



# VANCOUVER ISLAND ROCK & ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

The oldest Rock and Alpine Gardening Club in North America  
105<sup>th</sup> year, Newsletter Number 3, March 2026

*Next Meeting*  
Tuesday,  
March 10, 2026  
7:30 pm

**Richard J. Hebda**

Climate Change and  
Garden: How to  
Prepare and Prosper



7:30PM-FIRST MEMORIAL  
MEETING ROOM  
4725 FALAISE DRIVE, VICTORIA,

ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL

VIRAGS is a club for plant lovers with special interests in alpine, bog and woodland plants and gardens.

VIRAGS in-person meetings are at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of the month from March until November at **First Memorial Meeting Room, 4725 Falaise Drive**, Meetings in January and February are on-line only.

### Notes from the Executive

Our March Meeting has a new event; we will hold an **auction of highly desirable plants**. We have several members who propagate some very special plants, and we will be auctioning off a selection of about 15 plants. These are plants you will not find at garden centers, so be sure to attend the 10 March in-person meeting.

The executive has been discussing approaches to attracting new members. One approach has been to improve our social media presence and look for additional places to advertise our meetings. **Ellen Agger** has been renovating our Facebook and Instagram pages and sending information to other media. **Capital Daily**, a local daily newsletter, agreed to list our next meeting in their "Things to do" section. The Editor, **Mark Brennae** wrote: "It just hit me -- you're with the group that cares for some of the growth by that big rock area in Beacon Hill Park. I walk by that often. Thanks for the great work that you folks do. It really makes a difference, and it is appreciated!!". Sometimes little things do make a difference.

### Garden in the Park

*Volunteers needed every Friday from 10:00 to 12:00 at GITP. Contact Donna Humphries (donna.humphries@virags.com)*

VANCOUVER ISLAND ROCK AND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY PRESENTS

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND GARDENS: HOW TO PREPARE AND PROSPER PRESENTED BY DR. RICHARD J. HEBDA



Climate change is underway and intensifying as we fail to curb CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We face major shifts in our growing conditions, as winter and summer temperatures warm, summer droughts intensify and winter storms strengthen. Join Richard Hebda, Curator Emeritus at the Royal British Columbia Museum and adjunct faculty at the University of Victoria, Restoration of Natural Systems Program, as he describes the rapidly unfolding impacts of Climate Change in our region and explores how gardeners can adapt and even take advantage of the new opportunities. Learn about basic garden techniques to prepare in the short and long term, see examples of great plant choices, to use more widely in your garden landscape. And leave with a more up-beat perspective as we face the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

**TUESDAY MARCH 10**

**7:30PM-FIRST MEMORIAL MEETING ROOM**

**4725 FALAISE DRIVE, VICTORIA, BC**

**ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL**



[www.virags.com](http://www.virags.com)

 [virags\\_pics](https://www.instagram.com/virags_pics)

 [vancouver island rock and alpine garden society](https://www.facebook.com/vancouverislandrockandalpinegardensociety)

# VIRAGS, 3930 St. Peter's Road, Victoria, BC V8P 2J8

President: **Robert Burke** (robert.burke@virags.com)

Vice President: **Donna Humphries** (donna.humphries@virags.com)

Treasurer: **Louise Potvin** (louise.potvin@virags.com)

Secretary: **Colin Tamboline** (colin.tamboline@virags.com)

Directors:

