

# CASCADE HEATHER SOCIETY

Chapter of the North American Heather Society

## Calluna vulgaris with silver foliage

One of my truly favorite groups of heather is the silver *Calluna vulgaris*. Part of my attraction is the feel of the soft, downy foliage.

I collected specimens to compare them, and was surprised at how green they look up close. They look quite a bit more silver from the distance than they do at close range. They also look quite different later in the season as the foliage matures.

The two that are quite well known are 'Silver Queen' and 'Silver Knight'. Indeed 'Silver Queen' is queen of the silvers. It is still the one with the most silver sheen to it. It also doesn't turn dull or purple in the winter.

My favorite is 'Velvet Fascination' which is more of a combination of blue, green and silver. Some days under certain lighting, it appears sea foam green with a silvery sheen to it. It is a nice color break in the garden. 'Snowflake', 'Alison Yates', 'Silver King' and 'Anthony Davis' are in that same color group. Interestingly, they all have white flowers.

The low growing silvers are very appealing.

'Silver Cloud', 'Grey Carpet', 'Jan Dekker' are a few that are quite attractive. 'Sister Anne' and 'Dainty Bess' are a bit more green.



*Calluna vulgaris*  
'Silver Knight'

Some others silvers are 'Kerstin', 'Angela Wain', 'Glendoick Silver', 'Coby', 'Elly', 'Grijsje', 'Yvette's Silver', 'White Knight', 'Silver Stream', 'Oxshott Common', 'Dart's Squirrel', 'Beoley Silver' and 'Pewter Plate'. I am sure I have left out some of your favorites—it was a quick trip through the garden. Most of this group has lavender or mauve flowers. 'Beoley Silver' reminds me of lumpy, velvety yarn. Some years, the silvers are harder to root. They did well with our warm, dry winter this year. Don't get stuck on just 'Silver Knight' and 'Silver Queen' with so many other great choices.



*Erica tetralix*  
'George Fraser'  
Photo by Art Dome

## Erica tetralix with silver foliage

Often overlooked, *Erica tetralix* are a wonderful group for silver foliage. I consider 'Alba Mollis' to be the most silver looking of any heath or heather. They are very hardy plants and take miserable conditions quite well. I have 'Alba Mollis' growing in solid clay at the weep line in a hill. It rarely gets watered in the summer when it is baked adobe. It appears to be doing just fine.

'Pink Star' is a very nice silver as well. I also enjoy the steely gray color of 'Ken Underwood'. Many in this group have terrific flower color

much brighter than the Callunas. I love the magenta of 'Pink Glow' and the cerise color of both 'L.E. Underwood' and 'Foxhome'.

They grow into nice compact bushes for the most part and are trouble free plants. 'L.E. Underwood' can look ratty in the winter but recovers quickly in the spring.

A special favorite of mine is 'Pink Pepper'. This delightful dwarf grows to 6" x 12" with tiny branches that are gray green sprinkled with white. It has small pink flowers to match.



Silver foliage in  
Thompson's Garden  
Manchester, CA

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2001

## *Erica x griffithsii* 'Valerie Griffiths'



*Erica x griffithsii*  
'Valerie Griffiths'

If you are looking for a superb golden summer bloomer, try *Erica x griffithsii* 'Valerie Griffiths'. This is hardy to USDA Zone 6. According to *Handy Guide to Heather*, it has "pale pink flowers, July–October, with yellow foliage in summer deepening to a golden yellow in winter. Tall bushy habit. This cultivar is a selection from deliberate hybrids by John Griffiths between *Erica vagans* 'Valerie Proudley' and *Erica manipuliflora* 'Aldeburgh'. It is proving to be one of the best introductions of any heather in the

1990's. Named after his wife."

We have three planted that are 6 years old. They are about 3 feet across 2 1/2 feet high. They get only afternoon sun so they are more deep gold rather than the bright gold they get in full sun. They are noticeably handsome plants that people gravitate to and ask about. I have never seen one that didn't look anything but healthy in the nursery. They are awkward looking during their first year in the small pots. In their second year, they are well branched and very attractive.

## *Calluna vulgaris* 'Fort Bragg'



Last summer, while we were attending the NAHS Conference in the Fort Bragg area, we were given a new cultivar called 'Fort Bragg'. Edith Clarke had sent me some cuttings earlier in the year. This cultivar came from Homer Ferguson. I cannot recall if it was a seedling or a sport. It is a vigorous grower with excellent foliage color all year. It also blooms well. Habit is 12-18" x 24" in 3 to 4 years. Flowers are mauve. Foliage is gold to orange.

