

# BULLETIN

*of the*

## AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

*including*

### SAXIFLORA

Vol. 1

November-December 1943

No. 6

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# BULLETIN

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## AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

Vol. 1

November-December, 1943

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### ROCK GARDENING

FRANCIS O. LIBBY, So. Portland, Maine

THESE are troubled times in which we live. Across the world the flames of war are searing and devastating lands and peoples who in happier times were concerned with the arts and pursuits of peace and happiness. Great monuments which once stood, beacons of inspiration to aspiring man, pointing the way to magnificent achievement, now lie prostrate, utterly destroyed by the hand of man himself engaged in titanic struggle. No land is now free and untouched and there are none of us unaffected. Concerned as we are with the momentous affairs going on about us, it may seem a strange time to be writing of flowers and gardening, perhaps one of the gentlest of the arts of peace; but your essayist feels that, in these days, we all need to seek what avenues to mental poise and stability we may be able to find, for our own health and the good of our fellowman. Our blood brothers in England carry on as nearly as possible as they did in the days when death did not drop from the sky and when the calm of moonlit nights was not made hideous with fire and mangled bodies. Their rock garden societies still meet and still the seeds of small and lovely alpine sprout from the ground and are tended with loving care. Without doubt, some surcease from grief and suffering comes from this attention to their gardens.

The history of rock gardening and the features of alpine plants have been written up in many books; indeed, whole volumes have been published upon single plant families or even genera. Down through the years intrepid explorers have gone, far into the outermost parts of the world, braving the dangers of diseases, savage men and animals, the storms of the desert, the snows of high and barren peaks, the fever-laden equatorial heat of jungles and the bitter cold of the far north, in a continuing search for new plants. Though after all but a minor part of this exploration, may be a very inconsequential part when compared to the importance of the rest, the subject of rock plants is vast and complicated. I can hope to do little more than tell you about a very few choice and charming ones, where they have been found and what may be their likes and dislikes, so that if we are tempted to bring them into our rock gardens we may have a reasonable chance to make them happy. I shall try to make you see with me the high alpine meadows starred with the bright and colorful flowers that bloom there; the jagged, scarred crags above them and the ravines through which the clouds pour down into the valleys below; the great granitic cliffs and the limestone screes; and everywhere the lovely alpine flowers growing among the broken rocks, in the heaths and far up in tiny crevices and fissures in the awesome rock faces.

This will be no treatise on rock gardening. Heaven forbid! Your essayist is in the first place, no botanist and in the second place frequently feels that he is no gardener of any sort. A claim to interest in and great affection for the beautiful little plants that grow in the high parts of the world is his sole excuse for attempting to treat such a subject as this.

Among the books on rock plants probably nothing has ever been done that is finer or more valuable to those interested than the stupendous two-volume work by Reginald Farrer, called "The English Rock Garden." This English botanist-explorer travelled over much of the world in search of material and knowledge, and died in Burma some years ago. It was a passionate devotion which he brought to his work. He loved the plants and he loved the mountains, the peaks rising austere and lonely into the sky, and the forbidding gorges, mist-filled and sombre in their moist darkness. He wrote charmingly of them, sometimes perhaps over-enthusiastically, but his affection and delight in the plants was so great that we can easily forgive him that fault. All his books are worth reading, all delightful as records of exploration in remote and often dangerous lands.

To properly understand the plants, we must study the conditions under which they grow; for if we prepare to try to raise them ourselves it is necessary to provide quarters for them which will be to their liking. There was a time not so long ago when a sloping area with rocks stuck in like tombstones, and an occasional plaster bunny or gnome for good measure, was the accepted idea of what the well made rock garden should be. Fortunately, many of us—though, regrettably, not quite all—have progressed beyond these hideous abortions of the gay nineties. Today the well planned and constructed rock garden simulates a bit of nature herself with cliffs and talus slopes, valleys and wooded areas, and if one is lucky enough, a little brook or pool. The soil is compounded of humus, sand and rock, and good drainage is assured. Numerous alpine plants can be readily grown in such gardens. Of course there are some difficult subjects that require special treatment, but many of these may be grown in places fitted for their exacting requirements, small pockets or crevices where the soil has been adjusted to their needs, a little lime or a mixture of peat moss and gravel added to please them.

