



HeatherDrift

news and information from the
Vancouver Island Heather Society

Issue #21

Autumn 2010

About our Society

The Vancouver Island Heather Society (VIHS) links heather enthusiasts on Vancouver Island and provides opportunities for them to meet and share experiences with other heather gardeners, and to learn more about heathers and their companion plants. We meet monthly for study sessions or garden visits.

How to join VIHS

Membership dues, \$10/year (cheques payable to Vancouver Island Heather Society), can be mailed to Sharon Martin, VIHS Treasurer, PO Box 82, Duncan, BC, Canada V9L 3X1. For additional information contact Membership chair, Willie McDermot-Bruce at 250-743-5312 or <wmb@shaw.ca>.

Society Information

President Heather Schyf can be contacted at <schyfeh@telus.net> or 250-743-4173.

VIHS publishes its newsletter *HeatherDrift* twice annually. Contact Editor Joyce Prothero at <jprothero@saltspring.com> or phone 250-537-9215.

Information about VIHS can also be found on the VIHS website www.bcheathersociety.org or via links to VIHS on the NAHS website, www.northamericanheathersoc.org.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND PLANT SALE
OCTOBER 7 7PM COBBLE HILL



THE VANCOUVER ISLAND HEATHER SOCIETY
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT AN EVENING PROGRAM ON

"USING ORNAMENTAL GRASSES TO PROVIDE INTEREST IN YOUR GARDEN"

The evening's speaker, Evan MacKenzie, is a specialist in growing and maintaining ornamental grasses. Evan owns a grass nursery near Chilliwack and will be bringing a selection of grasses for sale.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 - 7pm
FARMERS INSTITUTE, WATSON AVENUE, COBBLE HILL

A PLANT SALE, FEATURING ORNAMENTAL GRASSES AND BUD-BLOOMING HEATHER, WILL ALSO BE HELD

\$10 - Only 100 tickets available

For tickets and/or more information, contact:
Norma Dirom (250-746-1994), Heather Schyf (250-743-4173)

HEATHER HAPPENINGS ON THE MENDOCINO COAST

From August 5-8, 2010, I had the opportunity to participate in the Annual National Conference of the North American Heather Society (NAHS) which was hosted in Fort Bragg, California, by the Mendocino Coast Heather Society (MCHS). Besides meeting old friends, making new ones, and visiting many local heather gardens, I also attended (as Secretary) the NAHS Board Meeting, also the Annual General Meeting. The following “report” contains a bit of business stuff and lots of garden memories.

Joyce Prothero

The FUN STUFF: VISITS TO GARDENS-WITH-HEATHER

It was an enjoyable road trip to the NAHS Conference in Fort Bragg, CA, which was hosted by the Mendocino Coast Heather Society (MCHS). After taking the Black Ball ferry to Port Angeles, I drove to Ella May Wulff’s home [1] in Philomath, OR. From here, Ella May and Susie Kay, a member of The (British) Heather Society living in Ireland, drove with me to Fort Bragg [2]. Its mild climate is similar to coastal BC – there’s lots of fog – but the hotter sun tends to burn yellow-foliaged *Calluna* [3].

The home of the late Edith and Clarke Davis, where their extensive seaside garden [4] still flourishes, served as the location for conference registration and a NAHS Board meeting on August 6, and a continental breakfast the following morning.

On Saturday, NAHS President Mario Abreu led us on a tour of the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens [5]; that afternoon we visited three delightful gardens.

On Sunday, we gathered for brunch, toured a nursery, then visited the world-famous Thompson garden in Manchester which was planted by the late Jim Thompson in the 1990s and now valiantly maintained by Bev Thompson. The dragons [6] still greet us, and great mounds of heather [7] beautifully framed the Thompson home.



The FUN STUFF – continued

The conference ended following a visit to Sandy Scott's expansive garden [8] later that afternoon.

But Ella May, Susie and I weren't done visiting gardens!

We repeated our overnight stop in Fortuna, and before we left, visited River Lodge Conference Center to see its expansive heather garden [9] which was planned and planted by the HERE Chapter.

