

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

Vol. 2

March-April 1944

No. 2

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While the Editor has been making an earnest effort to obtain high-quality illustrations for the Bulletin, the engraving company has in several cases failed to turn out satisfactory cuts. After considerable effort, an engraver has been located who is able to reproduce photographs more faithfully. As a frontispiece to the present issue of the Bulletin, we are republishing two of the illustrations which when they first appeared did not do the subjects justice. These will, it is hoped, give our members a better idea of the aspects of the plants concerned. Should anyone desire to clip these out and paste them over the poor cuts in the back numbers, we will send loose sheets of them on request.



BY THEODOR PHILIPP HAAS

Gentiana acaulis

Republication of the view of this plant from Vol. 1, No. 6, p. 106.



BY KATHLEEN MARRIAGE

Aquilegia saximontana

Republication of the view of this plant, from Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 6.

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THE HERB ROCK GARDEN

STEPHEN F. HAMBLIN, Lexington, Mass.

SO MANY are the kinds of special gardens in which we are interested that few of us can find room for them all. It is perhaps pleasant to combine them when feasible. At any rate, it is possible to grow some of the plants of the herb garden in the rock garden, and thus give the latter an interest in summer months. Not all the plants of the special "herb garden" are suited for rock plantings, for some have little show of flower or flavor; many are tall or weedy and some spread by root or seed and would soon take over the whole rock garden.

Of the plants favored by the herbalists, and quite proper in the rock garden, are certain of the Mint family, as Thyme and its immediate relatives. These all like sun and heat and ask little more. Thyme alone would make a whole garden. No one knows how many species there are, but the most conservative botanist can find at least thirty, and the energetic can make many more; while there are many garden forms of the common species. It is possible to get more than a hundred different kinds of Thyme, requiring a good-sized rock garden indeed, for the plants cooperate well by creeping stems and flying seeds, so that the "kinds" are soon well mixed together. For those of us who do not care for the Latin names for Thymes, there are two types, the creeping sorts and the erect little bushes.

The creepers are usually forms of Mother-of-thyme, (*Thymus serpyllum*), and the flowers may be purple, rose, red or white, in early June or mid-August; the leaves may be dark green, gray downy or gold spotted, for there are dozens of forms of this variable plant. Other species may vary from this one in odor of the plant, shape of leaf or habit of growth. But these creepers are much alike in effect and all refuse to stay in the bed in which they were put. Try at least *Thymus cimicinus*, *T. herbarona*, *T. lanicaulis*, and *T. marschallianus* (hort. name).

The bush Thymes are more manageable plants, making tiny evergreen trees a foot or so high, in effect quite like dwarf Lavender and Rosemary. Common Thyme (*T. vulgaris*) is the bush in the kitchen garden, but also there are *T. zygis*, *T. zygis* var. *gracilis*, *T. hyemalis*, and others; while the silvery form of Mother-of-thyme and also the form with strong lemon odor (*T. serpyllum* var. *vulgaris*, known horticulturally as *citriodorus*) are more bush-like than creeping. For a small rock garden the bushy sorts are less of a care to keep in bounds.

Very like the bushy Thymes are the plants called Savory (*Satureja*). They have the same tiny clustered Mint flowers, but the leaves are wider. The common species is annual, but Winter Savory (*S. montana*) is a tiny evergreen shrub, and many other species are very similar in growth. These bloom in June-July, when flowers are needed in rock plantings. So very

like to Savory is *Micromeria* that some of the plants have been assigned both to *Satureja* and *Thymus*. They are stiff little erect bushes, with narrow shining evergreen leaves, the tiny clustered flowers white or pink, but not appearing until August and September. There are several named species or varieties in foreign lists, and *M. rupestris* is most commonly offered in our nurseries.

Hyssop is rather large for a rock garden, being a bushy shrublet, with narrow shining leaves, the flowers in long slender spires, blue, pink or white, well above the foliage. If the plant becomes leggy, a severe haircut in the spring is helpful. The White Hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis* var. *albus*) has broad pale green leaves and the flower effect is most pleasing.

Marjoram is both creeping and erect, for it makes many runners, like a creeping Thyme, and these send up stiff shoots the next year with flat tops of pinkish, purplish or white flowers in July. Common Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) is really too easy to grow, but other small species are little seen in our gardens.

