BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

including

SAXIFLORA

Vol. 1 March-April 1943 No. 2

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INTRODUCING THE BULLETIN

THE American Rock Garden Society was formed in 1934 and its proceedings have been published monthly in the Gardeners Chronicle of America; there have also been periodic year-books. "Saxiflora" began as a set of 8 plates of rock garden plants, with accompanying text, appearing on December 31, 1938. A second set of 8 plates came out on December 31, 1940.

Early in 1943 the Board of Directors of the Society decided to change the plan of publication. Hereafter "Saxiflora" is to appear bimonthly, and to form a supplement to a Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society, which is to contain material such as has heretofore been published in the Chronicle. This will represent a saving of money to the Society—appropriate in these difficult times—and we hope will prove acceptable to the membership.

The Editorial Board will welcome suggestions from the members of the Society as to how this Bulletin can be made of the greatest interest and value to them. We will also appreciate the receipt of articles, preferably containing not over 1800 words (3 pages), recording experiences in acquiring or growing rock plants, or information you wish to share with other members. Write up "Saxiflora" accounts of your favorites. Regional Chairmen should continue to send in reports on the activities of their respective groups. A limited number of illustrations can be published, for which glossy prints of attractive species will be welcome.

In order that readers can tell what plants are being written about, contributors are requested to follow the nomenclature of some authoritative work, such as Hortus or Standardized Plant Names.* When the names of horticultural varieties have not been validated in accordance with the rules of botanical nomenclature these names should be written in non-technical form. Thus instead of "*Rosa rouletti*" use "Roulett Rose;" or, instead of "*Phlox subulata wilsoni*," use "*Phlox subulata* G. F. Wilson." When there is uncertainty as to the identity of a plant, dry a specimen showing a flower or fruit and a few leaves between the pages of a "Stupid Stories" magazine, and turn it (the specimen, not the magazine) in with your article.

Manuscripts may be sent to any member of the Editorial Board. Requests to see proof or to obtain reprints should be made at the time of submission. Correspondence concerning general Society affairs should be addressed to the Secretary.—E. T. W.

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* Hortus Second [should it not have been "Hortus Secundus?"] by L. H. Bailey and Ethel Zoe Bailey. Macmillan, New York, 1941.

Standardized Plant Names [for consistency should have been called "Standardized Plantnames"] Second Edition, Harlan P. Kelsey and William A. Dayton, Editors. J. Horace McFarland Co., Harrisburg, 1942. The editors of this suffer from hyphenophobia, so their exact form of a common name need not be accepted if confusing, inconsistent, or erroneous.

THE LEWISIAS

CARL PURDY

THIS genus comprises a large group of widely varying species, among them some of the finest rock plants in the world. So wide are the variations that Howell, the Oregon botanist who wrote the first Flora of the Northwestern States, may have been right when he set off the evergreen species as a distinct genus, *Oreobroma*. Since, however, I dislike the disturbing of names in general use, they will all be Lewisias with me.

The first species to be discovered was *Lewisia rediviva*, found by the Lewis and Clark exploring expedition about 1805. From time to time other species have been named; and in the last ten years a bewildering number of additional species or forms have been found.

BY EDGAR T. WHERRY

The first species to be discovered was *Lewisia rediviva*. Its flowers may be white, pink, or deep rose. Photographed in its native haunts in Idaho.

One often sees the term "alpine" applied to Lewisias, but in my opinion this is incorrect. It is true that some of the deciduous species have been found at rather high elevations. Some years ago I saw one, subsequently described as a new species, above tree line on Mt. Dana in Yosemite National Park, and another, *L. triphylla*, but little below tree line in the same region. *L. pygmaea* is often found close to tree line too, while *L. yosemitana* goes higher than 8000 feet (tree line in that region is about 10,500 feet). On the other hand, I know of colonies of *L. rediviva* down to barely 1000 feet, and *L. columbiana rosea* is near the coast in Oregon at not over 2000 feet; while a fine evergreen species grows at only 1000 feet in Trinity County, California.

