

*Bulletin of The
Heather Society*



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Vol. 5 No. 2

Summer 1994



A Registered Charity No. 261407

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Cover illustration *Erica ciliaris* 'Stoborough' by Brita Johannson

EDITORIAL

Big changes are afoot in the Heather Society! We hope you will approve of the new-look Year Book and Bulletin. After fifteen hard-working years as Editor of the Year Book, Bert Jones has handed over to Dr Charles Nelson; Charles is a Taxonomist by profession and an author of note, so we need have no doubt that the Year Book is still in expert hands. As you may have already seen in the Chairman's Report in the Year Book, Bert is taking up a new and probably even more difficult challenge in the future. I am sure you will all wish to join me in wishing both Bert and Charles much success.

Annual General Meeting

The 1994 Annual General Meeting will be held at 9.15 am, on Saturday 3rd September, at Askham Brian College, York. An Agenda for the Meeting is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin.

24th Annual Conference

Askham Brian College, York - 2nd to 5th September 1994

Cost: Friday to Monday - 110.00 Friday to Sunday Evening - 92.00 Per Day (after breakfast to evening) - 21.00 For full details, please send a 2 booking fee to: Mrs Beryl Mayne, 16 Poplar Avenue, Kirkbymoorside, York, YO6 6ES.

PLEASE NOTE that Beryl asks for full payment as soon as possible and no later than the 16th of July; not the 31st as previously stated.

Royal Horticultural Society's Show

Results of the Heather Competitions held at Vincent Square on 22nd and 23rd February 1994.

Class 5. One Heath or Heather in bloom, one vase or bowl.

11 entries.

1st. Mrs E Bullivant - *Erica x darleyensis* 'Arthur Johnson'.

2nd. Mrs J M Hall - *Erica x veitchii* 'Exeter'.

3rd. Mr D McClintock - *Erica carnea* 'Rosalie'

Highly Commended. Great Comp Garden - *Erica x darleyensis*.

Class 6. Heath or Heather shown for foliage effect, one vase or bowl. 5 entries.

1st. Mr D McClintock - *Erica arborea* 'Albert's Gold'.

2nd. Mr D McClintock - *Calluna vulgaris* 'Grey Seedling'.

3rd. Mr D McClintock - *Calluna vulgaris* 'Sunrise'.

A Message from the Editor of the Year Book

The Year Book is the Society's main publication, issued once every year and containing articles of general interest as well as notes and papers recording the results of horticultural experiences and botanical research.

I am taking on this onerous position, aware of the tremendously hard work that Bert Jones (and his predecessors) put into producing a remarkable series of readable and informative Year Books.

No matter how active an editor is, the contents of every Year Book depends on members - *on you!* Please, gather your thoughts, notes, heather snippets, and set them down on paper. I need articles long and short, whether 250 or 1000 words is immaterial. All members can contribute. High quality pen-and-ink drawings and photographs (accompanied by words of wisdom) will also be very acceptable. Subjects? - folklore, history, garden worthiness, heathers on pottery, 10 heathers for window-boxes in Heathfield, Cape heaths in the Arctic Circle, heather as a leitmotif in romantic fiction, new records of heathers in Antarctica! - anything, everything that will inform, amuse or even infuriate your fellow members is needed - now and every year henceforth.

Some guidelines for eager writers: please send legible hand-written scripts, or type your contribution (double spaced, please) and send it to me. If you are 'computerised', a 3.5 inch microdisk (AppleMac disks via our Chairman for conversion) in ASCII format will be even more acceptable (disks will be returned). You can fax articles to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

Dr E. Charles Nelson Editor, Year Book of the Heather Society National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Ireland

From UK Tel: 010353 1 8374388 (work); 010353 1 8680595 (home after 6pm) fax: 010353 1 8360080

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A Message from the Editor of the Bulletin

Upon reading Charles' a very eloquent and amusing plea for items for the Year Book, it occurred to me that some members might be a little confused about the respective roles of the Society's two publications. So, I have attempted to try and define them a little, for your benefit and mine.

THE YEAR BOOK is the annual 'flag-ship' publication of the Society. As Charles has said in his article - it is the vehicle for learned articles of all sorts, for details of new heather introductions, registrations and awards, and for the results of research.