**Jacq Bradbury**

**Karen Morrison**

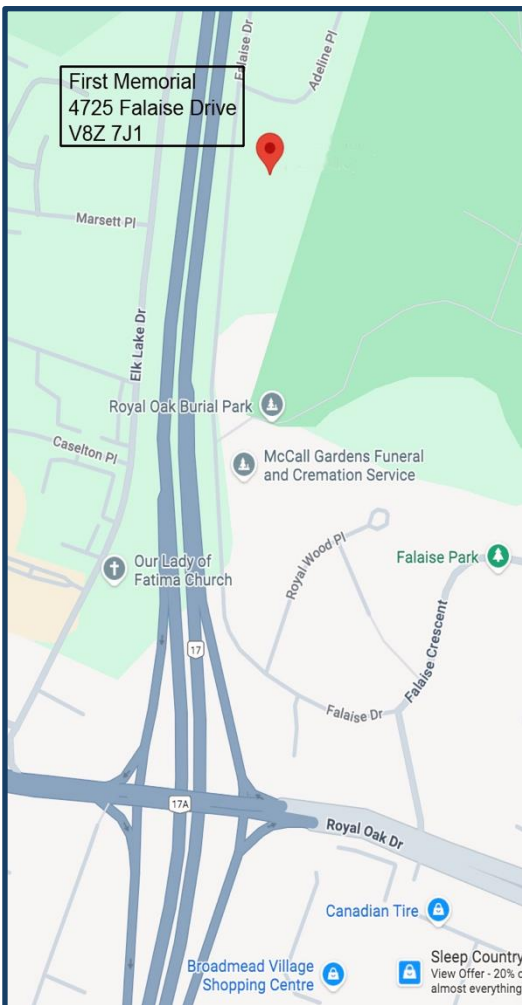
**Holly Tuokko**

**Ellen Agger**

**Fawn Beckwith**

**Elizabeth Grant**

**Paul Spriggs**



VIRAGS meetings are to be held at:

**First Memorial Meeting Room**

**4725 Falaise Drive, V8Z 7J1**

Park on the street or in the parking lot. The entrance to the Meeting Room is on the South side of the building off the terrace overlooking the pond.

**Bring a light – pathways are dark**

## @VIRAGS – President's Blog

You have probably heard this several times now, but it is the **time to prepare your plants for the Spring Show and Sale**. This is the time of year **we need all members to participate**. There are **2 tasks** for you this month - **get a plant ready for the show** and **collect plants to donate for the sale**. For the show to be a success, we need to fill the tables with entries. If every member put one plant in the show, it would be a success. Have a look around your balcony, terrace, patio, coldframe, greenhouse, or garden. You will find something that is either in a pot or could be put in a pot that you are pleased with. There are [instructions and categories](#) for all types of plants and if you are unsure people will help you when you bring the plants in. There are detailed instructions for how to make your plant look its best: [Preparing for the Spring Show and Sale](#). The bonus is that it is fun to be involved in the show.

Your second task is to put together **plants for the Sale**. The range of plants that we find at garden centers becomes narrower each year. However, many members have plants in their gardens that simply cannot be bought anywhere. Other members and non-Members who attend our Sale do so because they know this is where they can buy hard-to-find plants. But that only works if members take the time now to pot up a few divisions or donate a few of their 'extras'. It may seem trivial, but even half a flat of member-donated plants goes a long way to making the plant sale a success. It is a thrill to see someone carrying a small pot to their car that you recognize as something you donated.

I have one last special plea for your help. How about getting your grand children involved? Many of us first experienced gardens as a child at a grand parent's home. We have categories for entries from young people – The Miniature Garden Section appeals to many, and the Children's Garden Section is open for entries from those under 10 years of age. Although these were once very popular, lately there have been few entries in either. Is there a better way to be remembered?

### Looking for 'George'

Suzanne Schmiddy who lives near Penticton recently contacted VIRAGS. She is searching for someone who might have *Iris reticulata* 'George' bulbs to share or sell when they are divided later this year. There is apparently no commercial source in Canada for this out-of-fashion *Iris*, and the US suppliers do not ship to Canada.

Suzanne Schmiddy

[sueschmiddy@gmail.com](mailto:sueschmiddy@gmail.com)

### January Seeding Workshop Update

For everyone who came to the seeding workshop - your work is paying off. Here is what has germinated so far:

*Draba aizoides* (first up!)

