

# BULLETIN

*of the*

AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

*including*

## SAXIFLORA

Vol. 5

January-February, 1947

No. 1

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### PLANTS ON MOSSY ROCKS

MRS. H. P. MAGERS, Mountain Home, Ark.

AT THE EDGE of the rock garden just above the spring, where it is shaded from the middle of the forenoon on by high oaks, is a low outcropping of rock. Its surface is irregular, roughly pitted and almost completely covered with thick moss which looks like rich green fur after even a slight shower or sprinkling of snow, but between times presents a dull, rough, seemingly dead surface. At the most there is but a dappling of sun at any time after nine in the morning.

Some *Sempervivums* planted at the base of this rock several years ago had, in multiplying, climbed up onto the mossy surface and made a remarkable growth. Last summer a number of the commoner "hens" were planted around in the moss. They rayed out their broods, or carried them on their backs according to their type, in a most satisfactory way; so this summer, when the heat began hurting some of the choicer ones, I gathered them up and, gently separating the moss, tucked them in. Some were so badly injured I thought them gone, but they soon revived and took on new life, starting to raise their families around them. The little webby ones are especially at home and keep on their job of spinning their lovely white webs as though they were not resting on the driest bed in the garden.

There is practically no soil except in a few shallow pockets, just the harsh dry moss; but how those *Sempervivums* are thriving! I feared those established there last year would suffer during our unusually long wet spring, but they showed no effects of the excess moisture, since the whole rock formation slopes sufficiently to allow all surplus water to drain away.

Another smaller "nose" of rock has several small clumps of a wee beaded sedum that has much excelled the same kind planted out in the rock garden. Almost in the center of this outcropping a chance seedling of *Phlox subulata* came up three years ago. I expected it to die, but it has made a slow tight growth and last spring was a compact mound about the size of a tea plate, completely smothered with its bright rosy bloom. On another a stray *Sisyrinchium* found a resting place, making a delightful little picture with its deep blue, yellow-eyed flowers in the early spring. Its dry bed was no handicap to it.

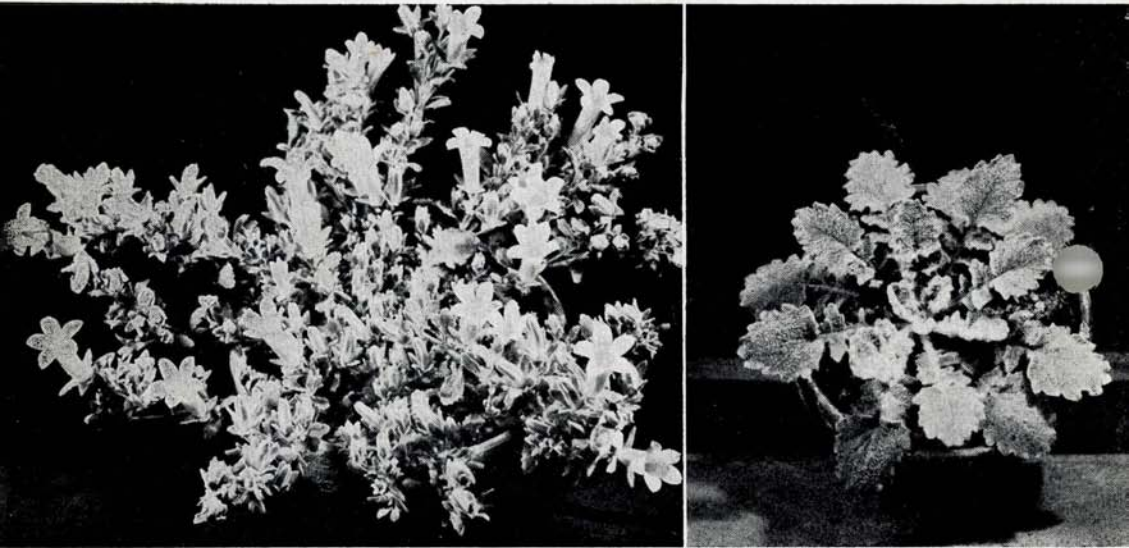
After a shower these mossy weathered rocks are a delight in themselves; with the little plant growths starring about over their emerald surfaces, they make pictures hard to believe. The garden would gladly welcome many more if they could be acquired, but, like "Topsy," they just grow and are not to be hurried.

## CAMPANULA PELIA

ROBERT M. SENIOR, Cincinnati, Ohio

PROBABLY the most beautiful of all low growing Campanulas is *C. pelia*, found on two or three mountains in Greece. It is practically unknown in the United States; indeed the name is not included in Index Kewensis. About 1907 an English writer, Col. Beddome, listed it as somewhat similar to *C. rupestris*; Hayek, in his Flora of the Balkan Peninsula, ranked it as a variety of *C. andrewsi*. But it is so distinctive, and so much more attractive than either of those plants, that it well deserves specific rank.

There is only one objection to it—like Canterbury Bells, it is monocarpic. Immediately after the seeds germinate, it begins to form a rosette of



Spring and Fall aspects of *Campanula pelia*.