THE BULLETIN is published three times a year and I like to think of it as the 'voice' of the Members. Is the forum for items of topical interest, where questions can be asked and answers given, problems raised and solutions found, and where anyone can write in, without feeling that they must be a 'heather expert' in order to put pen to paper. Also - it is of course the vehicle for reporting and publicising the news and events of the various local groups.

Falling in-between these two fairly clearly defined roles are the articles of general interest which are received from members and others. These are sometimes sent to the Year Book and sometimes to the Bulletin and are often suitable for either publication. In these cases the Editors decide which items to keep and which to send on.

So, please heed Charles' words. As he says, the quality and interest of the Year Book depends on you. But - don't stop sending items to the Bulletin will you?

Daphne Everett

Incorrect Photo Caption in 1993 Year Book

Members will no doubt have noticed the glaring error in the photo caption to plate III in the 1993 Year Book. A note of the circumstances of finding *E. terminalis* in Southern Australia will be published in the current Year Book.

Spring 1994 Visit to the Netherlands and Germany

Visits to Kurt Kramer's nursery at Edewecht-Suddorf in Germany have become almost an annual pilgrimage since his achievements in the hybridisation of *Ericas* first became known in the 1980's. I was delighted to participate in the 1994 visit.

We all convened at 'Denbeigh Heathers' as guests of David and Anne Small on the evening of 5th April and were treated to a delicious meal prepared by Anne. Next morning the party, consisting of David McClintock, David Small, Daphne and Maurice Everett and myself, set off to Harwich to take the ferry to the Hook of Holland. The seven hour trip was quite calm. We arrived at Gouda in the Netherlands in the evening and stayed overnight at the Campanile Hotel. After breakfast on Thursday 7th we set out for Van Hoef's nursery at Barneveld, where we were warmly greeted and treated to tea and cakes. Van Hoef lists 750 cultivars in his list and he normally has them all in stock in his neat and tidy nursery.

We ate lunch en route at Hengelo, before entering Germany and arrived at Kurt Kramer's nursery around 4pm. Along the driveway to the house we were greeted with a wonderful display of *Erica carnea* cultivars in full flower. Kurt's mother very kindly provided us with tea and biscuits. Afterwards we took advantage of the sunny weather to look at the heathers and take photographs; the setting out of the plants in rows made for a spectacular display. There were *E. carnea* 'Bells Extra Special' ('Whisky'), 'Wintersonne', 'Rotes Juwel', 'Winter Rubin', 'Rosalie' and 'Nathalie' the last two being the most impressive. Sadly, many of the *E. darleyensis* cultivars had been damaged by the cold winter, but beyond these were Kurt's *E. carnea* x *E. arborea* hybrids; of the twelve original plants only seven remained - the others having been discarded. All the plants were in flower, four white and three pink, with No. 4 being judged the best white and No.6 the best pink. These seedlings were all the result of deliberate crosses between *E. carnea* and *E. arborea*, using *E. arborea* as the seed parent. Next to these were Kurt's experiments with *E. x darleyensis*. One plant of 'Darley Dale' had sported larger flowers and thicker stems than normal and produced fertile seed. Another plant to exhibit such characteristics was found as a sport on 'Darley Dale' at Renans, Switzerland, in 1980. It has been registered as *E. x darleyensis* 'Aurelie Bregeon', named after the daughter of the finder. The reason for the larger flowers is that the plant is tetraploid; similar results were achieved by treating *E. x darleyensis* with Colchicin. Kurt has also succeeded in crossing *E. x darleyensis* back to *E. carnea*.

We were shown a cross between *E. bergiana* (Cape heath) with *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia*; a cross which is all the more surprising as these plants are from two different genera and the chromosome count is intermediate between that of *Bruckenthalia* and *Erica*. We were also shown a range of *Calluna* crosses which were 'bud flowerers', these included 'Melanie', 'Annette', 'Romina' and 'Alexandra'. 'Alexandra' has yet to be introduced to the UK market; it is intended as a rival to *E. gracilis* for the Autumn pot-heather market, which is strong in Germany.