Rosemary, of course, is not hardy through zero winters, but in lands of warmer winters it becomes a great shrub a yard tall. But there is a dwarf form, and a creeping variety, which should be more widely planted in rock gardens, where they are hardy. As yet these are little seen, though listed by dealers. Lavender is also a large shrub in warm lands, and there are several species, mostly with strong odors. Spike Lavender (*Lavandula latifolia*), or Broadleaf Lavender, is almost hardy in New England, the leaves wider than of True Lavender, and their odor almost like a rancid oil. The very gray foliage of True Lavender (*L. officinalis*, sold also as *L. vera* and *L. spica*.) makes this particularly effective among rocks. There are several dwarf forms, hardier than the type. The variety with white flowers is unusual, though unfortunately not so resistant to frost.

For wider foliage, gray in color, there are the Hoarhounds (*Marrubium*); and of bright green is Germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*), of which there is a dwarf form. For rock gardens in warm lands there are other tiny fragrant herbs or subshrubs, as *Brittonastrum canum* (sometimes classed as an *Agastache* or *Cedronella*) *Cedronella canariensis* (*triphylla*), *Micromeria chamissonis*, (Yerba Buena) *Ocimum basilicum*, *Mentha requienii*, *Monardella odoratissima*, and so on. These all have been used for flavoring and as medicines.

The plants above listed make their increase above the ground. Beware of those Mint relatives which increase underground, as most of *Mentha*, *Stachys*, *Scutellaria*, *Lycopus*, etc.; for if they have rootstocks that look like the working parts of Peppermint, you will be sorry that you put them in your rock garden. Only by removing the rocks can you get out their all-penetrating root systems.

Other plants not of the Mint family are companions in this special rock planting. The *Santolina* group gives effects somewhat like to that of Lavender, as the plants are little evergreen shrubs with narrow fragrant foliage. There are several species besides the usual grey Lavender-cotton (*S. chamaecyparissus*). In late summer they have small solitary heads, yellow or white, like little Daisies. *Artemisia* is a group of chiefly tall plants, but there are dwarf and alpine species. Their beauty is in their finely cut foliage with various odors. Roman Wormwood (*A. pontica*) spreads too rapidly by its roots; but Fringed Wormwood or Alpine Sagebrush (*A. frigida*) from our western mountains, is a better plant. The truly

alpine species, usually silvery or gray in color, are as yet little known in our rock gardens.

Burnet is a very tall plant, but Small Burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*) is but a foot tall, with divided leaves and little heads of pinkish flowers without petals. The plant is short-lived, but seeds itself freely. For the Strawberry motif there are dwarf kinds of *Potentilla* and *Alchemilla* (Lady's-mantle), as well as *Fragaria vesca*, the Alpine Strawberry.

Sweet Woodruff (*Asperula odorata*) prefers some shade, and by its orange roots spreads into great mats of attractively divided leaves. The fragrant little white flowers come in May, so the value in summer is from its foliage. Most of its cousins in the Madder family are tall and terrible weeds, but there are alpine species of Woodruff and the Bedstraws.

By choosing among the plants used for flavor or food you can find many more not too wild for a rock garden and dwarf enough in bulk to be in scale with the other rock plants. By way of climax in autumn, add several dozen bulbs of Saffron Crocus (*Crocus sativus*), in effect like the purple Crocus of spring, but blooming in September-October, its stamens used as dye and in medicine. (By delving into medicinal uses, the rock garden can be filled up with all sorts of plants of more interest to the mind than of beauty to the eye.)

When one's rock garden, instead of being near the house is placed in remote natural surroundings there is always danger from rabbits, especially in the spring, when new shoots are soft and tasty.

Certain groups of plants are never eaten, as the bulbous plants, dwarf Iris, Thyme and all the Mints, and most of the Composites. But favorite foods are Campanula and all its kin, members of the Clover family, Mustards, as Arabis and Aubrieta (though not Iberis), and indeed many dainty plants. These are pruned nearly to the ground. The plants are never killed, but the bloom for that season is greatly reduced. Of such as Moss Phlox only the flowers are eaten, for the leaves seem to be too tough. The Rocky Mountain species of Phlox, which have been very unwilling to grow in New England without special care, get cropped close as fast as any real growth is made.

As it is hopeless to capture or kill all the rabbits, it is better to specialize on groups that are not eaten. In areas where this problem is acute, the herb rock garden is an especially effective solution.

WILD ROCK GARDENS IN CALIFORNIA

CARL PURDY, Ukiah, Calif.

WHILE the plants which grow directly in the crevices of rocks may be individually attractive, they rarely make striking mass effects. Two notable exceptions to this rule are however known in our California Sierras. One lies at 11,000 feet altitude on Mt. Dana in the Yosemite region, well above tree line. It is a plateau area strewn with innumerable small pieces of volcanic rock. There being more or less soil in between, almost every interspace is the home of some diminutive alpine plant, and as many species are represented, a splendid display is produced.