BY ROBERT M. SENIOR

large, charming, gray tomentose, lyrate leaves, some of them over four inches long. The second year its long tubed delicate violet flowers begin to bloom, and then the basal leaves, as with so many other Campanulas, proceed to wither. At that time, the plant is smothered with flowers. I observed this year that a plant began to bloom on April 20, and there were still flowers open the end of May. One can be reasonably certain of securing a goodly number of seeds.

The plants should be protected from the winter rains by placing a glass pane over them, and surrounding the crowns with rock chips. However, to see the species at its best, winter it in a pot in the cold frame or alpine house. In a cold frame, the sash can be raised since it seems well able to resist freezing weather, provided the leaves are kept reasonably dry.—

## GEMS OF THE OLYMPICS

MRS. OSCAR L. NELSON, Sequim, Wash.

**W**AY OUT in the northwest corner of the state of Washington lies the newly created Olympic National Park and the Olympic National Forest—in short, there lies the Olympic Mountain Range. While this range is not noted for elevation, as its highest peak is about 8,000 ft., its crags are very rugged. It abounds in crevasses and glaciers and its loftier peaks are accessible for only three or four months of the year before they are again shrouded in their veils of snow. Nature, perhaps in an effort to balance this handicap, has seen fit to endow the peaks and the talus slopes or screes with an abundance of choice alpine flowers; and, because the floral change that is found in the Olympics at an elevation of 4500 ft. occurs in other ranges only at 7,000 ft. or more, the Olympics hold their own with other mountain ranges. They are distinctive. They taunt the imagination. For those of us who have lived in them and seen their floral display in all its unmatched beauty, we feel that if the snows would only melt back on the peaks a little farther one summer, we would find undiscovered gems. Perhaps this is only part of the same make-up that sets the alpine gardener apart and makes him climb peaks on his hands and knees instead of on his two feet. Because this range is comparatively unworked, due to its vastness and inaccessibility except on the outer fringes, there is no doubt but that new plants remain to be found.

There are at least nineteen species endemic to the range—some listings say twenty-one. From the standpoint of the layman, some are very choice, others are not worth the effort of collecting or cultivating. Collecting in the National Park is of course forbidden, but there are no restrictions on gathering seed.

*Viola flettii*, one of the rarest Violets grown, is as desirable for its foliage as for its bloom. It is a tough little gem to establish or to collect seed from. It is seen most often in a crevice that is 'way over your head or else 'way below you and impossible to reach from any approach. There and only there, it is happiest and does its best, where no trace of soil is apparent, only rock. It blithely clings to the rock face, assured that it won't be molested. The leaf is a perfect heart, dark green veined with red on the front and deep maroon red on the back. The bloom, which is wide open with spaces between petals, is not violet, but rather a combination of red, violet and pink, making a color that cannot quite be described, contrasting against the dark leaf. The whole plant is not over four inches high. In one or two spots in the Olympics it has been found in patches in the scree and has adapted itself and seeded in clumps. It is hard to move even here, but so worth the effort. Probably because it is almost impossible, you are determined to make it grow or be worn out in the attempt. The latter is the most common result. White ones have been heard of, but even the usual color form is rare.

Another crevice plant occasionally found here is *Petrophytum hendersonii*. Its foliage is evergreen, sage-green in color and also has a rosette leaf arrangement which grows flat against the crevice or rock. When it is in bloom the crevice will be covered with tiny spikes of creamy lace 2 or 3 inches long, which curl over slightly at the tip and droop; lacy plumes against the sage-colored foliage. If planted in pockets this plant forms neat cushions. Cuttings are the best way to establish it, unless one can find a dealer who has plants to offer.

The dwarf *Campanula rotundifolia olympica* is common in the blue and locally in the white form, but lengthens out in the garden. This plant has caused confusion in Europe, for seed of it was shipped there some years ago as *C. piperi*, which it in no way resembles. The real gem, Pipers Bluebell, grows along the cracks and crevasses and at the very base of the high peaks where the sliding talus has covered pieces that have broken and fallen from the cliffs above. Here the bell and foliage are larger because the soil is more plentiful, richer and more moist. On the high peaks it grows out of tiny cracks or seams in the rocks, which the eye can hardly find, for they are entirely filled with the growth. Its beautiful, blue, wide-open bells against the tiny green rosettes of holly-like foliage hold one spellbound. The bloom is large in comparison to the plant and the newly opened bells have a gorgeous dark red or maroon pistil, while the older bells, more like blue stars opened wide and turned up to the heavens, have the pistil split and no longer show the maroon which is characteristic of the true species. There is a white form here too, but it has been seen by



BY EDGAR T. WHERRY

*Campanula piperi* in its native scree on an Olympic peak.

only a few. *C. piperi* is difficult to establish from cuttings or plants but fresh seed germinates easily.

*Senecio websteri* endemic in the Olympics, was found by and named for the late E. B. Webster, who loved these mountains and perhaps was more familiar with the flora and fauna than any other person. He, with J. B. Flett and C. V. Piper botanized there, and for them many of the new Olympic plants were named. This *Senecio* is very definite in form. Its leaves are dark green and shiny, with a distinct reddish cast, for their veining is red. They are thick and pulpy, dentate, and basal with several lying flat and several erect, about 4 or 5 inches long. From this group of leaves rise the large, lemon-yellow aster-like blooms, with a large rich, rust brown center. The yellow rays are wide at the base and twist and curl as they go outward, yielding a dainty, fragile appearance. It must have scree and moraine, for its is hard and touchy. Seed is best.

