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2009

# HEATHERS 6



Yearbook  
of The  
Heather  
Society

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# THE HEATHER SOCIETY

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North American Heather Society

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## **FRONT COVER:**

*Erica banksii* with *E. banksii* var. *purpurea*: Henry Charles Andrews's original design for one of the roundels in the window of the Woburn Abbey's Heath House (see pp 34–42).

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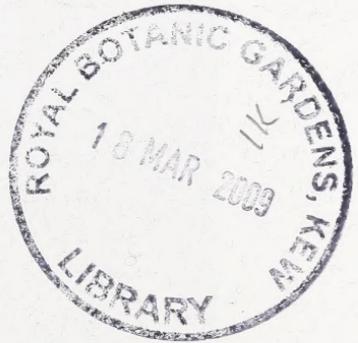


# *Heathers 6*

## *Yearbook of The Heather Society*

2009

third series



Editor  
Dr E. Charles Nelson

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ISSN 0440-5757

The Heather Society  
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## FRONTISPIECE:

*Erica patens*. Hot on the heels of the amazing discovery of a long-lost heath, *Erica recurvata* (see *Heathers* 5: 39-43. 2008), another one has just been turned up. Also named by Henry Andrews it was known only from material cultivated in England two centuries ago. A population of several hundred plants, up to 1.5m tall, was found in 2007 on a mountain just 65km (40 miles) from Cape Town. The story of this species will appear in the next yearbook.

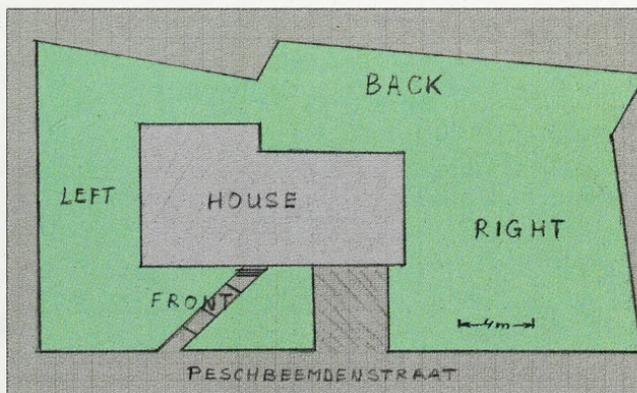
© E. G. H. Oliver.

## A heather garden in the wrong place

JOS FLECKEN

Peschbeemdenstraat 19, NL-6462 RX KERKRADE, The Netherlands.

When in 1974 after having built our house, I had to establish the garden, covering 700 square metres around the bungalow, my knowledge of gardening was more than sufficient but only in a practical way. I knew no Latin plant names – or three, maybe. The first year the budget did not allow much: a conifer hedge with around 140 *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Columnaris'; some small borders containing home-grown summer-flowering plants; lots of lawn; some azaleas, *Hebe* and dwarf *Pinus* for the front garden; and even groups of *Calluna*, *Erica* and *Daboecia*. The garden-centre where we bought our plants offered about 40 different heathers, and that fact impressed me so much that my passion for heathers dates from that moment, without me realising it at the time.



All the plants grew and flowered rather well except the heathers. Nobody could tell me why, so I decided to try to increase my knowledge about heathers by buying a small booklet about these plants, the only one available about heathers in the library. According to the author, the reason for the poor growth could be the fact that the soil was not acidic enough. Probably the leaf colour was yellowish instead of green, except, of course, for my 'Gold Haze'! But the booklet didn't give any solution. I could, and maybe should, have stopped growing heathers, but the booklet also gave the names and descriptions of about 400 cultivars ... and I wanted to see more of those!



Right part of the garden (see plan on p.1) in 1980 (above) and 1984 (below).



In 1977 I had young plants grown from cuttings which I had made a year before. Most of these had no names, but I identified them later. The new plantings got a soil mixed with lots of peat, but the growth still did not satisfy me, and then I bought Harry van de Laar's *Het heidetuinboek* (published in English as *The heather garden*) and there I read that chlorosis (I knew the word!) could be controlled with the help of iron chelate. Wow! But, how could I obtain this in a region where there are almost no nurseries and where the few nurserymen told me they had never heard of it. My more than fifty cultivars *needed* it and finally I ordered the substance by post from Boskoop (where else?) and it worked. So my love could grow, and it did, but I had to apply this stuff every year.

When a nurseryman, who I started to visit regularly about 1980, drew my intention to the existence of the Dutch heather society, *Ericultura*, I became a member. That nurseryman grew about 250 cultivars of my beloved plants, and we agreed to extend that number together! Alas, ten years later he stopped growing and selling heathers. His wide assortment of rhododendrons, azaleas and *Pieris*, however, provided me with fine specimen plants for creating a nice background in a shaded place, and conifers, both rare and beautiful, enabled me to create special effects especially in height. (Nowadays, because of a shortage of space, I prefer what the Americans call "lollypop" conifers. As they are grafted on a "pole", you only need a space 10cms (4ins) square to plant them!)



Front garden and bungalow.

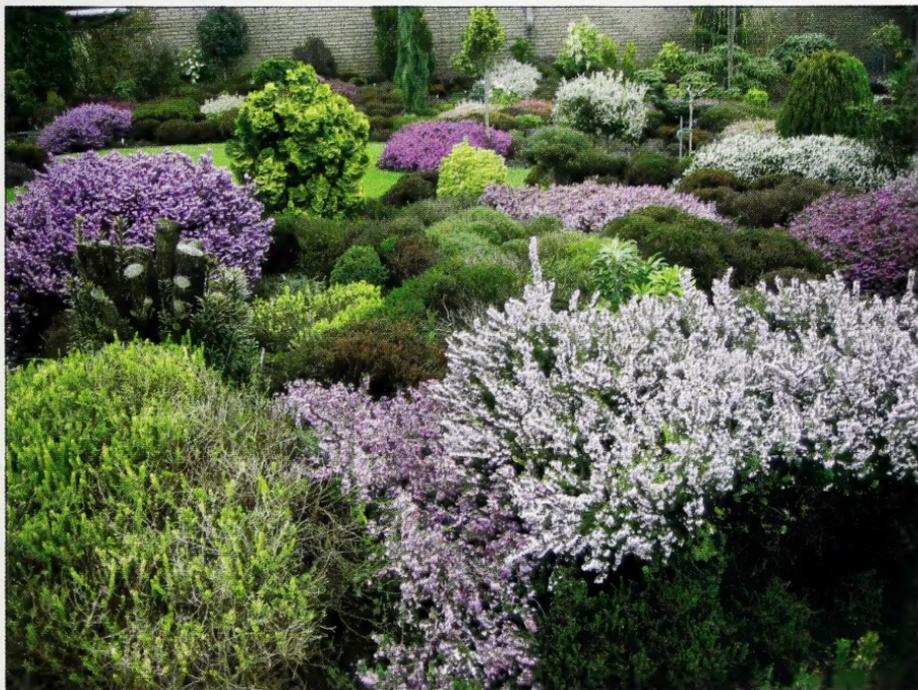
Membership of Ericultura made me write more and more articles about heaths and heathers. As I read a lot, my knowledge of heathers grew. This impressed nurserymen who asked me more and more for advice about their collections. Thus, I was very happy to help Gert van Hoef of Barneveld, who took over Zwijnenburg's collection, to establish an assortment of heathers, all identified and correctly named. In return, I got plants of many older cultivars to grow and then compare, and also, happily, new ones, and my garden became more and more filled. The small borders became broader and broader, and the lawn dwindled to a path. I started using stepping-stones to ensure I can easily reach every group of plants and to tend the garden.



Cape Fréhel in Brittany (left), and *Erica* × *watsonii* 'Mary' © 1992

My profession as a teacher of French obliged the Flecken family to spend holidays in France from time to time. So in 1980 we landed up in a small village near Cape Fréhel in Brittany. Only the day after our arrival, I realised that we were in a Valhalla for heather lovers: hectares and hectares of moors along the coast covered with *Erica cinerea* (bell heather) mingled with the bright yellow flowers of low-growing, summer-flowering gorse (*Ulex* spp), as well as *E. ciliaris* (Dorset heath) and *Calluna*. During a walk on these heaths, our daughter Marina discovered a pure white-flowering seedling of *E. cinerea*. We were all excited! Before leaving, cuttings were taken, and in 1984 this lucky find was introduced by Kwekerij Libo (Baexem, Limburg, Netherlands); the name *E. cinerea* 'Marina' was registered in 1992. A new dimension to heathers! Other Flecken discoveries and introductions followed, some of them originating in that same area in Brittany: *E. × watsonii* 'Mary', a fine purple-flowering cultivar of this natural hybrid (between Dorset heath and cross-leaved heath); a completely prostrate cross-leaved heath, *E. tetralix* 'Jos's Creeping'; and, via a detour, *E. cinerea* 'Jos's Golden', a yellow-orange sport that formed in Kerkrade on a purple-flowered clone which we had collected in Brittany. You can find them all in our garden in

groups of five; larger groups are impossible because of a lack of room. With so many varieties growing together, the chance of finding special seedlings and mutations increases, of course. And, so new Kerkrade heather cultivars were selected and named: *Calluna* 'Colette', named after our second twin daughter, has crimson flowers and yellow-green foliage; *Calluna* 'Jos's Lemon' produces white flowers and lemon-yellow leaves; *Calluna* 'Little John', found on my father's grave in a churchyard in Kerkrade and named after him, Johan; *Calluna* 'Jos's Whitie', also a dwarf seedling, found in my garden some years later; *E. cinerea* 'Jos's Honeymoon' was a yellow-foliaged sport from 'Honeymoon'; *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Johnny Boy', with fine, pink flowers, was named after Colette's husband; *D. cantabrica* 'Valvinsan', named after Marina's three children (Valerie, Vincent and Sander) has erect, pink flowers; and *E. carnea* 'Ryan', registered in 2008 and named after Colette's son, bears magenta flowers, bright orange-red new growth and yellow-green foliage.



Right-hand section of the garden at Easter 2006



Left side of the garden.

In the early 1980s almost all attention was focused on double-flowered *Calluna* cultivars. After 'H. E. Beale' and others from this group, came new cultivars such as 'Red Favorit', 'Kinlochruel', 'Snow Ball', 'My Dream' and 'Red Star'. 'Dark Star', and especially 'Dark Beauty', were supposed to open up the world of cultivated heathers. It was a challenge for me to have them in my garden and, thanks to my good relationships with nurserymen, I succeeded in getting them all for my collection.

The real revolution, to my eyes, came from Kurt Kramer. He succeeded in crossing a bud-flowering *Calluna* with other varieties to produce colours never seen before: 'Melanie', 'Alexandra', 'Amethyst', 'Athene', 'Aphrodite', 'Anette' and 'Sandy', to name but a few. Regular visits to his nursery in Edewecht provided me with the complete series of his GARDENGIRLS™. Of course, selections from Kramer's colleagues and competitors were also welcome in Kerkrade: 'Moulin Rouge', 'Angie', 'Madonna', 'Sharon', 'Salena', 'Victorious' and other BEAUTY-LADIES™.

Opposite top : Front garden, August 2008

Opposite below: Back and right part of the garden, August 2008





*Erica carnea* 'Ryan' ® 2008



*Daboecia cantabrica* 'Valvinsan' ® 2007



*Erica cinerea* 'Jos's Honeymoon' ® 1993

*Erica carnea* is well represented in our garden, especially thanks to a cultivar trial held at Boskoop around 2002. The Royal Boskoop Horticultural Society invited me to lead this trial, in which all the cultivars grown by Dutch nurseries were involved. This was a very interesting job, and the results were summarized in *Heathers 1* (2004). *E. carnea*, supported by *E. × darleyensis* and *E. erigena*, altogether about 150 cultivars, provide the highlight in our garden in March and April.

The garden takes most of my time in February, March and April: pruning is a very time-consuming and back-breaking job, but once that job is done three hours a week are sufficient: mowing the lawn, and twice a season spraying those *Calluna* cultivars which are prone to fungal diseases (*Glomerella*, *Botrytis*). After pruning, you need all your patience to await the wonderful pastel colours of the new growth, the gamut from light green to bright yellow. *Erica cinerea*, *E. tetralix* and *Daboecia* provide flowers in June and July, and they announce the abundance of blossom from August to October – and that's the real highlight, and not at the wrong place!

## Heathers and David McClintock

GIANLUPO OSTI

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I met David McClintock for the first time more than 30 years ago during a tour of the International Dendrology Society in Wales. I had just joined The Heather Society and he came to me and said that he had seen my name in the members' list, and this was the start of a long and friendly relationship.

I explained to him how I became interested in heathers. As a matter of fact, heathers were the first plants I ever grew. For many years in my youth, my grandparents rented the same villa in the Italian Dolomites in Val di Zoldo, a valley contiguous to the better known valley of Cortina d'Ampezzo, and until I was 15 we spent the months of July and August, and sometimes also September, there. My grandmother planted a few flower-borders near the house, and I also wanted my personal, small garden. I chose a very big erratic rock adjacent to the flower-beds. On it, there was already a small rhododendron and I added heathers (*Erica carnea*, I suppose), many stonecrops (*Sedum*) and few asters and roses, transplanted from the wild.

This happened when I was around 8 or 10. Anyway, heathers were always at my side during my holidays. I liked mountaineering and skiing, and everywhere in the Alps you have heathers, and also at sea-side, along the Mediterranean coasts you find heathers in most places. Much later, in the early 1950s, working in Milan, I passed many week-ends in the country house of friends up in the mountains overlooking Lago Maggiore, above Stresa. The house was surrounded by a garden mainly of heathers, and the father of my friends was a member of The Heather Society. That is how I joined (in 1973). And, I was, and still am, an amateur keenly interested in heathers but not really knowledgeable about this genus. Tree and herbaceous peonies, shrubs and trees of the Mediterranean macchia, these are the plants I know better.

