



C.v. 'Spring Torch'
Photo by Art Dome

Cascade Heather Society

Spring Tips Galore

I noticed this year that there are sure a lot of spring tipped heaths and heathers. I personally break them down into two categories: those with white/crean tips and those with pink/red tips.

The white to cream tipped *Calluna vulgaris* all have white flowers. There are no exceptions that I am aware of. This group lights up the nursery with its new growth. Some of these are: 'Spring Cream', 'Ruby Slinger', 'Hammondii Aureifolia', 'Anneke', 'Cream Steving', 'Japanese White' and 'Reini'. So, besides height, what distinguishes one from another? 'Reini' has a softer look with its downy foliage. 'Cream Steving' has a look that is a bit different than the

others. It seems to be a bit more delicately colored all over. The others are more on the tips. 'Japanese White' is truly white. All the others are cream to pale yellow. 'Spring Cream' is the earliest to show color. It can revert to green on some branches though. My favorite? I have always had an affinity for 'Japanese White'. I am beginning to like 'Cream Steving' quite a bit as well.

The pink to red tipped *Callunas* are a showy group. This group typically has lavender to mauve flowers. To give you an idea of how many there are, here are the names of a few: 'Spring Torch', 'Red Fred', 'Flamingo', 'Kerstin', 'Leslie

Slinger', 'Spring Glow', 'Moon Glow', 'Skipper', 'Olive Turner', 'Arina', 'Tricolorifolia', 'Red Wings', 'Mrs. Pat', 'Arina', 'Sally Anne Proudley', 'Fred Chapple', 'Easter Bonfire'.

The standard is 'Spring Torch' in most nurseries. Our standard is 'Red Fred'. It is hard to beat with those long lasting red tips. 'Kerstin' is unique with its downy pink to cream tips and silver green foliage. 'Spring Glow' is very similar to 'Spring Torch'. 'Mrs. Pat' holds its pink tips nearly all year, but it is a fussy, fungal prone plant here in wet Shelton. 'Leslie Slinger' has gained our attention. It has bright salmon to crimson tips. 'Skipper' has dark red

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A Rare Sight—*Erica spiculifolia* f. *albiflora*

A few years ago, *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia* was changed to *Erica spiculifolia*. I imported the white form from Holland out of curiosity. The customary pink flowers are indeed white. This bright green plant is a very slow

growing. It blooms in May and June. Grows to 10" x 20" supposedly. Mine are about 4" x 8" in the gallons. *Erica spiculifolia* are very hardy by reputation. There are several clones in cultivation, but none are named.



Erica spiculifolia f. *albiflora*
Some young ones beginning to flower



Is It the Correct Plant?



'Wickwar Flame' with 'Silver Queen' behind.

Calluna vulgaris 'Wickwar Flame' is listed as being 20" tall in *Handy Guide to Heather*. I have not seen it over 12" tall. I would like to hear from some of you as to how tall your mature plant is.

One thing I am wondering is if we have the correct plant here in the U.S.

Over the past several years, I have imported cuttings of other plants from Holland and England to see if we are

growing the correct plant.

One discovery I have made is that the *Erica carnea* 'Winter Beauty' that we grow looks nothing like the one I imported to check it against. I will be listing the one in the trade here as 'Winter Beauty' U.S. and the other as 'Winter Beauty' U.K. I imagine the U.S. version should undergo a name change. Many people growing *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Atropurpurea' have the in-

correct one. If yours is more lavender in color, you might have the seedling. The real one is purple. We call the lavender colored plant 'Atropurpurea' seedling. It really should have a proper name.

If you have a moment, drop me an email and let me know how old and how tall your 'Wickwar Flame' is. Perhaps, ours is cut back too much for cuttings making it shorter than if let go a bit.

Spring Meeting

What a nice meeting we had at Janice Leinwebber's Highland Heather in Canby, Oregon in March. I personally had a great time browsing through the greenhouses and visiting with CHS members.

The Willamette Valley in Oregon is one of my favorite

places. It has such a diverse agricultural industry. The farmlands are truly beautiful.

Both Janice and Cleo Hall had some choice plants for sale for members attending the meeting.

Janice has a lot of heather coming along there. She

really has her hands full! As a retailer, I appreciate her wide selection of plants available wholesale.