*Douglasia laevigata* grows in abundance in the Olympics, the form being good and the color deep rose. From observation of the plant in its native habitat and from plants in the garden over a period of years there would seem to be several forms here. They are as yet all classed as one species but there is a wide difference in bloom forms and at risk of being accused of splitting, some day I believe the botanists will go to work on them, and recognize several different ones. There is a rare white form. *Douglasia* grows readily from seed, cuttings or tiny plants. Many collectors try to move large clumps, but this is not desirable for several reasons. If the plant should live it will stand still for years, a seeder plant will have been robbed of the chance to perpetuate itself; all in all small plants should be a must. In any species they will establish more quickly, and with better results. This is a very good alpine, for its foliage is evergreen, it blooms very early in spring, and it forms neat compact cushions.

*Penstemon menziesii* thrives here for it seems to be happy in the rocks and at blooming time the tiny evergreen leaves are smothered by the profusion of the inch long penstemon blooms in shades from rosy to lavender. It is very worthwhile and comes easily from seed or cuttings.

*Penstemon nelsonae*, found only in the Olympics and in only one place there, is almost unknown except to a very few people, and most of these have not seen it in flower. The leaves are basal, glabrous and denticulate, though not so strongly as most of the alpine penstemons. Their coloring is very dark green with a coppery red overlay and while the foliage is basal and evergreen, the bloom-stalk lengthens to from 12 to 18 inches. The numerous clear sulphur yellow blooms are borne along the sides of the flower stem. It is the only yellow flowered penstemon occurring west of the Cascades in Washington. It lends itself very well to group plantings at the bases of rockeries.

One of our favorites is *Erigeron compositus trifidus*. For some reason it does not seem to have "caught on," but we think it is very dainty and worth while. It never fails to draw the attention of the newcomer. Tiny pincushions of finely divided gray leaves carry little creamy daisies with yellow centers, sometimes stuck in as pins in a pincushion, and again solidly covering the plant, making it very desirable. It is easy from seed or plant and keeps its compact growth at lower elevations, as indeed do most of our plants.

There is the tiny *Salix nivalis* or snow willow, which is lovely in catkin, and so tiny it is trampled upon without the hiker being aware of its existence. *Eriogonum roseum* has dead white foliage with a rosy cast; it is not especially notable as to flower, but is a beautiful plant in a good setting of rock and scree. *Delphinium bicolor* makes a riot of color with its metallic blue hood and white eye. Too large for the alpine garden, it is lovely as a clump or group in the garden. Alliums, Phacelias, Polemoniums, Phlox, Lyalls Lupine, Synthyris, Sedums, Saxifrages, rose colored Indian Paint Brush, the riot of white and yellow Erythroniums, the lovely *Heuchera racemosa* and dozens of other gay and colorful blooms in their proper seasons, and even the luxuriant seed pods of the *Anemone occidentalis* make this region a paradise for the flower lover. Where there is added the splendor of snow capped peaks, the panorama of mountain, ocean, sky, the distant Cascade Range and the Islands of Puget Sound and Straits of Juan De Fuca and across them to British Columbia, then indeed comes the realization that the Olympics offer everything to the lover of the great primitive, open spaces. Here Nature has struck a balance, in fact, a perfect balance.

## MORE MIDLAND NATIVES

HAROLD ALBRECHT, Belle Plaine, Minn.

INTEREST shown in the writer's notes on midland natives for the rock garden in a recent issue of the Bulletin encourages the offering of remarks on additional species. Prairie Buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboides*) is a lovely plant, with waxy yellow flowers. Patches of this growing near a plate-wide clump of the ruddy Prairie-smoke (*Geum (Sieversia) triflorum*) make a balanced and charming garden picture. Both of these are easy to handle; both are conservative of root and space.

Midland Kittentails seems practically unknown in cultivation, not being listed in Hortus or Standardized Plant Names, yet it is so striking that I always count on hearing the exclamation, "What's that?" from every rock garden visitor. This plant has often been classed as *Synthyris bullii*, although it belongs to a group segregated by Rydberg in 1903, and named in honor of the eminent midland botanist, Charles E. Bessey, so is now known as *Besseya bullii*. It has an attractive rosette of leaves, stays put, and looks well in any ensemble, preferring a partly shady corner. In spring it sends up a fuzzy spike of rather dull yellow flowers.

To distinguish the species of Blue-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium*) from one another one would have to be a specialist; but whatever their correct names, they are all charming. You'll delight in an irregularly spaced planting of these grassy tufts. In our region they come in various shades of blue, and as each form one comes upon looks more attractive than the last, it is hard to resist digging a plant or two from every colony. Planted in a sandy spot, they are lavish with their sixpointed stars. For variety, sneak in a few tufts of the relative-in-looks, Yellow-eye-grass, *Hypoxis hirsuta*.

Another desirable native for the sunny, sandy corner, is the Saw-leaf Evening-primrose, *Oenothera (Meriolix) serrulata*. The petals are of a crinkled, papery texture, and so clear a yellow that they seem to have absorbed rays of sunshine. Should you fail to starve this down with thin soil, and the partly woody branches become too prominent, merely lop them off, and new shoots will soon appear.