On Friday 9th we were joined by Jurgen Schroder of the German Heather Society and Bert Albronda of the Dutch Heather Society. Kurt showed us how he tests the pollen collected from heathers to ascertain whether it is sterile or fertile - using a high magnification microscope; the fertile grains are much larger. We then drove to the Horticultural Research Station at Bad Zwischenahn, where we were met by Herr Beltz and taken to view the heather trial grounds. Tests were being carried out using fertilizers and fungicides. After lunch we visited 'Piccoplant', a firm that specialises in in-vitro propagation. Of particular interest here was *E. patersonia* growing in an agar solution. After lunch we visited the famous Jeddelloh nursery, which concentrates on growing conifers and rhododendrons. The Jeddelloh family have lived in this area for hundreds of years. After a look round the nursery and tea, kindly provided by Frau Jeddelloh, we were then taken to see the very impressive despatch area. The whole process is very mechanised due to the scale of the operations.

On Saturday we were joined at Kurt's nursery by Herman Westermann of the German Heather Society and were shown part of Kurt's extensive slide

collection; we were amazed by the quality, subject variety and the meticulous indexing. Afterwards came the climax to the trip - the naming of a new hybrid *Erica*. The ceremony was marked by the pouring of white and pink champagne over the white and pink forms of the *Erica carnea* x *Erica arborea* hybrids, now to be known as *Erica x oldenburgensis*, with 'Oldenburg' and 'Ammerland' being the names of the white and pink forms respectively.

On Sunday morning, having travelled back to Holland the previous afternoon, we had time for a trip around Boskoop and a visit to the Research Institute, before catching the ferry back to Harwich. Back at Denbeigh Heathers, Anne Small provided us with tea and biscuits and had prepared surprise gifts of plants of *E. x oldenburgensis* for each of us. What a marvellous end to a very stimulating trip of immense interest.

A very big thank you to David Small for the arrangements and all the driving and to David McClintock, to whom we are indebted for his expert botanical knowledge and fluent German. We all pass on our thanks to Kurt in particular, and to Bert Albronda, Jurgen Schroder and Hermann Westermann. Thanks also to Maurice and Daphne Everett for their companionship throughout a thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating trip.

Barry Sellers - Zone 11

What Barry is too polite to say is that, because both Maurice and I decided to join the trip, he had a very squashed journey through Holland and Germany in the back of David's car, but we echo Barry's thanks to the two Davids and to Kurt for making it such a memorable trip.
Ed.

Mrs E. B. Calvert

Having read in the spring Bulletin of the death of Jack London, I thought I should let you know that one of our Irish members, Mrs E B (Paddy) Calvert died on 21st November 1993. Paddy was a very keen heather enthusiast and strove hard to encourage her friends to grow heathers and to become members of the Society. She was very interested in the Heather Society, so much so, that for many years she was the local organiser - a post now held by her daughter, Mrs J M S McCollum, Dublin. Paddy will be greatly missed!

David McLaughlin Zone 2

East Meets West in Hamamatsu

It was one of those remarks which, on reflection, might have been better not made! At the Dundee Conference, whilst chatting with the President, I mentioned that my son David and his wife were going to work in Japan for eighteen months; I would almost certainly visit them - and did he think I ought to try and visit one of our Japanese members? Of course he was enthusiastic! At the Reading Conference, Anne Small told me that we now had three Japanese members and sent me their addresses before I left in November.

The two new members lived in Osaka and one look as I flew into that enormous city decided me that there was no way I could find anyone in Osaka. As it was, it soon became obvious to me as I explored Tswuga (where my son lives), that all street names are written in Japanese and bear no relation at

all to what I write on envelopes, or what I had on Anne's letter; it is still a mystery to me how the postman manages. David explained that the first house built in the street is No.1, the second is No.2 - even if it is at the other end - and so on as the gaps are filled in. Being completely illiterate in Japanese there was no way I could find my way about alone, however, on my last and only unplanned weekend - in pouring rain - we all set off to find Mr Miwa in Hamamatsu.

"It will clear when we get to the mountains" David said. He also pointed out that we might not be able to find the street, and if we did I would be unlikely to find a heather garden as he had never seen a heather in Japan; the climate is unsuitable - too hot in summer and too cold in winter. Sure enough the weather improved and I saw the snow-capped Mt. Fuji - already a plus for the journey.