The other is an area perhaps three miles long and one mile wide, underlain by a volcanic rock locally known as porphyry, which is greatly fissured and cracked throughout. This lies near Cisco on the main Lincoln

Highway at an altitude of about 5000 feet. A fine-grained soil has developed in many of the crevices, and I have seldom seen a greater profusion of flowers. To mention a few, *Erythronium purpurascens* grows by the million, and at least three fine species of Penstemons by the thousand. Then there is an abundance of two tiny Lewisias, a dwarf Delphinium, and a tiny Dicentra. There are two fine species of Calochortus, one in moist depressions, but the other in the narrow rock crevices. Besides the wealth of bloom produced by these and many other kinds, the lovely massings of rock-ferns and an attractive touch.

In the Coast Ranges, conditions for the growth of rock plants are still more favorable, but here too lovely colonies of but one or a very few species are more frequent than masses of varied makeup. Here the most beautiful wild rock garden effects are created by some of the Sedums, mostly one of three species. These all form close rosettes, and creep along, rooting as they go, until rock faces are almost completely covered by them.

Of the three, *Sedum spathulifolium* is the commonest. Its light green foliage may take on beautiful reddish and purplish tints. Along the rocky coasts it drapes the cliffs almost down to surf level. One lovely effect in my own home district consists of this Sedum mingled with the pretty little *Romanzoffia sitchensis*, a somewhat bulbous-rooted plant. *Sedum purdyi* makes flat rosettes a couple of inches across. It spreads by sending out strawberry-like runners like slender red strings each tipped by a tiny rosette. It grows in the extreme northern part of our Coast Ranges, in rather dry interior valleys. There I have often found its colonies fairly plastered on the faces of the rocks. The rare *Sedum yosemitense* of the region to which its species name refers is intermediate between the two preceding ones. All of these can be grown in the rock garden in a gritty soil mixed with leaf mold, and they never become rampant.

One does not ordinarily think of Erythroniums as rock-crevice plants, yet a variety which I have designated *Erythronium californicum* White Beauty never grows apart from rocks. It may be found in heaps of rock fragments at the foot of a cliff, but often grows right in the cracks, and at times I have literally quarried them out, finding the bulbs flattened to little more than cardboard thickness. At one point in Humboldt county they were actually in a vertical rock face.

Varied wild rock garden effects are produced by many other genera. Some of the marvellously fine western Penstemons thrive in crevices of the barest rock faces, although others are found in talus where the rock is admixed with soil. While many Dodecatheons are swamp or damp soil plants, *Dodecatheon hendersonii* is often found on a steep slope of shattered rocks, fairly coloring the surface with its rosy flowers. Growing with it though preceding it in bloom there may be an exquisite dwarf Mimulus, while following it will come *Delphinium nudicaule*.

One of the most striking effects along this line is made by *Silene californica*. It may be found scattered over gravelly slopes, but thrives best on a steep slope of broken rock. Its carrot-like roots extend very deeply, and once when there was a slide along a road they were found more than five feet down. This enables it to obtain moisture from the depths, so that it will keep on flowering even when the surface is wholly dried out. It varies in habit from a low compact clump to a sprawling mass of long stems, but in either case its brilliant scarlet flowers give to its bleak habitat the aspect of a lovely natural rock garden.

SOME AMSONIAS AT GLADWYNE

MARY G. HENRY, Gladwyne, Pa.

ONE SPRING, while walking through tall dark pines in North Carolina, a blue flowered plant suddenly appeared before me. The salver-shaped blossoms, clustered in a head, were a pure pale "Alice blue" of a most unusual and enchanting shade, and it seemed to me that no flower could be more charming. The pines overhead were growing in a scattered fashion and the sun shone through them on the gray sandy soil, showing off the cool blue of the flowers to perfection. That was my first acquaintance with an *Amsonia* (*A. tabernaemontana*), but it was, on my part, a case of "love at first sight."

Many, many years have passed, but *Amsonias* still rank highly in my affections, and spring after spring has found me wandering over plain, hill and dale in various parts of our Southeastern States in search of rare or unusual but handsome varieties of members of the *Amsonia* tribe.

Blue shades in a flower, that is true blue shades, are always most appealing and for some reason are comparatively rare. There are plenty of purplish blues and lavender blues, but true blues are surprisingly scarce, both in our native plants and in our cultivated garden flowers. For this reason alone *Amsonias* should occupy a far more prominent position in gardens than they do. Another asset is that they can be propagated vegetatively quickly and with ease. While preferably done in early spring, I have many times divided the thick roots successfully when the plants were in bloom. The fact that they can be individually increased so readily is a most valuable trait, for it means that choice clones,—those with extra fine coloring, albinos or those with very large or well formed flowers,—can be easily multiplied and preserved for our gardens.