Just the opposite for David – in some way we were complementary. We went on many IDS tours together, and we exchanged visits in our country houses and gardens.

### **In Turkey, seeking *Erica bocquetii***

Years ago, we went to Turkey where, with the help of Hayrettin Karaca (the IDS's Turkish Vice-president), we went looking for peonies, on my side, and heathers, particularly *Erica bocquetii*, on David's.

I am utterly convinced that when searching for a plant in the wild it is necessary to have the help and advice of local people. David – and, in my experience, other British friends – relied more on reports from others, especially fellow countrymen who had sought (and found) the same plants before. I found the peonies I was looking for with the help of some Turkish botanists. David said that he didn't need help – he knew exactly where we had to look for *Erica bocquetii*. As a matter of fact, he had a note with the precise directions – “at X km from so-and-so on the road between town A and town B, go for N metres to the right, then follow a small creek”, and so on. We tried to follow the instructions scrupulously but it was really an adventure. Apart from the fact that the creek was not at all at the distance indicated, we found ourselves in a ravine between brambles and other spiny shrubs, David broke his spectacles and lost the altimeter, and we had to return to the car all scratched and bleeding without finding the heather we were searching for.

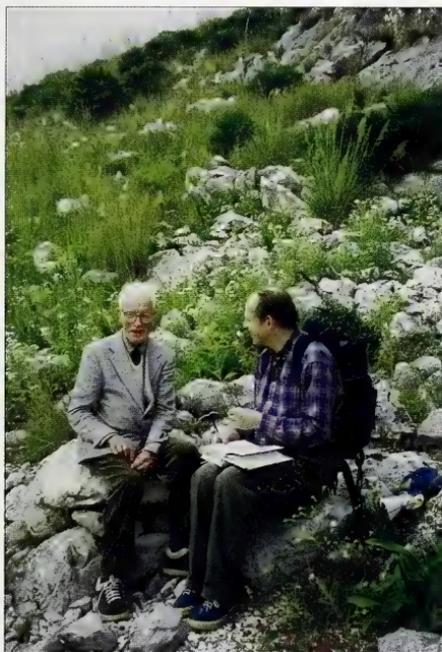
We learned later that the route taken by the road had been changed two years previously. Afterwards, following the directions of a botanist, a friend of Hayrettin Karaca, we found the *Erica* but it was quite far from where we originally went.

### **In Sicily, seeking *Erica sicula***

Another story, regarding heathers and David in which I was involved, is about *Erica sicula*. David was very proud of the fact that he had observed in their natural habitat every species of European heathers with one exception: *Erica sicula*. He was eager to complete his record and consequently he insisted very much that I should organize a small trip to Sicily with this in mind.

I like Sicily very much, not only for the flora which is very rich in particular, endemic plants, but also for her landscapes, history and her mishmash of cultures: Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Arab, Norman, German, French, Spanish – you can find traces of every possible civilization. I also wanted to visit the Sicilian fir (*Abies nebrodensis*) again, and look in more detail at the white Sicilian peonies (*Paeonia mascula*), so I was happy to organize this trip.

I found a young botanist of the University of Palermo who was very competent on the Sicilian flora, knowing exactly where we could see this heather. But, unfortunately, we weren't able to agree with David a convenient date for both of us, so that I went there first and was able to see *Erica sicula* on Monte Cofano on the north-west coast near Trapani. I saw it also on Marettimo, a small island in the same area: botanizing around the Mediterranean on a boat – *boatanizing* – is always very pleasant!



David McClintock with Patrick Grattan on Monte Cofano (left) and the rescue team (right) Photographs courtesy of Patrick Grattan.

I sent to David a detailed report on my trip and I suggested to him that he should rely on the same botanist who guided me. I also warned him about the difficulty of reaching the exact place where the plants were to be seen on Mount Cofano – they were in a very steep, rocky and craggy area – and suggested that with a good pair of binoculars he could, without danger, observe the plants from a reasonable distance.

David organized his trip a couple of years later, but, on the dates he chose, I couldn't leave Rome. Anyway, he called me by phone from Palermo the day after his arrival and told me that everything was in order, and that he would go onto Monte Cofano the following day with some British friends and the botanist I had suggested. Imagine my concern when, the following day late in the evening, I received a telephone call from the botanist telling me that David, in trying to reach the heather, had fallen from the rocks, and had been rescued by a helicopter. He was flown to hospital where the next day he would be examined to see if he was injured seriously. Immediately I phoned to a friend in Palermo, from an old and influential Sicilian family, asking him, as I couldn't move from Rome, to use his influence to make David's enforced stay in hospital as comfortable and efficacious as possible.

And, it was with a really deep sigh of relief that I received phone calls the following day, both from the botanist and from my friend, saying that, Thank God!, nothing serious had happened, and that David would remain in the hospital just for a couple of days to recover from the shock and allow small wounds and scratches to heal.

The report I received the day after was also very re-assuring: he had numerous abrasions, bruises and contusions and was in shock, but nothing really dangerous, so that in few days he would be able to leave the hospital and fly back home.

The day after that I had a call from David himself: he was in the best spirits. He was very satisfied with the hospital, in his opinion much better than some more renowned hospitals, and with the treatment he had received. He told me proudly that in both the Palermo newspapers there were long articles about his adventure and that the Mayor of Palermo had sent him a big bunch of flowers with his good wishes and greetings. Maybe I am too sceptical, but I do not think the articles in the local press, speaking of an old English gentleman who had risked his life to find a heather, and about the fruits and flowers sent to him by the Mayor and the Rector of the University, were intended to be approving and congratulatory.



*Erica sicula* on Monte Cofano,  
photographed by Patrick Grattan.

I have planted the heather that bears his name in my garden – I like to have plants that as well as being ornamental have significance for me. Unfortunately, that *Erica ciliaris* ‘David McClintock’ suffered in transit, and did not flourish. Now I must find a better specimen, so that I can remember David in his full glory!

## Onwards and Upwards

JOHN A. PLOWMAN

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The bungalow is disposed at the end of a row of semi-detached dwellings, and can be identified at distance by a single Lawson cypress, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, towering over the property. (March 2008.)

Sorting through some old papers recently, I came across a copy of my experiences put to paper in The Heather Society's 1998 yearbook.

At ten years on, it seemed appropriate that I should report on my progress (or otherwise) in my heather garden.

Looking back over these recent years, I shudder to think of some of the disasters I had to face, for at times it seemed that I was lurching from crisis to crisis like a drunken man.

My novel introduction of conifers, in alternating golden and green, against my garden fence was not sabotaged by Nature, but by my next-door neighbour. He had refused me access to the trees from his side for trimming purposes. Eventually, they became so asymmetrical, they were threatening to fall over. In the end there was nothing for it but to have them up.

Wishing to perpetuate the theme of variation, the conifers were replaced with alternate groups of threes, thus three *Erica erigena* 'Superba' followed



The rear garden is triangular, so it tapers away. Taken in 2002, we see *Erica carnea* 'Springwood White' doing well between the three-plus-three planting of *E. erigena* and *E. x veitchii*. The centre mound is *E. x darleyensis* 'Ada. S. Collings'.

From the same position as above, taken in April 2007, we see the progress. Of the two heathers in groups of three, *Erica erigena* 'Superba' is slightly more vigorous.





By the front drive, the profile of the beds is broken up by the judicious planting of *Juniperus communis* 'Sentinel'. Note the interesting colour of *Erica carnea* 'Ann Sparkes', compared with the rather plain yellow of *E. × darleyensis* 'Jack H. Brummage' closer to the bungalow.

The corner of the drive is dominated by *Thuja occidentalis* 'Rhinegold' offset by *Erica carnea* 'Nathalie' on both flanks, with a wedge of *E. carnea* 'Ice Princess' in the centre. Note a newly planted *E. erigena* 'W. T. Rackliff' forming a tiny bun of white by the stonework.



by three *E. × veitchii* 'Gold Tips'. This work was carried out in year 2000, and all are doing extremely well. The areas in between were filled with *E. carnea* 'Springwood White'. To my dismay I found that 54 of these were needed to fill the intervening spaces! The enlarged kidney-shaped bed in the rear was also unhappy in places, mainly due to what I always refer to as 'bullying' by the stronger heathers. I have learned that the temptation to plant vigorous varieties for quick results must be countered, for the consequences can spell disaster for the adjacent modest developers.

In an effort to provide flowers over a wide period of the year, I had planted some of the more unusual varieties, such as *Erica × stuartii* 'Irish Lemon' and *Daboecia cantabrica* f. *alba*. These two varieties have been completely smothered by *E. vagans* 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell' and *E. × griffithsii* 'Valerie Griffiths', the latter putting on such a magnificent show, they have become the centre piece of my summer garden. In this kidney-shaped bed, *E. × darleyensis* 'Ada S. Collings' also deserves a mention, for the progress here has been little short of ballistic. Very vigorous trimming is vital.



The roadside display is separated from the front lawn by a row of *Erica erigena* 'W. T. Rackliff'; these make a splendid, colourful hedge. Taken in mid-February 2008, *E. vagans* 'Pyrenees Pink' (nearest camera) is not in flower.

At the front, my big circular bed has also been in trouble, once again by being swamped by a determined push from *Erica vagans* 'Cornish Cream', and, quite unexpectedly, *E. carnea* 'March Seedling'. All other experiments to extend the flowering time over the year have been virtually snuffed out, and this includes (to my dismay) *E. carnea* 'Jennifer Anne'.



The front lawn in summertime (August 2008). The feature is *Erica* × *griffithsii* 'Jacqueline', planted in 1998. By the left window is *E.* × *griffithsii* 'Heaven Scent', while *E.* × *griffithsii* 'Valerie Griffiths' is by the right window. The rather flatter "bun" (right rear) is *E. vagans* 'Cornish Cream'. Sharp eyes will spot Corsican heath (*E. terminalis*), planted in May 1996, in the far corner, doing splendidly.

Upon the death of my dear friend Bert Jones, I planted a commemorative bed of *Erica* × *griffithsii* 'Jacqueline'. This has been an outstanding success, providing a tight 'bun' of the most glorious colour every Summer.

Finally, I have given up attempts to modify the pH of my soil in local patches. Complete isolation is the only way, otherwise one is condemning the lime-hating cultivars to a slow and lingering death. In the realisation of this, I purchased two large planters, and once filled with ericaceous compost, planted eight *Calluna vulgaris* 'Dark Star'. This work was carried

out in 2001, and apart from light feeding at infrequent intervals have had no further attention over the last seven years. In return they have provided a spectacular display every Summer.

Without doubt, my display at the front is so remarkable that people come to see it, and on one occasion tapped on my door to ask for cuttings!

Lastly, the inevitable question: my favourite cultivar? It has to be *Erica carnea* 'Ann Sparkes'. Thank you, Ann.

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*Erica carnea* 'Ann Sparkes'. Flowers, February–May, opening rose-pink and darkening to heliotrope. The orange foliage turns crimson under cold-stress, with bronze tips during the rest of the year. 15cm tall, 25cm spread. Sport on 'Vivellii' named after J. W. Sparkes's sisters-in-law.

## My granddad, Joe Sparkes (1894–1981)

LESLEY JACKSON (SPARKES)

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I recently began a search of the internet for heathers to stock my new garden. There was one heather in particular important for me to find.

The heather I was searching for was the one named after me, ‘Lesley Sparkes’, and was cultivated by my beloved maternal grandfather Joseph Sparkes of Beechwood Nurseries in Beoley, Worcestershire. My search drew me to The Heather Society’s website, where ‘Lesley Sparkes’ was correctly described and, I quote, “the plant was named after Joe’s granddaughter Lesley daughter of Ruth”. This, however, is incorrect\* as I am the daughter of Joan Sparkes. Ruth was his mother.

I e-mailed The Heather Society with the information and that is how I came to be writing the biography of Joseph Sparkes. Dr Charles Nelson contacted me, thanking me for my correction and asked if I would be interested in writing a few words, if not over a thousand on the subject! Well, here goes.

I am not going to write about the heathers he grew as, to be brutally honest, I really do not know much about heathers, other than I think they are beautiful and I want some in my garden. What I will tell you about is who this man was to me and what I know about him. I will do my best to be interesting and accurate but dates and details may be only as accurate as a child growing up and hearing life-stories may know and remember. So, apologies in advance for any inaccuracies, this is what I remember.

Joseph Weetman Sparkes was born in Birmingham in 1894, and he was one of the youngest of eleven children. His father, Samuel, was a park-keeper and his mother was called Ruth (née Weetman). I know little else about his childhood other than he was often hungry. I know this because he said that if they were hungry they would go to the tap outside to get a drink of water to fill them up. This was one of the reasons he enlisted in the army before the First World War; basically, he joined up to get three square meals a day. He had also read a book about death and glory, and as a young man had been taken in by its rhetoric. He, therefore, joined the Warwickshire Regiment and became a soldier. Joe served his country throughout the horrors of the First World War: I believe he fought at Passchendaele and in other momentous battles. He was injured, losing several fingers, and he also received a

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\* This has been corrected.

leg injury so he was invalided out in 1917. He received three medals for his service and was notably "one of the last of the Old Contemptibles". The reason I know so little about his service was that he seldom spoke to any of his family about this dreadful time. All I know is that after the war he became a pacifist and had a hatred of all conflict in all its forms. His young man's belief in death and glory was gone forever.

The war was over and Joe returned to "a land fit for heroes" but, as we know, this was not the case. Even though he was severely disabled, with the injury to his hands, Joe got work in the factories of Birmingham. The working conditions and pay in the factories were scandalous; they made him burn with a desire to change things and he became very active in the trade union movement. His activities earned him a place on the "black list" and he was barred from working. By this time, Joe was married to his beloved wife, Nellie (née Talbot), and they had two children: Joan born in 1921, and



Nellie, Joan and Joe Sparkes

Peter in 1924. He had to earn money and, unable to work, set up many money-making schemes such as selling eggs, keeping greyhounds, selling tea at the dog track and anything else he could do to keep the wolf from the door.