The flowers of the rocks,—the Saxiflora—survive under most trying conditions of extreme cold and, in season, intense sunshine. The winter storms encase them in ice and snow and the summer sun scorches them in the brief season they have to flower and reproduce their kind. Adapting themselves to the conditions under which they must exist, the roots go deep between the rocks to absorb moisture, the growth of the plant is generally stunted, and the flowers are out of all proportion in size and brilliance to the foliage.

When it is considered that many a rock gardener attempts to bring plants from timber line or above into his garden, and make them grow at or near sea level, his task might appear almost impossible. That such is not the case is due to the adaptability of many of these plants themselves. Always providing that the gardener does his part in reproducing the soil conditions to which they respond, he can grow plenty of attractive alpenes.

Let us now attempt to visualize the terrain in which high-level rock plants occur. Before us rises a range of towering peaks, the highest maybe covered with perpetual snow, and toward them lead a series of valleys. We have been ascending through woods, the grade always rising and as



we attain altitude, the vegetation undergoes definite changes; the trees of the sorts growing high and straight in the woods of the lower slopes now are stunted and twisted and always lean away from the prevailing winds. Their trunks and limbs are curiously contorted and strong and they hug the ground, taking advantage of every bit of shelter it may provide. No longer in evidence are the woodland plants which we have found in the moist shaded forests below. As we ascend, the vegetation becomes more sparse and the lush greenery of ferns and mosses gives way to the heaths and grasses of the open spaces, along with the flowers that grow there. From this area we may reach great cliffs rising to a tableland above, or long gently-sloping terraces leading to the heights beyond. We will find under all the cliffs a talus slope of broken rock, weathered and fallen from above. This slope in the course of time has become a scree or massing of rocks in which time, possibly measured by centuries, has enabled a certain amount of humus to develop among the rock particles. An area of this sort is just right for the existence of many rock plants, providing for them moisture and a deep, cool root-run which is greatly to their liking.

In the nomenclature of rock gardening there seems to be some confusion between 'scree' and 'moraine', and the two words are used as though one were synonymous with the other, which is not really the case. Although both are assemblages of rock, they are quite different in character. The moraine, both the lateral and terminal type, is a heterogeneous admixture of rocks, pebbly earth and miscellaneous detritus ploughed up or deposited by glacial action; while the scree consists of more uniform rock fragments broken by frost action from nearby cliffs, mixed with humus-rich loam formed by the generations of plants which have lived and died there.

In the cliffs are vertical crevices and fissures. Little ledges hold a few handfuls of soil. Moisture condenses on the rocks and, trickling down, seeps through the stones and always by capillary attraction is brought to the surface, giving the plant roots the coolness and life-giving moisture they need. Above the rocks may lie areas of turf, heath, and grassland. Here grow grasses and sedges of various kinds, while many showy meadow flowers extend right up to the edge of the snow on the peaks.

The choice of what shall be included and what excluded in the rock garden is a much discussed matter. Obviously, the height of the plant is one determining factor. Most alpine are low-growing, and in a small rock garden tall-growing plants are certainly out of place. Such rampant annuals as petunias and nasturtiums, which all of us have seen in some so-called rock gardens, are never right. Reginald Farrer wrote "The essential quality of real true Alpines is their long perseverance in beauty against untoward circumstances; . . . a worthy occupant for your rock garden should not exceed a foot in height and the dwarfier it is, the more brilliant and appropriate." There is surely great charm in the little fragile-appearing plant which bravely puts forth its delicate blossoms, far more charm, I think, than in the flamboyant, buxom floral display advertising its magnificence to all beholders.

To properly simulate a mountain scene the addition of various small evergreens is of the greatest value, suggesting as they do, when properly placed, the tree-growth of the hills; and there are a number of these dwarf trees which are very appropriate and charming. Perhaps the best of them all is the Alberta Spruce, a pygmy which grows about one half inch a year

and always maintains a fine cone-shaped form. The tiny *Chamaecyparis obtusa nana* is also good, and I personally am fond of the dwarf yew, *Taxus cuspidata nana* and some of the Japanese varieties. With such evergreens the garden in winter, when the flowers and leaves of herbaceous plants are gone, may still have good design and charm.