Amsonias are also easily grown from seed. I hate to think of the many plant murders I have committed by destroying self-sown seedlings which come up so very freely. The broad leaved species as well as the narrow leaved ones have this same generous trait. As nature drops the seeds in autumn, I take it for granted that this is the proper time to sow them in seedbeds, and personally follow suit. The tiny plantlets have roots that are rather thick, white and extremely brittle, so it is wise to sow the seeds well separated and to allow the young plants to remain in the seed bed until the second spring, when they may be safely moved.

Although *Amsonias* are sometimes seen in the herbaceous border, they are not at their best in such a place and produce a lush growth of foliage and in consequence flowers that are reduced in size.

The broad-leaved, strong growing *Amsonia tabernaemontana*, and also its variety *A. t. salicifolia*, are the ones most commonly seen. They are very fine and useful plants for the wild garden. I have a drifting mass of *A. tabernaemontana* growing along the edge of the woods, and every spring they show their Quaker-like loveliness, with no other flower blooming nearby to detract from their quiet beauty. There are also some of both typical and *salicifolia* varieties growing on the outskirts of my rock garden, where they thrive equally well in stiff soil in full sun.

It is, however, those belonging to the narrow-leaved section that are the plants par excellence for the rock garden.

My first glimpse of *Amsonia ciliata* was while motoring in Georgia. Dozens of the striking plants were growing along the top of an embankment. They were in full bloom and I cannot easily forget the picture they made. The lovely pale blue flowers seemed almost to match the sky above, and the tall slender stems, well clothed with attractive narrow foliage of deepest green, fitted them nicely. The bank, about 6 feet high, displayed them to perfection. There was little other vegetation to compete in the seemingly inhospitable hot barren soil. However, the long thick roots of Amsonias burrow deeply and thrive in just such positions. Instinctively my eyes roamed over the colony and I soon selected two small plants that bore well-shaped blossoms of an extra clear blue, and before long they were reposing comfortably in a bucket of sand.

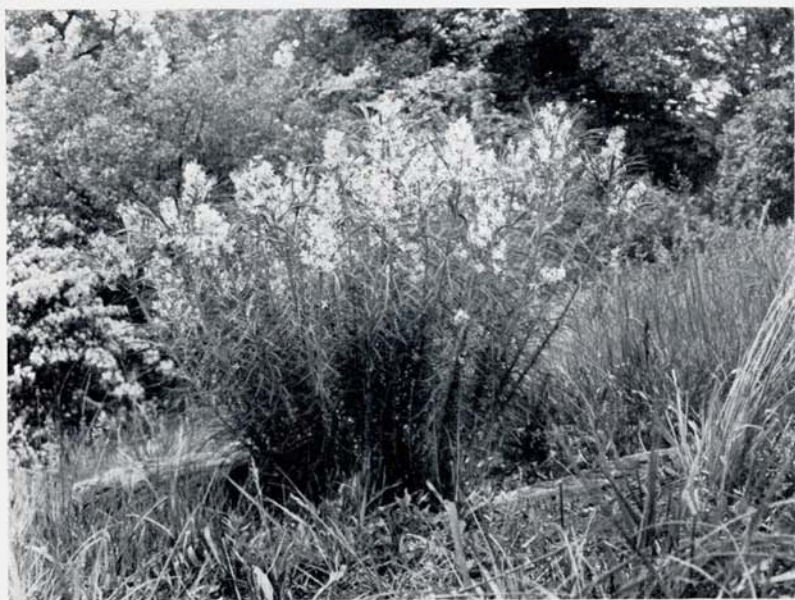


BY EDGAR T. WHERRY

The lovely pale blue flowers of *Amsonia ciliata* seem almost to match the sky above.

Since that day I have covered many thousands of miles in search of fine varieties of *Amsonia* and other choice native plants, and now have a number of selections of *Amsonia ciliata*. These include a pure white one, and also some in several light and deep shades of blue. On the whole, however, and in comparison with many other native plants, it seems that the flowers of Amsonias vary little. It takes days of search and the examination of hundreds of plants before one can be found that is worthy of special selection.