*Hormathophyla spinosa*

*Silene saxifraga*

*Iberis simplex*

*Aethionema armenum*

# Yukon's Rare Alpine Plants – Bruce Bennett

*Robert Burke*

Bruce Bennett gave an interesting and well-polished talk for our February Zoom-only meeting. Bruce has Victoria roots, and throughout his talk he highlighted numerous links that connected him with the audience. The talk led off with a discussion of the origin of the distinctive Yukon flora. Two aspects of the glacial history of the area appear to explain many aspects of the distribution of plants in the Yukon. At the peak of glaciation, when sea levels were at a minimum, Siberia and North America were joined by a bridge of land almost 1500 km wide. It was emphasized that Beringia was a much more extensive area than the string of island and narrow isthmus that most of us imagine. In addition to its size, much of Beringia was a glacial refugium. Owing to the rain shadow effect of the coastal mountains, central Alaska, central Yukon and a strip extending to Banks Island was never glaciated. These aspects of Yukon's history appear to account for the large number of endemic species in the central Yukon. Bruce spoke of some plants having a Siberian origin that had spread into North America and others that originated in the Yukon and spread into Siberia. These 'amphiberingian' distributions are a common feature of Yukon flora. Of the approximately 4000 native vascular plants in Canada, about ¼ of them are found in the Yukon, and ¼ of those are found mostly in the Yukon. There are 64 species found nowhere else in Canada and the Yukon boasts 8 true endemics.

The plants of course were the highlight of the talk – and there were numerous beauties and I think many of these were new to most of us. I liked the notion that some plants serve as markers for Beringia – *Bistorta plumosa* is

amphiberingian, but abundant in the Yukon and Alaska where it marks Beringia. Bruce clearly selected plants that have potential in rock gardens. The Alaskan Mountain Avens, *Dryas alaskensis*, or *Dianthus repens*, the Northern Pink, our only native carnation, both



*Douglasia gormanii* (*Androsace constancei*)