Most of the evergreen Lewisias are found in a highly interesting region that lies on both sides of the California-Oregon border. If a point thirty miles east of the Pacific Ocean is taken, and a parallelogram described northeast to southwest forty by eighty miles, it includes nearly all the evergreen species. Moreover, the same region is the exclusive home of three species of *Erythronium*, two of *Brodiaea*, one each *Calochortus* and *Lilium*, as well as of the Weeping Spruce, and indeed many notable species in other genera. Floristically this is one of the most wonderful regions in the whole United States. Its geology varies greatly, and each *Lewisia* tends to favor a certain rock formation.

I have spoken of Lewisias as "rock plants" and if there is such a thing, most of the species will surely qualify. I have found them on almost perpendicular cliff faces, sometimes with their roots in what appears to be entirely solid rock, or in the thin veneering of moss and soil there; others might be in pockets filled with dust or chips, but always with rock immediately surrounding. On the other hand, where I saw *Lewisia tweedyi* at home in Washington, was in a region of big rocks and many of them, yet the Lewisias were not on or even necessarily close to the rocks. The plants were rooted in a fine material looking like sandy loam, but unquestionably a volcanic dust. They had very large and long roots, but these did not go down, instead extending laterally at little depth; it was actually possible to take some of the plants by the crown and lift the entire root-system, so shallow did it lie.

The home of the deciduous species is very different. *L. rediviva*, with us, follows serpentine formations; the soil is a sort of blue clay, wet and sticky in winter, but in summer bone dry. I have seen *L. nevadensis* in many places, and always in a finely comminuted dark soil mixed with gravel, in depressions which are saturated with water when the snow is melting. *L. pygmaea* grows in like pockets, in a region of deep snows, and flowers soon after the snow melts. *L. yosemitana* is found in what seems to be pure granitic sand, at rather high elevations; and *L. brachycalyx* also high, but in soils more like those of *L. nevadensis*.

The deciduous species may be divided into four groups, which will be discussed separately.

GROUP 1. These are chiefly plants of the high mountains. They make small tufted rosettes, and the leaves disappear soon after the flowering period. All are found in depressions where it is very wet while the snow is melting, and extremely dry later. In this group we have *L. pygmaea*, a white flowered midget found in the high mountains from Colorado northward and westward, to Oregon and California, where it extends the whole length of the Sierras. I am sure that there are several distinct species aggregated under this name, but they have not yet been studied technically. *L. nevadensis* of central California to southern Oregon has like habits but does not go so high; it is as much as four inches tall, with spatulate leaves and pink to white flowers. *L. glandulosa*, the one I found on Mt. Dana at 11,000 feet, is pinkish flowered, and closely related to the next-preceding. *L. triphylla* of the high Sierras is tiny, slender, and white-flowered.

GROUP 2. *L. oppositifolia* of southwestern Oregon and adjacent California does not make much of a rosette, but has stems five to ten inches high with few spatulate leaves, and as many as five flowers, which are white or pale pink and very lovely. My information is that it grows much like *L. nevadensis* and occurs between 3000 and 4000 feet elevation.

GROUP 3. This is the group of *L. rediviva*, the most widespread of all the species. It occurs in many parts of California, both in the Coast Ranges and the Sierras, though not high up. From Oregon and Washington it crosses the Rocky Mountains to the high plains, where it ranges from Wyoming well up into Canada. Its altitudinal range is from about 1000 to 5000 feet. It grows in full sun, on serpentine barrens in California, and elsewhere in shaly soils or pockets in rocks. The drainage usually seems to be perfect, although in recent years I have found it in places where conditions are decidedly wet for much of the winter.

In this species a dense rosette of narrow leaves proceeds from a crown whose top lies perhaps an inch below ground level. The large and lovely flowers vary somewhat from place to place. They may be white, pink, or deep rose, and indeed all three colorings may occur together. Soon after flowering the foliage disappears, leaving a tiny pit in the ground.