The choosing of plants which have outstanding merit and beauty is somewhat difficult. Right here in our own White Mountains and on Mt. Katahdin we have species of great interest and rarity. The Rockies have many outstanding plants which we are just beginning to know. Numerous species from the Alps of southern Europe have long graced our rock gardens. The Himalayan rock flora has not yet been thoroughly investigated, and there remain vast high altitude regions in China and Thibet of which very little is known as to their plants. China probably holds the greatest botanical riches in store for the future, of any section of the earth. Japan and New Zealand have yielded many "saxifloral" treasures but the end is not yet. Of all the thousands of species, with in many cases a multiplicity of varieties, space will permit discussion of but two or three. These are not the rarest, by any means, but they have that indefinable something that speaks to all of us who love the mountains, the joy in high places, the cold keen air of the heights above the clouds and sky around us, the great stars at night close and brilliant, the love of strenuous endeavor, and the fellowship of those who travel the mountain trails. All these seem surely to enter into our choice, for of the high hills, the plants are a part.

Most of us who have any familiarity at all with gardens, know the lovely shrubby *Daphne cneorum*, that fragrant rose daphne that does so well for some people, growing lusty and strong and perfuming the air with its fragrant blossoms. Many of us know, too, the *Daphne mezereum*, charming with its violet bloom before the leaves appear in the spring; but I undertake to say that only a very few of us are familiar with *Daphne petraea*, an exceedingly rare plant whose original home is in just one place in the world. This place is high on the tremendous sheer limestone cliffs above Lake Garda in the Southern Alps. There it thrives in the blazing radiance of the Italian sun, growing and sending its roots far down into tiny crevices so small and close that the point of a pin will hardly enter. And there it covers the cliff face with ropes and bosses of dark green which in early summer are wholly hidden by the large rosy pink trumpets of the flowers. These are of a waxen consistency and the petals appear to be covered with a fine diamond dust. The fragrance is exquisite and according to accounts by those who have seen this little shrub, which is only four to five inches high, growing there on the great cliffs, the astounding beauty of it is almost unbelievable. It is said to be almost impossible to collect as the roots are very brittle and so wedged between the rocks and so inaccessible placed that only occasionally can a seedling be found and safely removed. It is however possible to obtain the species for our gardens, grafted on roots of *Daphne mezereum*. They seem to thrive in full sun in a deep loam with plenty of limestone rocks.

It may seem a far cry from Lake Garda in Italy to our own White Mountains, but we are now very agile, at least in our minds, so that distances and heights will not bother us at all. I confess to a certain almost proprietary interest in some of the plants on Washington and Katahdin; and when one has discovered a new sort, new that is to oneself, and with great care removed a specimen and transported it, with fit precautions and considerable toil, down the mountain, to finally make it content to



grace his garden, a certain not unjustified interest and pride in the plant may be permitted him. On Mount Washington grow three small shrubs, all of great charm and interest both in flower and out. All are evergreen with tiny leaves one fourth to three eighths of an inch in length, and the three make very worthy denizens of our garden if we can find them and succeed in growing them. Those of us who have climbed in the White Mountains must have noticed the little rounded cushions of *Diapensia lapponica* which are so common at around 5000 ft. In some places these mats may cover whole square yards, while in others the little bronzy domes of the *Diapensia* may be only an inch or two across. A tiny high Alpine or Arctic shrub, with the melting of the snows, it is starred with lovely white blossoms on stems an inch or two high. Despite its prevalence on our mountains it is a difficult and delicate plant for the garden, being extraordinarily hard to satisfy.

While one literally treads on the *Diapensia*, one may have to search diligently before finding the tiny azalea, *Loiseleuria procumbens*. Last fall I was fortunate enough to discover a station of it located among great broken rocks, and there it literally covered the ground for some yards, indeed, all the ground there was between the rocks. A friend and I had left the summit of Washington, which was covered by a frosty cloud, the air being cold and piercing. We descended the Cone and by the time we reached the Saddle between Clay and Washington the sun was out, although the highest part of the peak was still under the clouds. Below us the Great Gulf, the glacial cirque between Washington and the Northern Peaks, was a blue abyss of air with little clouds drifting below us and, far down and barely distinguishable, Spaulding Lake glimmered on the floor of the Gulf. It was all very lovely. I left the trail and explored on one side and there found the *Loiseleuria*. It is a trailing plant, in appearance somewhat like a small leathery thyme and it adorns itself with rosy pink waxy cups when spring at last reaches the high hills. Like the *Diapensia* this is not too easy in the garden, requiring a peaty soil in sun, plenty of moisture in the spring and always sharp drainage.