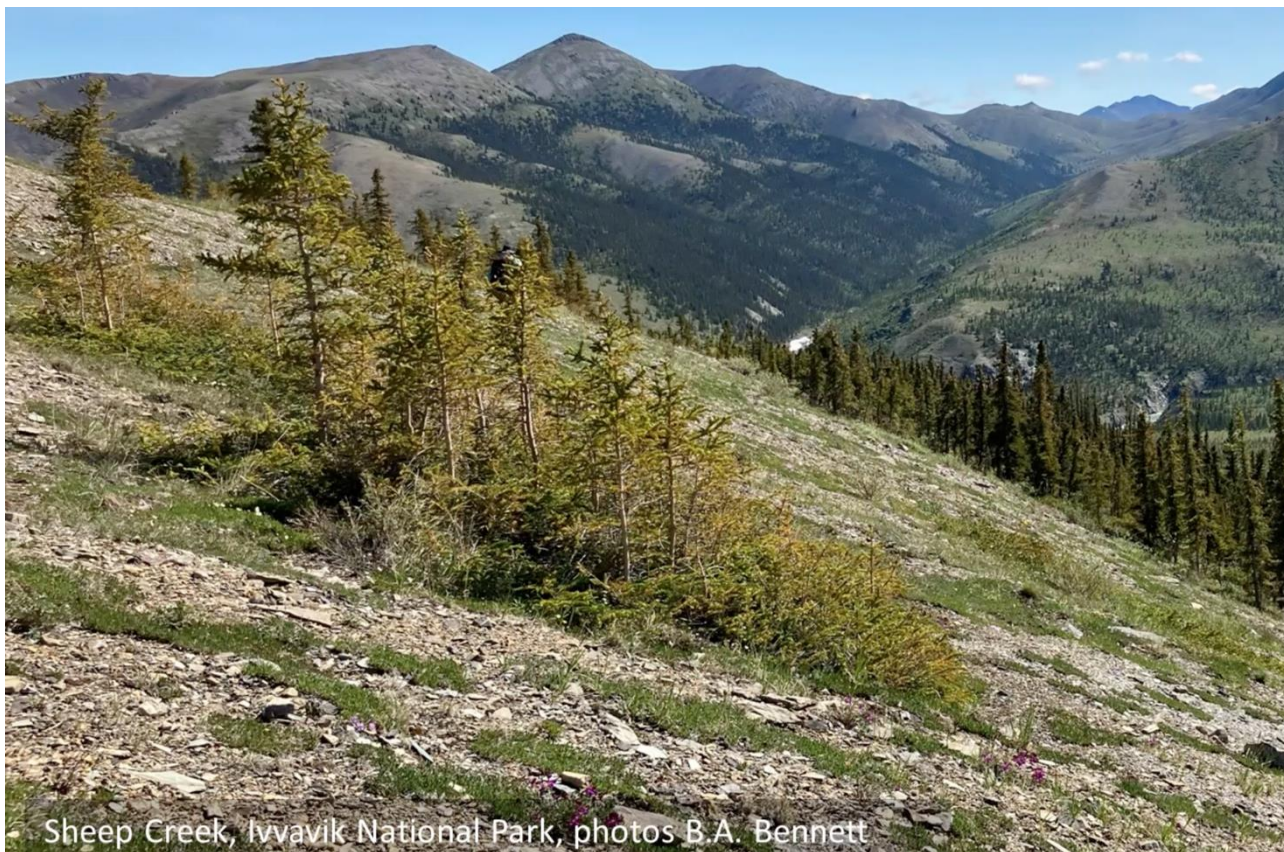
*Eritrichium grandiflorum*

look like they would be welcome additions to any rockery. *Claytonia ogilviensis* and *Phacelia mollis* also stood out as being worth trying in a garden. Who would not want to have *Eritrichium grandiflorum* with its “huge” Loonie-sized flowers. However, as it is known from only a single site near Old Crow, we should consider ourselves lucky to have seen a photograph. The groups of related species emphasize the distinctive Beringia origin of the flora of the Yukon. For instance, *Douglasia* (*Androsace*), with 4 Yukon species, only one of which sneaks into BC, or the *Draba* species all suggest a Beringia origin. Of the 37 species of *Draba* in the Yukon, 5 are endemics and many have very restricted distributions. I suspect that there are few continental regions that have these levels of endemism.

Throughout his talk Bruce provided anecdotes on the history of the plants, details of how to recognize them, and notes on their ecology. These details added substance that made the talk less of a litany of names. The

multiple facets Bruce related for each plant made it clear we were hearing from an expert with a lifetime of experience.

It should probably not have been a surprise with Bruce’s origins in Victoria that he dedicated the talk to **Hans Roemer**. The dedication probably had more impact than he had anticipated. Following his talk Paul Spriggs provided a brief memorial tribute to Hans. Paul outlined their first meeting, some 30 years ago, and summarized Hans growing up in post war Germany before coming to Victoria in 1967 – the year he joined VIRAGS. Paul described Hans as the “patron saint of Vancouver Island’s native plants” and a “giant” in our rock gardening community. The anecdote of how Hans was still wanting to take cuttings the week of his death spoke volumes. It was clear that people were moved by the short homage and that many have felt a similar loss with Hans’ passing.



Sheep Creek, Ivvavik National Park, photos B. A. Bennett

# Our Stars of Spring

## Robert Burke

For many of us, Shooting Stars are an easily recognizable plant that signals the coming of spring. However, these striking *Primulas* are extremely variable, have overlapping ranges, and their taxonomy is confusing, making distinguishing species difficult. There are at least 7 species of Shooting Stars in BC, but only 2 species on Southern Vancouver Island; *Primula hendersonii* and *Primula pauciflora*. Field guides are difficult to follow as they often use different names. *Primula hendersonii* has 22 synonyms and *Primula pauciflora* has as many as 74. Shooting Stars are in full bloom this month so now is the time to have a closer look at these natives that many of us have in our gardens.

*Primulas* are most diverse in the Eastern Himalayas and Western China (Yunan). But Shooting Stars, all of which are in the Dodecatheon Section of the genus, are most abundant and diverse in Western North America. One species extends into Western Siberia, but we live near the centre of their diversity. There are many potential causes for such a biogeographic distribution, but Shooting Stars are likely to have originated in North America.