It is wholesalers like Janice and David Wilson whose large number of varieties available make heather an up and coming nursery plant. *Minutes: back page.*



Thompson garden in Manchester, California.

(above) *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Alba' with *C.v.* 'Cuprea' behind.

(left) Blue spruce framing the picture.

Spring Tips Galore (continued)

tips.

In the group *Erica x stuartii* 'Irish Lemon' and 'Irish Orange' are aptly named.

The *Erica x watsonii* group has numerous colorful tipped choices. My favorites are 'Pink Pacific' and 'Pink Pearl' (now called 'Pearly Pink'). 'Truro', 'Dawn' and H. Maxwell' are nice as well. A newer one to us is 'Mary' which has soft yellow tips and the best colored purple

flowers of the group. In the *Erica x williamsii*, my favorite is 'Cow-y-Jack'. It has very bright yellow tips on its new growth. The name is catchy too!

One other group worth mentioning are the Callunas that have both colorful foliage and spring tips. 'Multicolor' is brick red in winter with scarlet new growth. 'Winter Chocolate' loses its red foliage in spring to a greenish gold color with salmon tips.

Little 'Soay' has reddish foliage with a brown tint in winter. In spring the greenish foliage has pink to red tips. This one has a carpeting habit. We are fond of this unusual heather.

Remember to prune spring tipped cultivars in the fall as soon as they are finished blooming. If you wait until spring, you will cut off those colorful tips that are forming and will have less of a show.



Calluna vulgaris 'Mrs. Pat' from Joan Murphy's garden, Fort Bragg, California.

Erica cinerea 'Neptune'

In the stunning garden of Edith and Clark Davis of Fort Bragg, California, arose a seedling now officially named 'Neptune'. This might be a seedling of nearby 'Atrorubens'. It certainly is similar. The flowers are larger and held better all around the stem. They named it after the street they

live on just a few blocks from the Pacific Ocean.

Edith shared cuttings with me, so we hope to have it available in the next year or two. It certainly is a top performer in their yard. They chose it from three seedlings that came up in that spot.

It grows to about 12-18" x

18-24". The color is somewhere in the red to reddish purple range.

If any of you do get manage to get one and grow it, please let me know how it does for you. The Heather Society is curious as well about the performance of the newly registered plants.



Erica cinerea 'Neptune' (center)

DNR Study on Deer Browsing Habits

This year, prior to the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, the deer came in and trimmed back about 200 gallons of blooming *Erica carnea*. Next they ate 20 flats of 'Wickwar Flame', 'Sesam' and 'Robert Chapman' in the 3 1/4" pots. WHY?? They won't touch the

ones in the ground other than the occasional nibble on a carnea. A neighbor told me about a recent Department of Natural Resources study. They fenced a quarter section of forest. They put in 50 deer. At various times of year, they harvested (killed) some to study

what they ate. They were attracted to the plants with the most protein they could find. Fertilized heather is higher in protein than their unfertilized counterparts planted in the ground. This makes them tasty.

Don't fertilize your heather if you don't have to.



Cherry Bank in late October



NAHS Summer Annual Conference July

Dr. Hans Roemer, a plant ecologist whose research focus is the forest vegetation of southeast Vancouver Island, will discuss "Alpine Flowers on the Pacific Coast" on Friday evening. This illustrated talk describes habitat changes and the mountain flora extending from the Olympic Mountains of Washington State to the Queen Charlotte Ranges north of Vancouver Island. As a follow-up, Saturday's bus trip to Paradise Meadows on Mount Washington in Strathcona Park will introduce conference participants to an alpine bog whose vegetation includes the ericaceous genera of *Phyllodoce* and *Cassiope*, our native North American hea-

thers.

"Heaths and Hybrids." is the topic of Saturday evening's talk by David Small, President of The (British) Heather Society. This presentation will trace the history of *Ericas* and their hybrids from those naturally occurring in southern England to those being bred by Kurt Kramer, John Griffiths, Barry Sellers and David Wilson. The speaker also will discuss how DNA analysis has helped to unravel some of the hybrids' secrets and has created some surprises along the way. Prior to his election last year as President of The Heather Society, David had served as its Chairman since 1992. He

has also co-authored and published the Handy Guide to Heathers and the International Register of Heather Names.