Around this time he received another blow. When he was chopping coal, a piece flew into his eye, infection set in, and with no antibiotics nor the treatments known today, he lost his eye. As usual, he was not deterred.

With Joe's industrious nature, hard work and determination, the family got by very well. My grandparents were utterly devoted to each other. Nellie was very quiet and gentle, never shouted, never swore, and I never heard her say an unkind word about anyone. She was tiny, only 4ft 11ins at most, blonde, with beautiful blue eyes, and my grandfather adored her calling her his "Little Nell". Joe, on the other hand, was a very strong character and could be a bit argumentative and opinionated, but not with her. I note there appears to be no heather named after Nellie; I think the reason was that she did not like her name.

In the 1930s, Joe must have made enough money to buy six acres of land in Beoley, Worcestershire. They used to go over there at weekends, for holidays, and it was brilliant fun for the children, Joan and Peter. They bought chicken sheds and turned them into little bungalows. Time ticked by and 1939 brought another war into their quiet lives. They were still living in a house in Bordesley Green in Birmingham, but the bombing and the death of Nellie's only brother and his wife and three of their children in the "Blitz" persuaded Joe and Nellie to leave Birmingham and live permanently at the "Wood", as we all called it. Joan was 18 by this time and carried on with her reserved occupation job working for the railway at Curzon Street. Peter was evacuated to Stratford upon Avon, but being 15 he didn't stay there long as by then Joe and Nellie had moved to the "Wood" and he could go home.



Samuel and Ruth Sparkes.



*Calluna vulgaris* 'Ruth Sparkes'  
Double white flowers, August–October; yellow foliage throughout the year. 20cm tall, 35cm spread. Sport on 'Alba Plena'.



*Calluna vulgaris* 'Joan Sparkes'  
Double mauve flowers, September–October;  
bright green foliage even in winter. 20cm tall,  
30cm spread. Sport on 'Alba Plena'.



Joan Sparkes

At some point, and I don't know why, Joe and Peter started the heather nursery that was Beechwood Nurseries. I was born in 1958 and spent as much time as possible over at the "Wood", and loved it there. Both Joe and Nellie came from big families and there were always lots of aunties and uncles visiting them, and, of course, their children. We all had a great time playing in the beech wood. I thought it a great game, when I was six or seven, to stand on granddad's terracotta pots, which he used for cuttings, and hear them smash. Needless to say, granddad didn't agree with me at all! I can't think why!

The heathers were always at the top of the land, all different sizes and colours, and sometimes I would help him take cuttings and plant them in pots in a sand mix. He, of course, named a heather after me around 1968, and I was immensely proud, and still am.

Granddad was a health fanatic (long before it became fashionable). His daughter, Joan, presented him with a healthy eating magazine, which he thanked her for, in his old age. He ate very healthily, bean sprouts, black molasses, etc., and was convinced he had cured himself of arthritis through his diet. He had run for Birchfield Harriers in his youth, and still ran five miles on a regular basis to get his pension. He used to challenge me to race him down the drive: needless to say he always won. He didn't believe in letting children win and, to be honest, I didn't mind as I realised, even as a child, the races were more to keep granddad happy, and that made me happy too.



Peter Sparkes

Peter lived at the “Wood” until his death in 2007. So, sadly, now they are all gone. I have enjoyed this “trip down memory lane”, and the ending makes me shed a tear or two, for I miss them still. I had hoped to live at the “Wood” one day myself, but due to circumstances beyond my control that too has now gone.

Joe’s is a story of dogged determination, of decency and hard work, of old fashioned values, and grit. I believe society is much poorer for the loss of this marvellous generation of people. I feel honoured to have been able to tell his story. I just wish I could have told it better.



The author, with Charlie



*Calluna vulgaris* ‘Peter Sparkes’

Long racemes of double, rose-pink flowers, August–November; dark grey-green foliage. 30cm tall, 55cm spread. Sport on ‘H. E. Beale’.



*Erica carnea* 'Lesley Sparkes'

Heliotrope flowers, November–April; mid-green foliage tipped with salmon and gold in spring. Slow growing. 15cm tall, 25cm spread. Sport on 'King George'.

#### THE SPARKES FAMILY'S OTHER HEATHERS

##### *Calluna vulgaris*

'Alcester'  
 'Beechwood Crimson'  
 'Beoley Crimson'  
 'Beoley Elegance'  
 'Beoley Gold'  
 'Beoley Silver'  
 'Blazeaway'  
 'Carole Chapman'  
 'Elsie Purnell'  
 'Fairy'  
 'Flamingo'  
 'Gnome'  
 'Gnome (Pink)'  
 'Goblin'  
 'Gold Haze'  
 'Gold Pat'  
 'Golden Feather'  
 'Guinea Gold'  
 'Hugh Nicholson'

##### *Calluna vulgaris*

'Humpty Dumpty'  
 'Janice Chapman'  
 'Joy Vanstone'  
 'Lambstails'  
 'Late Crimson'  
 'Late Crimson Gold'  
 'Late White Gold'  
 'October Crimson'  
 'Orange Queen'  
 'Prostrate Orange'  
 'Ralph Purnell'  
 'Red Haze'  
 'Robert Chapman'  
 'Salmon Leap'  
 'Silver King'  
 'Silver Knight'  
 'Sir John Charrington'  
 'Spring Cream'  
 'Spring Glow'

##### *Calluna vulgaris*

'Spring Torch'  
 'Summer Orange'  
 'Sunset'  
 'Winter Chocolate'

##### *Erica*

*E. carnea*  
 'Beoley Pink'

##### *E. cinerea*

'Snow Cream'  
 'Stella Felicity'

##### *E. tetralix*

'October Crimson'

## A love affair with heathers

JAMES R. MACKAY

Dellside, Blairdaff, INVERURIE, AB51 5LT, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

My love affair with heathers goes back to my boyhood days when my father used to take me on fishing expeditions in the hills of Ross-shire and Inverness-shire, my home county. Climbing steep slopes he would say: "Take a good grip of the heather – it won't let you down." When we got to the loch/river/burn he would take three stones to make a fireplace and light a fire fuelled with handfuls of dead heather. A heather stem would be put into the black heather-tarred kettle to take away the smokiness: never did tea taste so good!



View from the summit of Pitfichie Hill looking to the Mither Tap of Bennachie, the most frequently climbed mountain in the north-east of Scotland. The heather (*Calluna vulgaris*, ling) last year (2008) was quite exceptional in the amount of flower.

From Inverness Royal Academy I went to Aberdeen University to study physics. As a fourth science subject I took botany. I always had an interest in wild flowers stimulated by my mother who used to tell me all the common names. The spark was fanned under the influence of Professor J. R. Matthews whose lecture on the life-cycle of the fern *Dryopteris* so thrilled me that an honours degree in botany was the culmination of my time at university. During my undergraduate days one February in the early fifties, I was walking through the Cruickshank Botanic Garden adjacent to the Botany Department when, rounding a corner, I saw ahead of me a mass of lovely pink flowers poking through the snow. WOW! It was a dull, misty, cold, miserable sort of a day and it really cheered me up. I looked at the label: *Erica carnea* 'King George'. I had never seen heather blooming in the winter and I determined that when I had a garden of my own it would be included.

For my honours thesis, I researched another heathy plant, the crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), so that I always had an excuse to take myself off to the mountains! There are two forms, dioecious and hermaphrodite, now recognised as distinct species, *Empetrum nigrum* and *E. hermaphroditum*. The former occurs lower down but there is often overlap. When not in flower they are difficult to tell apart. I devised a chromatographic technique such that when the chromatograms were examined under UV light there were consistent differences in the flavonoid pigments. This might have been the first time (1954) that chromatography was used in plant taxonomy – a sort of pre-DNA profiling. The ecological side I was able to combine with my seasonal job as deerstalking ghillie to Major General Combe of Strathconon, Ross-shire. My tutor in ecology at that time was Dr Charles Gimingham who later became Regius Professor of Botany and, of course, an authority on heathers and heathland.

In 1956, I was appointed assistant teacher of science at Inverurie Academy, a large senior secondary with a huge catchment area extending from the Cairngorms to the outskirts of Aberdeen. In 1961 I married Mary. That year a small country school closed its doors for the last time and we got the tenancy of the schoolhouse for £25 per annum. We spent six very happy years there and both our daughters, Fiona and Barbara, were brought up there. When the girls were older we used to walk to a lovely wood about a mile away where we would picnic. When it became obvious that the house was too small for a growing family we decided to build and independently Mary and I came to the same conclusion as to the location of our new home. We bought the whole wood (5 acres) and eventually got planning permission to build our house there. The fact that I had been appointed Head of the Biology Department gave me a bit more income so that the house was started in 1967.



The Dell, spring 1978, with *Erica* × *darleyensis* 'Arthur Johnson' in bloom.

Creating a garden was quite a challenge. The area where we planned to build had at one time been a quarry so there was very little soil. To kill the perennial weeds, sodium chlorate was the method, which meant leaving the ground uncultivated for at least six months. Big boulders were unearthed during the building process and they were scattered at random. The place looked like a battlefield. I drew a plan of the "garden" and marked on it the boulders each with a number. I was planning a large lawn with island beds and border beds, pools and a stream. Using earth-moving machinery we moved the boulders around to make rocky outcrops. As the "soil" was too poor to grow grass I imported 50 lorry loads of topsoil to make the lawn in three stages over three years. It took this long because the imported soil was full of stringweed (couch grass) and every grapeful had to be shaken out to get rid of the underground stems. No soil was added to the beds where the heathers were to grow but a tractor load of peat from a nearby peatbog was incorporated in places. I was banking on the fact that heathers are very undemanding as far as nutrients are concerned and I knew that the subsoil was acid as granite is the underlying rock.

When it came to planting out the beds I had a problem. The total area was considerable and buying the requisite number of plants at six per square

yard was out of the question. I had a good friend in Sidney Weaver who was Superintendent of Amenities with Aberdeen County Council. The first Easter he gave me two established plants – one white, one red – that he had dug up. His instruction was: “Plant each in a deep hole so that just the tips of the branches are showing, then dig them up in a year’s time and you’ll find that all the stems will have roots. Cut off the stems and plant them out straight away.” He was right. I got masses of plants and soon had a good show from what turned out to be *E. carnea* ‘Springwood White’ and *E. × darleyensis* ‘Arthur Johnson’.

Having achieved success in propagation by layering I decided to increase my range of cultivars through cuttings so we paid a visit to Angus Heathers. Near the entrance there was a superb bed of a large number of cultivars giving a wonderful contrast in flower and foliage colour and growth form. I was amazed. I never realised that there was so much diversity in so few species. We went home with one plant of each of quite a large number of cultivars. For propagation I used half sand half peat in seed trays covered with plastic domes against a north wall. I was fairly successful and eventually had well over 400 different cultivars in the beds. The last time I redesigned the bed



The Dell: part of a summer heather border.



The Dell, autumn 1986 (Fiona on left, and Mary).

outside the kitchen window I put a lot of thought into making it look good all year round. Once it matured I took slides of it on the first day of each month for a whole year. In my talks to gardening clubs, this series always evokes a lot of interest.

The garden at The Dell got a write-up in the *Inventory of historic gardens and planned landscapes* by the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland – “the garden is a horticultural work of art ... gives pleasure to all who pass on the Chapel of Garioch to Monymusk road.” The garden is not the same having changed hands three times.

As I collected the various cultivars, I was fascinated by their names; names of people (who were they?), names of places (where were they?). It was therefore a sort of mission to meet some of those still living. I think the first was George Osmond and I have a slide of Mary (looking very slim so it must have been a long time ago!) standing beside George at the entrance to one of his polytunnels full of trays of newly inserted heather cuttings. He was well on in years, riddled with arthritis, yet doing a full day’s work among heathers with a boyish enthusiasm. On leaving I felt that what he didn’t know about heathers wasn’t worth knowing.

My one and only Heather Society AGM was at Dundee in 1992. Again it was great to meet the people behind the heather names including David

McClintock (in plus fours), Valerie Griffiths whose husband John tried to persuade me to try my hand at heather crosses, and Brian and Valerie Proudley. Brian told me how he spotted a golden shoot on a green *Erica vagans* so he cut it off, tried to root it and was very disappointed when it died. Happily the following year the same plant produced another golden shoot in the same place so taking no chances he cut off the green parts to channel the vigour into the golden shoot to give him plenty of cutting material for that wonderful heather 'Valerie Proudley'. It was Brian who suggested to me that *E. globosa* might survive in Aberdeenshire, so I tried it and for a few years had a magnificent floriferous display but an exceptionally hard frost affected it so badly that it never recovered. Another interesting person I met was Brita Johansson from Sweden. Some time after the AGM she sent me some cutting material from the wild including 'Kerstin' – called after her daughter. I felt obliged to send her cuttings from our local mountain, Bennachie. Among them was a low growing *Calluna* from the very exposed summit of the Mither



*Calluna vulgaris* 'Bennachie Prostrate': mature plants cascading down between other Bennachie cultivars. The "weeds", of which I am very fond, are *Trientalis europaea* (chickweed wintergreen).



Part of the Dellside garden, in spring, with *Erica carnea* 'Foxhollow' in foreground, and (below) in autumn.





The bell heather (*Erica cinerea*) on the wall is the local native plant which flowers from July to October



Dellside: another corner in spring: *Erica carnea* 'R. B. Cooke' (foreground), *E. arborea* 'Albert's Gold' (left) regrowing after having been cut down, and *E. carnea* 'Springwood White' beyond.