The Section Dodecatheon is distinct from the rest of the genus principally because of their adaptations to pollinators. Shooting Stars

are all pollinated by buzz pollination, also termed sonication pollination. The vibrations of bumble bees near the flower cause the release of pollen from the specialized anthers that are formed into a sometimes-fused tube. Unlike other species of *Primula*, they have no nectar, so only pollen seeking bees are attracted. The swept back petals and pendant flowers are also thought to be specializations to this curious means of pollination.

There is no single diagnostic feature that one can use to readily distinguish *P. hendersonii* from *P. pauciflora*, but there are several subtle differences (See Table). The leaves of *P. hendersonii* are basal and contract abruptly in a short petiole. Whereas *P. pauciflora* has longer, narrower more spoon-shaped leaves. *P. pauciflora* has fewer flowers per stem (thus the name) than *P. hendersonii* and flowers several weeks later. The range of flower colours is similar, though *P. pauciflora* is described as being a softer pink to lavender. *P. hendersonii* flowers are more clearly nodding with the flowers of *P. pauciflora* being more upwardly oriented. Some descriptions emphasize that *P. pauciflora* has a yellow ring at the base of the stamen tube and that the pollen tube in *P. hendersonii* is deep reddish-purple, almost black and that the stamen tube is yellowish in *P. pauciflorum*. Seed capsules on *P. hendersonii* have a small cap that falls off to release the seeds, whereas *P. pauciflora* seed capsules split along their length to release seeds.

Character	<i>Primula hendersonii</i>	<i>Primula pauciflora</i>
Leaves	Basal, egg-shaped, short petiole	Narrow, Spoon-shaped, long petiole
Inflorescence	6-15 flowers per stem, magenta to pink, occasionally white, downward pointing	2-6 flowers per stem, soft pink to lavender, occasionally white
Pollen tube	Deep reddish-purple, almost black	Yellow ring at the base, tube yellowish purple
Seed capsule	Operculum that sheds	Capsule splits longitudinally
Distribution in Canada	South and East Vancouver Island	Coastal BC to Alaska and Southern BC to Alberta
Habitat	Abundant, Dry meadows, Garry Oak woodlands, open coniferous forests, rocky outcroppings	Sparse, wet meadows, estuaries, seeps, bluffs, coastal headlands, cliffs, slopes, stream banks, marshy areas

iNaturalist has *P. hendersonii* occurring in Canada only on the East side of Vancouver Island, south of Parksville. *P. pauciflora* has a broader distribution encompassing coastal areas to Alaska and in the southern part of BC into Alberta. Locally, *P. hendersonii* is abundant in dry meadows, Garry Oak woodlands, open coniferous forests, and rock outcrops. *P. pauciflora* is sparsely distributed in wet meadows, estuaries, seeps, bluffs, coastal headlands, cliffs, slopes, streambanks, and marshes.

W.H.A. Preece, a long-standing member of VIRAGS, in 1937 published "*North American Rock Plants (First Series)*". The book contains

one-page description of 100 plants native to North America that Preece knew to be suitable for the garden, as he had grown most of them in his Victoria garden. Each plant gets a delightfully written one-page description, and each is accompanied by a photo produced by A. Nicholls, also a VIRAGS member. We have been reprinting a selection of Preece's descriptions in the Newsletter with an updated, colour photograph to acquaint members with this timeless classic of Rock and Alpine Gardening. This month we have the entries for our 2 Shooting Stars. Although he uses different names, his descriptions of the two local species are perfect.

## Dodecatheon latifolium [*P. hendersonii*] (*Primulaceae*)

This North American genus of the Primula family has its headquarters in the North-West where it is represented by an ever-growing host of species. The genus, as a whole, is most attractive and quaint but, while the many species will delight the heart of the ardent and persevering collector, there is so little obvious difference between the majority of them that most gardeners will be content with half a dozen species or fewer.

The power of this group to attract notice is indicated by the multitude of popular names: Shooting-Star, Peacock, Bir-Bill, Wild Cyclamen, and American Cowslip are a few of them; the last name which often appears in literature lacks spontaneity and sounds as though it has been deliberately manufactured.