GROUP 4. *Lewisia yosemitana* has spatulate leaves and white flowers, the general habit being much as in the next-preceding. It is known only in granitic sands in the Yosemite region. *L. kelloggii*, which continues on farther north in the Sierras, I know only in the herbarium. It too has spatulate leaves and a handsome white flower; it is likewise found in granitic sands apparently at an altitude of about 5000 feet. *L. brachycalyx* groups its spatulate leaves in a close flat rosette, from which arise many fine white flowers. It is found in the high mountains of southern California in gritty stretches which are snow covered in winter. Here it is not particular about soils, but I suspect thrives best when water is fairly abundant during growth. This is one of the easiest of all the species to grow, and is a veritable floral treasure.

The groups remaining to be discussed comprise the evergreen species. As above stated, the larger number of these are confined to the region along the California-Oregon border; three of them, however, are more widely distributed, and these may well be treated first.

GROUP 5. *L. tweedyi* is confined to a small region east of the Cascades in Washington, and toward the northern side of the state. It has large rosettes with long spatulate leaves; there may be several crowns at the top of the rootstock. The flowers come either singly on short scapes, or a few together in a cluster; the petals are a soft salmon rose, and most lovely. I have seen as many as 300 flowers on a single clump. The account given above of finding it with the roots extending horizontally and very shallow will suggest how it should be planted.

L. columbiana is found through a large region in Oregon and Washington, but only in widely separated colonies; it has several forms, differing decidedly in aspect. The form most often taken to be the type is strong growing, with forking crown, spatulate leaves, and a branching panicle of small white flowers tinted with rose. That known as variety *rosea* has, on the other hand, a compact rosette of dark green leaves and flowers of a deep rose, almost magenta hue; it has been found only on a single mountain near the coast of northern Oregon. On another mountain in the same region grows one much like the last but with white flowers, and this I have termed the Neeman variety, after its discoverer.

In the Sierra Nevada for some distance south from Yosemite National Park we find *L. congdoni*, characterized by narrowly spatulate leaves and small rosy magenta flowers. Occurring thus far from its nearest relatives, it has developed a rather distinct aspect, and is notable for this rather than for its beauty. It grows at 3000 to 4000 feet altitude, on rocks only.

GROUP 6. In the California-Oregon region already outlined there are three fairly distinct groups of evergreen Lewisias. Within each of these groups there is so much intergradation, that I am not at all sure but that crosses exist between every pair of species.

Lewisia leana, in its typical form, has rather dense rosettes of linear terete leaves and a panicle of many small magenta-rose flowers. There are also forms with narrowly spatulate leaves, and even some approaching other species in leaf width. In its native home, it is confined to a talcose rock formation, growing not so much in solid rocks as in broken down splintery material.

BY FLORENS DE BEVOISE

Lewisia tweedyi has long spatulate leaves. The petals are a soft salmon rose, and most lovely.

L. eastwoodiana, which the writer had the pleasure of naming, is related to the last. Its leaves, too, are terete, but its panicled flowers are pure white. Lewisias in general are often characterized as stemless, but in this species there are real stems, rising to a height of as much as six inches. The small flowers, with petals little over a quarter inch long, confirm its distinctness. I am not informed as to its native habitat, but it probably grows also in talcose soils.

While *L. whiteae* has been described as an independent species, its features suggest its origin by hybridization between *L. leana* and one of those treated below. Its leaves are more broadly spatulate than in any of the forms of *L. leana;* its flowers are twice as large as those of the latter, and of a deep rose hue, making it a really fine rock garden subject. One plant I received had the petals apricot colored, with rose bands.

GROUP 7.—Links in a remarkable series are formed by the four named respectively *Lewisia cotyledon*, *L. finchii**, *L. purdyi*, and *L. howellii*.

Each of these is fairly uniform and well-marked in a given locality, but varies widely from place to place. This variation appears in leaf characters, in the type of inflorescence, and in the number of flowers. Remarkably enough, although fluctuation in the details of the flowers is usually shown in such series of plants, in the present case the flowers are much alike in form and size from one end to the other. All have glandular bracts and sepals, and a central band of deeper color running down the petals. It would puzzle the most expert to distinguish between the flowers of, for example, *L. howellii* and *L. finchii*, yet the appearance of the plants is quite different. So much do these species vary from place to place that I have come to expect the forms from two localities never to be exactly alike. All of the series are rock plants, growing most often in black volcanic formations. While they occur over a vast territory, they are never widely scattered, but form isolated colonies separated by considerable distances.