David had planned that we would stop at a large service station on the expressway outside Hamamatsu and ask for help at the Information Office. We couldn't read the notice on the office door, but hoped it said "Back in 5 minutes". Then, while my daughter-in-law and I were admiring some expensive sweaters, a young man approached us and asked us, in excellent English, if we needed any help. David asked for directions and although the young man did not know the town well he found a lady shop-assistant who lived there. She gave the directions, he translated them into English and David wrote them on his map! Thanks to the help of these two people, we drove into the city and found both the district and the street.

David speaks a little Japanese so he then asked directions to the house from a man working in his garden; he didn't know, but went next door to ask his neighbour; the neighbour came to help and pointed out Mr Miwa's house with the brown roof. We rang his bell but no-one came, so we went round the back and found Mr Miwa building a greenhouse. Mr Miwa was somewhat surprised to see three Westerners (one carrying a red Year Book and a letter from Anne Small) but was delighted to welcome us to his garden. He showed us his heathers (three Cape heaths in pots) and all his other plants, and I took some photos.

Mr Miwa had been in Britain ten years ago and remembers visiting Mrs McLeod at her home. He had joined the Society because he worked with heathers as part of his work at the Research Department where he was employed. He had hoped to visit Britain again last year but was ill and hopes to come in 1994. So of course, I wanted him to visit Dunblane! He asked how we had managed to find his house and was amazed at our answer and, as we then spent two hours getting out of Hamamatsu, we too were amazed that we had found it so easily. The rest of the day was spent driving through the mountains, among the maples in their autumn colours - beautiful in the sunshine, and visiting temples. It was still pouring with rain when we got back to Tswuga!

Jean McCrindle - Zone 1

Jean wrote that she hoped the above story might encourage other members to 'knock on doors'. She said that it was because the late Jack London knocked on their door one Sunday morning that, as she says, they became involved in the Society as more than token members. Ed.

Growing Heathers from Seed

An Open Letter to The Heather Society & The North American Heather Society

My main interest now is growing heathers from seed. My methods are too haphazard and unscientific to be called hybridizing. But, to help us to do a better job are there any colleges, agricultural institutes, experimental stations or individuals, doing a thesis that could give us some information on how to grow seedling heathers? I like to share my limited experience with others and hope I can get some questions answered.

Heather seed should be gathered about six months after flowering. Some seed will hang on the stem much longer than others. *Erica carnea* seed will drop as soon as it is ripe, so it is usually more difficult to obtain than the others.

My questions are: I let the seed husks dry for a while, then use a sieve to separate the seeds, but I always end up with a lot of chaff in with the seeds. Does anyone have a good system of separating the seeds from the chaff?

I put my seeds in a plastic bag and store them in the refrigerator. How long will seed keep viable and at what temperature should it be kept?

The sprouting time is anywhere from two weeks to two years. Has anyone developed a system for speeding up the sprouting process?

My greatest losses (sometimes over 80%) are in transplanting from the seed pots to the individual pots. It makes me wonder if I am a human carrier for all of the known damping off diseases. How do other people handle their transplanting problems?

Except for *Erica cinerea* from which I have only gotten red or purple flowers, most of the white flowered parents will produce some white flowered offspring. Of course, every plant is different but I think I already have every variation from white to red flowers. The fascination is in the leaf colour and the shape of the plants.

In the 1993 Yearbook of The Heather Society, David McClintock mentions Kurt Kramer having crossed South African with European species. What are the European species closest relatives in Africa? If we could cross the hardy European with the beautiful African heathers the possible varieties would be unlimited!

Maybe we ought to use the word African instead of South African heathers, because there are many varieties that grow in the cool high mountains and those are the ones we should be trying to obtain seed from. With all of the scientific expeditions into Africa why can't we get someone to send back some heather seed? Would it be possible for a group of us to contribute to someone to gather seed for us? Think of what it would do for the Heather Society when we start getting some crosses between the cold resistant African and the European heathers. Growing heathers is one of the most exciting adventures I ever got into, so I will be glad to share seeds, plants or information with anyone else.

Now to brag a little: For thirty years my wife and I have tried to obtain a yellow-flowered heather. This year we have finally flowered two different yellow-flowered South African heathers - *Erica blandfordia* and *E. longifolia*

Best Regards, Ben Gardner, Oregon, USA

Scrapbowl

Snippets of News from members

God's Heather

Jack Sheridan's niece lives in Mexico. She saw Scotland for the first time last year. She was thrilled to see the hillsides covered with her namesake flower and delighted when she found a leaflet listing the main varieties of Scottish heather and telling the legend of the plant.