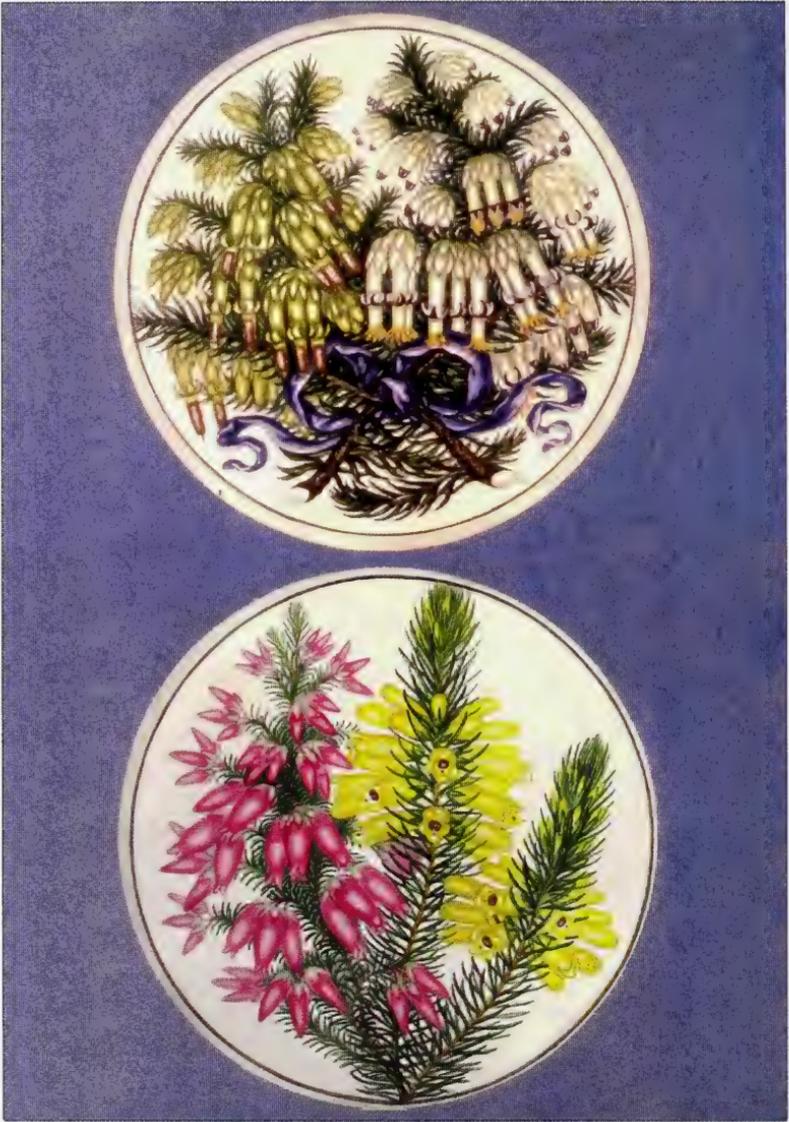
Tap, the second highest peak. I called it 'Bennachie Prostrate'. In 1995 I was in Perthshire and decided to visit John Proudfoot's nursery at Methven. I asked him if he had any new low-growing *Calluna*. "You're in luck", he said, and produced a plant which I immediately recognised as 'Bennachie Prostrate'. I said: "You must have got that from Brita." "That's correct, it was introduced by a Professor MacKay from America." I soon put him right but found the incident very amusing.

'Bennachie Cream' is rather like 'Spring Cream', but again I didn't persevere with it and cannot even recall the part of the mountain where I found it.

'Bennachie Bronze' I found near the summit of Hermit Seat, one of the western tops. It is hardy and has good foliage colour but I didn't consider it to be of outstanding garden merit. It has been "lost" amongst the other Bennachie cultivars, mostly un-named, in my "Bennachie Corner" but has produced a quite vigorous yellow sport.

Seventeen years ago we decided to sell the house and garden along with four acres and build a retirement home in the remaining acre. This time there was to be no lawn, just heathers, alpines conifers, shrubs and trees. Again the area around the new house was like a battlefield with a sufficiency of large boulders on site. The soil was very shallow so I increased the depth of the beds by creating a path network down to the subsoil and adding to it what I took off the paths. Even so every square inch had to be deepened with a pick. I had enough plants propagated at The Dell to enable me to plant out all the beds at Dellside. I have used no peat at all having found a good substitute in beech leaves (damp). *Calluna* and autumn-flowering *Erica*. I prune with a hedge-trimmer around Easter. I never prune the winter- and spring-flowering *Erica* – some at The Dell are almost 40 years old and still looking good. When the tree heaths get to about 8 feet I cut them down completely – it is great to see how they come away so quickly.

On holiday I enjoy seeing heathers growing in their native habitat. I have an *Erica carnea* I took as a cutting from the Austrian Alps and was amazed to see miles and miles of *E. arborea* like 'Albert's Gold' in Madeira, also *E. scoparia*. Next month I will be looking for *E. maderensis*. In Cornwall I was keen to see *E. vagans*, so climbed Cornwall's highest hill and drew a blank. The next year I had done my homework so drove to Goonhilly Downs and at the entrance to the BT establishment I stopped the car and was amazed to see *E. vagans* quite rampant in white, pink and red. Not far away was a signpost "St Keverne" (I have that heather!) so followed it and at the village of that name had the finest Cornish pasty I ever tasted. Yes, I get a lot of pleasure from heathers!



Two of Henry Charles Andrews's original designs for the window of the Woburn Abbey's Heath House: *Erica banksii* with *E. banksii* var. *purpurea* (upper), and *E. magnifica* with *E. glutinosa* (lower) from the album in Woburn Abbey. © Reproduced by kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Bedford and the Trustees of the Bedford Estates.

## Original drawings of heaths associated with Henry Charles Andrews

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*Coloured engravings of heaths* published between 1794 and 1830 is regarded as the most significant work of the botanical artist Henry Charles Andrews (*fl.* 1784–1830) (Cleevely & Oliver 2002). He has always been something of an enigma. His dates of birth and death have not been discovered. His family background is obscure, apart from a link to the nurseryman John Kennedy (1759–1842) through his marriage to Kennedy's daughter, Anne (b. September 1784). For much of his life Andrews lived in London, and judging by his numerous business addresses between 1813 and 1825, was rather unsettled. He described himself as "Botanical printer and engraver" but from the evidence of a paper slip<sup>1</sup> preserved in one copy of *Coloured engravings* he had another occupation, for this announced that "H. Andrews respectfully informs the nobility, Gentry &c. that he continues to Teach DRAWING and COLOURING correctly from Nature, ETCHING, &c on the most reasonable terms."

### AN ALBUM OF WATERCOLOURS AT BLENHEIM PALACE

It is possible that Andrews was the "high class teacher" (Soames 1987: 65) who taught Susan, Marchioness of Blandford (1767–1841), for there are several tenuous links to him through Cape heaths. An album of her own watercolours<sup>2</sup> found in Blenheim Palace about 1960 (Soames 1987: 65) contains at least 14 Cape heaths (Table 1).<sup>3</sup> Most of these heaths were figured in Andrews' first volume, but the dates on the Blandford watercolours precede those of the published engravings, indicating that these plants were available earlier. Andrews himself revealed, in the provenance information he gave in his later volumes, that his drawings were often produced several years before they were published. Lady Blandford's practice of diligently recording the date of her painting reflects her awareness of the importance that this had for artists at that period under the copyright laws. It also reveals that she painted them during the years her children were born. *Erica abietina*, which was one of the earliest of the Cape species cultivated in Britain at Lee and Kennedy's Vineyard Nursery at Hammersmith by 1771, is one of those she painted.<sup>4</sup>



*Erica droseroides* (= *E. glutinosa*); original painting by Lady Blandford. © Reproduced by kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Marlborough

**Table 1. Heaths in Lady Blandford's album of watercolours.**

The names are transcribed<sup>3</sup> from the originals; the date in the third column is from the marchioness's painting, whereas the date in the fourth column is that on Andrews' engraved portrait in *Coloured engravings of heaths*. (\* indicates a European species)

3	<i>Erica spicata</i>	2 May 1794	1 June 1795
4	<i>Erica mucosa</i>	22 July 1794	1 June 1795
8	<i>Erica grandiflora</i>	2 June 1794	1 December 1800
10	<i>Erica droseroides</i>	18 August 1794	1 October 1797
15	<i>Erica coccinea</i>	18 September 1794	1 May 1799
16	<i>Erica purpurea</i>	22 September 1794	1 June 1795
17	<i>Erica mammosa</i> var.	25 September 1794	1 May 1800
20	<i>Erica verticillata</i>	24 October 1794	1 April 1797
22	<i>Erica abietina</i>	22 November 1794	1800
46	<i>Erica quadriflora</i>	10 June 1795	1 February 1803
54	<i>Erica pubescens</i>	15 February 1796	1 May 1800
79	<i>Erica pinaster</i>	17 February 1798	
88	* <i>Erica ciliaris</i>	August 1799	
103	<i>Erica physodes</i>	3 March 1796	1 June 1799
109	* <i>Erica umbellata</i>	June 1794	
110	<i>Erica</i>	6 September 1794	

There are several known links between Henry Andrews and Lord Blandford. In the *Botanists repository* Andrews named a North American plant, provided by the marquess, after him – *Blandfordia cordata*<sup>5</sup> (plate 343, 1804) – to mark the “vigour and liberality” with which Blandford patronized horticulture and his “knowledge in its theory and practice”. Even more significant was Andrews naming of *Erica blandfordii* in the fourth volume of *The heathery* (plate 154, 1807); it was illustrated also in the third volume of *Coloured engravings of heaths* (plate 153, 1809).

Earlier, in 1798, with the agreement of the family trustees, the fourth Duke of Marlborough had purchased Whiteknights Park, near Reading, for his son. Blandford promptly moved his collection of plants from Bill Hill, Wokingham, and then began a long-term campaign of improvements (see Soames 1987). Reporting on the garden, John Claudius Loudon (1833: 665) revealed that many of the exotic plants at Whiteknights had come from Lee and Kennedy's nursery. A series of letters, dating from 1803 to 1816, from Aylmer Bourke Lambert to James Edward Smith described the gradual progress and comments on the exotic plants and fine gardens. Hofland (1819) referred to the curious plants from around the world that were planted at Whiteknights, with an entire compartment being allotted

to *Erica* (Soames 1987: 86). An illustration of a Cape heath, *Erica aristata* var. *minor*, in the fourth volume of *Coloured engravings of heaths* (plate 219) was made from a plant grown in the conservatory at Whiteknights.

By June 1819, however, Blandford, now the fifth Duke of Marlborough, was bankrupt and everything had to be sold. Indeed by 1821, Whiteknights itself was seized to obtain repayment of his debts. Lot 3592 at that 1819 sale – a volume containing 89 drawings of plants by the Duchess – is the first indication of the existence of the watercolours by “Lady Susan”, but luckily it was withdrawn before the sale began (Soames 1987: 163).

In a critical report following a visit to Blenheim during August 1833, John Claudius Loudon (1834: 102) remarked upon a few hardy heaths that were thriving there. After succeeding to the title, and Blenheim, the Duke was said to hold first place among the planters of arboreta in Britain. Yet, despite having a great love of rare plants, there was no evidence at Whiteknights or Blenheim, according to Loudon (1834: 102), that the Duke had any “taste or skill in gardening”.

In 1825, Henry Andrews was listed as a “picture dealer”.<sup>6</sup> In 1813, he had produced a catalogue of numerous “ancient paintings” which he had for the sale at his London Gallery, Piccadilly. Doubts about their provenance prompted him to publish an address substantiating their history and commenting on the various artists and the paintings (Andrews 1814). In both publications he maintained that the paintings were “collected by him in the course of the last 18 years, many when last on the continent”. It is difficult to reconcile this with the amount of steady work that Andrews must have had to accomplish to maintain his various periodical publications, nor to learn anything about such dealing. Yet, knowing of the botanical links between Andrews and the Marquess of Blandford, it is possible that the comments made by Mrs Hofland, in her description of the house at Whiteknights a few years later, provide a clue: “a gentleman of taste had to have a picture collection” and then, describing the drawing room, “in this sumptuously decorated room were hung the most important of Lord Blandford’s large collection of old masters; we do not know at what period he acquired his pictures – certainly not the result of a Grand Tour, for he had been denied this experience” (see Soames 1987: 115–116). The list of Old Masters mentioned as being at Whiteknights compares quite closely with those offered by Andrews in his catalogue.

## ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AT WOBURN ABBEY

Another facet in the life of this elusive artist was revealed when I visited the library in Woburn Abbey to examine a set of *Coloured engravings of heaths*. In 1996, the archivist, Mrs Ann Mitchell, re-discovered a volume of drawings (Table 2)<sup>7</sup> for the painted window of the lobby of the Duke of Bedford's Heath House at Woburn. This window was described by Forbes (1833) as follows:

facing the door of the ante-room ... is of an oval form, the margins of which are ornamented by 20 circular groups of different species of Ericaceae; and in the centre is a group of various kinds represented in a basket; consequently, there are about 50 of the most beautiful flowering species painted on this window, which was executed by Mr. Andrews and so accurately done, that they can scarcely be distinguished from living plants.

In the re-discovered volume, the coloured drawings are stuck on sheets of sugar-bag blue paper, four to a page. Although most are labelled as single species, several drawings depict pairs of heaths, sometimes varieties with differently coloured flowers. A note at the bottom of the first sheet reads:

It was originally intended to have two specimens in each circle but the design was subsequently altered and it was determined that the double specimens should be in four centres only. These three circles however, were drawn by Mr Andrews before the intention was altered, but the second specimen is – omitted in the Window.

**Table 2. H. C. Andrews' drawings for the window at Woburn Abbey.**

The numbers and names are transcribed as written.

