

A Photographers View of British Columbia

Derrick Ditchburn is a man of few words who let his pictures (and Agnes Lynn!) do the talking for him at our January meeting. Derrick was justly proud of his newest interest in insects and he had many amazing, clear and detailed photos of crawling, creeping, flying visitors to his garden. We were also treated to pictures of some of our feathered neighbours and we all gained an appreciation for the diversity of bird life of Esquimalt, where many of the photographs were taken. Derrick has a keen eye for composition, a steady hand and the patience of Job, to produce the quality of shots we were privileged to view. Derrick had a word of advice to any would be photographers, shoot weeds! He is better paid for his weed photos than his native subjects. One of the cameras he uses is a Fuji 9000. You can visit Derrick at his website: <http://www.dereila.ca/> The following is a list of the plants that Derrick presented to us:

HURRICANE RIDGE

Avalanche Lily *Erythronium montanum*. Usually only one flower head on each plant.
Glacier Lily *Erythronium grandiflorum*.
Olympic Mountain Aster *Aster paucicapitatus*.
Rocksides Larkspur *Delphinium glareosum*. Much like Menzies larkspur
Mountain Primrose *Douglasia laevigata*
Scalloped Onion *Allium crenulatum*. A strange plant as the leaves wither quite early.
Pacific Anemone *Anemone multifida*
Mountain Arnica *Arnica latifolia*. One of the many arnicas that are around.
Bluebell *Campanula rotundifolia*. This is the same bluebell that is in Scotland
Indian Paintbrush *Castilleja* species
Magenta Paintbrush *Castilleja parviflora* Olympic variety, endemic to the Olympic Mts..
Harsh Paintbrush *Castilleja hispida*
White Paintbrush *Castilleja parviflora albida*.
White Rhododendron *Rhododendron albiflorum*
White rhodo Subalpine Spirea *Spiraea densiflora*. Another high elevation species,
White Cockle *Silene alba*. One of those weedy types that crop

up along the trails.
Silky Phacelia *Phacelia sericea*. This I think is my favorite flower on Hurricane Ridge.
White Phacelia *Phacelia leptosepala*. Hard to get a decent photo although plentiful
Common Butterworth *Pinguicula vulgaris*. You can see flies etc stuck to its leaves.
Spreading Phlox *Phlox diffusa*
Showy Jacobs Ladder. *Polemonium pulcherrimum*
Bracted Lousewort *Pedicularis bracteosa*. Really nice if you see it when in full flower.
Sicketop Lousewort *Pedicularis racemosa*. Different looking flower that is common
Red Willow Herb *Epilobium latifolium* A relative of fireweed but not as common.
Western Wallflower. This flower that has a lot of look a likes.
Nuttall's Peavine *Lathyrus nevadensis*
Old Mans Whiskers *Geum triflorum*. Always three flowers.
Mountain Owl Clover *Orthocarpus imbricatus*. This is a small compact flower
Mountain Oxytropis *Oxytropis monticola*. Not too common a plant 8 or 9 inch
Naked Broomrape *Orobanche uniflora*. Parasitic plant on stonecrop, 2 to 4 inches tall.
Martindales Lomatium *Lomatium martindalei*.

MANNING PARK (best time to visit is in mid-July)

Orange Agoseris *Agoseris aurantiaca*. This is a weedy plant
Sticky Currant *Ribes viscosissimum*
Black Gooseberry *Ribes lacustre*
False Solomon Seal *Smilacina racemosa*. Hard to photograph white flowers
Edible Thistle *Cirsium edule*. Common in Manning Park and up on Hurricane Ridge.
White Bog Orchid *Platanthera dilatata*. These can grow quite tall with a 1/2 inch stem
Dalmation Toadflax *Linaria dalmatica*. Invasive species
Scarlet Gilia *Gilia aggregate*.
Rosy Pussy toes *Antennaria macrophylla*. Nice to find
Lance Leaved Stonecrop *Sedum lanceolatum*.
Sulpher Cinquefoil *Potentilla recta*.

NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP

FEBRUARY 2006



DOUGLAS FIR

White Marsh Marigold *Caltha biflora*. Usually growing in the snow melt.
Globeflower *Trollius laxus*. This is a very early flowering plant.
Elephant Head *Pedicularis groenlandica*. A real find the first time I saw this plant.
Cusick's Speedwell *Veronica cusickii*. Choice plant for rock garden or anywhere else.
Western Pasqueflower *Anemone occidentalis*. Flowers before all the snow has gone.