When God created the world, he looked for a plant to cover the bare hillsides. The strong oak needed deep soil for its roots. The lovely rose was too frail to withstand biting mountain winds. The honeysuckle could not thrive without a support to grow against.

So, the humble heather took on the task of clothing the hills. God granted it three gifts - the strength of the oak in its wiry stems, the fragrance of the honeysuckle in its flowers and the sweetness of the rose in its honey.

Since then, where nothing else will grow, the green leaves and the purple flowers of the heather are the glory of the hills.

B K Lancaster - Zone 4

Problems with Pruning

I have about 300 individual heathers in my garden, which mostly require pruning at the appropriate time. To help the amateur gardener like myself, whose collection of heathers (and heaths) is growing in numbers annually, can anyone inform me of the chances of acquiring a small version of that unwieldy weapon - the hedge trimmer. A cordless version, say 9 inches (22.5cm) would be ideal. This is one of the many items connected with heath and heather growing of which I would have thought Society Officers, especially those seeking to sell their wares, would keep us jolly gardeners informed.

Norman Taylor Zone 5

Bud bloomers - Observations and Records

An Abnormal Subform of *Calluna vulgaris* f. *diplocalyx*

On 10th October 1993, Kurt Kramer was on a moor near Altenhoythe and saw a dark bud bloomer. He noticed that it differed in lacking a style; as far as I know this aberration has not been recorded before. No doubt if Beijerinck had come across it he would have given it a name as an eighth subform - but I shall desist from this. Nevertheless, its existence (for Kurt has propagated it) should be put on record. His specimen is in the Heather Society's herbarium.

David McClintock

A Visit to Eskdale

Last year I paid a visit with my family to the home of Don Richards at Eskdale, who had a garden 'open-day' to raise money for the hospice.

After a pleasant journey through open country in the lakes, we met Don in his usual style, full of knowledge and proud of the garden he had recovered from a waste tip; the garden was full of neat heathers, also a blueberry cage.

Afterwards we had tea in 'china cups' and blueberry pie. It was sad that the open-day clashed with the Eskdale Fair, but we very much enjoyed the stay and bought a few of the heathers Don had for sale. We finished the day with a trip on the Ravensglass and Eskdale Railway. Thank you Don and family!

F H Tyrer - Zone 5

Amazing Inflorescences

In the Society's Spring 1993 Bulletin, I noted some lengthy inflorescences on our heathers. None were for *Erica terminalis*, which normally has just a wee bunch atop its twigs.

In what may be its most southerly area, just north and inland from Estepona in the province of Malaga, inflorescences were 2 inches or so. In small thickets of it a quarter of a mile further up the streamlet, by road MA 557, they were up to 3.5 inches. These however were exceeded by two, bravely collected through dense and prickly maquis by Pamela Lee, of no less than 15 inches, the like of which I never dreamt to see. Specimens from both localities are in the Society's herbarium; the date 24 March 1994.

The locality where Pamela saw this species in 1993 (its photograph in the Year Book miscaptioned as *Erica tetralix*, is different, but not far away. These two quite extraordinary examples are only one inch shorter than those noted on *Erica x darleyensis* 'Arthur Johnson' and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Elsie Purnell'.

David McClintock

Heathers at Buckingham Palace

Any member who is invited to a Palace Garden Party and ventures beyond the main lawn to the north end of the lake will be disappointed to find that the bed of heathers which grew there was removed in January. It had been the special delight of the then Head Gardener Tom Deighton (1984-90) and the plants he chose had flourished (even if overclipped) - specimens from it are in my herbarium. That area is being laid out afresh, with the Queen's approval; what now needs doing is to find out where else the heathers might be.

David McClintock

Calluna Vulgaris 'Amilto' - A Correction

In the Spring Bulletin there was a list of heather cultivars recommended by our Chairman David Small, and in it Brita Johansson was credited with the raising of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Amilto'. Brita has written from Sweden to say this is not so - 'Amilto' was found as a seedling by J J M C van Steen of Etten-Leur and introduced by P G Zwijnenburg of Boskoop in 1982 (see Jack Platt, 1985 Y.B.). She thinks that the mistake probably arose from the fact that she received cuttings from a Swedish heather-friend and passed some on to David. Brita says that, unfortunately, 'Amilto' is not hardy in Vargon.