1. *Erica Banksia* [and] 2. *E. Banksia purpurea*
3. *E. transparens*
4. *E. curviflora rubra*
5. *E. spuria*
6. *E. aurea* var. *flore pallida*
7. *E. Petiveriana* [and] 8. *E. vestita purpurea*
9. *E. curviflora*
10. *E. bicolor*
11. *E. foliacea*
12. *E. Petiveriana aurantia*
13. *E. Sebana viridis* [and] 14. *E. Sebana lutea*
15. *E. monadelphia*
16. *E. sulphurea*
17. *E. versicolor*
18. *E. conspicua*
19. *E. magnifica* [and] 20. *E. glutinosa*
21. *E. vestita lutea*
22. *E. tubiflora*
23. *E. longiflora*
24. *E. Uhria*

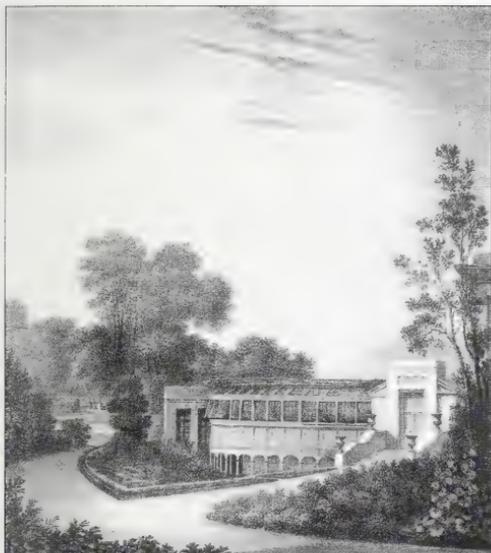
When the archivist came across this volume “it was in a bad state of repair” and “sadly the drawing of the Painted window executed [by the miniature artist] Louis Parez was not there and it was evident this had been torn from the volume.” The original drawings of the circles portraying *Erica sulphurea* and *E. conspicua* were also missing.<sup>8</sup>

Andrews’ links with Woburn Abbey are also underlined by two plates in *Coloured engravings: Erica grandinosa* (plate 236) and *E. tenuifolia* var. *carnea* (plate 281) were both depicted from plants grown at Woburn.

John Russell (1766–1839), the sixth Duke of Bedford, explained, in his introduction to Sinclair’s catalogue of the Woburn heaths, that on recovering from a severe illness, he had determined to make a collection of both indigenous and exotic heaths. As an admirer of the “beautiful tribe of plants”, he lamented that so many species from the Cape had been lost, owing to indifference or neglect by nurserymen and the difficulties involved in cultivating them. By occupying himself with this task he hoped to relieve his own suffering and ameliorate the irksome periods that he had to endure. Bedford’s success in this project was reviewed by Sir William Hooker (1840):

... in drawing attention to the Heaths he was attracted by the beauty of the subject. ... in an exceeding short space of time, saw himself in possession of no fewer than four hundred different kinds, nearly the whole of them distinct species. It was for the reception of these, that the Greenhouse – a building no less spacious than ornamental, being 90 feet in length, was erected. The pleasure they afforded his Grace gave rise to the handsome volume *Hortus Ericæus Woburnensis*.

Nelson (2006) has established that this important work was probably published on 18 February 1825 when the Duke sent copies to Sir James Edward Smith. Denise Padley (2006) has provided a detailed account of the life of George Sinclair, the gardener employed at Woburn at this period, emphasizing his role in cultivating the plants. A letter from the Duke to Sinclair (written about December 1825) reveals that Sinclair was also responsible for obtaining any new species that were not already in the collection at Woburn from nurserymen whenever they became available. Without Sinclair’s collaboration the various descriptive Woburn catalogues would not have been published.



East view of the Heath House at Woburn Abbey in 1824 (from Sinclair 1825).

## CONCLUSIONS

These artistic ephemera provide further evidence for Andrews' wide involvement with influential members of English society, and substantiate knowledge of the existence in Britain of several species of Cape heaths at an early period. It would be worthwhile trying to ascertain whether any other Cape heath species were painted by Lady Blandford and confirming the identity of those listed here (Table 1). The fact that she used "*Erica purpurea*" on a painting done nine months before Andrews' publication of that name

tends to support the suggestion of a link. At least, the drawings at Woburn mean that some of Andrews' original work has survived in addition to the single "rather shoddy" study of *Azalea pontica* of 1796 mentioned by Wilfred Blunt (1950: 210).

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Preserved in the copy of *Coloured engravings* at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

<sup>2</sup> "Flower paintings by Lady Susan": Library, Blenheim Palace.

<sup>3</sup> Listed by Joy Law (a research worker assisting Mary Soames with *The profligate duke*); pers. comm., 23 May 1987. Some of these paintings were reproduced by Soames (1987), but no *Erica* was selected.

<sup>4</sup> It has not been possible to see the paintings of the uncertain plants to confirm their identity.

<sup>5</sup> *Blandfordia cordata* Andrews is *Galax aphylla* L. (Diapensiaceae).

<sup>6</sup> see Pigot's *Commercial directory of London* (1825: 198) where he is listed under "Picture Dealers" at 30 Sloane Street, Chelsea.

<sup>7</sup> This volume, dated 1823, has the bookplate of the ninth Duke – "Woburn Abbey /1873 \Francis Charles Hastings". It was probably catalogued (as ALN PC 3/2) by the Historical Manuscript Commission in the 1880s, but had been lost sight of until re-discovered in a map drawer. The Heath House was completed in 1824 (see Sinclair 1825: iii–iv; Forbes 1833: 271–274).

<sup>8</sup> Another document among the sixth Duke's papers provides a list of the 49 heaths represented in this window; the list differs substantially from the list of extant drawings in the Woburn volume.

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## A garden evolved. The heather garden at “Steps”

DAVID SPRAGUE

“Steps”, 5 Deepdene Drive, DORKING, Surrey, RG5 4AD.



The mature garden, 2008.

“Steps” is a bungalow built on a bank of sand rising from Deepdene Drive, Dorking. We bought it in 1972, lived in it on and off until 1993, and have done so ever since. When we arrived there was one heather, a “darleyensis”. Now the garden is devoted almost entirely to heathers.

We began with two layerings from the “darleyensis”, a bed of *Erica carnea* ‘Ruby Glow’ and a bed of *E. vagans* ‘Mrs D. F. Maxwell’. All survive. We continued the plantings in the late seventies, mid eighties and the nineties, until the garden reached its peak in 2000 with a history of 128 cultivars. This owes much to Anne and David Small. In July 1996, they invited the Home Counties group to Creeting St Mary to take any, and as many, cuttings as we fancied from their extensive stock of heathers. Not only that, they supplied



2008 Spring miscellany of *Erica carnea* and *E. × darleyensis*. *Erica × darleyensis* 'Furzey', 2008.

large plug-trays and compost. Then they put the full trays into their mist-houses and gave us back our trays of rooted cuttings at the Home Counties group's next meeting at Wisley the following September. Passers-by have acclaimed the garden of heather at "Steps" ever since.

Management of the garden was helped by dividing it up into plots, 25 in all. Tackling each in turn, salami-style, made the task much easier. In the early years the use of fir cones that we had collected locally or in stately gardens, as a mulch, made each plot a little more attractive while the heathers established themselves (by-products of the cones are a ten-foot high Douglas fir and a similarly sized Scots pine.). In very dry conditions we used for irrigation inexpensive soaker hoses with water supplied from the mains directly or via tubs. For labels we used Dymo® tape on wood but they turned out not to be rain-proof. It didn't help when passers-by stole some of them as reminders of what next to buy! So we gave up. Such problems as there were in the garden were the ubiquitously malevolent bluebells, grape hyacinths and "mind your own business" (*Soleirolia soleirolii*). We think we've now got the upper hand.



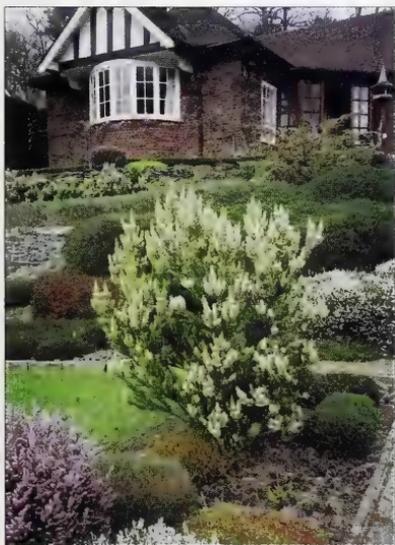
The evolving garden: late 1990s.



Beside the pond: new planting, 2008. *Erica erigena* got too big and had to go.



The pine cones lining the path (early 1990s) were replaced by *Erica* × *darleyensis* (late 1990s).



Now in their dignity: *Erica arborea* 'Estrella Gold' (left), and *E. lusitanica* with a maple (right).



"Steps", 1972.



"Steps", 2008.

Unfortunately advancing age has now cut back the time spent in the garden. We have replaced most of the summer heathers. They had become unwieldy, despite annual pruning, and their flowering period had been too short. We did however retain some *Erica vagans* because they provide good cover and can be neatly pruned, and *E. ciliaris*. We now concentrate on the winter heathers. They flower much longer and give good ground-cover. More recently, noting the third dimension that maturing trees and shrubs were giving to the garden, we increased the number of *E. arborea* and *E. erigena*. We have also started to pot some *Calluna*. The idea is to put them, in their pots, into the holes that the aging *E. carnea* and *E. × darleyensis* are creating and to give the winter beds a little summer colour. If a particularly hot summer requires a whole plot of *E. carnea* or *E. × darleyensis* to be replaced (for example, on our return from a fortnight in Crete in 2006), we bring replacements down from the top garden.

Gardens evolve. Despite being over 30 years old, ours still has a lot of life in it. But I fear that, like our golf, it has passed its best! What do you think?



The Heather Society at "Steps", 2002.

## Κουκουλόχορτο, koukoulóhorto, a Greek name for some heathers and other plants

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The principal heathers native in the Hellenic world are *Erica arborea* (tree heather) and *E. manipuliflora* (whorled heath). Both species occur abundantly on the Greek mainland and in Crete, as well as on many other Greek islands, but at the present time only whorled heath occurs in Cyprus, where it is restricted and uncommon. There are other much rarer species in mainland Greece (for example, *E. carnea*, winter heath), while *E. sicula* (Sicilian heath) is an uncommon native heath only in Cyprus.

The Latin name *Erica*, long used by botanists for European heathers, is derived from the Ancient Greek **ἔρεικη** (*ereikē*) and these shrubs, especially *E. arborea*, are still called **ρείκι** (pronounced *riki*) by Greek speakers. Other Greek names given by Kavvadas (1960–1969: 3: 1485) for both *E. arborea* and *E. manipuliflora* (as *E. verticillata*) are **ρείγκλες** (*rínkles*), **τσάρο** (*tsáro*), used in the Mani, and **ντριζα** (*dríza*) from northern Greece, and, in addition, **ζούρες** (*xouúres*) for the latter in Thessaly, Pelion, the northern Sporades and Euboea. On the island of Paxos, *E. multiflora* is called **χαμορίκι** (*hamoríki*) (Sands 1991), literally meaning low-growing heather and ultimately derived from the Ancient Greek **χαμαί** (*chamai*), on the ground, and **ἔρεικη** (*ereikē*), heather. However, several sources indicate that another Greek word, **κουκουλόχορτο** (*koukoulóhorto*), has been applied to certain heathers although it does not appear to be in use nowadays.

In Cyprus, **κουκουλόχορτο** was apparently first recorded as a Greek name for *Erica manipuliflora* by Panagiotis Gennadios (1908: 7), an internationally known agronomist from Greece who became the first Director of the Department of Agriculture under the British colonial administration,<sup>1</sup> in his list of native and exotic Cypriot plants. He repeated the name in his botanical dictionary, *Lexikòn fytyloyikón*, published in 1914. The Norwegian botanist, Jens Holmboe, took up the name, as **Κουκκουλοχορτο** (uncharacteristically unaccented), in *Studies on the vegetation of Cyprus* (1914: 142), and so did Esther Chapman in her *Cyprus trees and shrubs* (1949: 60). Panaretos (1967: 278) also gave this name for *E. manipuliflora*, with the old-fashioned spelling **κουκκουλόχορτον**.

In response to an enquiry from Philip Oswald, Georgios Hadjikyriakou, who was born in Άγιος Αμνρόςιος in Keryneia district, wrote on 4 December 2007 that he had not been able to trace the source of Gennadios' information. In Cyprus, whorled heath has a very restricted distribution, previously recorded from Kormakítis, north of Μόρφου, but now probably occurring only between the villages of Akanthού and Flamούδι in Ammohostosos district (Viney 1994; Tsintides, Hadjikyriakou & Christodoulou 2002). Greek Cypriots from this area are familiar with this particular heather: there is a locality called **Ρείκια** (*Retkia*), that is to say a place where *Erica* (**ρείκι**) grows, and *E. manipuliflora* is fairly abundant thereabouts. Georgios Hadjikyriakou asked people from this area about **κουκουλόχορτο**, but nobody knew of the name being applied to *E. manipuliflora*, and it seems probable that Gennadios knew it by this name in Greece.

We next encountered the name **κουκουλόχορτο** when using the internet to check for vernacular names of *Erica* species on Tela Botanica.<sup>2</sup> This French site credited Pierre Seba as the source of this name for *E. arborea*, and he informed us that the name appeared in a treatise on pollen published in Athens (Drimtsia 2004), where it was also given as a name for the grass *Phalaris bulbosa* (syn. *P. aquatica*) and more generally for the genus *Phalaris* (canary-grasses).

## Κουκουλόχορτο

Does this name have any special significance? It is a compound, including the word **χόρτο** (pronounced *hórto*), which can mean grass but in compound words sometimes simply any type of plant. One possibility, soon discarded, was that it could refer to the shape of the flowers. **Κουκούλα** (*koukoúla*) is a Modern Greek word derived from the late Latin or Italian *cuculla*, meaning a cowl or hood and hence a tea-cosy; it is also a vernacular name in Greece for *Arisarum vulgare* (friar's cowl), a small relative of *Arum* (lords-and-ladies). If that was the derivation of **κουκουλόχορτο**, it could allude to the shape of the flowers, which might be said to resemble a tea-cosy.