For the leanest, rockiest soil of all, what could be better than the Midland Golden-aster, *Chrysopsis villosa*? This may not be so tidy of dress, but its golden flower-heads appear during a period when there is relatively little floral display in the hot, dry spots. In my experience this species resents transplanting during the growing season,—in fact, merely flourishing a trowel near it at that time seems to make its foliage wilt down. So transplant it either in late fall or earliest spring.

Two summers ago I came upon a not-too-tall form of the Grassland Lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*). I dug one for my garden, and it has thrived and been lovely ever since, with its slender lavender spires remaining in bloom for a long period in early summer. Like many another native, this should be kept on a lean diet, lest it grow tall and floppy.



## SEDUM NEVII AND ITS RELATIVES

IN THE 5th edition of his Manual of 1867 Asa Gray proposed the name *Sedum nevii* for a plant said to range from Virginia to Alabama, the name honoring the Rev. R. D. Nevius, who had collected it in the latter state. In Standardized Plant Names the spelling is shortened to "nevi" but this is erroneous under any rule of orthography, for it would signify dedication to a person whose name was "Nev." The most appropriate common name for it would be Alabama Sedum.

Many years later, Masters in England applied the name *S. beyrichianum* to a supposedly distinct entity, but the Irish authority Praeger classed this as variety of Gray's species. In 1942-43 the announcement was made by cytologists that the chromosome counts showed two distinct species to be represented, and Dr. R. T. Clausen recommended calling the Alabama one *S. nevii* and the Virginia one *S. beyrichianum*.

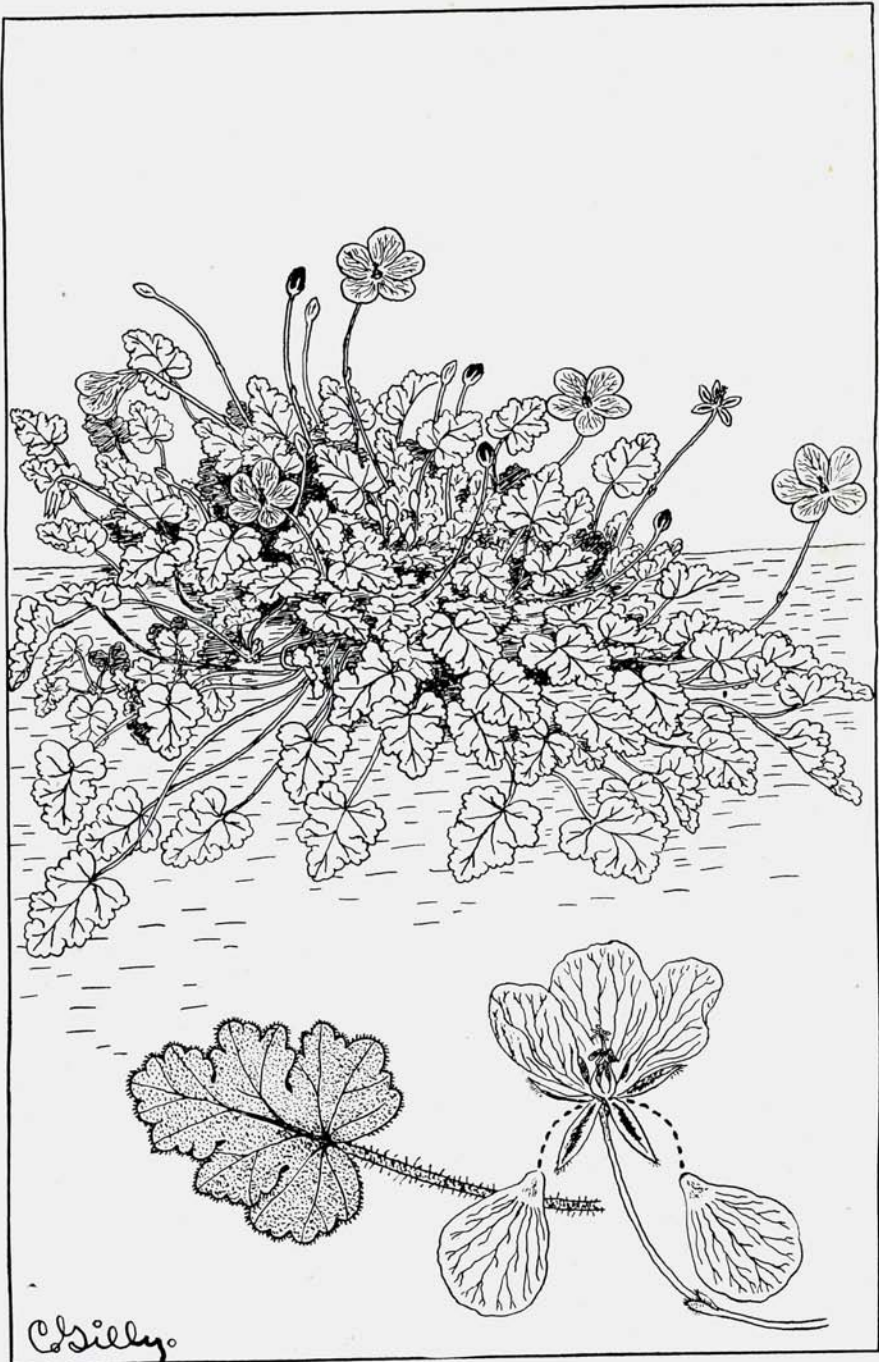


BY EDGAR T. WHERRY

Virginia Sedum, *S. glaucophyllum*, is a shade-tolerant species.