On the way down we had found many other plants still in bloom, even though the nights had been well below freezing for some time. While it was very late in the season, the *Arenaria groenlandica* was still holding its pure white blossoms above the grasslike foliage, and the golden rod still bloomed among the mountain asters. In a patch of *Ledum*, the Labrador Tea, I found the rare little fir-foliaged heath *Phyllodoce caerulea* (or as Farrer lists it, *Menziesia caerulea*.) This plant blooms in the summer and fall and carries its blossoms, little lilac or pink bells drooping above the foliage, each on its own slender stalk. It was not in bloom when I found it but I had high hopes of being able to make it happy in my garden. My hopes have been somewhat dashed this winter by discovering my specimen possessed a singular attraction for field mice, who spent the long cold winter comfortably nesting in the middle of it and eating it, to the great detriment of the plant.

If space permitted, I should like to discuss many other plants of interest to the rock gardener. For example, the American genus *Lewisia*, which includes so many lovely species. (See article by Carl Purdy in Bulletins No. 2 and 3). Extended consideration would certainly be given to the world-wide genus *Saxifraga*, aptly termed by Farrer the "backbone of the rock garden," so vast as to be separable by botanists into 17 subdivisions.

(See Farrer's account, in his book "Among the Hills," of his finding of *Saxifraga pulverulenta*, "the most wonderful plant in all the ranges of the Alps.") Another large genus which should be covered is *Primula*, with hundreds of species of wide variation in habit. Blue flowers are always desirable in the rock garden, so the genus *Gentiana* could not be left out of the picture; nor could *Eritrichium*, the magnificence of which has been so thrillingly described by Farrer and by Elliott.

Perhaps when we work with these beautiful flowers in our gardens, something of the peace of the hills may be ours. To quote from Farrer's book, "On the Eaves of the World"—written in the days of the first world war—"It is something to have flower fields and beauties to remember amid the enveloping universal darkness of the world."



BY THEODOR PHILIPP HAAS

## GENTIANA ACAULIS AT HOME

THE interesting account of the culture of the Stemless Gentian published in the September-October number of this Bulletin (p. 90) did not include a portrait of the plant. We present herewith a photograph of a native occurrence of it, on limestone gravel in the Pupplinger Au near Wolfratshausen, Bavaria, Germany. The associated needle-leaved plant is *Erica carnea*, one of the few heaths which thrive on calcareous soil. A minor variant of this Gentian is known as *Gentiana clusii*, and some authors hold that this should take precedence over *G. acaulis*. There is also a closely related species differing in preferring acid soils, named *G. kochiana* (syn. *G. excisa*). In this Bulletin we favor following Bailey's Hortus in accepting *G. acaulis* as valid.

Dr. Theodor Philipp Haas, who supplied the photograph, is a German botanist who was for some years on the staff of the famous Botanical Museum in Munich. Forced to flee when the Nazis came to power, he was fortunately enabled by the Friends' Service Committee to reach safety in America, and is now living in Philadelphia.—E. T. W.



# SAXIFLORA

## PLATE 21

**Townsendia parryi**  
(*Asteraceae*)

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TOWNSENDIA PARRYI

Narrow-leaved variety



## TOWNSENDIA PARRYI

EVERYONE who knows a *Townsendia* is eager to see others of this group of western Daisies numbering about twenty species. As many of the kinds are very rare or choose their habitats in most inaccessible places and are hard to come by, seeds of a variety of *Townsendia parryi* offered in the seed exchange of the Society a few years ago were rated a prize. Success with them added the fourth to my collection.

*Townsendia*, related to *Erigeron* and *Aster*, is a genus with relatively large flowers, the plants being for the most part stemless or nearly so. Twelve or fourteen species are cushion-like and some of them bear flowers nearly two inches across on plants that are less than as much in height. These lower ones are mostly perennial. The biennials are apt to be stemmed but a measure of eight inches includes most of them. Ray flower colors range from white to pink and rose and to lilac, lavender and bluish purple, according to description.