VANCOUVER ISLAND AND MT WASHINGTON

Sitka Valerian *Valeriana sitchensis*.
Corn Lily *Veratrum viride*. It flowers very late in areas that I have usually been to earlier.
Black Twinberry *Lonicera involucrata*.
Western Bog Laurel *Kalmia macrophylla*. Grows amongst the Red Mountain Heather.
Red Mountain Heather *Phyllodoce empetrifomis*.
Sticky False Asphodel *Tofieldia glutinosa*.
Buck bean or Bog bean *Menyanthes trifoliata*. The name doesn't do justice to this plant.
Deer Cabbage *Fauria crista galli*. A water lover.
King Gentian *Gentiana sceptrum*. One more that likes to be near the water
Great Burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*. Nothing much to see until you see one up close.
Partridge Foot *Luetkea pectinata*. A low mat covering plant, a nice creamy color.
Subalpine Daisy *Erigeron peregrinus*. Quite bountiful in the wet areas.
White Mountain Heather *Cassiope mertensiana*. Found in alpine meadows.

HONEYMOON BAY

Wild Ginger *Asarum caudatum*. Propagated by beetles
White Fawn Lilly *Erythronium oregonum*.
Pink Fawn Lily *Erythronium revolutum*.
Chocolate Lily *Fritillaria lanceolata*.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mariposa Lily *Calochortus macrocarpus*. This is rare, near Osoyoos.
Fritillaria camschateensis. Member of the Chocolate Lily family, Alaska.
White Thistle *Cirsium hookerianum*. Apex Mountain area.
Yellow Columbine. *Aquilegia flavescens*.

**NP
SG**

NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP

(Sub-group of the Victoria Horticultural Society)

The NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP is a non-political group dedicated to learning about B.C. native plants, as wild populations and in garden settings, and to supporting conservation of native plants and their habitats. The group is guided by a volunteer steering committee. Members are encouraged to volunteer for this committee. Participation in outside events, by the group, or by individual members using the NPSG name, is dependant on approval of the steering committee or, where indicated, by the at-large membership. Activities requiring funding must receive approval by the general membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

EVENTS AND OUTINGS

Seedy Saturday - Victoria's 13th Annual Seed and Garden Show

Saturday, February 18th, 2006 from 10am - 4pm. Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street, Victoria
Admission is \$5, under 12 are free.

CRD PARKS

February 25th 10 am at Mt Wells.

View early spring flowers

March 5th 1 pm at Mill Hill Park.

Plant identification

March 19th 1 pm at Lone Tree Hill.

Hike to view wildflowers and scenic views

March 25th 1 pm at Devonian.

Of Horsetails and Skunk Cabbage

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

February 21st Botany Night

Swan Lake Nature House, 7:30 pm

From Kew Gardens, London to the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna: A

Botanical Travelogue by Join Wynne

Miles for a slide show of botanical

highlights of her trip to the XVII

International Botanical Congress held

this summer in Vienna, Austria, including

a five day field trip to see bogs and bog

restoration sites in the Central Alps, and

a side trip to Kew Gardens, London to

see (amongst many other favourites) the

giant water lilies.

TLC CONSERVATION HOLIDAY

Friday, April 07 - Sunday, April 09

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Location: South Winchelsea Island

A strong focus on Traditional First

Nations Ecological Knowledge will

interweave and permeate this very

special conservation holiday. We will

gain insight from knowledgeable

resource persons about indigenous

land management, techniques such as

traditional camas harvesting, intentional



FLOWERING CURRANT

burning, and pit cooking, as well as other uses of plants in the Garry oak ecosystem.

Cost: Members: \$90.00 + GST

Non-Members: \$100.00 + GST

For more information about any conservation holidays, please contact us at: 250-383-4627 Or: 1-888-738-0533

Email: holidays@conservancy.bc.ca

March 3 to 5, 2006

Rounding the Rim – Plants from the Pacific Rim 31st Western Winter Study Weekend. Excellent speakers include

Andy MacKinnon, Paige Woodward

and Hans Roemer, among others and

one workshop that sounds fascinating

is "Learn how to make lightweight,

portable troughs that look like their

heavier counterparts".