In the Ozark mountains there grows a remarkable large member of the narrow-leaved group. Confused with one or another species for many years, this has recently been separated and named *A. hubrichtii*. In 1937 Dr. Wherry obtained some roots of this from Dr. Francis J. Scully of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and on arriving home brought a clump of it to Gladwyne. I planted it with great care in specially prepared ground. The following season it produced five or six stems and bloomed but sparsely. Each season since then however it has increased in size and in beauty. The past few seasons it has made a truly grand display. This year the plant produced 68 stems that were topped with masses of lovely bloom. It now makes a billowy round cushion 5 feet in diameter. The striking narrow foliage and long seed pods are handsome until November frosts come.



BY EDGAR T. WHERRY

The newly named *Amsonia hubrichtii* forms a huge mass of foliage, with abundant flowers.

My favorite *Amsonia* is one that is usually listed as *Amsonia ciliata tenuifolia*. However, when the last word has been said about this *Amsonia*, I believe it will be given specific rank. Horticulturally and in some ways botanically, it is quite different from *Amsonia ciliata* and for a small rock garden it is a definite improvement. In the main it is a dwarfer growing plant with fewer leaves, so narrow as to almost give the effect of pine needles. The flowers, however, are just as large as those of the typical *A. ciliata*.

There is one particular form of *Amsonia ciliata tenuifolia* that can "hold its own" to my mind, among the dozen most beautiful native plants suitable for a rock garden. The flowers of this *Amsonia*, which I found in south eastern Georgia, have broad nicely rounded corolla lobes and the color is a marvellous soft blue that verges on turquoise. Yes, it is almost turquoise, but the color is a trifle more tender and perhaps even more beautiful. Everyone who sees this lovely flower agrees that it is a truly choice gem. Added to the beauty of *A. c. tenuifolia* are many other virtues. It is rapid in growth but not invasive. It is hardy here to below zero with no protection and even in our hottest summers the deep green foliage never wilts and never requires a drink, while in autumn the needle-like leaves turn to shades of copper and gold, making a wonderful display



BY JOSEPHINE HENRY

A form of *Amsonia ciliata tenuifolia* with well-rounded petal-blades of soft turquoise blue.

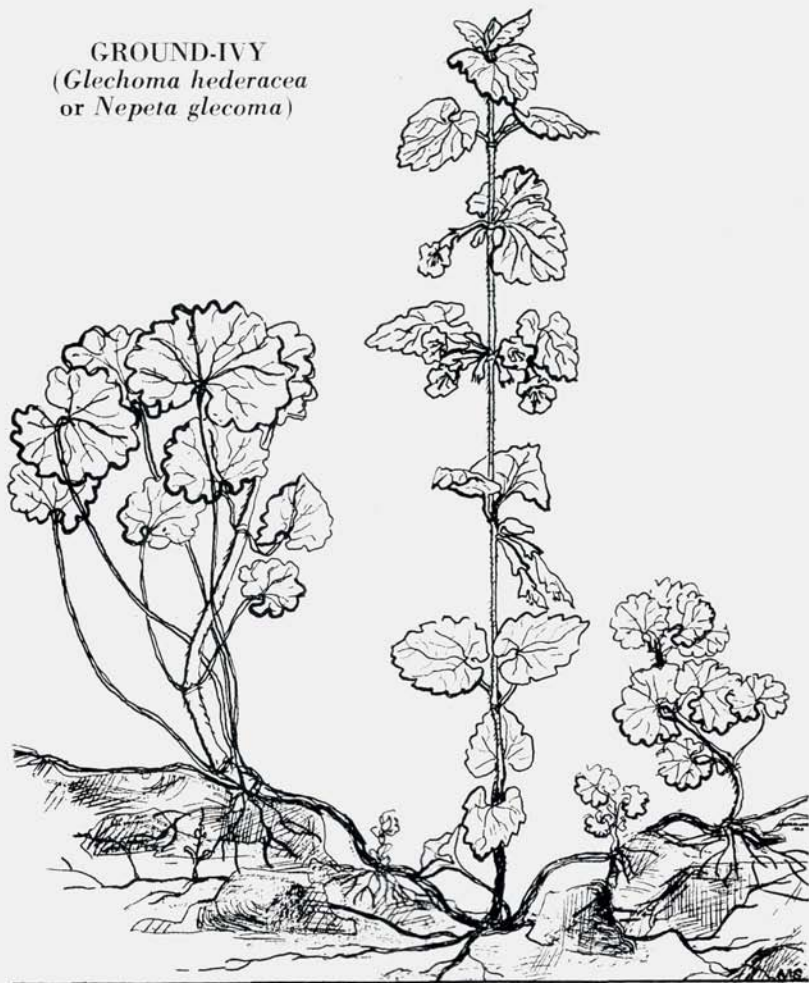
as the stems, lengthened by then, nestle among the rocks. The photograph reproduced herewith represents a young plant; as they grow older, many more stems develop from each crown, forming a dense clump.