BY CLAUDE A. BARR

This variety of *T. parryi* is of the biennials, yet so lovely a lavender and the plant so perfect in bearing and behavior that one willingly supplies the effort to maintain a stock. Effort indeed is required for though much seed has scattered, chance seedlings have appeared not at all.

Early plantings germinate reasonably well, and by late fall well developed plants are three to four inch rosettes of deep green oblanceolate or narrowly spatulate leaves. They remain green through the winter. My first lot of seedlings had been subjected to drought and in consequence took until the third year to flower, a trick other biennials sometimes display in my Plains garden.

The great Daisy blossoms come in June and no doubt their glowing lavender with disk of old gold will effect a thrill through any number of return performances. Five or six blossoms to the plant prove good culture, I am advised, and compare with the usual two or three in the wild. But as a demonstration of capabilities one of my last year plants, perhaps a bit tipsy with potash-rich diet, branching and rebranching in low dome shape produced thirty-four blossoms, most of them out at once.

The Townsendsias are not at any time or place components of a jumble of vegetation, it seems. That is, not for the wild garden. For their individual habitats in the native state they select environments which restrain other plants and they possess neither desire nor mechanism for close competition. In the garden they are to be carefully nurtured in lean well drained soil with moderate application of moisture.—CLAUDE A. BARR,

Smithwick, South Dakota.

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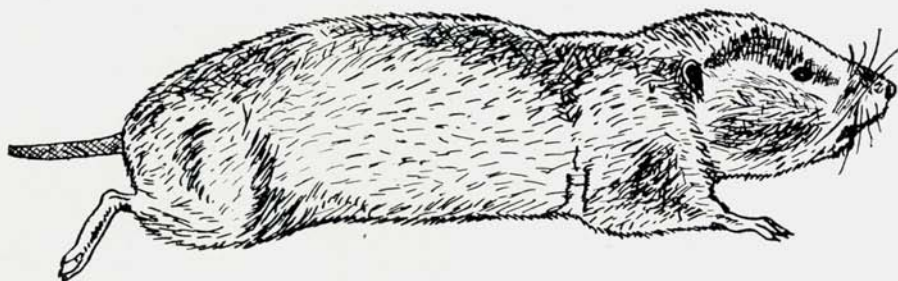
The foregoing account of a *Townsendia* is sure to lead our readers to desire to know more about this Rocky Mountain and foothill genus. The Editor would welcome an article on the group, telling how the species differ, with multiple illustrations. Until such a manuscript is received, however, the following outline will have to suffice.

Townsendsias resemble Asters or Erigerons, but differ technically in having forked or barbed hairs on the achenes. The plants are low perennials, biennials, or annuals, with tufts of entire linear to spatulate leaves and sparse, showy flower-heads. There appear to be some 20 species, but many of these are difficult to tell apart, and they are rarely correctly labelled in the trade or in rock gardens.

According to the original description, *T. parryi* is a perennial with obovate-spatulate leaves and bright blue rays. In writing it up for the Synoptical Flora, however, Gray held its duration to be biennial and the ray-color to be more correctly termed violet. Mr. Barr's plant, with oblanceolate-spatulate leaves and lavender rays, is perhaps to be regarded as a variety of the original species.

Since this article was prepared, a discussion of Townsendsias by C. W. Wood appeared in the October, 1943, Gardeners Chronicle of America. He expresses the desire for more information on the genus, which is certainly needed. The plant which came to him as *T. exscapa* has the flower-heads on stems 2 to 4 inches long, whereas as the species name implies, this species as originally defined has sessile heads.—E.T.W.

