from garden visitors, especially during peak bloom in July.

However, the diversification of my garden has also presented new challenges, beyond the increasing need for garden expansion. I had frosts on the mornings of July 4, 2011 and 2012. Cacti are unaffected by these events, but some shrub-steppe and even montane species are not as tolerant. Furthermore, as I added perennial companion plants, ungulates such as deer became more of a problem. I even had a moose in the garden!

Voles, however, have been the most destructive force, as the presence of perennial roots in the loose soil of my garden has proven too easy a target for them. These rodents cause the most trouble underneath snow cover, when little can be done to stop them. Entire plants of *Rhodiola rosea* and *Lewisia columbiana* have vanished with only a sorry crater as a reminder of their former glory. Young plants of all kinds have been buried when the voles disturbed the soil to find their meals. I am experimenting with some techniques and deterrents now - too bad a stick of dynamite comes with so much collateral damage! Some have suggested a Vole Neutron bomb!

Special Plants of the Garden at Inukshuk



Eriogonum kennedyi, centre with (clockwise from bottom left) *Opuntia* 'Claude Arno', *Sedum spurium*, *Artemisia tridentata* v. *vaseyana* and an *Opuntia aurea* hybrid.

Many of my collections, particularly local ones, are becoming noteworthy subjects in the garden at Inukshuk:

Eriogonum ovalifolium v. *nivale*, *E. umbellatum* v. *subalpinum*, a particularly compact form of *E. niveum*, and even *E. heracleoides*, all collected near Princeton, BC.

Penstemon davidsonii v. *menziesii* and *P. serrulatus* collected near Pemberton, *P. fruticosus* collected a few kilometres from my garden and *P. procerus* collected within 50m of my garden. They go nicely with *Penstemon nitidus* I collected near Drumheller, AB., *Astragalus purshii* and *Oxytropis campestris* collected near Juniper Beach Provincial Park, and a compact form of *Astragalus miser* collected within 50m of my garden.

In the “miscellaneous” category, a compact and silvery *Artemisia michauxiana* that is scattered in the Princeton vicinity, *Polemonium pulcherrimum* from my uncle’s property less than a kilometre from my garden, *Fritillaria affinis* collected near Pemberton, and over a half dozen *Asteraceae* from *Erigeron linearis* (Juniper Beach) to *Happlopappus lyalii* (Coalmont).

I recommend all of the above for consideration in any rock garden, but particularly those located in the highlands east of the Cascades (although the heat of the lowland valleys of the Okanagan, Similkameen and Thompson may prove too much).

In fact, I have provided seed from a few of these to the Seed Exchange and will provide more as quantities allow. I will discuss some of these special plants and the adventures of their collection in a future Bulletin article.



Jay Akerley in contemplation at Inukshuk

Flora of the North American West

October 9 presentation by Alan Bradshaw
Reviewed by David Sellars

Alan Bradshaw founded **Alplains** www.alplains.com in Colorado in 1989 to provide a source of high quality seeds primarily from wild alpine plant collections. Alan travels extensively in the mountains, first to identify plants in flower and then later in the year to collect seeds. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the locations of alpine plants, in particular, rare species. His presentation to the AGCBC was very well informed and those in attendance were impressed by the quality of the plant photographs and the wide-ranging travels of this energetic seed collector.

The AGCBC presentation at the Van Dusen Floral Hall began in Utah with the exceptional flora of Blue Mountain and Split Mountain and quickly moved on to New Mexico and Arizona where we were treated to images of desert flora and other dryland plants. The photos of the beautiful flowers and alpine habitat of *Lewisia brachycalyx* were particularly fine.

Following Alan in his seed collecting footsteps, we then moved on to the White Mountains of California and then swung north to the Siskiyou Mountains where we saw rarities such as *Campanula shetleri* and *Silene hookeri* ssp. *bolanderi*. Carrying on further north, we travelled into the Owyhee Mountains of Idaho and specific plants on Diamond Peak, Borah Peak and Dickey Peak. Outstanding flora in this area included diminutive *Penstemon pumilus* and cushions of *Phlox bryoides*.



Penstemon pumilus Matt Levin photo courtesy Creative Commons

Then it was down to Wyoming and the Beartooth and Bighorn Mtns with colourful *Douglasia montana*, *Townsendia montana* and *Aquilegia jonesii*. At lower elevations we saw the exquisite silvery mounds of *Astragalus hyalinus*. Soon we were back in Utah on Leidy Peak to see the delightful *Penstemon uintahensis* and *Townsendia condensata* on Delano Peak. The tour ended back in Alan's home state of Colorado with the rare endemic *Penstemon debilis* on Mt. Callahan.

This was an outstanding and inspiring presentation of the beautiful and varied flora to be found on the western half of our continent. Who knew there are so many different *Penstemon*, *Townsendia* and *Phlox*?



Alan Bradshaw standing next to a massive *Kelseya uniflora*

In Memoriam- Denys C. Lloyd (gleaned largely from The Province)



A former membership secretary of the AGCBC passed away on July 23, 2013. He was 92. Born in Campbell River, BC, he grew up on Quadra Island and went to Duncan high school. He excelled in science and graduated from UBC in 1940 with a Master of Science degree. During WW2 he spent time in Winnipeg at a cordite plant. Most of his professional career was spent for the BC Research Council with a sizeable stint as the Assistant to the Director (Gordon Shrum).

In 1961, already a remarkable plantsman at age 41, Denys moved forward with his dream to own a house sited within a garden of his own creation and bought a lot close to his work which was located on the UBC campus. After an extended discussion with Denys, and walking the property, Arthur Erickson agreed to design a house within a garden, and went on to develop the sophisticated elevations of the garden's mound, pond, and moon-viewing platform. For fifty years Denys planted, refined, changed and evolved his garden. Trees and plants were carefully chosen so that there would be always something in bloom, and to provide sanctuary for his own dragonflies and for waves of birds and other creatures throughout the seasons.

While he was membership secretary of the Alpine Garden Club of BC in the 1980s, Denys' eye for detail and capabilities with some of the first data processors helped him keep track of the 1,200 to 1,500 members (including some behind the Berlin Wall) involved in the club's large seed exchange. As one of the early volunteer FOGs (Friends of the Garden) with the UBC Botanical Garden, a role he especially enjoyed was selecting books for sale in the garden shop and advising friends on how best to enhance their own pre-internet resource libraries. Always good-natured and willing to help out, Denys provided tours of his garden to friends (and often friends of friends) from around the world. Until the present, Denys annually opened his house and June garden to students and faculty of a Vancouver garden-design class. Denys travelled extensively including to Japan, South Africa, and Britain, touring and photographing architecture and gardens in each country.

Denys was an advanced mountain climber: he was a life member of the Alpine Club of Canada. He had their latest journal on his breakfast table the day he died.