However, there is a better explanation for **κουκουλόχορτο** which derives the name from **κουκούλι** (*koukoúli*), a silkworm cocoon. There is another compound formed from **κουκούλι** – **κουκουλόσπιτο** (*koukoulóspito*) – as used in Soufli (Ένβρος), northern Greece, for the house there specially built for rearing silkworms.<sup>3</sup> Thus **κουκουλόχορτο** could mean a plant in some way connected with silkworm cocoons.

Numerous plants are (or were) used as “mounting” material – twigs or small branches provided by silk farmers for the mature silkworms (the

caterpillars of the domesticated moth *Bombyx mori*) to climb up to pupate and spin the cocoons from which silk is manufactured. *Bruyère* (*Erica* species, probably *E. arborea*) was used for this purpose in the south of France, for example at Taulignan in Drôme Provençale,<sup>4</sup> and Harizanis (2004), in his recent *Manual of sericulture*, recommends the use of “dry twigs of heather, thyme or of other bushes (without thorns), artificial twigs etc.” for the mounting stage. In Cyprus, this stage of the life-cycle of the silkworm is termed **κλάδωμα** (*kládoma*) or **κλάδωσις** (*kládosis*), in other words branching (Mavrommatis 1896: 17; Gennadios 1898: 45): in Modern Greek, a branch of a bush or tree is **κλαδί** (*kladí*), a word in fact given by Gennadios (1908: 6) as a synonym for **κουκούλοχορτο**.

The rarity of *Erica manipuliflora* in Cyprus suggests that Panaretos' (1967: 278) statement that its **κλαδίσκοι** (*kladíski*, branches) were used for **κλάδωσις** was not based on personal experience; he may indeed have taken the name from Gennadios (1908) or Holmboe (1914). In Cyprus *Cistus* (sun-roses), particularly *C. creticus*, *C. salvifolius* and *C. parviflorus*, a subshrubby St John's-wort (*Hypericum triquetrifolium*) and the shrubby thyme (*Coridothymus capitatus*) seem to have been the principal species employed to provide the mounting (Georgios Hadjikyriakou, pers. comm.). The St John's-wort is known to the people of Akanthou and Flamoúdi as **καματερόχορτο** (*kamateróhorto*), literally meaning silkworm-grass and thus akin to **κουκούλοχορτο** (*fide* Koralia Hadjipieri and Anastasia Kkiniari of Akanthou and Thomas Evangelou of Flamoúdi). In late nineteenth-century advisory pamphlets, Mrs Nebrik Derbisian (1890: 29) suggested the use of **ξιστάριν** (*xistárin*, an old-fashioned version of *xistári*, *Cistus*) or some other suitable **κλαδί**, while Mavrommatis (1896: 18) recommended **σαψιχιά** (*sapsihía*, *Origanum majorana*) as the very best **κλαδί**, followed by **θρουμπί** (*throumbí*, *Coridothymus capitatus*) and **κοκκινοκλάδι** (*kokkinokládi*, literally red branch but so far unidentified), warning that, whatever branches were used, they had to be bushy and long and well dried in the sun. Gennadios (1898: 45) did not specify particular plants but stressed the importance of shaking off the dead leaves and any remaining soil. (As an aside, according to Lack and Mabberley (1999: 63) and Harris (2007: 80), when the Oxford botanist John Sibthorp was in Cyprus during May 1787, he saw “peasants carrying home horse-loads of *Cistus monspeliensis* twigs to feed them to silkworms as a substitute for mulberry leaves”. This is a rather unlikely explanation of the loads of twigs: silkworms do not eat *Cistus* foliage but, as just noted, the twigs are used in *kládosis*, mounting.)

Professor Paschalis Harizanis informed us that the name **κουκουλόχορτο** is “very seldom used” in Greece. Kavvadas’ (1960–1969: 5: 2097) brief entry for **Κουκκουλόχορτο** [sic] cross-refers to **Ἐρείκη ἢ σπονδυλωτή καὶ Φαλαρίς**, that is *Erica verticillata* (*E. manipuliflora*, whorled heath) and *Phalaris* (canary-grasses), while Gennadios (1908: 7) clearly states that **Κουκουλόχορτο** [sic] is *E. verticillata*. However, according to Drimtsia (2004), in mainland Greece *E. arborea* (tree heather) was **κουκουλόχορτο**.

We have not discovered whether any plants have ever been called **κουκουλόχορτο** in Crete, but Frangaki (1969) says that *Erica manipuliflora* has been used as mounting material there too. In May 2008, when Charles Nelson enquired at Gavalohóri in western Crete about the mounting of silkworms, he was led to the subshrubby St John’s-wort *Hypericum triquetrifolium*, there called **αγυρούλας** (*agyrouílas*), but he was assured that the local silkworm-rearers did not call it, or any other plant, by the name **κουκουλόχορτο**. (There are no heathers growing in the immediate vicinity of Gavalohóri.)

### An unexpected turn of events

Not long before this paper went to press, Philip Oswald again asked Georgios Hadjikyriakou for advice and he responded with the unexpected news that **κουκουλόχορτο** is indeed a plant name known to Greek Cypriots who formerly lived in Άγιος Amvrósios (Keryneia district) and Flamoúdi (Ammohostos district), but that it, or more rarely **κουκουλάρης** (*koukouláris*), was used to describe various species of canary-grasses (*Phalaris*) “because the inflorescence has more or less the shape of a **κουκούλι** (cocoon)”. His mother, Paraskevou Nikola Hadjikyriakou, aged 86, used to rear silkworms and she and his father of 93 and his father-in-law, Thomas Evangelou, aged 86, from Flamoúdi, explained that these grasses grew as weeds in wheat fields and that people would sometimes say that **το σιτάριν εγέμωσε κουκουλόχορτο** (the wheat was full of “cocoon-grass”).

We have already mentioned that both Kavvadas (1960–1969) and Drimtsia (2004) gave **κουκουλόχορτο** as a name for canary-grasses (*Phalaris* spp.). It now transpires that the oldest reference for this name and also for **κουκούλη** in Greece is that of Sibthorp and Smith (1806: 36–37), who attribute both names to *Phalaris canariensis*, which however is not native there. John Sibthorp must have collected these Greek names during his travels in the region in the late 1700s when, as mentioned earlier, he also observed Cypriots collecting *Cistus* for use in the raising of silkworms. Other authors, including Billerbeck (1824: 21), Fraas (1845: 302) and Heldreich and Miliarakis (1909: 103, 159), repeated the names under *Phalaris* species. None of these authors attribute these names to any *Erica* species.

The application of **κουκουλόχορτο** to plants as different as heathers and canary-grasses supports the idea that it is not a “specific” vernacular name, but a “generic” one which has been employed to describe both plants used for silkworm “mounting” and grasses with inflorescences resembling silkworm cocoons: so **κουκουλόχορτο**, like **χόρτο**, had various meanings.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks are particularly due to Georgios Hadjikyriakou for almost all of our knowledge of the use of the name **κουκουλόχορτο** for *Phalaris* species, to him and Dr Yiannis Christophides for information about the distribution of *Erica* species in Cyprus and about the plants formerly used there as “mounting” material for silkworms, to Pierre Seba, Ioannis Th. Anagnostopoulos and Professor Paschalis Harizanis for information about the use of the name **κουκουλόχορτο** in Greece, and to Mrs Christina Fournaraki for references to works by Dimitrios S. Kavvadas and Evangelia Frangaki. At Gavalohóri in Crete, we were assisted by the Women’s Agritourism Co-operative. Bridget Smith drew our attention to the Atelier Musée de la Soie at Taulignan.

#### WEBSITE ADDRESSES

- <sup>1</sup> <<http://www.philodassiki.org/36/article/english/36/54/index.htm>>
- <sup>2</sup> <<http://www.tela-botanica.org/eflore/BDNFF/4.02/nn/24729/vernaculaire>>
- <sup>3</sup> <[http://www.gtp.gr/LocPhotoAlbum.asp?id\\_loc=10799](http://www.gtp.gr/LocPhotoAlbum.asp?id_loc=10799)>
- <sup>4</sup> <<http://www.atelier-museedelasoie-taulignan.com/musee/index.html>>

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## The story of the Heather Harp Roundabout, Limerick

JAN PATTINSON

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The harp on the roundabout on the Ennis Road in Limerick was designed in 1990 by Michael McNamara (Horticulture Supervisor, Roads Section, Limerick County Council). The harp which appears on Irish coins was used as a starting point, not the Guinness harp which is a mirror-image of the national emblem

The slope of the landscaping was designed so that it would not impede the vision of drivers negotiating the roundabout, and also to enhance the view of the harp when approaching the city. Columnar Lombardy poplars were planted at the edge of the road surrounding the roundabout to set off the harp and make more of an impact.



Aerial photograph of the heather harp on the Ennis Road roundabout, Limerick, taken in August 2007 by John Herriott. © John Herriott photography.

In the first year, the harp was composed with cinerarias (for the frame of the harp) and French marigolds (for the strings), and 28,000 plants were used.

For the following five years, different colours and varieties of bedding-plants were tried. At that time, six other roundabouts in the city environs were also planted with bedding-plants, and all this work was done by a staff of only six men. Given the high maintenance required, and the labour-intensive nature of a bedding-plant scheme, Mr McNamara decided in 1997 to plant the harp with winter-flowering and coloured-foliage heathers. The heathers selected were the golden Cornish heath, *Erica vagans* 'Valerie Proudley' for the strings, and *E. × darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze' and 'Darley Dale' for the frame.

John and Sean Van Veen supplied the plants and oversaw the layout and planting of the harp. The planting scheme had grass strips between the heathers which had to be cut and trimmed regularly, and this has since been replaced by weed-suppressing mat and bark mulch.

Apart from a little grass cutting around the edge and trimming, very little maintenance has been needed on that roundabout since the planting of the heathers.

#### NOTE

In March 2008, the Limerick County/City boundary was changed. Consequently, the harp roundabout is now in the Limerick City Council area and is maintained by the City Council staff.

#### EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The aerial photograph (ref. dr\_f2\_5296) is reproduced by permission of John Herriott photography and design, Kilbeg, Bandon, County Cork; for more information see [www.irelandaerialphotography.com](http://www.irelandaerialphotography.com).

## Third International Heather Conference, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

### The Conference

Thursday 31 July 2008

The venue for the conference, Harbour Hotel, as its name suggests, overlooks Victoria Harbour. In the conference area there was feverish activity, with enthusiasts from the various societies putting together their exhibits. A beautiful display of plants was being assembled too. There were numerous heathers in pots. The smaller-growing ones, such as *Erica* × *williamsii* 'Gold Button' and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Humpty Dumpty', 'Foxii Floribunda' and 'Lyndon Proudley', were choice specimens for pot-display. There were also some fine Cape Heaths, *Erica cruenta* and the hybrid 'African Fanfare', in flower. David Wilson, of The Heather Farm, Sardis, British Columbia, put the displays together.



The Heather Society's delegates: (from left) David Plumridge, Barry Sellers, Rita Plumridge, David Edge, Susie Kay, Richard Canovan, Jean Julian.

The first evening, everyone gathered for dinner, around 60 delegates. Afterwards, we assembled in the main conference room and were greeted by Victoria's Town Crier, Robert Alexander, who was dressed in all his finery and ringing a bell. "Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!", ushered in the opening of the conference.

Our host, Elaine Scott of the Vancouver Island Heather Society, welcomed us to Victoria and introduced Mario Abreu, President of the North American Heather Society (NAHS). He gave us a warm greeting and introduced David Edge, Chairman-designate of The Heather Society, Jürgen Schröder of Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde and Albert Bosch of Nederlandse Heidevereniging "Ericultura".

The first evening's speaker was John Adams, a local historian, who gave a wonderful insight into the history of Victoria, which was established on land that was home to indigenous peoples, including the Lekwammen. In 1843, James Douglas established Fort Victoria, a fur-trading post for the Hudson's Bay Company. Between 1858 and 1863, it burgeoned due to the "Gold Rush". Victoria became the capital of British Columbia in 1871, and the British Columbia Parliament Buildings were officially opened in Victoria in 1898.

### **Friday 1 August 2008**

After a hearty breakfast, we prepared for our first speaker of the day, Dr Jaime Fagúndez, lecturer in botany at the University of León. In his talk on "The seeds of European heathers", he referred to 20 species of *Erica*. Seeds are difficult to see with the naked eye, so his photographs of them, magnified many times, were a real eye-opener to many of the delegates who were able to appreciate the fascinating patterns on the outer coats. His study of seed size, shape, colour and testa patterns has aided our understanding of the northern species.

The Kenneth Wilson Memorial Lecture, "The Root of all Weevil", was then given by Dr Sharon Collman, a horticulturist in Washington State University. Sharon provided a very thorough insight into the management and control of root weevils, which can cause substantial economic losses. Do weevils appear at different times of the year? Weevils are after the bark and stems – look at what is being eaten! Sharon highlighted that there were 17-species complexes of root weevils affecting nurseries or landscapes in the north-west of North America. Before an effective, integrated pest-management program can be developed, the pest species must be correctly identified. Most programs focus on the Black Vine Weevil, which has yellow spots to its back, but strategies formulated to control this species may not be effective against other species.

The Memorial Lecture was followed by a presentation on "Heather propagation on two coasts", by Janice Leinwebber and Jane and Paul Murphy. Janice established Highland Heather nursery in Canby, Oregon, around a decade ago and specializes in quality-grown heaths and heathers. Jane and Paul Murphy started growing heathers in the early 1990s and joined the Northeast Heather Society to learn more. After retiring in 2006, they built a greenhouse in their backyard and began propagating. Their Hickory Hill Heath and Heather Nursery was established in Spring 2007.