Further study has led Dr. Clausen to change his opinion, and in the Cactus and Succulent Journal for April-May, 1946, he has proposed for the Virginia plant the name *Sedum glaucophyllum*. As rock gardeners may wish to grow these entities more widely than at present—they are both very attractive—we reproduce here (slightly modified) the key prepared by Dr. Clausen to tell them apart.—E.T.W.

LEAVES of floral stems 30 to 50, oblanceolate, flat, 5 to 25 mm. long, 2 to 6 mm. wide; sterile rosettes dense with the leaves 2 to 7 mm. wide; plants more glaucous .....*S. glaucophyllum*.  
 LEAVES of floral stems 12 to 40, narrowly oblanceolate or linear oblanceolate, usually subterete, 3 to 19 mm. long, 1 to 3 mm. wide; sterile rosettes loose with the leaves 1 to 5 mm. wide; plants less glaucous ...*S. nevii*.



C. Silby.

*Erodium chamaedryoides* var. *roseum*

## ERODIUM CHAMAEDRYOIDES VAR. ROSEUM

*Erodium chamaedryoides* var. *roseum* blooms from the first warm days in the spring until frost. Given full sun, deep mellow soil and enough moisture, it grows rapidly and blossoms freely; but the sharp winter of our northern climate is too much for the nearly evergreen leaves, unless properly protected with a gravel mulch, marsh hay and pine branches for shade. Grown under conifers which shelter them in winter, the plants prove more or less hardy, but their bloom is not so free.

They seem to do equally well in neutral or even slightly acid soil, so long as it is a little moist, with a deep root run. They must never dry out, but drainage is essential.

My first plants were happily placed on a shelf of rock with deep root space, under a young plant of *Taxus brevifolia*. They remained there for three or four winters, quite unprotected by any mulch. The *Taxus*, however, grew so large that the little family had to be moved elsewhere, and they have since spent two years under a *Retinospora* (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) in a similar situation.

These little alpine are so easily propagated that one never need worry about losing them altogether. One or two plants, dug from a more open situation, potted and placed in a coldframe in the spring, may be pulled apart into a dozen plantlets as easily as a primrose after flowering. Their short runners root like strawberries, and quantities of youngsters may be added to the collection.

The dark green foliage is so neat and clean, the bright pink blossoms so unfailing, that any one not having a stand of this *Erodium* is missing something very choice.

*Erodium chamaedryoides* var. *roseum* is an alpine found in the Balearic Islands. It is stemless and two or more inches tall. The leaves are numerous, long stalked, slightly hairy, round-ovate, crenulated and cordate, with apex rounded. The blossoms, pure rose, are numerous, growing singly, about two or three inches high. Sepals are ovate-spatulate; petals, five in number, obovate and veined a darker rose. The pistil is minute.

The type, *Erodium chamaedryoides*, is also found in Corsica; but it is less showy, smaller, has white flowers, and fewer hairs on the leaf-stems. Both were originally called *Erodium Reichardi*, but each stays true to type to such an extent, one doubts Clarence Elliott's statement that *E. chamaedryoides* var. *roseum* is a hybrid.

HENRIETTA STOUT  
(MRS. CHARLES H. STOUT)

*E. Reichardi* var. *roseum* Hort.

*E. hybridum* var. *roseum* Hort.

*E. chamaedryoides* var. *roseum* Hort.

Originally published as Plate 12 on December 31, 1940.

The author died January 21, 1942.

## DWARF CEANOTHUS

ELSE M. FRYE, Seattle, Wash.

ONE OF THE SHRUBS I have liked very much in my rock garden is *Ceanothus gloriosus*. It never humps itself up in any bizarre fashion but lies loosely on the ground, the branches and side-branchlets exploring farther and farther year by year. The leaves are oval, the largest  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long. The edges are slightly recurved and shallowly toothed, each tooth ending in a soft spine. On top the veins are obscure but underneath form a beautiful silvery pattern. Clusters of tiny blue flowers terminate the branches or are axillary towards their ends. They are more showy than one would think because of their long hooded petals and the much exerted stamens.

This plant is easily propagated by cuttings in June or July. The first winter is the critical time; being dry-land natives, they easily rot from over-abundance of water.

I acquired my first plants from W. B. Clarke and Co. San Jose, Calif. As a "monicker" they use Point Reyes Ceanothus. Point Reyes is a peninsula not far to the north of San Francisco. Jepson, in his Manual of the Flowering Plants of California, describes a plant from this same locality and calls it *Ceanothus prostratus* var. *grandifolius*. It is possible that these are one and the same thing, but not having enough specimens at hand I can not be sure.