The first to find a member of this series was Thomas Howell, the Oregon botanist; he named it *Oreobroma Cotyledon*, but it has since been transferred to the genus *Lewisia*. This botanist certainly deserves a tribute here. He was a school teacher, and as was customary in those days, taught in different school districts. An indefatigable field worker, he somehow managed to explore for plants the whole of Oregon and much of Washington. Years ago, when a Botany of California was desired, and leading botanists volunteered to carry out the necessary work, there were public-spirited San Franciscans enough to furnish an ample fund to publish a superb volume. But no such help was at hand in Oregon in Howell's day. Determined that his work should be published, he learned to set up type and to run a press; between times he earned money by his teaching, in order to buy paper. Then at intervals he was able to bring out, one fascicle at a time, his splendid volume on the Flora of the Northwest.

Howell had a theory that in time all the plants considered as mere varieties by the authorities of his day would prove to be independent species; and he described many as such. It is interesting to note that his forecast has in many instances proved to have been correct.

While teaching at Waldo, Oregon, Howell came across the plant which he duly described as *Oreobroma Cotyledon*. His description, though excellent, would not of itself identify one species in what we now find to be a continuous series. I have indeed received plants from his original locality which proved not to have the features of his species, but to represent one of the many forms of what I later described as *L. finchii*. He himself found another species there too, distinguished by having narrowly spatulate leaves with crisped margins, and this was named in his honor, *L. howellii*. Its leaves are certainly distinctive, yet its flowers are not.

* * * * *

Other species of *Lewisia* will be described in later issues of this Bulletin, together with Mr. Purdy's recommendations as to how to grow them in the rock garden.

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* While this name was apparently first published with the spelling "Finchiae," the describer later changed it to "Finchii," and this form is accepted by Hortus II. The plan of S.P.N. to drop the final "i" in such names is not accepted by botanists generally. On the other hand, the decapitalization of species names is followed by the more progressive ones. Ed.

SAXIFLORA

PLATE 17

Coreopsis auriculata
(*Asteraceae*)

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BY FLORENS DE BEVOISE

COREOPSIS AURICULATA L.

CREEPING COREOPSIS

A clone of especially compact growth and showy flower-heads.

From the standpoint of what the ecologist terms mobility, rock plants may be divided into three classes,—those that stay put, those that expand slowly, and those that spread rapidly by rootstocks, runners or seeds. Unlike many members of the Aster family, which are all too typical of the third, the subject of the present sketch is a well-behaved member of the middle class. Its foliage is neat and its flowers are showy, yet it is to be seen in few rock gardens. One reason for this is that it is an American native, and so has been tacitly assumed to be less worthy of culture than species from remote and romantic lands. Another reason is one that is encountered all too frequently,—that a given technical name is used by botanists and by many horticultural dealers for two quite distinct plants. As recorded by Bailey in "Hortus Second," the plant usually offered in the trade as "Coreopsis auriculata" is what is known to botanists as *C. pubescens*, a species which grows to a height of 3 or 4 feet, and belongs in the border rather than the rock garden. A would-be purchaser must therefore either visit a nursery and select the desired plant personally, or else place mail orders with firms who will guarantee to supply *Coreopsis auriculata* L. and not "Coreopsis auriculata" Hort.

The Creeping Coreopsis ("Eared C." of S.P.N. 2) was first collected in Virginia by John Banister about 1675, and a specimen he sent to England was figured by Plukenet in 1691. Linnaeus in 1753 gave it the technical designation *Coreopsis auriculata* in reference to the ear-like lobes which may develop on some of its leaves. Actually many clones have nearly or quite entire leaf-blades, and its best diagnostic character consists in the narrow, thick, inrolled marginal wings on the achenes. In addition, it differs in habit from other frequently cultivated members of the genus, its stems being weak and inclined to rest on the ground instead of standing upright. There is some variation in size of flower-heads and in width of rays, and S.P.N. 2 lists a clone which has been given the horticultural variety name Superb, with especially showy heads. The plant illustrated represents a clone selected from a series in a North Carolina woodland as being low-growing but large-flowered.