The pure white variety of *A. c. tenuifolia*, which I found near the foregoing, is decidedly pretty but it is pale and puny beside its handsome sister.

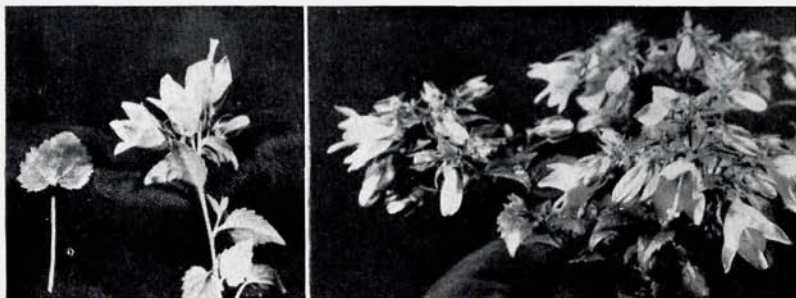
There are species of *Amsonia* that grow in our western states. Perhaps they are as attractive as those described above, but I have not seen them. I do know that *Amsonia ciliata*, including its varieties and relatives, are among the very loveliest of our native flowers.



GROUND-IVY
(*Glechoma hederacea*
or *Nepeta glecoma*)



This naturalized European mint forms a fine ground cover in moist shady spots, but spreads with amazing rapidity. Once established it is very difficult to eradicate, so the wary rock gardener will never give it a chance to smother his delicate treasures.—E.T.W.



BY ROBERT M. SENIOR

CAMPANULA KEMULARIAE

THOUGH as yet known to but few American rock gardeners, this *Campanula* will some day become popular, for it has qualities which make it very attractive, such as numerous, fairly large flowers, a compact habit, and a hardy constitution. It spreads slowly by underground runners, but is in no respect an invasive plant.

The species was described by a Russian botanist named Fomin in the *Acta Instituti Botanici Academiae Scientiarum*, a publication sponsored by the Academy of Sciences of the U. S. S. R., Series 1, Fascicle 3, pp. 289 to 291, 1936, with drawing showing habit and plant-parts. The locality is given as western Transcaucasia, a region where several beautiful alpine *Campanulas* are found. It is said to be most closely related to a species already known in our rock gardens, *Campanula raddeana*, but to differ in having both lower and upper leaves doubly serrate, branchlets many-flowered, and anthers yellow (instead of orange).

Its features, as displayed in the writer's garden, are as follows: Basal leaves dark green, about an inch long, heart-shaped, serrate, and acute on rather short wiry petioles. Stem leaves somewhat longer, narrower, and shorter-stalked. Stems much-branched, bearing numerous violet-colored turbinate flowers with fairly erect acute lobes barely half the total corolla-length. Calyx-lobes acute, brownish at flowering time, and marginally ciliate. In the sinuses between the lobes are downward-pointing appendages, a feature characterizing several familiar garden *Campanulas*. Anthers deep yellow; style exserted.

This attractive *Campanula* seems to thrive in any light well-drained soil. Like many of its relatives, it is benefitted by some protection from the mid-day sun in summer.—ROBERT M. SENIOR, Cincinnati, Ohio.

A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT USES *SHORTIA GALACIFOLIA*

WALTER BLAIR saw a bank of *Shortia* shining and flowering on the place of one of my clients and suggested that I write a word about it for this Bulletin. Nothing could have surprised me more, as I am not a good horticulturist and he knows it. I am a landscape architect who uses plants to build pictures and I care not whether they be *Shortia* or dandelion providing they best satisfy the needs of a composition.

Moreover a landscape architect works in a dozen states and is unable to follow the day by day health of plant material. He is more like an incubator than a nurse. He starts life wholesale which must afterward be nourished by others. All he can do, really, is to be a good incubator while he is at it. And with the conscientious aftercare of a client, it is surprising how many of his chicks flourish. So I tell how *Shortia galacifolia* was incubated.

When first seen the bank in question was bare under big hemlocks. It faced south and was mottled with sunlight. But it was sombre and brown where sparkling green would be prettier.

There was no opportunity to fuddle 'round with experiments. The designer made up his mind that the desired effect could be gained with a prosperous cover of any one of several plants. He would be satisfied with small-leaf English Ivy, *Galax aphylla*, *Shortia galacifolia* or *Asarum europaeum*. So he tried them all. If they failed, then he could fall back on native Wintergreen, Partridge Berry, Moneywort and so on, though none of these New England plants would provide so opulent a carpet.