Another good rock garden Ceanothus grows on rocky cliffs overlooking the sea near the mouth of the Rogue River in Oregon. Here the wind blows more or less continuously; all vegetation on the hard bluish rock is close and stunted. This characteristic has persisted in the garden. This plant is a form of *C. prostratus*, most likely var. *divergens*. It is very floriferous, the flowers blue of some depth. As such plants are difficult to transplant from the wild, I take pleasure in its persistence and its slowly lengthening branches. It is propagated as easily and in the same way as *Ceanothus gloriosus*. The leaves are small and leathery, usually ending in three teeth but sometimes having a few on the sides.

*Ceanothus foliosus* is also very interesting, but requires an entirely different setting, though also demanding a sunny position and good drainage. From the basal mass arise several long branches  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet long, in my garden, that curve fountain-like. The leaves are  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  inch long, dark and very shiny with wax above, the margins revolute, a little irregular and edged with glands. As with most Ceanothus, it has a definite foliage pattern that adds interest and beauty: The leaves are uneven in size, several small ones flanking the largest one. The flowers are dark blue, almost iridescent. This species I have not tried to propagate, but I should expect it to behave as the others.

Ceanothus comes from a Greek word, descriptive of a spiny plant; some of the wild species are to be sure more or less thorny but the name may have been suggested by the seed capsules, which are horned or crested. No generally applicable "common name" seems to have been suggested for the genus, although in California various large shrubby species are generally known as Wild-Lilacs, and scrubby ones of no special attractiveness as Buckbrush. About 75 species are known, all North American and chiefly western.



The bells of *Cassiope stelleriana* are pure white.



BY MAXCINE WILLIAMS

## TWO ALASKAN HEATHS

THE SPLENDID photographs of Alaskan wild flowers accompanying Mrs. Williams' article have received such favorable comment that we have asked her permission to publish a few more. Herewith are two of the American relatives of the famous European Heather.—E.T.W.

## NEW ENGLAND ALPINES

STEPHEN F. HAMBLIN, Lexington, Mass.\*

**E**ACH MOUNTAIN range has its "official list" of alpines. Here may be listed the more ornamental ones of New England,—native to Mt. Washington and its environs in New Hampshire, and Mt. Katahdin in Maine. They are arranged somewhat in order of ease of culture. Each is as much a problem as a wayward child, and the treatment of one is no indication as to that for another; success in one spot may face failure a few feet away. In any case, keep the soil acid.

Cutler Goldenrod (*Solidago cutleri*) is a very dwarf species in tight clump, blooming in mid-summer. It is easy to grow in any rock garden.

Yellow Mountain Avens (*Sieversia peckii*, formerly known as *Geum peckii*), has one round leaf and yellow Potentilla-like flowers in mid-summer. Easy to grow, but keep wet.

Wineleaf Cinquefoil (*Potentilla tridentata*) is a tiny evergreen shrub, with its leaves divided into three leaflets, producing clouds of little white flowers in late spring and summer. Will grow in any rock garden in sun.

Northern Starwort (*Stellaria borealis*) is merely a Chickweed with larger white flowers. Moist soil; not very showy.

Moss Silene (*Silene acaulis*) makes mossy cushions with tiny deep rose star-like flowers in spring. Keep a bit moist, although if stimulated to strong growth, likely to die away.

Greenland Sandwort (*Arenaria groenlandica*), though recorded in botanical manuals as perennial, behaves as an annual, and self-sows little, in our rock garden, so soon is lost. The flowers are as large as those of Cerastiums, and appear all summer.

Labrador Violet (*Viola labradorica*) is the one member of this genus at high elevations. It is a branched plant, related to Dog Violet, and the flowers are small. Keep it wet and cool.

Cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*) is one of the few herbaceous Blackberries, with one to three rounded five-lobed leaves, a solitary little strawberry-like flower, and rounded yellow or red fruit. The flavor of this is pleasant, suggesting a frequently used common name, "Baked-apple Berry." Grow in peat-bog conditions.

Pygmy Willow (*Salix herbacea*) is truly an herb, dying to its depressed stems in winter. The little leaves are almost circular, but a few tiny catkins of "pussy" flowers in spring, followed by capsules like those on well-known trees, show that it is really a Willow. A moist north slope.

Bearberry Willow (*Salix uva-ursi*) is a flattened small shrub, the leaves narrowly oblong, the flower catkins and fruit clusters larger and more showy than those of its relative. It will grow in any rock garden when not crowded by other plants.

Black Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) is a depressed shrub somewhat like a Heather, and asking similar conditions. The flowers are minute, and are followed by solitary black berries, like a small pea in shape and size. It is found also at low levels, and is willing to grow if kept cool. The related Purple Crowberry (*E. atropurpureum*) has red to purple berries, and is thus more showy.

It is a challenge to make these alpine gems grow in rock gardens far from their native home. If the game appeals to you, try it in easy stages.

\*Reprinted, with some editorial changes, from Lexington Leaflets, Vol. 17, No. 4, May 25, 1946.

## AQUILEGIA SCOPULORUM

THE CUT which is printed on this page has already appeared in the Bulletin,—volume 2, page 74, July-August, 1944. It is reprinted here for the reason that the name attributed to it on the occasion of its previous publication proves to have been in error, the label accompanying the plant photographed having evidently become exchanged for another. For his failure to check up on the name at that time the Editor wishes to apologize to our members.