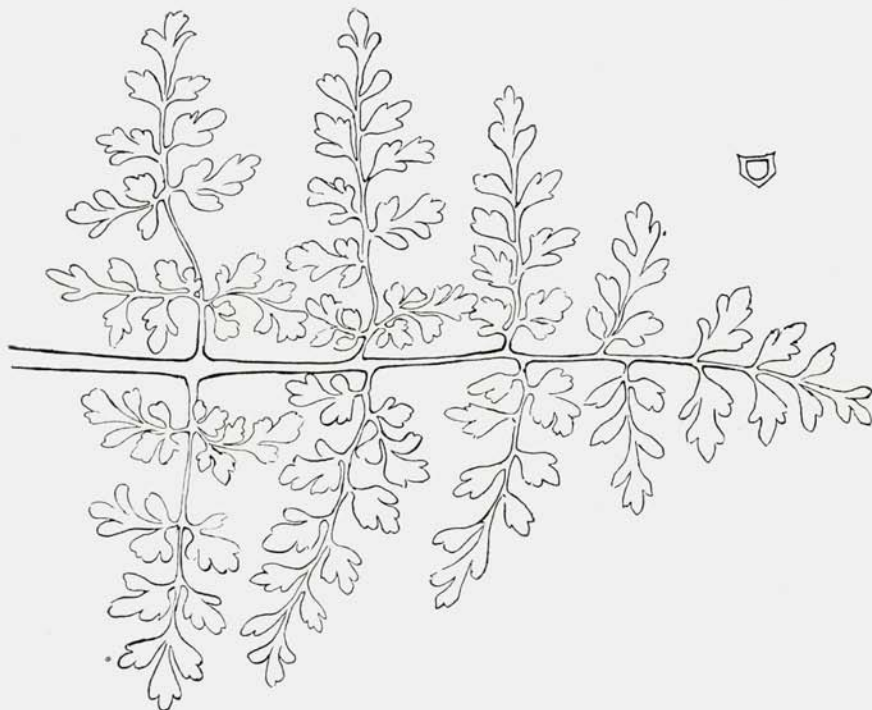




## BURROWING RODENTS

THE greatest destroyers of succulent-rooted plants in our rock gardens are the rodents, including chipmunks, squirrels, and worst of all, mice. While many gardeners believe that the moles whose burrows they see do the damage, scientists find these creatures to be carnivorous, feeding wholly on worms and grubs. However, the tunnels which the moles have opened furnish an ideal habitation for various sorts of mice, and it is these that do the damage to our prized plants. In the Middle Atlantic States one of the worst offenders is the Pine Mouse, (*Pitymys pinetorum*) whose portrait, sketched for us by Miss Virginia Craemer, appears above, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  natural size.

In the American Lily Yearbook for 1942, page 92, Mrs. J. Norman Henry reports complete success in protecting not only lily bulbs, but also Clintonias, Gentians, Dwarf Iris, and various other plants. Her plan is to obtain from a quarry where road material is being produced a load of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch crushed stone. For plants which prefer mildly alkaline soils limestone or trap rock should be selected; for those needing high acidity, granite or sandstone. The stone is mixed thoroughly and evenly with an equal volume of soil, and the plant's roots are wholly surrounded with the mixture. To quote: "The sharp edges of the freshly broken stones are a constant snub to pilferers. . . . Now I laugh at all the old underground worries and each autumn I plant my precious bulbous treasures secure in the knowledge that they are safe from every marauder."—E.T.W.



## CORYDALIS THALICTRIFOLIA

**A**MONG the many problems of handling the rock garden after the great spring burst of bloom is over, not the least is that of a ground cover for the rest of the season. It is difficult to meet the many "musts" that confront the gardener, especially if much bulbous material is used for both spring and autumn display, thereby doubling the vacant spaces of "before and after" bloom. One plant that has proved itself invaluable for this purpose in my Piedmont "Rock Patch" is *Corydalis thalictrifolia*, certainly among the easiest and loveliest subjects; yet, judging from the invariable questions concerning its identity, from all strangers who see it, it is practically unknown to the average gardener. I bought the seed from Thompson and Morgan twenty years ago.



The tiny straw-colored flowers, borne in dense racemes on tall stems, are the least important feature of the plant, whose real value lies in its foliage.

In color the plant is a pale glaucous green. The finely cut lacy leaves, as shown in the drawing, (half size), resemble the upper leaves of our native meadow-rues (*Thalictrum*); they are borne on brittle five-angled stalks and are fern-like in character of growth. A mature plant makes a graceful spread of about two feet. In winter this *Corydalis* generally dies back to a small short tuft of pinkish-red foliage and, though in unfavorable seasons it may apparently die outright, it revives unexpectedly in spring. It seeds freely and the numerous tiny seedlings are decorative in themselves, and sufficiently numerous to be weeded out from spots where not wanted without fear of extermination of the plant. It is too beautiful and too practical in value to be so generally ignored.—VIOLET NILES WALKER,

Woodberry Forest, Va.