The bank is in Manchester, Massachusetts and now, after ten years, ivy covers many a rod of barren ground and climbs high in the trees. *Galax* and the European wild ginger thrive as well as *Shortia*, though only the latter concerns us here.

The soil was not tested. One look at the granite ledges and the neighboring vegetation was enough. The landscape architect estimated that the dirt was acid. A few pokes proved that the surface was hard, mean gravel. With this lick and promise diagnosis a prescription was ready in his mind. Cover the ground with four inches of hyperhumus. Spade and fork in. Then cover again with two inches of oak leaf mold. Fork that in. The reason for the double operation was based on previous experience with the half-way methods of ordinary day labor. Forking the ground once is not enough to get a thorough mix. The work must be done twice at least.

The prescription was followed and sprinklers were turned on to water the ground day and night until the plants arrived, regardless of spring showers. The landscape architect waters a dry gravel bank thoroughly before he plants for no other reason than that it feels better to his fingers and the slightly humid air is welcome on his face. So he imagines that the plants like it too.

When they are unpacked he tosses them about where he wants them put and the men go to work. As he cannot possibly oversee the setting of hundreds of things, he evolves in time a rough, personal love-pat. When they are in the ground he walks about pressing his heel firmly onto the heart of each and every darling.

Meantime he has been observing the sunny spots and if any of them fail to move about he sprinkles there a light mulch of salt hay or oak leaves. This is a temporary expedient to moderate the fierce medicine of the sun. It seems to relieve the interrupted roots. It is for the same purpose of immediate encouragement that he uses humus rather than exclusively oak leaf mold to put the soil in good condition. Delicate plants establish themselves in wonderfully quick time with the help of humus.

Getting life started wholesale is the incubator's job. Once under way, both plants and chickens are eager to live and will do considerable scratching 'round on their own account thereafter. In that respect, *Shortia* is just like any other plant.—FLETCHER STEELE, Boston, Mass.

A ROCK GARDEN REPLACES A LEVEL LAWN



AS OUR rock garden portrait in this issue we select a view of one constructed by Mr. Zenon Schreiber on the property of Mr. Benjamin Cohon in Paterson, N. J. The site was originally level and lacking in rocks, so some eight tons of these were brought in. While the foundation for the construction is of concrete, the rocks have been placed so as to hide this completely and give the effect of a natural outcrop.

The water is piped from the house, and, trickling continuously for 7 to 8 months, costs around \$30 per year. The photograph was taken right after planting was completed. By now, through growth of key plants, the background and perspective effects are much improved.—E.T.W.

BY ZENON SCHREIBER

NEW CATALOGUES

One of the season's earliest new catalogues is that released by "New England's coldest nursery." This lengthy list of rock garden material from Mitchell Nurseries at Barre, Vermont does not appear to have been affected by the handicaps of the times, several new and interesting additions being noted therein. Amongst the specialties of this nursery are the rare native alpenes of the northeastern region of North America.

The interesting booklet issued by Wake Robin Farm of Home, Pennsylvania is considerably more than a catalogue of our native wild flower plants and ferns. Each listed variety is briefly described and its usual flowering period is indicated. This is followed by helpful cultural suggestions as well as many historical and legendary annotations. This catalogue will appeal to all growers of native plant material.

Apparently the addition of a new section devoted to choice vegetable seeds has not diminished the lengthy list of new, rare and unusual offerings of Rex. D. Pearce of Moorestown, N. J. This illustrated catalogue offers some 3,000 species and varieties of seeds, plants and bulbs, many of them difficult to obtain elsewhere. This is an interesting catalogue particularly for those desirous of growing their plants from seed.

While the booklet of Paramount Gardens of Plainfield, N. J. has been slightly reduced in size in keeping with the times, it still includes some of the most desirable and dependable items for the rock garden. Included in its offerings is an unusually lengthy list of hardy native violets. This genus as well as the hardy orchids have long been their specialties.

While many of our Eastern natives are available from several reliable sources, the more uncommon plants of the Western region are usually obtainable from specialists in each particular section. There are very few people as familiar with the plants of the Great Plains as Claude A. Barr of Prairie Gem Ranch, Smithwick, South Dakota. His booklet lists the choicest of plants, seeds and bulbs from the Dakotas, and includes therein many cultural suggestions.

The plants of the Rockies native to the state of Colorado is the specialty of Upton Gardens at Colorado Springs, Colorado. These Rocky Mountain plants are generally divided in two main groups—first, are the true alpenes from near the timberline and on up to the tops of the highest peaks. Second, is the group from the high dry plains of from 5,000 to 7,000 feet elevation. Cultivation of all these plants is discussed in the catalogue.