This species is at home in mountain valleys, on piedmont slopes, and in coastal plain ravines from middle Virginia south to the Gulf. It grows chiefly in minimacid to subacid loamy soil in open woods. A partly shaded rock garden in which the soil is not too porous is therefore likely to suit it best. It is winter-resistant considerably north of its native home,—at least as far as central New England, and is likewise tolerant of humid summer weather. An especially desirable feature from the rock gardener's standpoint is the fact that it is a summer bloomer, and in favorable situations will continue to produce flowers for two or even three months. The heads are borne on long stems high above the foliage, and their rays are of purest gold. Clonal propagation may be carried out by layering or by making stem cuttings; seedlings show considerable variability, but less attractive individuals can be discarded.

Coreopsis auriculata L. is an herbaceous perennial with some evergreen basal leaves, and slender decumbent stems a foot or more long. Its herbage is more or less pubescent. The opposite leaves are rather small, with oval entire or basally lobed blades. Long slender peduncles bear solitary heads over an inch across. As is characteristic of the genus, the involucre is double, and the outer series of phyllaries (involucral bracts) are distinctly narrower than the inner series. The disc florets are dull yellow and the rays, which average eight in number and are toothed at the tip, are bright golden yellow. The achenes are oval, and have narrow, thick, incurved wings.

EDGAR T. WHERRY.

Coreopsis auriculata Linnaeus, Species Plantarum 2: 908, 1753. Not "Coreopsis auriculata" Hort.

COMMON PLANT - NAMES

M. E. Armbruster

Over 2500 years ago Confucius was asked by one of his followers what was the first thing he would do if he were to become the ruler of the province. The great teacher replied: "I would begin with establishing a correct use of terminology." When asked by the disciple why he would do such an odd thing, Confucius said: "If the terminology is not correct, then the whole style of one's speech falls out of form; if one's speech is not in form, then orders cannot be carried out. A gentleman never uses his terminology indiscriminately."

There is hardly a department of life where reform in the terminology could not take place. People do not know what to call things; and existing terms often are mysterious. Certainly in horticulture, where we deal with foreign as well as native materials, an enlightened program for simplification, standardization, and clarification of terms and nomenclature is a most welcome project. In this field Mr. Harlan P. Kelsey of Massachusetts and Mr. William A. Dayton of Washington, D.C., in producing the second edition of STANDARDIZED PLANT NAMES, have performed the most work to date. In spite of numerous innovations many of us cannot accept and the discarding of some old names many of us cannot surrender, this book represents the only large-scale attempt made to bring order out of this appalling name-jumble; and it must therefore figure in any evaluation of a name, or in any exploration respecting the improving of a name, which may be contemplated. It is the focal point around which all discussion of plant names revolves. Its scientific nomenclature is, of course, standard and correct.

A proper philosophy of nomenclature, whether of plants or anything else, must give recognition to certain ubiquitous factors. Names have been bestowed by the common people in times past with a certain capriciousness; but this very capriciousness often is part of the romance of the appellation. When a name persists in lore and anecdote, it gathers more romance, and whether right or wrong, no amount of argument can change some of these misnomers. This first factor we must recognize and not foolishly go off on our own way with our perfectionist schemes. The common people are not interested in the logic of these situations, but only with the immediate utility of a proposition. And it is for them that common names exist.

One of the S.P.N. authors complained to me regarding *Kalmia latifolia*, that it "was sloppily named a 'laurel' by our forefathers who thought it resembled the laurel grown in England." One of our native birds was called by them a robin, too, and for the same reason, as I remember it, notwithstanding we are told the bird is really a thrush. If we hold that only such are laurels as belong to the genus *Laurus*, then the naming of this kalmia was probably unfortunate. However, in mitigation we should notice certain other things. (1) The foliage of our plant *does* resemble that of the laurel of England, so the name was not too inappropriately bestowed. (2) We call this shrub officially Mountain-laurel, so that that distinguishes it from the solitary species in *Laurus*. The argument then is made that there may be a "Laurus montanensis" in cultivation some day and that we'll need "Mountain Laurel" for that. Let us not go out looking for trouble. That speculation is likely to remain only a speculation. (3) It

is the state flower of Pennsylvania and Connecticut and is so entrenched in usage in those states as Mountain-laurel that to attempt to change it would require far better reasons than those which we now have to give. (4) Since no confusion exists, at least in America, why take on this bother?