Putting the Record Straight - *Erica Cinerea* 'Rosabella'

As editor of the 'Heather Trials - 1971-75', I know how careful we all tried to be. However, last year I noted an error which will have wide-spread repercussions.

In the trial, *E. cinerea* 'Rosabella' and *E. cinerea* 'Knaphill Pink' were both described as having H14 magenta flowers from June to September and being 12" high. Both were described as having an excellent amount of flower and outstanding garden worthiness.

A few months ago, when I was referring to John F Letts handbook 'Handy Heaths & the Heather Garden' (dated 1966), I noticed that *E. cinerea* Rosabella was listed as having salmon pink flowers on a plant 6" tall; he further described it as having the appearance of a dwarf 'C G Best'.

John Letts also described *E. cinerea* 'Knaphill Pink' as being a deeper shade than *E. cinerea* 'Rosea', which in turn was said to have bright pink flowers and be 12" in height. As we know that 'Rosea' has a flower colour H12, and that 'Knaphill Pink' is deeper than that, it is clear that he was describing the 'Knaphill Pink' we know today. As the John Letts description of 'Rosabella' pre-dates the trial results, then this should be the correct one.

I wonder if anyone is growing a plant with salmon pink flowers, 6 inches high and looking like a dwarf 'C G Best'? Is anyone still calling it 'Rosabella'?

G P Vickers - Zone 5

Calluna Vulgaris 'Rosalind'

Two cultivars bear this name, nowadays distinguished as 'Crastock Heath Variety' and 'Underwood's Variety'. The editor of the Plant Finder Tony Lord, points out that the former is illegitimate - and he is right for two reasons. One reason is that the word 'Variety' is forbidden in cultivar names given after 1st January 1959 (to avoid confusion with the botanical category *varietas*). The other is that the horticultural code restricts cultivar names to three words.

'Underwood's Variety' is dated in Dendroflora 13 (1973) to 1948. 'Crastock Heath's Variety' is in the second edition of Chapple's book 'The Heather Garden' of 1960, under the name of just 'Rosalind'. He makes this plain in Amateur Gardening for 6th January 1973 p.30 and in his 1964 edition by saying that Ken Underwood's cultivar came later, so perhaps Dendroflora's date is not quite right. Here too he mentions the distinguishing additions to the names, unaware no doubt that by that time they were illegitimate. Nobody seem to have noticed this until now.

This distinction was, and is indeed needed, for most of the early references are consequently ambiguous - eg. Arnold Arboretum in 1969, the Linnean Botanical Journal in 1973 and even our own Year Book in 1976 (when David Small tells me the plant he knew as 'Rosalind' was in fact 'Underwood's Variety') and the index I kept before the Society was founded called it 'Rosalind' tout court. When Mrs Wye's plant received an Award of Merit in 1961 it was under the name of plain 'Rosalind'.

'Underwood's Variety' is illegitimate on one count only but both names should be rejected as they stand. The simple way is to shorten both names,

to *C.v* 'Rosalind, CrastockHeath' and *C.v*. 'Rosalind, Underwood's'. I recommend that these very similar appellations be used in future and there should be no confusion.

David McClintock

Erica Tetralix f. Racemosa

During the conference at Winchester in 1990, the Society visited Scrape Bottom in the New Forest, where Mr Bowman showed us a single plant of *Erica ciliaris*. On 10th August last, Miss M E Young, a former Secretary of the Linnean, went to try and re-find it, but failed; (is it still there?). Instead she collected what she and Mr Bowman thought was its hybrid, *E. x watsonii*, which we could not detect and which is unknown in the New Forest.

The voucher came to me (I have a photocopy in my herbarium), which proved to be a fine, exceptional example of the racemose form of *E. tetralix* - the usual 5cm raceme topped by a typical umbel. The 'type' of this aberration *E.tetralix* 'Terschelling' does not have an umbel, nevertheless, *f.racemosa* is the appropriate name for this specimen.

Some Floras distinguish *E. tetralix* by its umbellate, rather than by its racemose, inflorescence, which can be very confusing. I find this form unstable - I wonder if it will turn up in 1994?