Other conference highlights include: a Heather Sale - phytosanitary clearances will be available so that plants purchased in Nanaimo can cross international boundaries; a "tubie test" demonstration - our Chapter's close-up approach for studying heather; suggestions for sight-seeing before and after the Conference - heathers, and more! and the warm hospitality of the VIH Chapter plus the scenic beauty of British Columbia.



David & Irene Wilson's garden in B.C.

C.v. 'Firefly' is the red plant in the center. *Erica x griffithsii* 'Valerie Griffiths' is to the left. This picture was taken in March.

Wilson's garden again in March.

Erica x darleyensis 'Mary Helen' is the center row.



SILVER ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada

July 26 - 28, 2002

Preliminary Program

Friday, July 26, 2002

- 10:00am NAHS Executive Board meeting begins. All members welcome.
- 2:00pm Conference Registration begins
- 5:30pm Meeting-and-greeting *really* begins
- 6:30pm Dinner Buffet
- 8:00pm Evening Program: Hans Roemer, ***Alpine Flowers on the Pacific Coast***

Saturday, July 27, 2002

- 7:30-9 am Late Registration
 - Heather Sale (*phytosanitary certification available for crossing Canada-US border*)
 - Breakfast Buffet
- 9:00am NAHS Annual General Meeting begins.
- 11:am Bus trip to Paradise Meadows with lunch, orientation, and guided walk
- 5-6 pm Heather Sale (*phytosanitary certification available*)
- 5:30pm No-Host Social Hour begins
- 6:30pm Banquet Buffet
- 8:00pm Evening Program: Recognition of "The Founders"; a talk on ***Heaths and Hybrids*** by David Small; concludes with unique Musical Interlude.

Sunday, July 28, 2002

- 7:30-9am Canadian Breakfast Buffet
- 8-10am Heather Sale (*phytosanitary certification NOT available*)
- 9-10am Displays / discussions (around perimeter of Buffet area) on topics such as:
 - CAD as an aid to designing heather gardens
 - Naturalistic Landscaping featuring heathers
 - Tubie Testing as a learning strategy
 - Cultivation techniques
 - and, maybe, other topics, too.*
- 10am Closing Session, Rousing Send-Off, plus suggestions for self-guided Post-Conference tours

FOR MORE INFORMATION, e-mail Norma at [<dirom@cowichan.com>](mailto:dirom@cowichan.com).

FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS at the convention rate of \$75 (CDN) for single or double occupancy, contact the Howard Johnson Harbourside Hotel in Nanaimo at 250-753-2241 or 1-800-446-4656. Be sure to mention the "North American Heather Society" meetings.



CASCADE HEATHER SOCIETY
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SOCIETY

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We're on the web

Minutes of the March 3, 2002 Meeting

President Karla Lortz called the Cascade Heather Society meeting to order at Highland Heather Nursery in Canby, OR on Saturday, March 2, 2002 immediately following a brown bag lunch. Introductions were made.

Minutes of the August 12, 2001 meeting were read. Treasurer's report gave balance of \$2473.10. Ella May Wulff moved the reports be approved. Seconded and carried.

The Chapter-planted heather garden at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal way was explained and the need for more support discussed. It was decided that a combined meeting and work party to clean up and prune the heathers would a good idea. Saturday, November 9, 2002 was selected as a tentative date. Arrangements will be made and members notified. Garden passes were made available to persons wanting them.

Ella May moved that we renew our Chapter membership for RSBG in the amount of \$100.00. Seconded and carried.

Next meeting will be in Nanaimo, BC in conjunction with the NAHS Annual meeting July 26-28. Exact time and place will be arranged with the hosting Vancouver Island Heathers + Chapter president, Joyce Prothero, and members will be notified.

Spring 2003 meeting will be held in Lincoln City, OR at the Connie Hansen Garden. Bernie and Phyllis Latenschlaeger will make arrangements.

Other possible sites for future meetings were discussed. One was the new Oregon Gardens at Silverton. Also discussed was frequency of meetings but no action was taken.

The need for chapter brochures and website updates was discussed.

Karla offered to work on the Website and brochure. She also requested articles for upcoming newsletters.

Karla reminded us of the need for new officers to take over at end of the current year.

Heather plants, books, shirts and totes were available for purchase.

Hosts, Janice and Dennis and helpers, Cleo and Ella May were thanked.

Cleo Hall moved the meeting be adjourned for nursery tour and cutting demonstrations and workshop. Seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Knight, Secretary-treasurer