A name of long standing should be abolished if it is unesthetic in sound or character. "She oak" was such a term, and S.P.N. rightly refused to sanction it. "Stinking Cedar" is the name by which *Torreya taxifolia* was for years known. "Who would want to buy a stinking cedar?" asked the authors of S.P.N., to say nothing of its not being a cedar at all. They were, of course, eminently correct, and officially marked the tree with the satisfactory name of Florida Torreya.

A common name should be abolished also if it insinuates an untruth. "False Solomonseal," altho an old name, was bad nomenclature for that reason. One inferred from that that the plant resembled the true solomonseal, which it scarcely does. Therefore it is now called Solomons-plume, which well describes the flower racemes, and S.P.N. so lists the plant. A name should tell a truth, as do Mock Orange and Bird-of-paradise flower.

The separate elements of a name must not be contradictory or incongruous. "Silver Goldenrod" is a contradiction. *Celosia argentea cristata* is our common Cockscomb; but *C. a. plumosa* cannot be "Feathered Cockscomb," as I saw one dealer list it, because the two terms have no unity. And then, of course, the latter plant simply does not look like a cock's comb at all. This combining of two incongruous terms is an error S.P.N. falls into quite a few times.

A name should not be too difficult of assimilation into the everyday language of a people. Last year I saw a reputable nursery house of my city offer *Leucothoe catesbaei* as "Lily of of the valley shrub." Naturally we are all offended in this. But let us go into the causes. Is the main reason not that practically nobody except a botanist knows how to pronounce "Leucothoe," the common name urged, and even educated people don't know often whether to say it with three syllables or four? I am concerned lest "Leucothoe" as a common name will not take hold. Now, Drooping Andromeda, by which the plant has been known, is a name which *can* take hold. It is easy, descriptive, and euphonious. Yes, there is a genus *Andromeda*, but its two lone species, one of which is the Bog-rosemary, will not be confused with the plant here under discussion—which, by the way, was originally in *Andromeda*, a further reason for the difficulty here encountered in removing the old name. A name, then, must be assimilable.

A name to be acceptable should not violate history or ancient literature. Under this heading would be placed Bluebells-of-Scotland and Cedar of Lebanon, recognized by S.P.N., and Golden Asphodel, not recognized by them. *Asphodeline lutea* is the Golden Asphodel of the ancients. Was there ever a prettier name? Geranium, too, while not nearly so old, yet is one practically static in English usage. I hazard the prediction that "Pelargonium," advocated by S.P.N. and others as the correct common name for our window-box geraniums, will not become established. What, then, will you do for a common name for the species in *Geranium*, I am asked? Why, just call them by their other name—Cranesbill. True, you are thus calling the items of one genus by a common name identical with the scientific name of another genus, but isn't that what happens all the time in nomenclature? Trailing-Arbutus isn't in the genus *Arbutus* at all, whereas species which *are* in that genus are called Madrones; and so on.

(*To be continued*)

CREEPING MAHONIA, A ROCK GARDEN EVERGREEN

THE western mountain plant *Mahonia repens*, known hereabouts as "Colorado Holly," is so good and so suitable that one wonders why it has been so long finding a place in the list of rockgarden subjects. Perhaps it has been avoided because of being confused with the big *Mahonia aquifolium* of Oregon, which it resembles in everything but size: The true *M. repens* (classed by some botanists as a *Berberis* and by others as an *Odostemon*) grows only about ten inches high. It seems to do equally well in sun or shade—although in hot regions it probably will prefer the shade. Early in summer it carries big tight heads of bright yellow flowers like its Oregon sister, and later is lovely with generous clusters of bright blue berries. Its low spreading habit—for it truly merits the "repens"—makes it useful and most decorative . Contrary to statements in the books, we find that winter sunshine paints the foliage a warm red. Here in the dry air of its home, where the temperature range is from 25° below zero to 95° above, it grows freely in any soil. In humid regions it will no doubt appreciate the same porous drainage that nearly all these Rocky Mountain natives request.—KATHLEEN MARRIAGE.