*D. latifolium* is also known as *D. hendersonii* and is frequently found under that name, particularly in trade catalogs. This species is widely distributed, being found from British Columbia to Northern California; it is particularly abundant on the southern end of Vancouver Island.

The foliage, which commences growth before winter has really relaxed its grip, consists of a tuffet of broad thick rich green leaves, which have a tendency to hug the ground; from this tuffet the naked flower stems rise in early spring to a height of 8 or more inches; each flower stem is crowned with a chaplet of from 6 to 12 quaintly designed blossoms of deep, rich rose purple ornamented around the base of "the beak" with circles of gold and umber. *D. latifolium* is without doubt one of the most richly coloured members of the genus and ranks high in garden value. After seeding, the plants quickly wither and have entirely vanished by mid summer. Suggestions for the planting culturing propagation of this species of this genus are given under *D. pauciflorum*.



*Primula hendersonii*, Mt.Tolmie Park

# Dodecatheon pauciflorum [P. pauciflora]

(Primulaceae)

*D. pauciflorum* is even more widely distributed than the preceding species being found from British Columbia and Alberta southward to Colorado and California. Where its range coincides with that of *D. latifolium* as on Southern Vancouver Island it shows a preference for somewhat moister condition and grows in situations that are practically bog in winter and spring but that dry out summer.

This differs in several ways from the preceding species; as a rule it is from two to three weeks later in coming into bloom; only from 2 to 6 blossoms are carried on each flower stem; the colour of the blossoms is soft rosy-mauve and the golden circle at the base of the "beak" is wider and brighter than in *D. latifolium*; the long, rather narrow leaves which taper towards the base are somewhat less rich in shade, less shining in texture and tend to stand more erect; the flower stems are somewhat taller usually reaching height of from 12 to 15 inches. The two species have about equal garden value but by growing both the flowering season is extended to a quite considerable extent.

These species are delightful easy in the garden, flourishing in any reasonably good garden soil and in any exposure. It is, perhaps, worthy to note that the range of *D. pauciflorum* embraces considerable areas of limestone formation. In their natural haunts these *Dodecatheons* grow in situations which dry up in summer; in the garden they seem able to dispense with so thorough a ripening but, to be on the safe side it is well to plant them in close proximity to shrubs and like subjects which can be depended upon to absorb any surplus moisture in summer with the least possible delay.

Propagation is by seed or division of dormant crowns. The crowns are then planted, should not be more than 1 1/2 inches below the surface.





*Primula pauciflora*, Mt. Wells

## March - GITP

*Donna Humphries*

Tending the garden has been sporadic over the winter months and while the soil is still cold, the *Rhododendron* is starting to flush with beautiful pink buds and the *Daphne* in the older crevice garden is covered in blooms. Ellen trimmed the *Epimedium* in anticipation of the gentle yellow flowers in the coming month. Kenneth and I moved a sword fern to create better exposure of a low growing *Rhododendron* and make room for a new vertical accent tree. Several visitors to the park have expressed delight with the spirals and furrows in the gravel paths that Kenneth creates with his rake – it is the small things that contribute so much to the experience of the garden, something to remember in your garden!

Last fall it seemed I had bought a lot of *Narcissus* 'Tete-a-Tete' and we are now rewarded with a wonderful display! Small clusters of yellow and orange in the gray rock garden speaks of spring. *Crocus* in my own garden are robust, but it is interesting that the ones we planted in the GITP do not make a great show. The crevice garden is still quiet with just the yellow flowers of *Draba*.

Please check out the website for pictures of the start of spring in the garden!



*Crocus tommasinianus* – Stonehill Farm

# Remembering Hans Roemer

*Paul Spriggs*

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, one of VIRAGS most important and influential members, Dr. Hans Roemer passed into the great rock garden in the sky. I once heard him described as the patron saint of Vancouver Island native plants, but he was so much more than that.