Next meeting,  
Sunday, August 12  
In Mount Vernon,  
WA area.

## Minutes, March 11, 2001 Meeting



*Calluna vulgaris*  
'Aberdeen'

Karla Lortz presided over a meeting of Cascade Heather Society Sunday, March 11, 2001 at Wilson's Heather Nursery in Chilliwack, BC. 26 members and guests were in attendance and introduced themselves.

A special thanks was expressed to our hosts, David and Irene, and to the Victoria chapter members who joined us.

We also welcomed fellow member and NAHS President, Ella May Wulff and NAHS's "founding father", Ken Wilson.

Continuing discussion was held on chapter revitalization. It was decided that Chapter dues remain at \$5.00 per year and that the newsletter be published three times a year. Karla agreed to continue editing and members were urged to

## Minutes (continued)

contribute articles. Our Chapter will exchange newsletters with the Vancouver Island Chapter.

Alice Knight reported that 33 paid members are now on the Chapter roster and that there is a balance of \$2,856.58 in the treasury with a few unpaid bills for mailing and newsletter costs.

Karla suggested the possibility of offering her Washington Heaths and Heathers customers a free 1 year chapter membership with heather plant orders. Discussion resulted in a decision to add NAHS and Chapter brochures or information with orders shipped to Washington and Oregon customers, as may be possible. The Chapter does need a new brochure which Karla and Alice will work on as time permits.

Also briefly discussed was the possibility of offering discounts to Society members at participating retail nurseries. Idea tabled for now.

Ella May stressed the need to plan meetings in advance. Discussion was held on types of meetings preferred and best dates. Next scheduled meeting will be Sunday, August 12 in the Mt Vernon area. Lloyd Eighme will coordinate it. Sunday, October 7 was selected as a Study Group Meeting which will be hosted by Janet Christie in Redmond. Noon was suggested as a good time for meetings.

Joyce Prothero reminded us that their Chapter will host the NAHS Silver Anniversary meeting July 25-28, 2002 in Nanimo and suggested that might be a good time for a Chapter meeting as well.

Ian MacGowan, Gerry Wilson and Lynn Tengbom will schedule and coordinate a

work party at the Rhododendron Species Foundation to clean and prune the Chapter-sponsored heather garden there. A possible date would be April 7 or 8 at the time of the RSF Spring Plant Sale.

Karla brought up the fact that our Chapter should have a membership in the RSF. Ella May moved that the Secretary get information and join, authorizing up to a \$150 fee. Seconded by Lynn Tengbom. Carried.

Members were asked to submit ideas for future meetings and projects and reminded that offering ourselves as speakers for garden club or Master Gardener meetings is an excellent way to promote heathers and add new members. Ella May told of availability of books through the NAHS Library and slide programs with scripts. A \$50 deposit is required for the slide programs and all but \$15 is refunded when materials are returned. It was also suggested that the Chapter work on creating a list of speakers as is done by the Northeast Chapter. Another suggestion was that a slide program be made into a video for use by speakers.

Ella May also asked for a showing of hands to get an idea of interest in such things as silk screened sweat shirts, tote bags or stationery which could generate income for NAHS.

Meeting was adjourned about 2:30 so those attending could finish nursery tours and picture taking.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Knight, Sec-Treas.

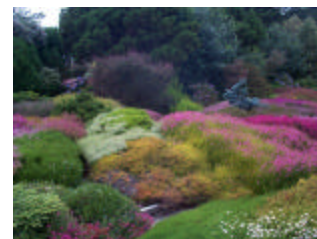


*Erica cinerea*  
'Purple Beauty'

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### OFFICERS 2001

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Thompson Garden  
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CHAPTER OF THE NORTH  
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CASCADE  
HEATHER SOCIETY

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## August 12, Meeting in Mount Vernon, Washington

Our next meeting is coming right up in Mount Vernon.

The Master Gardener's there have a display garden that I understand has some heather in it thanks to the efforts of Lloyd Eighme.

Alice Knight will attach the details to this mailing. I hope to see all of you there. Your support is crucial to the future of rebuilding our Cascade Heather Society.



***Daboecia cantabrica* 'Atropurpurea' seedling. This vigorous plant needs a true and proper name. Perhaps a project for a CHS Meeting?**