## THE ZAUSCHNERIAS

IF THERE is such a thing as a "rock-plant," the *Zauschnerias* certainly conform to this designation. In their native homes in California they are found in pockets and even crevices in rocks, or in broken-down rock masses where there is a little moisture all the year round. One of their colonies, with its masses of scarlet bloom when everything else is dry and dull, is calculated to delight any flower lover.

Although at first sight no one would suspect it, this genus belongs to the Evening-primrose Family. Our common name in California is "Wild Fuchsia;" Standardized Plant Names favors "Firechalice," but in my opinion this will never become popular. The genus occurs widely scattered over the state, in small colonies, often widely separated from one another. There are several species, with a large number of easily distinguishable variations.

The Carnegie Institution is supporting a study of how plants adjust themselves to different environments, and has developed three experimental stations in California: at Stanford University, not far above sea-level; at Mather, about 4000 feet altitude in the mountains; and at Tioga Pass, 10,000 feet up in the High Sierras. *Zauschneria* was selected as one of the subjects for investigation, and plantings of its forms made at these three places. Specimens from many localities are assembled at the Stanford University station, Palo Alto, and I was so fortunate as to see them in full bloom. There were wonderfully fine plants among them, yet in my opinion not one was superior to the form which is native close to my home in the mountains of northern California.

*Zauschnerias* spread by underground stems or rootstocks into large clumps or colonies, and are rather too straggling to handle in open beds. In propagating them, they are preferably set out in pots or cans, which will confine their growth. The foliage is pleasing and the tubular scarlet flowers are so freely borne, from August until frost, as to largely conceal the leaves. Some of the species are tall,—up to 18 inches—while others are prostrate; and one, *Z. cana*, is a shrub.

In the rock garden these plants should be set in pockets filled with a fairly good loamy soil. Some years ago I sent plants of *Z. californica* to Dr. J. Horace McFarland, who reports that it grows splendidly in his garden at Breeze Hill, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As the climatic conditions there must be very different from those of its native haunts, this plant can be considered as adaptable to both eastern and western rock gardens.

—CARL PURDY, Ukiah, California.

## IN A NEW JERSEY GARDEN

THIS rock-bordered pool some 30 feet long and 10 feet wide on the estate of Mrs. J. Clark Williams, Morristown, New Jersey, was designed and executed (non-professionally) by our Secretary. Being situated in woodland, planting was carried out with shade-tolerant species. The ground-cover in the middle background is the Albino Periwinkle, *Vinca minor alba*. Its rich green glossy foliage is evergreen, and throughout the spring is starred with attractive white flowers.



BY J. C. MAUGHANS

The rocks at the head of the pool are planted entirely with ferns,—the evergreen Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) the smaller partly evergreen Brownstem Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*) and the delicate Northern Maidenhair (*Adiantum pedatum*). Around the front and sides of the pool are placed a number of *Primula* species, selected to yield bloom over much of the growing season. By way of accent, on the left is a clump of a southern Iris offered in the trade as "Iris shrevei alba," the technical botanical name for which has not been established.—E.T.W.



## ERICA CINEREA ATRORUBENS

THIS *Erica* is a precious gem for a rock garden, so wee that it appears like a flowering moss. Its leaves are only  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long, linear, and brilliant dark green. The reddish stems hug the ground, but send up branches to a height of 2 or 3 inches, each tipped with a cluster of ruby bells of unbelievable brilliance.

We have it growing in our Nantucket garden in a sandy soil, with admixed peat and loam. It has come safely through sub-zero weather here. Flowering commences the end of June and continues into September. Our stock was purchased from one of the firms in the northwestern states whose ad appears on the back cover of the Bulletin; in the trade it is known as *Erica atrorubens*, but Bailey's Hortus classifies this as a variety of *E. cinerea*.—WALTER D. BLAIR, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Now that Volume 1 is coming to an end, the Editor requests space for a few remarks. First of all, the heartiest thanks are extended to the 25 authors who have contributed the splendid series of 40 articles occupying our 116 pages. Space-limitations made slight condensation necessary in some cases, but practically everything submitted has been published. In carrying out the necessary revision, the Editor absent-mindedly perpetrated a few errors, for which apologies are offered. A list of those which have been noted, and of errors in typesetting missed in proof-reading, is published herewith. Readers are urged to enter the corrections on the pages and lines indicated, and to report any additional ones they may observe.

