

# Native Plant Study Group

*Acer circinatum*

© David Blevins

## Carnivorous Plants can be Native to Vancouver Island?

By Hilary Stead

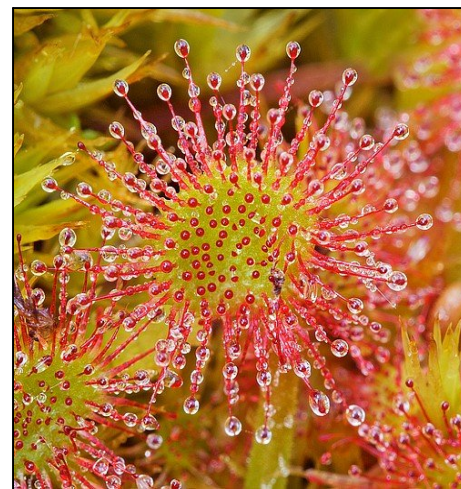
Plants capable of trapping creatures as large as frogs or snapping up prey in less than a second are more common to exotic and tropical parts of the world than the moderate realm of Southern Vancouver Island. And few of our native plants would inspire horror films or nicknames like "elevator shaft of death" or "Mardi Gras on steroids".

But Victoria carnivorous plant enthusiast Glenn Hallworth was able to come up with a couple of local insect-eating species to please the native plant crowd at last month's meeting of the Native Plant Study Group. Like others concerned about poaching threats to rare wild carnivorous plants, Hallworth declines to name exact locations where carnivorous plants are found. But, *Drosera rotundifolia*, also known as the common or round-leaved sundew, does grow in parts of Southern Vancouver Island, in Strathcona Park and on either side of the Island Highway at Campbell River. Similarly, *Darlingtonia californica*, also called the cobra lily, is native to Northern California and Oregon, but a colony of the colourful pitcher plant with translucent leaves was introduced to the Tofino area.

Almost all carnivorous plants love sun, and they thrive in nutrient-deficient soils. They live on every continent except Antarctica. A carnivorous plant is one that has adapted to digest and absorb nutrients from prey that it captures in some kind of trap. There are more than 640 carnivorous plant species from more than a dozen genera. Some are passive trappers which capture insects that alight on their sticky leaves, such as sundews and butterworts. The common butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris* ssp. *macroceras*) is native to British Columbia. Others are the pitfall variety, like pitcher plants, that absorb prey that fall into their vase-like cups of powerful digestive juices. The Venusflytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*), the most well-known carnivorous plant, was popularized by the story and film, *Little Shop of Horrors*. It is one of the active types of carnivorous plants that snap shut over unsuspecting insects.

The common bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*) is in another category of carnivorous plant, distinctive as a fresh-water plant that captures insects in the water that is drawn into its bladder by suction.

Hallworth said Victoria is generally a perfect place for growing carnivorous plants. He has had displays at the Victoria Butterfly Gardens and at Royal Roads University. For many years he has maintained a carnivorous plant garden for the enjoyment of residents of the extended care unit at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital. Although they can benefit from amplified heat during Vancouver Island's chilly summer nights, carnivorous plants go into dormancy by themselves. On Valentines Day, Hallworth lovingly hacks his plants back in preparation for another entertaining season of animated horticulture.



*Drosera rotundifolia*

For more information about carnivorous plants contact Glenn at [glennwith2ns@shaw.ca](mailto:glennwith2ns@shaw.ca).



## Events & Outings

NPS BC Native Plant Society of  
British Columbia

Thursday, December 3

Conserving Native Flora amidst the Invasive  
Wave with Joe Bennett

Unwelcome alien flora often make their way into natural areas and native flora often suffer for the intrusion. Joe Bennett, a doctoral student at the University of BC, is looking at the biogeography of islands and non-island land patches, and the influence of surrounding landscapes on native versus invasive species. His study areas – grasslands on Vancouver Island and adjacent islands – contain many rare native species and are heavily invaded by competitive exotic plants. Joe Bennett is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of BC's Department of Forest Sciences. He completed his master's degree in Biology at Queen's University and has worked as a parks biologist in Ontario, an environmental contaminant researcher in Ontario and Nunavut and a natural resource manager in Laos. Upon graduating from UBC Joe hopes to work at a university where he can pursue a research and teaching career that continues to focus on conserving native flora.

Location and Time:

Van Dusen Botanical Garden, Cedar Room @  
7:00 p.m.  
5251 Oak Street @ 37th Avenue Vancouver BC  
Free Admission; Free parking

Contact Ron Long | T: 604-469-1651  
| rphoto(at)shaw.ca

Contact Dawn Hanna | T: 604-831-5069  
| dawnhanna(at)telus.net

Hedera helix  
Aggressive invasive in BC

The Sierra Club Victoria Group

**Saturday, November 21 at 10:00am**

Annual Mushroom Hunt with master botanists  
Adolf and Oluna Ceska at Metchosin  
Wilderness Park. Meet at the Park entrance off  
Clapham Drive, which is off Rocky Point Rd.  
west of Metchosin.