Hosted by VIRAGS Vancouver Island Rock

& Alpine Garden Society

www.islandnet.com/~voltaire

Registrar: Claire Hughes 250.-388-6595

Email: Enquiries@JohnVeillette.com

ua024@victoria.tc.ca

2006 SPECIES AT RISK LECTURE SERIES

Parks Canada & Gulf Islands National

Park Reserve Please join us for two

exciting lectures

Friday February 17th, 7:30pm

Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney BC

Invasive Aliens in the Islands: Managing

Invasive Vertebrates How herbivores affect native plants, and how we can control them

Todd Golumbia, Parks Canada ecologist & Emily Gonzales, UBC researcher

Monday February 20th, 6:30pm

Galiano Community Hall, Galiano Island BC

Fire and the Islands: An investigation

of fire ecology, cultural history, and fire

management Rob Walker, Parks Canada

resource conservation manager &

Brenda Beckwith, ethnobotanist

Free. Light refreshments provided.

Please call Sara Sandwith, 478-5849 or

Sara.Sandwith@pc.gc.ca for more



CALYPSO BULBOSA LEAF

information.

THE HISTORY AND ECOLOGY OF THE SPIRIT BEAR by: Dr. Reimchen

Friends of Ecological Reserves Presents a

Free Public Lecture

Feb 24, 2006 Friday night 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Murray and Anne Fraser Building,

Room 159, University of Victoria

For more than ten years, Dr. Reimchen and his students have researched linkages between marine and terrestrial ecosystems on British Columbia's coast. The emerging picture is both exciting and unexpected, and has compelling conservation implications. One of the interesting subplots to emerge is the

NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP

particular role of salmon to the spirit bear, the subject of Dr. Reimchen's presentation.

Annual General Meeting of Friends of Ecological Reserves (FER) 6:30 to 7:30 Everyone welcome. HELP SUPPORT FER: Annual membership \$20 single: Family \$25

THE CLAYOQUOT FIELD STATION (CFS)

The Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation has opened their doors to a new project, the CFS has a mission to "initiate, encourage and enable research, education and conversations that will help people to understand how to live in a place without diminishing it". To this end they have a facility that will house 32 persons in dormitory style. They are advertising a 2 night weekend stay for \$89.00, beginning June 1st that includes: guided walk through the gardens; natural history tour on Tofino's mudflats and an evening talk with a visiting scholar.

www.tofinobotanicalgardens.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GORP

February 18th Little Mt Douglas Park
10:00 AM - noon broom removal

February 25th Mahon Brook Park
10:00 AM - noon Removing blackberry
Clean around oak seedlings

SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS

March 16th Rick Searle

Some thoughts and ideas on land stewardship, environmental ethics and education as they pertain to the preservation of native plants in and around Greater Victoria/Southern Vancouver Islands/Gulf Islands. Biography: Rick co-hosted Environmental, a weekly ½ hour environmental program. He has contributed stories to

the evening news and has co-produced a ½ hour documentary on land stewardship. He has contributed to the production of 3 other documentaries, as well, and produced and hosted 2 environmental radio shows. Rick is a freelance writer and his articles have appeared in magazines in Canada, US, UK, and Europe. Rick has written "Phantom Parks-A Struggle to Save Canadian National Parks" 2000 copies of which were sold out. He loves to kayak, hike, and back-pack in parks and the wilderness.



SAXIFRAGA RUFIDULA

April 20th Stu Crawford

A story of lichens and people, and Secwepemc lessons on how to eat black tree lichen Biography: Stu is an ethnobotany student currently working with a Secwepemc community by Salmon Arm. He has been working on an ongoing, community-directed research project to monitor the effects of different logging practices on traditional-use plants in Secwepemc territory. He is currently finishing up his MSc. thesis on the human uses of lichens, particularly the Secwepemc use of black tree lichen (*Bryoria fremontii*) for food.