After lunch, we set off for a garden tour. The first stop was Glendale Gardens and Woodland on the campus of the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP) and the Pacific Horticulture College. It is also the site of the Ellen Norris Heather Garden. We were greeted by Bryan and Joan Taylor who gave a short talk about the Gardens. Bryan pointed out that there are 28 gardens, reflecting different themes. Heathers were first planted at the HCP in August 1985 after Rowly Inglis, who was establishing the Winter Garden, asked Ellen Norris if the NAHS would donate some heathers. Eighteen heathers were provided by Effie Keays. In 1987, the NAHS decided to sponsor three projects, one being at the HCP. Planting began in 1988, with the work carried out by Mick Jamieson, David Wilson, Warren Shawcross and Ellen Norris. Today, around 200 cultivars of heathers represent all seasons, and the garden serves as an educational resource for students as well as visitors. After Ellen Norris's death in 2003, the heather garden was officially named the Ellen Norris Heather Garden.

After dinner, we were treated to a talk from Lucy Hardiman about "Mixing it up with heather". Lucy, a garden designer, specializes in mixed borders, containers, year-round interest, urban spaces, colour and big bold plantings. She started by showing some truly horrid examples of heather use in gardens and made a gradual progression toward the good examples that she showed at the end, pointing out design principles along the way.

### Saturday 2 August 2008

The program provided a full day visiting gardens: it was a tight schedule.

The first garden was the Kriegers' at Malahat, situated around 700 feet above sea level, and surrounded by conifer and madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) forest. Initially, heathers were used as accent plants, but more recent plantings are designed for both summer and winter colour.

We then proceeded to the Wheeldons' garden in Mill Bay. Doreen Wheeldon moved to Vancouver Island in 1993 and was delighted to be able to grow heathers, especially since her family lived in Perthshire, Scotland, where they were used to seeing heather on the hillsides. In 2002, having read Ella May Wulff's article "Starting from scratch (Part II)" (*Heather news quarterly* #95: 13–18), describing how she planted heathers to "flow" down a slope

"like a brook", Doreen planted *Erica* × *darleyensis* 'White Perfection', *E.* × *stuartii* 'Irish Lemon' and *E. tetralix* 'Swedish Yellow' down from the top of a mound among other kinds of heather. Doreen now has around one hundred different heathers, and still manages to find space for more!



Elaine Scott and Ian Rogers's 0.75 acre garden, also in Mill Bay, was started in 2000. They spread a four-inch layer of topsoil on the site, and embedded irrigation hoses. After reading in a newspaper about a heather sale, plants were acquired. The garden is stocked with around 300 heathers. Here we were treated to a boxed lunch and sat outside on the verandah, gazing over the beautifully landscaped garden. The hot sunshine was a treat, too, as we wandered around what is a three-dimensional garden with slopes accentuating the excellent drifts of heathers interspersed with an assortment of shrubs.

Our next visit was the Dan Cooke Memorial Garden at the Farmers' Institute, Cobble Hill. Plans for this garden were made by the VIHS, assisted by Dan Cooke, and it was named after him following his untimely death in 2001. Planting commenced in November 2003, and includes cultivars of *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica carnea*, *E. cinerea*, *E. vagans*, *E. × darleyensis*, *E. × stuartii*, *E. × williamsii* and *Daboecia cantabrica*.

We then set off for the Ellen and Bob Norris Garden. Ellen's love of heathers began when she worked as a garden guide at Van Dusen Gardens in Vancouver. She and her husband, Bob, acquired two acres at Shownigan Lake and in 1982 began to create their heather garden. There are around 200 heathers including, of course, *Daboecia × scotica* 'Ellen Norris'. It also contains *Erica carnea*, *E. erigena* and *E. cinerea*, and, unusually, a specimen plant of *E. platycodon* (formerly *E. scoparia*) 'Lionel Woolner'. Whilst Ellen's mentor was Dorothy Metheny, during the later years of Ellen's life she herself inspired many Vancouver Islanders to plant heathers.

The final garden of a busy day was the Ina McDowell Memorial Heather Garden. Ina was a founding member of VIHS and was active until her death in 2006 at the age of 92. Her desire was to have a heather garden at her church, the Sylvan United Church. The Landscape Committee of the Church and VIHS members planted this memorial garden with groupings of *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica × darleyensis*. Two years on, these plantings on a steep slope alongside the church are just beginning to mature.

After dinner, the guest speaker was Brian Minter, a horticulturist and co-owner of a 32-acre world-class garden in Rosedale, British Columbia, opened in 1982. His talk, entitled "Connecting the disconnect: reaching out to a world that has lost its passion for gardening", was inspirational, as he set about analysing what the underlining causes were of people "turning away" from gardens. Certainly this has much to do with our lifestyles. We need to understand how people connect with the environment, and in this way we can find ways of reaching out to them. For example, in the USA, women make up to 80% of all purchases. If we want to sell heathers, then we must know how to sell them to women.

### Sunday 3 August

After breakfast, the first presentation featured Kurt Kramer and David Wilson. Kurt is renowned for his valuable contribution to hybridizing heathers and in recent years has introduced many exceptional cultivars. His nursery was started in 1966, and by 1974 he had begun his first breeding trials. His early experiments were deliberate

crosses involving *Erica carnea*, and these resulted in 'Isabell' and 'Schneekuppe'. Later, he used *E. erigena* and *E. carnea*, and produced *E. × darleyensis* 'Kramers Rote', one of the most popular heathers he has introduced. More recent experiments have resulted in *E. × krameri* (*E. spiculifolia × carnea*) and *E. × gaudifcans* (*E. spiculifolia × bergiana*).

David Wilson has a nursery in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada and has been growing heathers for around 25 years. He produces around 425 different heathers. He commenced raising new heathers from seed in the 1980s, his eagerness to produce new cultivars being stimulated by reports in *Yearbooks of The Heather Society*. In the late 1980s, he created new colour-breaks in *E. × watsonii* and *E. × williamsii*: 'Ken Wilson' represents one such distinct colour-break.

Their talk was followed by Ella May Wulff's "Images of hot-blooded heaths", in which she recalled seeing the 130 species of South African *Erica* brought by Ted Oliver and Deon Koetze to The Heather Society conference in Glasnevin, Ireland, in 1995. They inspired her to visit South Africa, and she joined The Heather Society's trip in 2003. She showed spectacular slides of the Capes, including *E. blandfordii*, *E. patersonii*, *E. nana* and the hybrid *E. × cavendishiana* 'Gengold'. These four are yellow-flowered, a colour absent from northern hemisphere heaths.

Ella May's talk was a good introduction to the panel session that included David Edge, Susie Kay, Maria Krenek, David Wilson and Barry Sellers. The subject was "Growing Cape heaths in a cold climate". I explained my methods for propagating them from seed, while David Edge talked about propagating Cape heaths from cuttings. Susie and Maria spoke about their different experiences with these plants under trying conditions. David Wilson also talked about his experience of growing and propagating Cape heaths. He had brought the beautiful specimen of the red *Erica cruenta* that was on display in the foyer of the conference hall.

### Monday 4 August 2008

An interesting talk by Dirk Muntean on "Soil, water and nutrition management" opened the final session of the conference. He offered advice on the use of fertilizers, compost and soil-less media and on disease control.

The Conference Organizer, Stefani McRae-Dickey, gave the final presentation: "Contain your enthusiasm, or something fishy this way comes: heather in containers and making fish-box planters". Stefani talked about cultivating heathers in containers and proceeded to explain how the Scottish Rock Garden Club's website – <http://www.srgc.org.uk/feature/fishbox/troughs.html> – had provided the inspiration for her to adapt recycled fish-boxes into containers for growing heathers.

Finally, Mario Abreu and Elaine Scott thanked all the contributors and organizers and made presentations to them. After the farewell lunch, most of the delegates took the tour of the spectacular Butchart Gardens in Victoria. We continued to chat as we wandered through its floral bonanza.

## Post-Conference Tour

### Tuesday 5 August 2008.

Having thoroughly enjoyed the conference, 25 delegates were to be treated to new vistas and gardens. We were organized by Ella May Wulff and boarded our fast craft for Port Augusta, our entry point to the United States of America. As we sped across Puget Sound, snow-capped mountains appeared, promising pleasures to come.

A wonderful drive took us to the top of Hurricane Ridge (5,242 ft). The snow-capped mountains were now right before us and it was possible to make out some of the glaciers: there are about 60 of them. Being the lover of mountains that I am, I spent too much time admiring the views and did not keep up with the group which went hunting for *Phyllodoce empetriformis*. I believe that Kurt Kramer was the first to spot it – I was still gazing at Mount Olympus. On our way down, we were all stunned by the wild flowers growing up the sides of rocks and gravel. Our coach had several opportunities to stop because of road works. People in the know were calling out the names of the plants and assured us we were very lucky, as the spring and summer flowering were occurring together. This was explained by the fact that there had been snow in July. There were some wild flowers we knew, such as harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), lupin and even a dandelion. A beautiful red plant known as Indian paintbrush, *Castilleja*, really took my eye. Of course, we were also travelling through heavily wooded country, mainly western red cedars (*Thuja plicata*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*).

Our journey next brought us to Bainbridge Island, accessed by a big land bridge through Jefferson County, which often seems to appear in novels. The accommodation at the Bainbridge Island Country Inn was beside a shopping mall, which soon had various heather people trotting up to avail of the excellent selection of wines. With the help of the alcoholic beverages, we began to knit together as a group, and what was our main topic of conversation? Where should we hold the next international conference? Should we hold it? This became a topic for each evening, with many varied plans and themes and sometimes with some rather outlandish suggestions. Nobody was taking notes, so I hope we will remember some of the points put forward.

### Wednesday 6 August 2008

The day dawned wonderfully sunny and warm, and we were on our way to the garden of Little and Lewis. These two men are known internationally as artists and gardeners. Our visit was probably the last by a group, as they were moving to a house next door the following week. The area was packed with plants, sculptures and water features. Planting used hardy “tropicals” including *Musa* (banana), many tree mallows (*Abutilon*) and I even saw a *Restio*. Water was everywhere, from a gentle drip to a soaring fountain. The sculpting of *Gunnera* leaves was in progress in the studio, and we were able to examine some of these alongside the real thing. Should you wish to acquire one, they are for sale at \$1,500. Of course, I found this rather funny because *Gunnera* is now a noxious weed in Connemara. Although there were lots of trees, the sun filtered through and lit up this lovely garden.

We were lucky to have Noel Thurner with us again, as she has an amazing talent for whistling – she is well-practised in this art because she raises sheep and whistles to command her sheep dogs! This talent was called on to summon people back to the coach and Noel could be heard even in the deepest recesses of the gardens.

Our next stop was at Linda Cochran's. Once again it was a very mixed planting, with very special collections from around the world. To protect it all, in front of the garden was a huge deer-proof fence. The deer in this part of the world are a great problem for anyone wishing to grow anything at all. We saw heathers, *Restio*, *Veratrum* and *Hepatica*, but the plant that had everybody talking was in a pot near the house. It had come from Chile, and the flower was a deep turquoise. Everyone was asking the name, and we found out that it is called *Puya alpestris*. Linda sources her plants mainly from California. This lady watered her plants by hand, having no irrigation system: quite a job!

On again, and this time to Bainbridge Gardens. A large nursery, stuffed with wonderful plants for sale, but our minds were on our stomachs and, as usual, we were served delicious boxed lunches. Kurt was pleased to see 'Kramers Rote' for sale on the heather bench.

We then journeyed to Bloedel Reserve. As the garden has an ethos of peace and tranquillity, only 200 people are allowed in each day. Extending to 150 acres, with several paths, it would have been easy to get lost without a guide. We split into two groups, with some of us taking a longer tour. There was perfect peace to be found as we progressed through the various areas. Our guide explained how a continuous water supply had been dug out from a spring at a high point. It came down through the entire gardens in a series of small ponds, lakes, rills and waterfalls. As we wandered through, round and down amongst many ancient trees and rhododendrons, our guide told us a tale that brought wry smiles to some of our faces. They had planted 300 bracken plants to remove arsenic from the soil to help clean it up. I had more than a wry smile, as I spend a lot of time pulling out bracken "seedlings" at home. Another interesting story was about the introduction of "Irish Moss" (*Sagina subulata*) – we call it pearlwort – which has been completely overtaken by a local species. Having passed a saprophytic orchid growing in pine needles, we arrived at the Japanese Garden, complete with its own house. Lastly, there was the Reflection Garden. All of this is managed by ten ground-staff, and it is a real credit to them in maintaining the original concept of Mr Bloedel.

Our last visit of the day was to the garden of Carol Johanson. Once again, tremendous thought and care has gone into the design and the maintenance. So many plants as you moved round each "garden room". A beautiful stream, with waterfalls, ran along the side of the house and, eventually, there were views of Puget Sound. The clever thing about this garden is that it could be viewed through 360°.

A quick change and off to dinner by taxi. Once again some of us congregated for our discussions about the fourth international and this time we had chairs to sit on.

### Thursday 7 August 2008

We went on foot to visit the gardens of Bainbridge Public Library, which helped one get going in the morning. One of the areas was a Japanese garden that had been established after the Second World War, when local Japanese residents who had been interned during the war were able to return to the Bainbridge area. A series of plaques were engraved with Japanese poems. The gardens are maintained by the "Friday Tidies", a band of dedicated volunteers who really enjoy their work. I really need to wake up in the mornings, as I thought our guide was talking about "suicidal mushrooms", but apparently it was a "magic mushroom" called *Psilocybe* which had been found growing in one part of the garden. I believe they were removed before children should be tempted by them. This was a true community garden.

All aboard again, bound for Mesogeo (Greek for middle of the earth). Here Terri Stanley and Terry Moyemont have a thriving nursery producing Mediterranean and tropical plants that can cope with drought. We were able to wander around and gaze in awe at the plants.