Everyone welcome!

Contact Casper | T: 250 598-5917  
| prana4[at]yahoo.ca

Moss Rock Park Work Parties

Third Sunday of the month

Join Moss Rock Park Neighbors from 1:30 to  
3:30 p.m. at the base of the Park on May Street.  
Help us remove invasive species.

Contact | T: 250-595-5600 for more information

## Reoccurring Events

Victoria Natural History Society

Go to [www.vicnhs.bc.ca](http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca) to become a member,  
check for events, and support our local Natural  
History Society!

Botany Night

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 pm

Swan Lake Nature Centre

Contact Darren Copley | dccopley(at)telus.net  
| <http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/>

\* For all VNHS events: no pets please. Bring a  
lunch and drinks for the all day outings and wear  
appropriate attire and footwear.

Contact Agnes | thelynns[at]shaw.ca |  
T: 250-721-0634 if you need more information.



Saxifraga integrifolia  
Native in BC grasslands



### Volunteer Opportunities

The Anti-Ivy League of Cadboro Bay:

Seapoint Dr., Saanich

Volunteer for great camaraderie, loads of fun and a feeling of satisfaction every Wed. and Sat. from 9:00a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Currently working in Konukson Park.

Contact Harry Drage | T: 250-477-9544  
| hdrage(at)shaw.ca

#### Brodick/Bow Park

West of Univ. Heights shopping centre off of Cedar Hill Rd., Victoria

Invasive species removal and site restoration - every Monday 10:00a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Training, tools, and equipment provided.

Contact Judy Spearing |T:250-472-0515  
| jandd\_spearing@shaw

#### Mt. Douglas Park

Alien, invasive species removal and site restoration. Schedule and location may vary. For full details go to:  
[www.mountdouglaspark.ca/calendar.do](http://www.mountdouglaspark.ca/calendar.do)

Contact Judy Spearing | T: 250-472-0515  
| jandd\_spearing@shaw.ca

#### Glendale Gardens Native Plant

##### Demonstration Garden

505 Quayle Road, Saanich

Meet every Wednesday morning, snow, rain or shine: before coffee we work in the Western Woods restoration project and after coffee we work in the native garden. Volunteers welcome.

Contact Jean Forrest |T: 658-5740  
| jforrest(at)telus.net

#### Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature

##### Sanctuary

3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria

Swan Lake has a wide range of volunteer opportunities involving plants including; nature interpretation, gardening with native plants, and removal of invasive plants.

Contact Robyn Burton | T: 250-479-0211  
| volunteer(at)swanlake.bc.ca.

#### Friends of the Gorge Project Biologist

##### Gorge Waterway Action Society

##### Railyards Work Party

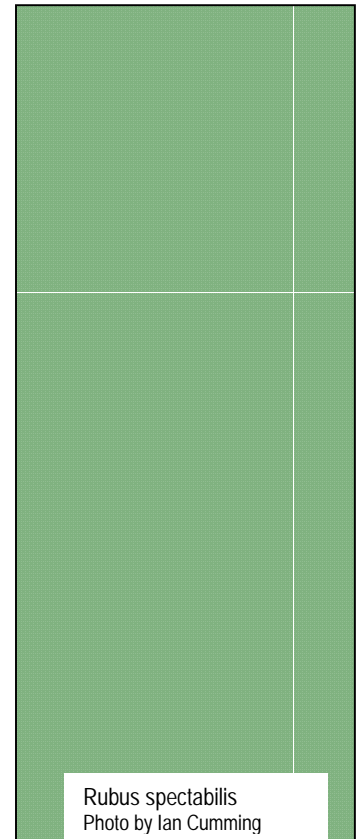
Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>  
10am - 12

Contact| kelloyd[at]telus.net

*Native Wildflowers  
At Glendale Gardens:*



Philadelphus lewisii  
Photo by Jim Riley



Rubus spectabilis  
Photo by Ian Cumming



Smilacina stellata  
Photo by David Blevins



There is no NPSG meeting in December, but do check out the  
**NPSG Holiday Potluck Dinner Party!**

**Details below:**

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Thursday December 10, 2009  
Arrive 6:00 pm, eat 6:30 pm  
3913 Woodhaven Terrace  
Ten Mile Point – 4th left off Tudor  
House is on right – blue lights  
You are welcome to bring a guest (partner or friend)

Bring a flashlight as there are no streetlights  
Please leave the driveway free for those who cannot walk too far

Suggestions for potluck items: appetizers, salads, main courses, desserts

We will supply plates, cutlery, glasses & cups  
Tea & coffee, non-alcoholic punch and some wine will be supplied

Please email Agnes if you are planning to come  
Tell her what you will bring if possible at that time

Hope to see you there,  
Dave & Agnes Lynn  
thelynns[at]shaw.ca





## Local Native Plant Gardens

### Glendale Gardens Native Plant Demonstration Garden

505 Quayle Rd, Saanich  
The garden features rocky outcrops, Garry oak and spring flowering bulbs such as camas, shooting stars and fawn lilies. There are presently 75 species of native plants in the garden, and new species are being added continually.