IN A MOUNTAIN ROCK GARDEN

BY ALMA M. HIGGINS

POOL IN "MY GARDEN ABOVE THE CLOUDS," BUTTE, MONTANA

The conspicuous spikes toward the left are *Habenaria dilatata*, the White Bog-orchid; the round scalloped leaves, *Saxifraga mertensiana*, Coast Saxifrage. Other species included are *Ledum glandulosum*, Western Ledum, a small shrub; *Phyllodoce empetriformis*, the Mountain-heath; *Pedicularis groenlandica*, Elephant-head; *Myosotis alpestris*, Alpine Forget-me-not, and *Mimulus lewisii*, Brook Monkey-flower. Mrs. Higgins cordially invites the members of the Society to visit her garden. It is located at an altitude of 8,300 feet.

OUR WHAT-NOT-TO-PLANT DEPARTMENT

THE late Mrs. Louise Beebe Wilder, whose gift for apt expression makes her books a perennial source of enjoyment, headed one choice chapter "The Meek That Inherit the Earth."* Therein she enumerated and duly denounced certain plants which if once permitted access to the rock garden will soon crowd out everything choice, and defy all attempts at eradication short of complete upheaval and reconstruction. While most of the articles in this Bulletin will naturally be concerned with what to plant, we are inaugurating here a column wherein gardeners with experience can warn the unwary as to what not to plant.

Now that there is an increasing interest in the possibilities of our native flora as rock garden subjects, special words of caution are called for. The mere fact that a plant is a native does not guarantee that it will be better-behaved than some of the infamous introductions from the Old World. When you find a wild flower forming vast colonies on a rocky slope, before you transplant it, study it from the standpoint of how it attained its abundance. If there are numerous seedling plants, it may spread by means of seeds too rapidly for safety. And, if excavation reveals an extensive system of interlacing rootstocks, it had better be left to beautify its native haunts rather than be brought in to overwhelm the choice and delicate occupants of your rock garden.

Some of the worst of the Old World pests, are, alas, often presented to the amateur rock gardener by well-intentioned friends, while others are offered by occasional dealers as "desirable as a rapid grower" or "useful"—they forget to add, for covering road banks and trash dumps.

In "Horticulture" for December 15, 1942, the editors asked for nominations to a list of obnoxious plants. Species covered in the letters of response, published in their February 15th issue, included as an especially serious rock garden pest the Cypress Spurge, *Euphorbia cyparissias.* Dishonorable mention was awarded to certain others which will grow in rock gardens—and how!—Bouncing-Bet, *Saponaria officinalis;* Purple-bed Oxalis, *Oxalis corniculata atropurpurea;* and Rover Bellflower, *Campanula rapunculoides.* That geography may play a part is indicated by the mention of Snow-in-summer, *Cerastium tomentosum,* (which in the east is reasonably well-behaved) as causing trouble in mid-California.

Our readers are invited to send in additions to the blacklist.

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* Chapter XI of "Adventures in My Garden and Rock Garden," published by Doubleday, Page and Co., 1923.

While in the present number of the Bulletin plants of western American regions are emphasized, eastern ones are not to be neglected. In our next number we hope to have an account of New Jersey pine-barren species which give promise as rock garden subjects, contributed by Miss Elizabeth White, the eminent horticulturist of the pinelands.

For future issues we are planning a series of illustrated accounts of notable American rock gardens. Contributions to this series, or suggestions as to gardens which you would like to see included, will be welcome.

AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY AFFAIRS

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Despite the omission of the Flower Show this year sixty-five members of the A.R.G.S. gathered at the Hotel Lexington on Wednesday, March 17th, for one of the most enjoyable annual luncheons in the history of the Society. The President, Walter D. Blair presided and explained the objects of and the advantages of belonging to the Society; he told of the many ways in which the Society could aid the rock gardener, said he "your friendly cooperation in the appreciation and love of the plants that are the basis of our mutual hobby, your enthusiasm and knowledge of alpines and wildings shared with the other members of the Society will bring a vast joy to us all." He introduced the speaker of the occasion, Mrs. J. Norman Henry, who spoke on "Wildings for the Rock Garden" illustrated with many beautiful slides and gave us a delightful treat. Your Secretary is not yet acquainted with all the members of the Society but among those we noted were two former presidents, Mrs. Clement S. Houghton and Montague Free, Treasurer Mrs. George F. Wilson, Dr. Hugh Findlay, Mrs. Harold A. Nomer, Clarence McK. Lewis, Mrs. C. I. DeBevoise, Kurt Baasch, Zenon Schreiber, J. P. van Melle, Dr. Orland E. White, Dr. Beatrice Hinkle, Paul F. Frese, editor of Flower Grower, Harold Epstein and A. C. Pfander.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the A.R.G.S. for the election of officers will be held at the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, N. Y., on Wednesday, May nineteenth at eleven A.M. Following the business meeting we will eat a basket lunch on the lawn, the lunch you will bring with you; following lunch we will explore the Thompson Memorial Rock Garden under the guidance of Mr. A. C. Pfander, the builder; take trains from Grand Central to 200th Street or subway to 198th Street.

The Flower Show meeting and luncheon of the New England group of the American Rock Garden Society was held in Boston on Monday, March 15th, 1943.

SLIDES—

The American Rock Garden Society owns two sets of colored slides on rock garden subjects, 100 slides to the set; these are loaned to societies or clubs thru your regional Chairman, without charge except transportation and insurance.

ASK ABOUT IT—

About plant names, plant species and varieties, plant propagation and culture, rock garden construction details, sources of supply and general information pertinent to rock gardens and rock garden materials; if we do not know the answer we probably know of some one who does and we'll be glad to pass the information along.

These are your pages; items of interest to the Society as a whole are needed to fill them; our next issue will be mailed about June first; your letters should reach us by the tenth of May.

OUR FAR FLUNG FAMILY

Bodnant, Tal-y-Cafn, North Wales
March 13, 1943

American Rock Garden Society

I received this morning the news of the publishing of a Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society; I congratulate you on your enterprise and wish your venture every success.

Yours very truly,
Lord Aberconway

Seattle, Wash.

I have received your notice of the official action of the Society in undertaking its own Bulletin; I read your communication to the group and the members received the news with considerable enthusiasm and indicated their willingness to help the program all they could.

Burton J. Wheelon
Chairman of Washington group

Bellingham, Wash.

The plan formulated for a Bulletin devoted exclusively to Rock Gardening seems a move in the right direction and is inspiring to us far distant members.

Roland G. Gamwell

The news of the proposed publication of an official Bulletin of the Society is most encouraging for the Success of the American Rock Garden Society.

Alma M. Higgins
Chairman of Montana Group

The February meeting of the Washington unit of the American Rock Garden Society was held on the Second; Mrs. Walter Schibig, a Primrose Specialist, gave an interesting talk on Primroses, illustrated with many beautiful slides.

We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. W. R. Reader, Superintendent of the Parks of Calgary, Canada; a member of the Society for the past seven years Mr. Reader was an internationally known horticulturist and an authority on the native flora of the Canadian Rockies.

New York City

American Rock Garden Society

Thank you very much for the copy of the 1942-43 Year Book, I know it will be filled with information on Alpine plants; this new venture, I am sure, will stimulate interest in that field of Horticulture.

Faithfully yours,
Richardson Wright
Editor of House and Garden

Bothell, Washington

The March meeting of the Washington Unit was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Frye, Seattle, Wn. Mrs. Charles W. Cook talked of "Bulbs for the Rock Garden," and passed around water colored pictures of the flowers discussed. A general discussion followed, including hints, helps, and suggestions for our victory vegetable gardens.

R. E. Tindall,
Sec.-Treas.