In March, 1946, there appeared in volume 7 of *Gentes Herbarum*, the publication of the Bailey Hortorium, a study of the genus *Aquilegia* by Professor P. A. Munz. A glance at the key included in this article showed that the features of *A. jonesii* did not correspond to the illustration in question; instead, this represented *A. scopulorum*.



BY KATHLEEN MARRIAGE

Probably some of our members who grow columbines had already noted this mistake; at least one, Mrs. Regan of Butte, Montana, kindly wrote to the Editor about it. In any case, we hope that members who refer from time to time to back numbers of the Bulletin will enter the corrected name on page 74 of volume 2.

Both of the columbines concerned are in rock garden cultivation, so for the benefit of our members who may wish to make sure that their plants are correctly identified and labelled, we note that, according to Professor Munz's key, while *A. scopulorum* has spurs 25 or more mm. long, in *A. jonesii* their length does not exceed 15 mm.

A photograph of *A. jonesii* suitable for publishing in a future issue of the Bulletin will be welcome.—E.T.W.

## FROM CONSERVATORY TO ROCK GARDEN

BERNARD HARKNESS, New York

AS THE OUTCOME of observations in the field I wish to recommend trial in Southern rock gardens, even as far North as the border-line garden discussed by Mrs. Walker in early issues of the Bulletin, of two sub-shrubs, herbaceous from woody stems. Both are included in Bailey's Cyclopaedia of Horticulture, where they are discussed as conservatory plants introduced from India. While stationed in China during the recent war, the writer found these growing near the village of Kwanhsien in western Szechuan, China at the same time I saw *Lilium Sargentiae* in the locale where E. H. Wilson collected bulbs of it. These plants, *Reinwardtia indica* (*R. trigyna* in the Cyclopaedia) and *Amphicome arguta*, were growing on man-made, albeit very ancient, walls of either porous sandstone or limestone, in exposed positions.

*Amphicome arguta* is a relative of our trumpet-creepers, carrying glossy pinnate foliage. A plant of it tossed out its bright pink trumpets from the top of a protective wall of ancient origin, protection from Tibetan brigands for the old trade-route village of Kwanhsien. At the time, June 15, 1945, it had already set several seed pods, while still showing good bloom and a few budded stems, indicating a long season of flowering. Reginald Farrer found the same species farther north in Kansu Province along a river bank, and in his field notes calls it, "a most handsome thing . . . big flights of lovely rose-pink little Allamandas, clear and brilliant in May." It is not certain whether Farrer's collection was definitely tested to determine whether it had greater hardiness; the time was 1914, another bad period for gardening! This *Amphicome* has been in cultivation, from the Himalayas, since 1837.

*Reinwardtia*, of which a figure appears in the Cyclopaedia, was very showy in May. A close relative of the flaxes, it has their small bright green leaves, but the flowers are larger, nearly two inches across, and of a good clear yellow. I doubt if its display is for a long period, but its foliage is sufficiently ornamental to add interest to the rock garden for the rest of the year.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

Errata in Volumes 3 and 4.—Our readers are requested to make the following corrections in their back numbers of the Bulletin:

Vol. 3, No. 1, page 9, 4th line up, should read "Prepared by the Editor from data furnished by P. J. van Melle."

Vol. 3, No. 4, page 81, 2nd text line, third word should be "man-made."

Vol. 4, No. 1, page 14, 4th line up, the name should be Rydberg.

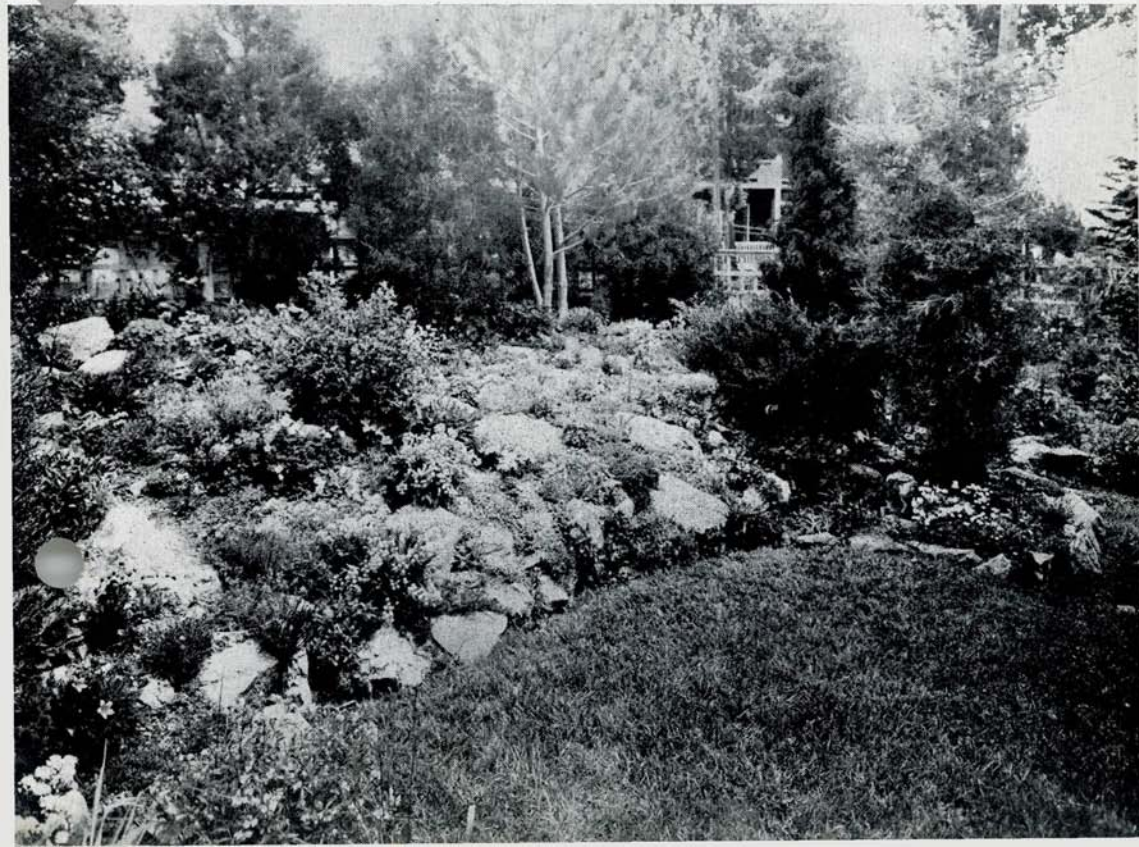
Vol. 4, No. 6, page 104, 9th line, for entire read fringed stipules.