Then, meandering north along California-Oregon Coast before turning eastward to Philomath, we visited the Klamath, CA, garden [10] of Sharon Hardy, a HERE member who helps prune the heathers at River Lodge, some 80 miles to the south. Our final stop was at the Gold Beach, OR., garden [11] of Ramona Bloomingdale.

After staying that night at Ella May's in Philomath, Susie headed for the Portland Airport and I drove back to Port Angeles for the Black Ball ferry to Victoria.



The BUSINESS STUFF

THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2011-12:

President: Karla Lortz
First Vice-President: Don Jewett
Treasurer: John Calhoun
Secretary: Susan Ewalt

THE SCHEDULE OF BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCES, 2012 - 20

2012 Cascade Heather Society (CHS)
2014 Northeast Heather Society (NEHS)
2016 Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire (HERE)
2018 Vancouver Island Heather Society
2020 Oregon Heather Society (OHS)

A note on change to biennial national conferences:
NAHS President Mario Abreu expressed his concern about the ability of chapters to host meetings of the NAHS membership on an annual basis. The Board agreed. Its recommendation to hold biennial meetings was approved by NAHS members at the AGM held the next day. VIHS is scheduled for 2018.



VIHS happenings & other organizational stuff

VIHS Activities: Autumn, 2010

VIHS meets monthly except in July, August and January. The meetings schedule for the remainder of 2010 is as follows:

September 15, Mill Bay Masonic Hall, 2pm. Regular meeting with “Bring and Brag” session [Bring your best sprays of heathers to show to members] and a “Plants to Share” time [Pot up your excess plants to bring to the meeting so they can find new homes].

October 7, Farmers’ Institute Hall, Cobble Hill, 7pm. An evening meeting on “*Using ornamental grasses to provide interest in your garden*” with speaker Ewan MacKenzie PLUS sale of grasses and bud-blooming heather. [See page 1 for more details]

November 3, Mill Bay Masonic Hall, 2pm. AGM plus program TBA.

December 1, Cherry Point Winery, 11:30am. Costs: lunch is \$20 per person; wine tasting is \$3. To buy a glass of wine to go with your lunch is \$6.

For the most current information on VIHS activities, visit bcheathersociety.org or contact VIHS President Heather Schyf at 250-743-4173 or <schyfeh@telus.net>.

VIHS Library

As a service to members, VIHS maintains a lending library, available at monthly meetings. Sheila Yaremko, our librarian, brings a selection of books and journals to meetings, and also accepts requests from members wishing to borrow specific publications. For a general listing of holdings, contact Sheila (250 7436570. <arwye@shaw.ca>) or visit the VIHS website at www.bcheathersociety.org.

Heather Books and Notecards for Sale



Everyone Can Grow Heathers
Daphne Everett, 2000

This 20-page publication, Booklet #1 in the *THS Booklet Series*, provides an intro to heather gardening. Topics range from choosing plants, to planting, and aftercare. Numerous colour photos.

\$10 (Chapter members, \$8)



Recommended Heathers

David Small and Ron Cleavelly, 1999
Booklet #2 in the THS booklet series lists 100 heathers recommended by THS members. It includes full descriptions for these heathers plus 28 colour photos. To help in plant selection, groupings by foliage and flower characteristics are included.

\$10 (Chapter members, \$8)



Hardy Heather Cultivars Originating in North America

Joyce Prothero, 2008

A 24-page publication with descriptions and photos of 85 heather cultivars which originated in North America, as chance seedlings, mutations, or by hybridization.

\$5 (Chapter members, \$4)



Heather Notecards

Les Harper has been a life-long artist. He worked as a free lance artist, for newspapers, ad agencies, as a book illustrator and fashion designer, and with the provincial Queen's Printer for 28 years. His notecard design has been generously donated for our fundraising efforts.

\$5 per packet of four notecards, with envelopes.

These books & cards are available for sale at VIHS Heather Sales, also from Willie McDermot-Bruce, 743-5312, <wmb@shaw.ca>.