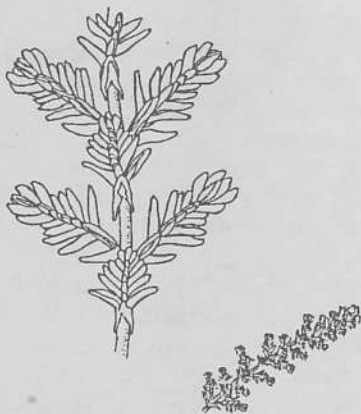
David McClintock

A Rose by any Other Name?

Always identify a plant by its Latin name! I agree unreservedly when talking to gardeners with a little botanical knowledge - then we know a little about its flowering habit, growing requirements, flowering time etc. But when, over my garden wall, a neighbour admires and enquires the names of a couple of specimens in my garden and I say "That's *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Bicolor' or *Erica x darleyensis* 'George Rendall', they walk away muttering "Why do you give them such long names". Horses for courses I suppose!

Norman Taylor Zone 5

(Not as bad as one of my favourites - *Aesculus neglecta* 'Erythroblastos' Ed.)



Group News

North East

This is always a difficult report to write as all the events which were mentioned in the last Bulletin have yet to take place. However, this weekend (May 7/8th) we were once again at Houghall, flying the flag for the Heather Society, which we do annually. The weather was beautiful on both days and we were able to have our picnic on the grass and be entertained with the local cricket match. All very English!

We did quite well with our stand and, hopefully, recruited a few new members. Unfortunately there were not so many trade stands as in the past and we thought that the overall attendance was also down. On the plus side, the atmosphere was still good and it was very pleasant meeting again the members from other organisations. May I thank all our members who helped out on the stand - it was much appreciated.

Sadly, we have had to cancel our proposed Annual Outing by bus to Edinburgh Botanic Gardens through lack of support, but we do hope that as many members as possible will go by car to Howick Hall, near Craster on June 4th, to see the rhododendrons and azaleas.

July 10th : May I remind everyone again that we have a Car- Outing to David and Mary Robert's garden on July 10th. Meet with a picnic at 1.00 pm. at Middle Holding, Ogle, Ponteland.

August 17th: Our second Car-Outing on August 17th is to Bill Crow's Nursery at Scot's Gap, meeting at 7.30 pm.

September 18th is the date of our Annual Show which will be held at Kirkley Hall, College of Agriculture, near Ponteland. Staging will be from 9.00 - 11.00 am., when judging will commence, and will be open to the public from 1.00 - 4.00 pm. Schedules will be sent nearer the time.

Hoping everyone has a good gardening summer and looking forward to seeing you at our events.

Dorothy M Warner

Southern

Event in Ewell

On Saturday 9th April, one week after Easter, 26 members gathered at our home in Ewell, Surrey. The winter heathers were beginning to fade, particularly my favourite *carnea* 'December Red', which earns an earlier rest than many of the others because it is one of the first to flower. The ever faithful *Erica x darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze' was of course still prolific and is now in its sixth floriferous month. Some of the *erigenas* were in flower, including 'Irish Dusk', which for me begins its flowering season in October. One plant, which was in the garden (minus label) when we bought the house, had only recently come into flower and some members suggested it might be *E. erigena* 'Superba'. Our enigmatic *E. arborea* was in glorious flower - enigmatic because the buds are red before turning white. Our friends maintain that it must be a *veitchii* hybrid and I accept their verdict - but 'Pink Joy' it certainly is not. *E. australis* 'Mr Robert', *E. lusitanica*, (species and 'George Hunt') were in flower and *E. arborea* 'Albert's Gold' was advanced in bud. So thankfully we had something

for our guests to see before we settled to lunch and talk.

1994 Programme

Sunday August 14th - We are invited by Mr and Mrs D Bowerman to visit their uniquely beautiful garden at 'Champs Hill'. It is proposed that we should arrive between 12.30 and 1pm (bringing a picnic lunch) with a view to visiting the garden at 2pm. There are picnic and toilet facilities in the sand quarry and a hut in which tea and coffee can be made; the hut also offers shelter if the weather should be inclement. Mrs Bowerman also very kindly offers us tea after the garden visit and I should like to be able to advise her beforehand approximately how many visitors to expect; it would therefore be a help if you could let me know if you intend to participate in the visit.

Saturday October 1st - We have an indoor meeting in the lecture room at RHS Wisley. The Group will convene at 1.45pm outside the main entrance for a 2pm start.