In volume 2 articles similar to those previously published will be included, provided our members continue to send them in. However, since the form in which *Saxiflora* has appeared thus far has proved rather unsatisfactory, and the securing of suitable articles and illustrations unduly difficult, the publication of this series will be interrupted for a time. Suggestions already received as to its future format range from reduction of the discussion to a single page facing the cut and omitting a cover-page, to calling the whole Bulletin *Saxiflora*. Additional expressions of opinion will be welcome.—E.T.W.

## ERRATA IN VOLUME 1

P. LINE	CHANGE	TO	P. LINE	CHANGE	TO
3 1	<i>P. N.</i>	<i>P. n.</i>	52 23	Success	success
7 16	<i>Carolinianum</i>	<i>carolinianum</i>	67 13	characteri- zation,	characteri- zations
8 5	<i>Hippeastrum</i>	<i>Hippeastrum</i>	74 21	flowering . . . .	(take line out)
12 29	<i>erica</i>	<i>ericad</i>		. . . case	
16 20 up	terms	term	78 3 up	942	948
16 11 up	environment	environmental	80 hdg.	PLANT	PLANT-
17 6 up	<i>Athyrum</i>	<i>Athyrium</i>		NAMES	NAMES
25 5	minor	minus	86 12 up	<i>polyphyllus</i>	<i>nitidus</i> ssp.
25 7	<i>Leacheana</i>	<i>Leachiana</i>		(syn. <i>nitidus</i> )	<i>polyphyllus</i>
26 7	Charels	Charles	87 14	<i>florescens</i>	<i>flavescens</i>
26 11 up	mont,	mont	94 14 up	<i>media</i>	<i>meadia</i>
31 21	<i>leptosepela</i>	<i>leptosepala</i>	95 10 up	blue	lavender
32 5	propogated	propagated	96 leg.	blue	lavender
51 19	J. P.	P. J.			

## OUR QUEST FOR AN EMBLEM

In regard to the floral emblem of the Society, I should like to recommend the genus *Penstemon* for that honor. The Beard-tongues are practically all American, and many of them are easily grown. What could be more showy than *Penstemon nitidus*, or others of the good blue ones, in full bloom? Some of the other genera which have been suggested are attractive enough, but too difficult to grow. Why have an emblem which but few of us could have represented in our gardens?—A. F. PRIEST,  
Peru, Iowa.

## OUR FAR-FLUNG FAMILY

The Washington Unit of the American Rock Garden Society held its September meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burton J. Wheelon. Mr. L. N. Roberson gave a discussion on how to make cuttings, the various mediums in which to root the cuttings, and the use of electricity. This very interesting and instructive talk was followed by the election of officers for 1944, as follows:

Regional Chairman—Mr. Burton J. Wheelon.

Vice-Chairman in Charge of Program committee—

Mrs. Carl S. English, Jr.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mr. Robert E. Tindall.

The October meeting of the Washington group was held October 15, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Frye. The feature of the evening was a showing of the colored slides and illustrations on "Alpines in the Wild," given by Mr. and Mrs. Carl English, which were taken on their collecting trips in the Northwest. The pictures were enjoyed by many members and their interested friends.

At the regular monthly luncheon of the North Atlantic group held on the seventeenth at the Hotel Lexington, Mr. Thomas Weston, noted authority, gave a very informative talk on 'Hardy Primroses for the Rock Garden'. The December meeting will be held at the Lexington on the fifteenth, Robert S. Lemmon will talk on 'Available But Neglected Natives'.

At the January meeting on the seventeenth, Marcel LePiniec will give a practical demonstration on Rock Garden building.

### Your Quota is ONE

Wouldn't it be grand to double our membership this year? It's a mighty simple matter. Enclosed is a small folder with an application blank; this folder tells all the advantages of a membership in the American Rock Garden Society. With this in hand, you approach a friend or acquaintance who is interested in rock gardens, and you should have no difficulty in selling them the idea of joining. If each member will do this NOW, we will double this year. A membership in the A.R.G.S. is about the easiest thing to sell we know of; we have enrolled 54 new members this year without any special effort; send your friend's name in soon.



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