Born on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1938, in southern Germany just a stones-throw from the mighty Alps, he was indoctrinated into the culture of rock and alpine gardening from a very young age. That region of Germany surrounding Munich was one of the original epicenters of what we now know as modern day rock gardening. I learned this at a VIRAGS plant sale where I was selling a hybrid *Daphne* called “Wilhelm Schact”, named for the famous early German rock gardener. Hans’s eyes lit up as he informed me that his dad, also a plant enthusiast, and Wilhelm Schact were good friends. He told me memories from his childhood of the two of them building rock gardens at their home while Hans played with Wilhelm’s son Dieter, who later became a notable rock gardener in his own right. Hans told me stories of the annual alpine plant show at the Munich Botanical Garden where he was moved by displays of perfectly grown *Fritillaria aurea*. This was no doubt an early influence on Hans’s own specialty of growing ephemeral bulbs.

Hans attended University in Munich and Hannover (where he met his future wife Heidi), earning his undergraduate and master’s degrees in landscape architecture. This was in the mid sixties, an era which coincided with the great rush of international mountaineering. It was a point of national pride as teams travelled from all over the world to be the first to climb the highest yet unclimbed peaks, especially in

the Himalayas. The Germans were no exceptions. But these expeditions were not simply staged for national glory, they would often involve a scientific component, bringing along scientists from disciplines of natural history. Through Hans’s connections at school in Munich, he was asked to participate on an expedition to the Hindu Kush as a botanist, where he was able to explore high mountain places never seen by western eyes. This experience was to set him on a path that he would pursue for the rest of his life. A path which included a passion for all wild places and their plants, especially those of the mountains.



Hans wandering on a Vancouver Island, limestone cap.

In 1967, Hans was offered another life changing opportunity. A sponsorship by Professor Mark Bell to study at the new University of Victoria for a one-year research internship. After his year was up, he decided to stay, along with his wife Heidi, to continue his studies which led to a PhD in plant ecology, to start a young family (Markus and Julia), and to embark on the personal and professional study of British Columbia's wild plants. So much of which, like the wild Himalaya, had not yet been explored by a trained botanist. Can you imagine what an open-ended opportunity for exploration this new world offered to a curious and passionate mind? Hans must have felt he found his heaven on earth amongst the untouched and largely unexplored splendour of British Columbia.

This passion turned into a career with various government agencies, the most notable with helping to develop the BC Ecological Reserves program. His job was to take submissions from naturalists all over BC and make recommendations as to whether they were worthy of protection under the ecological reserve status, whose mandate is "to establish permanent protected sanctuaries for representative or special ecosystems, endangered species, and unique natural features". Can you imagine the places he has seen?

Hans wrote many articles and gave many presentations and workshops in his personal and professional career. An accomplished plant photographer, he has contributed countless images for several publications including Pojar and Mackinnon's *Alpine Plants of British Columbia, Alberta and Northwest North America* (2013), and the successor of the aforementioned authors' *Plants of Coastal British Columbia* (soon to be released). Just last year he published his own book with co-author

Mary Sanseverino, *Native Plants of British Columbia's Coastal Dry Belt*. His legacy has also been honoured in the naming of the beautiful grass Roemer's Fescue, *Festuca Roemerii*.

Hans was very much at home in the wilderness, especially the mountains. He spent much of his retirement continuing his own personal studies of BC's alpine flora, with a particular emphasis on the alpine limestone areas of Vancouver Island, and his personal passion of Vancouver Island's rare endemic, *Trillium hibbersonii*. None of these areas are easy to reach, yet even into his eighties he would don a heavy backpack and fearlessly embark on self-guided expeditions to satisfy his curiosity. I was one of the lucky ones to have joined him on some of these trips. The longest was an expedition to the north shoulder of the Golden Hinde, Vancouver Island's highest mountain. This involved a 7 day bushwack up the Wolf River to a limestone plateau that very few have ever explored.