There will be: 1. A talk by Mr Mike Pollock, Technical Liaison Officer, RHS Wisley. His subject will be: Irrigation and growing media composts in a family garden. We are privileged to have the services of Mr Pollock and his subject is a timely one. 2. A heather competition (details in the Autumn Bulletin). 3. A discussion 'the Southern Group - on course or all change?' 4. Tea. A newsletter complete with sketch maps of the venues is available. Please send a stamped addressed envelope if you would like a copy.

I would be glad to hear from any member who would like to suggest visits or activities for 1996. We have a programme for 1995, which will be the twentieth anniversary of the Southern Group, but suggestions are always welcome. All good wishes.

Allen Hall

South West

The first meeting of 1994 was on Saturday 26th March at the Lytchett Matravers Village Hall in Dorset. Unlike 1993 the weather was fine and although we were indoors at least the members' travelling was pleasant.

The main event of the afternoon was a talk by Diane Jones on 'Heather Garden Design' and nearly 30 members gathered to hear the talk and see the excellent slides. Many of the slides were of Diane's garden, which has evolved over many years and illustrated many of the points raised during the talk. Unfortunately, Bert Jones, who has put so much effort into the garden, was not able to attend, as he was looking after the nursery that afternoon.

The talk was followed by refreshments and the judging of the Table Show, the results of which are detailed below:

Class 1. A vase or bowl of heathers in bloom - 1st. Jennifer Turrell, 2nd. Joyce Pitman, 3rd. Maureen Clark. Class 2. A vase or bowl of heathers shown for foliage effect - 1st. Maureen Clark, 2nd. Jennifer Turrell, 3rd. Joyce Pitman.

There were seven entries in Class 1 and five in Class 2 and all the displays were very eye-catching. The overall winner was Jennifer Turrell and she was presented with the Burfitt Bowl. My thanks go to Diane Jones for her talk, to Lorna Farrow for judging the Table Show and to the ladies who provided and

helped with the refreshments.

The second meeting of 1994 had not yet taken place at the time of writing and will be reported in the Autumn Bulletin.

Saturday 16th July - On this afternoon at 2pm we will be visiting the garden of 'Ashtree Cottage' at Kilmington Common, in Wiltshire. This is the garden of Mr and Mrs Lauderdale; it is open under the National Garden Scheme and is described in the 'Yellow Book'. The garden is reached by turning west off the B3092 Mere-Frome road about 1/2 mile north of the turning to Stourhead Gardens. It is on the right, about one mile from the turning off the B3092. It is hoped to be able to arrange parking in a private car-park nearby. The garden is described as having mixed borders of shrubs and perennials, many of which are unusual. As 'Stourhead' is close by why not make a day of it? Regrettably I have been unable to arrange refreshments for this visit.

Saturday, 17th September - A visit to the garden of 'Sticky Wicket' at Buckland Newton in Dorset, starting at 2pm. This is the garden of Peter and Pam Lewis and, as the previously mentioned garden, is open under the National Gardens Scheme. The garden is reached either by travelling south along the B3143 from the Stourminster-Newton area or north along the B3143 from Puddletown to Buckland Newton. 'Sticky Wicket' is in the centre of the village between the Church and the 'Gaggle of Geese' Tavern. The garden is a collection of smaller gardens, each having a particular theme, such as - the round garden with the chamomile lawn, or the frog garden with a pond. This garden has previously been featured on television. Homemade teas will be available on this afternoon.

If you require further details of the above visits please send me a SAE and please remember that the visits are open to all members of the Society and their friends.

Phil Joyner

Diary of Events

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| 10 July | North East Group, Garden Visit, Ogle. |
| 16 July | South Western Group, Garden Visit, Kilmington. |
| 14 Aug | Southern Group, Garden Visit, Champs Hill. |
| 17 Aug | North East Group, Nursery Visit, Scot's Gap. |
| 17 Sept | South Western Group, Garden Visit, Buckland Newton. |
| 18 Sept | North East Group, Annual Show, Kirkley Hall. |
| 20 Sept | CLOSING DATE FOR MATERIAL FOR THE AUTUMN BULLETIN. |
| 1 Oct | Indoor Meeting at Wisley |
| 31 Oct | Closing Date for Material for the Year Book |