Contact| T: 250- 479-6162

### Gonzales Bay Native Plant Garden

1843 Crescent Rd., Victoria  
A residential seaside native plant garden with Garry oaks, western crabapple, redosier dogwood, woolly sunflower, mock-orange, native grasses and bulbs, and much more. There is a small Garry oak restoration area to the east of the property. The restoration area is accessible from the sidewalk along Crescent Rd.

Contact Pat Boyle| T: 250- 370-1812

### Kings Rd. Native Plant Garden

Kings Rd. at Roseberry Ave., Victoria  
This site is a residential native plant garden in the Oaklands neighbourhood. The Garry oak habitat was restored over a period of four years by volunteers who met once a week.

Contact| info(at)goert.ca

### Oak Bay Native Plant Garden

Beach Dr. at Margaret St., Victoria  
This landmark was donated by Mrs. Ada Beaven in 1939 to develop a native plant garden. The site is of great ecological value as a green space and nature reserve. It is a preserve for plants indigenous to southern Vancouver Island, many of which are endangered by development. The garden has more than 120 plant species from all over the island, as well as a restored Garry oak meadow.

Contact Carol Davies| T: 250-475-4412  
| ecdavies(at)uvic.ca  
OR  
Contact Parks and Rec., Oak Bay  
| T: 250-592-7275



Aconitum delphinifolium  
Photo by Ewan Anderson

### Saanich Community Church Native Plant Garden 4566 West Saanich Rd, Saanich

The garden is developing under mature oak and fir trees and aims to reintroduce species that may have previously grown on this site.

Contact Burl Jantzen| T: 250-475-0406 | info(at)saanichcommunity.ca  
| www.saanichcommunity.ca

### Royal BC Museum

675 Belleville St., Victoria  
One of the oldest native plant gardens in western Canada (begun in 1967) and features some 300 native species.

Contact Ken Marr| T: 250- 356-8176  
| kmarr(at)royalbcmuseum.bc.ca



The NPSG gratefully acknowledges the support of the RNS program at UVic in securing the use of the rooms and facilities.

The Native Plant Study Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from September through May at the MacLaurin Building, UVic. Please join us.

UVic parking policy--pay parking is in effect 24 hours a day. You must purchase a \$2 parking permit for the evening. Save yourself the trouble by riding your bike or taking the bus! (<http://www.bctransit.com/regional/vic/>).

**\*\*\* Fees have recently changed\*\*\***

Dues paid through 2009 will pay membership to December 2010. By becoming a member of the Native Plant Study Group (NPSG) you also become a member of the Native Plant Society of BC (NPSBC) to which we are affiliated.

- Individual Membership \$25
- Family Membership \$30
- Student Membership \$20

The NPSG will be meeting again in January!

Here is a peak at our upcoming speakers:

**Abe Lloyd**  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

**Gerry Allen**  
February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Andy MacKinnon**  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010



Darlingtonia californica

**NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP (NPSG)**

(Sub-group of the registered non-profit Native Plant Society of British Columbia and is guided by a steering committee)

The NPSG 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. Participation in outside events, by the group, or by individual members, using the NPSG name is dependent on approval of the steering committee or, where indicated, by the at-large membership. Activities requiring funding must receive approval by the general membership.

Co-Chair	Valerie Elliott   <a href="mailto:co-chair[at]npsg.ca">co-chair[at]npsg.ca</a>   T: 250-519-0404
Co-Chair:	Nathalie Dechaine   <a href="mailto:co-chair[at]npsg.ca">co-chair[at]npsg.ca</a>
Speakers:	Kristen Harrison
Treasurer:	Joan Varley
Newsletter:	Ilana Kronick Kristen Harrison Hilary Stead
Plant Rescue:	Todd Doherty
Membership:	Agnes Lynn
Publicity:	Valerie Elliott
Room Set-up:	Pat & Wayne Robertson
Plant Raffle:	Heather Pass
List-serve:	Linda Beare & John Olafson
Refreshments:	Pat McMahon
Archivist:	Brenda Pilon

Native Plant Study Group members are members of the Native Plant Society of BC.