Hans in a rich, alpine meadow

In a recent email, Hans wrote: *"Heidi and I joined VIRAGS at the earliest occasion after arriving in Victoria in 1967. Albert de Mezey, Jack Todd, Al Smith, even Dr. Ian MacTaggart-Cowan were the big names in those days"* Here, as a relatively young man (29 years old), he rubbed shoulders with more greats of rock gardening and no doubt learned and honed his skills that made him a great rock gardener himself. There are members of the intelligentsia who don't mingle outside their specialist circles, but Hans was different. He got out into the community to act as a liaison between the world of professional botany and the world of amateurs and hobbyists, of which most garden clubs are made. As such, he became the go-to guy whenever a specific question needed an answer.

Hans's memory will forever be etched into the minds of many VIRAGS members. Anyone in our club who got to know him connected as gardeners and explorers of wild places. His passion for plants of dwarf stature from high alpine, rocky, and especially dry places was infectious, and he influenced many by growing and showing these plants in his rock gardens and at the club meetings. He was particularly interested in plants appropriate for Victoria's summer-dry climate and would experiment with plants never grown here from the world's Mediterranean regions. His skill in growing ephemeral bulbs was appreciated by many especially at the club shows where he awed visitors with his displays of crocus, tulips, fritillaria, cyclamen, narcissus and many others grown and shown to perfection.

In an email dated January 11, 2026, Hans wrote to me to me *"I am nearly 88 now and will soon converse with the root tips and fungal mycelia, rather than the beauty of their flowers"*. I knew his time was coming soon. We had one last garden visit. On January 18, just

two weeks before he passed, Cam Kidd, Chad Kreutzenstein, Ty Danylchuk, and I spent an enjoyable hour with him where he mustered up the strength to walk around the crevice garden and discuss the bulbs in his new bulb frame where some species, like *Narcissus romieuxii*, were just starting to bloom. His eyes shined during this visit as conversations with fellow rock gardeners always lifted his spirits, even at this late hour. In fact, he never really stopped rock gardening. He told me that he made every effort to learn the new names of plants presented in the talk by our January 11th speaker Harry Jans, and he told Cam that he wanted to come and get cuttings of *Armeria juniperifolia* just days before his passing! During our last visit, he also gave us some of his garden collected seed including a rare BC Desert Parsley (*Lomatium papilioniferum*), which he always raved about. There was enough seed in that pack that I was able to divide it into 40 packs to distribute to VIRAGS members at our next meeting as a memory of his legacy. Hans will not soon be forgotten. Those of us who were close to him will forever hold his memories dear. For those outside of his inner circle, his legendary status in the world of botany, horticulture, and love of wild places and their plants will live on through his many contributions to the greater community, to which he gave immensely and selflessly. Rest in peace now Hans, you will be missed, but your presence will travel with us so long as we roam this wild earth. I have no doubt that your spirit is now soaring with the mists that sustain our flower friends among the high mountain peaks.





*Top L* – Setting off to find *Trillium hibbersonii* *Top R* – Hiking up Greig Ridge, Strathscona Park  
*Middle R Top* – Bushwacking near Wolf River, Strathscona Park *Middle R Bottom* – Hans admiring *Cassiope merensiana*  
*Lower L* – Hans and Paul Spriggs on Olympic Peninsula *Bottom R* – *Festuca romeri* in East Sooke Park.



*Top L* -Hans and Ty Danylchuk on January 18, 2026. *Top R* – *Trillium hibbersonii*, one of Hans' favourites. *Bottom* - Hans, near Gordon River, June 2025 (photo credit Chad Kreutsenstein).

VANCOUVER ISLAND ROCK AND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY PRESENTS

# ANNUAL SPRING SHOW



Come and enjoy outstanding show entries, including rock and alpine, woodland, bog & succulent plants. There will be displays, vendor & seed sales, door prizes, a silent auction & tea service. Additionally, plants grown by club members will be sold during the event.

**SUNDAY APRIL 19, 9AM- 4PM**  
**ADMISSION BY DONATION**  
**MARY WINSPEAR CENTRE**  
**2243 BEACON AVENUE, SIDNEY, BC**



[www.virags.com](http://www.virags.com)



vancouver island rock and alpine garden society



virags\_pics