Looking Forward.—Volume 5, No. 2, of the Bulletin is planned to be a "Beginner's Number." Experienced rock gardeners have promised to contribute articles on rock garden planning, building, and care. Suggestions from our readers as to topics they would like to have included, also accounts of experiences which seem likely to be of interest to others, will be more than welcome.—E.T.W.



## IN A MONTANA ROCK GARDEN

CONTINUING the plan of publishing photographs of the rock gardens of our members, we present on this page a view in that of Mrs. Clara W. Regan, in the suburbs of Butte, Montana. As is evident in the picture, this garden was built on a flat tract of land. To give an idea of its size, the distance from the foreground shrubs to the background fence is nine feet. Actually the garden area extends some distance to right from the south-westerly slope, shown in the photograph. It is broken up into a number of scree-like areas and sites for especially choice or exacting species. There are also two small garden spots behind the trees for shade-loving plants, and there various *Primulas* and two different species of *Meconopsis* thrive. The small shrub in the foreground has been identified as *Potentilla mandschuria*, a species not listed in Hortus or S.P.N. It is 14 years old, and at the time the picture was taken (June) was a most beautiful sight, being covered with hundreds of "Little White Roses." The collection includes several dwarf *Penstemons*, including *P. rupicola alba*, discussed on page 71 of the *Penstemon* number of the Bulletin, and *P. menziesii alba*. Near enough for comparison are two *Drabas*, *D. polytricha* and a rare native, identified by the Editor as *D. paysoni*, and it is hard to tell which is the lovelier.—Compiled by the Editor from data submitted by Mrs. Regan.





# THE AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

## ANNUAL LUNCHEON

March 20, 1947, is a date to be marked prominently on your calendar of coming events. This is the date of the annual luncheon, held during the week of the International Flower Show in New York City, and the members are to enjoy the pleasure of listening to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson's first-hand experience with Alaskan alpinists.

Dr. Gabrielson, after outstanding success for some years as Director of the National Fish and Wild Life Service, is now Director of the Wildlife Restoration Institute, a private organization which will endeavor, through books, bulletins and an annual North American Wildlife Conference, to educate the public to the vital importance of wildlife management and preservation.

The December issue of CORONET carried an interesting story on "The Wizard of Wildlife." This "jovial, deep-chuckling, 230 pounder" has a "passion for nature that is never spent. 'Full of hidden life,' he told me, as we stood and gazed across a swirl of spruce woods and frosty peaks . . . 'and it all belongs to the people. We have a great country.'"

## SEED EXCHANGE

From the American Penstemon Society: *Penstemon brandegei*, *cardwelli*, *cobaea*, *diffusus*, *glaber*, *grandiflorus*, *grandiflorus albus*.

From Mrs. Edna R. Bartlett, Lake Stevens, Wash.: *Penstemon menziesii*.

Mrs. E. M. Babb, Portland, Me.: *Potentilla tridentata*.

From Mrs. H. P. Magers, Mountain Home, Ark.: *Lilium formosanum*.

From Mr. A. H. Osmun, Plainfield, N. J.: *Gentiana porphyrio* and *G. calycosa*.

From Mrs. George Johnson, Butte, Mont.: *Oenothera montana* (*Pachylophus montanus*), *Gentian* hybrids mixed, unnamed (some seeds of *G. lagodechiana* in mixture. All very good hybrids.)

From Mrs. James Mullen, Whitehall, Mont.: Native blue *Gilia* (annual).

Be sure to send a stamped, self addressed envelope with your request for seed to Mrs. L. D. Granger, 28 Bayview Ave., New Rochelle, N. Y.

## OFFICERS OF THE NEW ENGLAND GROUP

At a meeting on November 15, Mr. Stephen F. Hamblin was elected chairman and Mrs. Clement S. Houghton, treasurer and secretary.

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