A distinctive catalogue, both as to form and plants offered, is that issued by Green Pastures Garden of Seattle, Washington. The new edition just released, again arranges the plants offered under family listings, thus permitting the insertion of many helpful cultural suggestions for each group. Quite a few choice jewels have been added to the listing of unusual alpenes, dwarf shrubs, conifers, as well as a lengthy variety of heathers and groundcovers.

The catalogue of Isaac Langley Williams of Exeter, N. H. contains the choicest of the native plants for the wild flower garden. Included in the listings are various combinations of plants, such as ferns, trilliums, ground covers, etc. suitable for the shady rock garden.

The new 1944 illustrated catalogue of Carroll Gardens of Westminster, Maryland offers a large assortment of the better garden perennials, roses, shrubs and other ornamentals. Also included therein are very many of the easy and dependable rock garden subjects—H.E.

THE AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

The regular monthly luncheon meeting of the North Atlantic group was held on Wednesday, February 16 at the Hotel Lexington; Mrs. Ethel A. S. Peckham, Honorary Curator for Iris at the New York Botanical Gardens gave a splendid address on "Iris for the Rock Garden," beautifully illustrated. Mrs. Peckham has presented to the Society a copy of the American Iris Society's Check List; this book will be kept on file at the Secretary's office and if there are any questions that the book can answer the Secretary will be glad to give you this information.

An open meeting was held by the New England group of the A.R.G.S. on Wednesday, February 23; Mr. Fletcher Steele gave an address on "Prejudice in Rock Garden Design."

The annual luncheon on March 16th was featured by a lecture on Western Alpines by Dr. Edgar T. Wherry. The eighty slides shown were hand-colored by the speaker on the basis of color-notes taken in the field. They were the most beautiful ever shown our society, vivid and true in coloring and skillfully chosen to make exquisite pictures. They represented 25 plant families. Some notable species were *Cystopteris montana*, discovered at a new locality by Mrs. Marriage; *Calochortus gunnisoni* in its type region; *Salix saximontana*, the prostrate Rocky Mountain willow; *Lewisia rediviva*; *Caltha leptosepala* blooming at the edge of the snow; *Tellima parviflora* from the Black Hills; *Mentzelia decapetata*, the high plains evening star; a gorgeous group of *Primula parryi*; *Polemoniums* and other members of the *Phlox* family including a superb *P. adsurgens*. Foregrounds and backgrounds were beautifully depicted and occasionally the horizon lifted and Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson appeared, breath-taking in majesty.

The running comment was so swift and ready, informed by such profound knowledge and lightened by such quick perception that the listener was at the same time charmed and instructed. The swaying *Dodecatheons* in the delicate grass, *Penstemon crandallii* leaning from a cleft, *Polemonium confertum*'s azure on a cliff were pictures to keep and recall.—WALTER D. BLAIR.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our President and Mrs. Blair are to entertain us on the occasion of our annual meeting, Saturday, May 20; business meeting for the election of officers, at 11 o'clock; luncheon will be served at 1:15; you who have visited "Tumbling Waters" at other times of the year will surely want to see it in May, and you who have not visited Mrs. and Mr. Blair's beautiful garden have a rare treat in store; trains for Tarrytown leave the Grand Central Station at 10:25, 12:19 and 12:35; this is the only notice you will receive, please advise the Secretary if you will attend.

Mrs. G. Latta Clement, née Annie Lee Rankin, passed away on December 22nd, 1943 at Biltmore, N. C. Mrs. Clement was one of our earliest members and an Associate Editor of the Society Bulletin; she was an authority on native flora of the Southeastern states and will be greatly missed by a host of friends and acquaintances.

SPECIALISTS IN ALPINES AND ROCK GARDEN PERENNIALS

WILLIAM BORSCH & SON.

Maplewood, Oregon

CARROLL GARDENS

Westminster, Maryland

GREEN PASTURE GARDENS

2215 East 46th Street
Seattle 5, Wash.

MITCHELL NURSERIES

Barre, Vermont

REX D. PEARCE

Moorestown, New Jersey

CARL STARKER GARDENS

Jennings Lodge, Oregon

PARAMOUNT GARDENS

Plainfield, New Jersey

UPTON GARDENS

Colorado Springs
Colorado

WAKE ROBIN FARM

James Loder Park
Home, Pennsylvania

ISAAC LANGLEY WILLIAMS

Exeter, New Hampshire

MAYFAIR NURSERIES

MARCEL LEPINIEC
93 Highland Ave.
Bergenfield, N. J.

CLAUDE A. BARR

Prairie Gem Ranch
Smithwick, S.D.

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.