PACIFIC TREEFROG

May 18th Ted Lea

Historical Garry Oak ecosystem mapping for southern Vancouver Island Biography: Ted Lea is a Vegetation Ecologist with the Ecosystems Branch of the BC Ministry of Environment. He has been involved with ecosystem mapping throughout the province for over 25 years, and has recently mapped historical (pre-settlement) ecosystems for Garry oak ecosystems and the Okanagan Valley. His present position is dealing with recovery planning for plant species at risk in the province

MISCELLANEOUS

An item that arrived via the Native Plant Society of BC list. If you're gathering information about how to go about liberating yourself from lawn care, click on- <http://www.bluestem.ca/eliminating-lawn.htm> The page on green roofs is worth a look too- <http://www.bluestem.ca/green-roofs.htm>

ALLIUM BULB IDENTIFICATION

It can be difficult to recognize many of our herbaceous plants before they bloom. Members of the onion family emit their telltale odour, so it is easy enough to identify them to genus, however, distinguishing the species before blooming is a little more difficult. However, like most things, once you know the secret, it can be accomplished quite easily. The use of a magnifying lens is recommended to differentiate the species. Of the eight onion species that can be found in BC, five are possible in the Victoria area. Unlike California which has 47 species, not including many varieties and several introduced pests. What we are looking for are the cellular reticulations or patterning on the bulb coats.



Allium cernuum

Allium cernuum or nodding onion is the most common and widely found, and as it's common name implies, has a nodding flower head. It is very easily, almost too easily, cultivated and makes a delicious green onion substitute. Anyone who grows this should never need to purchase green onions again!

The bulbs are usually quite robust, clustered and somewhat egg-shaped,

without a fibrous membrane, but with a vertical, elongate patterning in regular rows on the outside scales. They do remind you of a commercial green onion more than the other species.



Allium acuminatum

Allium acuminatum or hooker's onion is the only other native onion that you are likely to come across in most "plant rescue" sites. It occurs on dry rocky bluffs, in drier conditions than nodding onions prefer. The bulbs are more noticeably round than the

nodding onion, the outer scales are brownish, fibrous, with a waffle-like, squarish weave, somewhat resembling the weave of a certain kind of cotton undershirt.

Allium amplexans or slimleaf onion is blue-listed and found in vernal wet meadows and bluffs that dry out in summer. There were many of these at the Langvista "plant rescue" site, once again pointing out the folly of that development. These bulbs are similar to the acuminatum bulbs

but they have a wavy, horizontal, herringbone patterning on the outer, brownish, fibrous scales. Erica Wheeler has extended the knowledge of our amplexans species with her graduate work. The more common *A. amplexans* have white to pinkish flowers, upright leaves and are triploids. There are a few populations of a tetraploid variety that have bright pink flowers and leaves that hug the ground as they appear

and always seem to remain more closely associated with the ground. Possibly this is an adaptation to the windy conditions along the coastline where they are found.



Allium Geyeri

Allium geyeri var. *tenerum*, Geyer's onion is extremely rare in this area and if you are picking it, someone has made a big mistake! The only population I know of is on the coastline, in the salt spray zone. The bulb is egg shaped, with a fibrous, brownish netting and a diamond shaped patterning on the outer scales. When in flower, many of the flowers are replaced with bulbils.

Allium vineale ssp. *vineale* or field garlic is an introduced, invasive species that is becoming more common and considered a noxious weed in many areas. I am not familiar with these but they are reputed to have egg shaped, scaly, yellow-brown bulbs, that have some hard-shelled, daughter bulbs or bulblets within the scales. The flowers have bulbils but it is unlikely they would be growing in the same area as *A. geyeri*. I haven't been able to find any information on the patterning of the bulb coat.

Information gleaned from Illustrated Flora of British Columbia, Volume 6 and The Jepson Manual, Higher Plants of California Drawings are crude copies made by myself, apologies to original illustrationists.

FIRST FLOWERS OF 2006

Rusty-haired saxifrage	Feb 8
Flowering currant	Feb 12
Indian plum	Feb 12

HAIKU

Please send me your own Haiku's on native plants, natural history or even on invasive species. I'll publish as many as possible each month. Limit to one per month per member. A haiku consists of three lines, the first and third have 5 syllables each and the second has seven.

Saxifraga Rufidula by Moralea

Rusty saxifrage
Dares winters capricious ways
Diminutive giant

NOTES

THE NPSG MEETS THE 3RD THURSDAY SEPT-MAY (EXCLUDING DEC)
AT 7:00 PM IN ROOM D116, MACLAURIN BLDG., UVIC.