Noel summoned us in her usual way to visit the next garden, which belonged to Elizabeth Berndt. Especially for Susie Kay, we had a fleeting coffee stop en route, at Molly Ward's whimsical garden. I, and a few others, really appreciated this. We walked down Elizabeth's garden and had a lovely surprise when we were greeted by Alice Knight, who was also making a visit. Lunch was served here along with glasses of fruit punch. Nine years ago, the garden was just a jungle, being really only planted up in 2002. Elizabeth spent many hours researching her choice of plants, and all her study has paid off – the garden was breathtaking. This was the first time she had a group to view her work, and I hope we were appreciative enough to encourage her to invite other groups.



Heaths and Heathers' new display garden at Shelton, Washington State, USA.

And so to Karla Lortz, who owns Heaths & Heathers Nursery. We visited the show garden where she displays the cultivars that are for sale. The site slopes and presented a wonderful bank of colour when viewed from the road – a very good advertisement for heather. Karla uses recycled pots, roots in sand, and grows on in sludge. She has 850 cultivars in three quarters of an acre, with 2,000 plants in the ground. A vast amount of work went into the preparation of the site, with Karla and Mike Plomski, her husband, working day and night to convert the sandy soils into a suitable location. The catalogue was mouth-watering. Americans are very lucky to have this excellent source of heathers. Karla's enthusiasm is infectious, and I wanted to rush home and try better in my own garden.

### **Friday 8 August 2008**

Our last day was to be just as busy, with the first visit being to the garden of Bill and Dorina Sleep. On a good day, they have a view of Mount Rainier. Bill had a large map to show us whilst we had coffee and cookies. Lots of heathers for us to view and some mixed planting, all surrounded by the usual deer fence.

On to the garden of Gary Schuld; a small garden, but packed with more than 200 different heathers and companion plants. Gary had created a wonderful spreadsheet for each heather he had growing, showing each plant's changing colours through the year.

Our last garden was the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way. (Adjacent to this garden was housed a splendid collection of bonsai – a bonus.) Being August, we didn't see much in flower but did come across a small heather planting put in by the Cascade Heather Society in 1994. Sadly, many of the trees had grown too much and were shading the heathers.

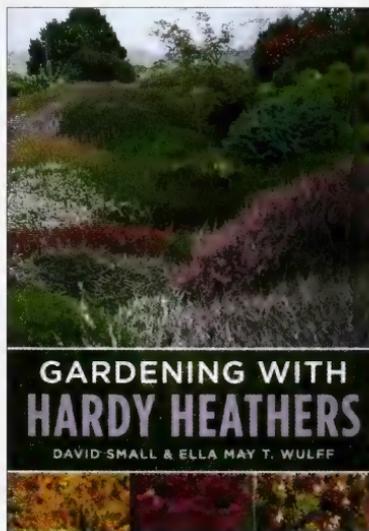
Time to say "Goodbye". We thanked Stefani and Paul and presented them with a gift. Then we dispersed to our various hotels.

Those who have been on an American heather tour will be aware how well you are looked after whilst travelling. Stefanie McRae-Dickey and her husband, Paul Dickey, stocked the coach every morning with water, fruit, cookies and bags of chocolate and sweets. The preparatory work that had been put into the tour was awesome. They had visited each place three times earlier in the year to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Ella May had also helped, and I can report that all the participants were always on time and behaved very well. But we were unable to decide where we would meet for the Fourth International Heather Conference, in 2012.

SUSIE KAY

## Recent publications

DAVID SMALL & ELLA MAY T. WULFF, 2008. *Gardening with hardy heathers*. Timber Press, Portland (Oregon) & London. £30, US\$ 39.95. ISBN 978-0-88192-782-5.



In an era when the range of books on horticultural practice and garden plants has expanded enormously to meet the demands of the gardening public it is surprising that no modern, comprehensive book devoted solely to the cultivation of hardy heathers has been forthcoming. This omission has now been rectified by David Small and Ella May Wulff who have, in this very readable and well illustrated account, filled this gap in recent horticultural literature admirably.

Interest in growing hardy heathers – a term used to cover species, hybrids and cultivars within the genera *Calluna*, *Daboecia* and *Erica* – has increased markedly in recent years particularly as a result of the formation of heather societies in the UK, Netherlands, Germany and North America. The dual authorship of this book, which provides international expertise on the cultivation of heathers, enables gardeners in both continents to share their experience and ideas on best practice for growing heathers and using them in their gardens from both a European and a transatlantic perspective.

*Gardening with hardy heathers* is divided into nine clearly defined chapters, each subdivided to cover various aspects of growing heathers. When reading this book I liked particularly the very clear format and the concise presentation of the factual information, straightforwardly written with no unnecessary verbiage or “padding” of the text.

The initial chapter, "Why grow heathers?" includes a definition of what is meant by "heathers", information on their natural habitats as well as their various uses by human beings. One small point that I noted (p. 13) concerning the appointment of The Heather Society as International Cultivar Registration Authority for Heathers needs clarification. The genus *Andromeda* was not included under the purview of The Heather Society by the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants of which I was then the Chairman. It was included at the express wish of my very good friend, the late David McClintock, who felt that *Andromeda* species and cultivars associated so well with heathers that they could be accommodated with them for registration purposes.

The final section of this chapter touches on heather jargon, "The language of heather growers", a reference – not as might be surmised an adverse reaction to finding that a much prized new cultivar has been shaved to the ground by rabbits – but to terms such as "bud-blooming" and "spring-tipped".

The chapter on "Care and cultivation" is, perhaps, the most important for gardeners growing heathers to absorb, covering climatic and soil conditions and the importance of mycorrhizal root associations as well as other basic cultivation details. In particular the need for mulching and correct pruning are emphasized, the latter particularly important as, so often, this aspect of growing heathers is either neglected or misunderstood. Detailed pruning recommendations are provided for each genus – *Calluna*, *Daboecia* and *Erica* – as well as the tree heaths like *Erica arborea* which may puzzle the would-be pruner with its woody, upright growth. The pest and disease problems – relatively few – that may affect heathers are described and ways of minimising these troubles are also suggested.

Propagation techniques are clearly described in chapter 3, with specific advice on the choice and preparation of cutting material for different genera and species of heathers. This is supplemented by details of how best to raise heathers from seed, a method of propagation that most gardeners are unlikely to have tried but very useful for those aiming to obtain new variants to grow. A very helpful chart showing the months in which ripe seed of hardy heathers may be collected is also provided.

Following this basic information for growing heathers are chapters on designing heather gardens and other features using heathers in addition to suggestions for "companion plants" suitable for integrating with plantings of heathers. Some of these might be considered unlikely to be complementary with heathers but clearly, as may be judged from some of the photographs, most blend well. Using petunias as depicted in one photograph with heathers is certainly thought-provoking !

In the past, new cultivars of heathers have usually been selected from chance seedlings or by propagating from "sports" on plants found in the wild or in gardens. More recently deliberate breeding to select new cultivars has come to the fore and chapter 6 provides potted histories of three of the outstanding breeders of recent years together with information on basic genetics to help would-be heather breeders; and, details of Plant Breeders Rights and, very importantly, how to register heather cultivar names. With well over 1,000 cultivars available this is an essential process in order to avoid confusion for both nurseries and gardeners.

The following chapter provides descriptions and illustrations of a representative selection of the hardy species, cultivars and hybrids in the three genera *Calluna*, *Daboecia* and *Erica*. Neat maps for each species show their distribution in the wild with descriptions of the selected cultivars following. A very helpful "Bloom Chart" providing flowering periods for the species and hybrids in these genera with additional information on their pH requirements is also included and reference is also made to the role of national collections and reasons why mix-ups in names sometimes occur.

Further chapters include the use of heathers as cut-flowers and for special purposes followed by appendices on sources of plants; garden designers; gardens with heather interest; a glossary of terms; and an excellent bibliography.

I thoroughly recommend this most informative and comprehensive account of the hardy heathers which can provide year-round beauty to any garden, large or small. While it has been a long time a-coming it has been well worth the wait !

CHRIS BRICKELL

JOYCE PROTHERO, 2008. *Hardy heather cultivars originating in North America*. Duncan: Vancouver Island Heather Society & North American Heather Society. CAN\$5.

Despite heathers not being native to the North American continent, it is surprising how many cultivars and hybrids have originated there – and how many of them have been properly registered.

The best of these cultivars are ably listed in this 24-page booklet which was written, in consultation with Charles Nelson, by Joyce Prothero, a Vice-President of the North American Heather Society. It was presented to each delegate at the Third International Heather Conference held in Victoria in August 2008 and provided a handy reference for the wealth of samples of American-origin heathers displayed at the conference by the noted Canadian grower and hybridizer, David Wilson.

A brief description of the habit and the progeny of 85 cultivars is given with most having a quite adequate 'thumbnail' colour picture, together with registration information.

When we visited Waquoit nurseries on Cape Cod some years ago, we noted the prolific production of *Calluna* seedlings in the sandy soil adjacent to the heather beds. It is pleasing to note that these were not ignored and that no less than six "Waquoit" cultivars are listed in the booklet.

DAVID PLUMRIDGE

GRAHAM CLARKE, 2008. *Success with growing acid-loving plants*. Lewes (Sussex): Guild of Master Craftsmen Publications Ltd. 160pp. £12.99. ISBN 978-1-86108-494-1.

As a child, the author lived in a house in the grounds of Regents Park in London, where his father was in charge of the gardens. He studied at RHS Wisley and worked in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, before becoming a garden writer and journalist.

Section One of the book establishes the basics, with a good description of what “acid soil” actually is and how it was formed, how to measure for acid and alkaline soils, how to cope with it and how to adjust the soil conditions if necessary.

There is a chapter on how to design a garden on acid soil, the right plants to grow in these conditions and their care and maintenance, plus advice on pest and disease problems.

The chapter on garden design includes a couple of pages on heathers, with an emphasis on heather and conifer gardens. However he does mention that bulbs, perennials and small shrubs – as well as ornamental grasses – can be used. There are also several attractive photographs.

Section Two contains an A to Z of annuals, biennials and bedding plants which will grow in an acid soil, quoting their preferred pH range and hardiness rating. If the plant has been awarded an Award of Garden Merit, this is also noted. A list of “popular species and varieties” is included in the information for all the plants mentioned.

There is also a chapter on trees, shrubs and climbers in this Section, where heathers and other ericaceous plants are described. The heathers listed are *Calluna*, *Daboecia*, *Erica carnea*, *E. × darleyensis*, *E. erigena* and *E. vagans*, but not *E. cinerea* or *E. ciliaris*. He is obviously not very familiar with tree heaths as he tells us that forms of *E. × darleyensis* “are often thought of as ‘tree heathers’...” – which I have never heard before.

Vegetables, fruit and herbs are not forgotten and it also includes house and conservatory plants.

All in all, I found this a very useful and attractive publication, with plenty of basic information, and good photographs to illustrate both the advice given and the plants mentioned. And, for those who garden on an alkaline soil, there is a companion volume, *Success with alkaline-loving plants*.

DAPHNE EVERETT

*Heathers* 6: 68–74 (2009).

**Supplement IX (2009) to *International register of heather names***

REGISTERED CULTIVAR NAMES

*Calluna vulgaris*

**'Wicklow Spring'** accepted

C.2008:01: registered on 24 January 2008 by K. Hutchins, Mossyrock, WA, USA.

\* Flowers double, shell pink, August–October; foliage mid-green with creamy yellow spring growth; forms compact mound.

♥ Sport of 'County Wicklow' found in 1994 by Ken Hutchins at Oregon Rhododendrons, Corvallis, USA; propagated and named by Karla Lortz.

☞ *Heather news quarterly* 31 (121): 20 (2008) [name only]; J. Prothero, *Hardy heather cultivars originating in North America*, 14 (2008).

▲ Prothero, 14 (2008).

**'Alissa Diane'** accepted

C.2008:02: registered on 24 January 2008 by K. Hutchins, Mossyrock, WA, USA.

☞ *IRHN Suppl. V (Heathers 2: 71 (2005))*; *Cascade Heather Society newsletter* Fall 2003: 3 (2003); J. Prothero, *Hardy heather cultivars originating in North America*, 3 (2008).

▲ Prothero, 3 (2008).

① Named after Ken Hutchins's daughter.

**'Annes Zwerg'** accepted

C.2008:03: registered on 6 April 2008 by K. Kramer, Edeweicht, Germany.

☞ *IRHN* 1 (1): 47; *Der Heidergarten* 50: 11 (2001); *Yearbook of The Heather Society* 2001: 57, 62; D. Small & A. Small, *Handy guide to heathers*: 12 (2001, 3rd edn).

① Named after the finder, Anne Biermann.

**'Barbara'** accepted

C.2008:04: registered on 6 April 2008 by K. Kramer, Edeweicht, Germany.

☞ *IRHN* 1 (1): 71; *Der Heidergarten* 50: 25 (2001); \_\_ 55: 33 (2004); \_\_ 56: 48 (2004); *Ericultura* 130: 24 (2003).

**'Lucie'** accepted

C.2008:05: registered on 4 May 2008 by Kurt Kramer, Edeweicht, Germany.

\* Knospenblüher; weiß; Knospe größer als bei 'Alicia'; September–November. Blattfarbe hellgrün; Wuchs aufrecht; Höhe nach 2 Jahren in 35 cm; Durchmesser in 25 cm.

♥ Sport on 'Alicia', found by Hermann Glaser (Babenhausen, Germany) in 2004.

**'Sonnenzwerg'** accepted

C.2008:06: registered on 6 April 2008 by Kurt Kramer, Edeweicht, Germany.

\* Blüten weiß; July–August. Blütentyp normal. Blattfarbe gelb; Wuchs: Höhe nach 3 Jahren in 20 cm; Durchmesser in 30 cm.

♥ Selected seedling from 'Oiseval' × 'Gold Haze', created by Kurt Kramer in 1991; selected by K. Kramer in 1993

▲ Sortenliste Hachmann (Herbst 2007), 88.

① The name means "sun pygmy" referring to foliage colour and dwarf habit.

**'Verena'** accepted

C.2008:07: registered on 6 April 2008 by Kurt Kramer, Edeweicht, Germany.

☞ *IRHN* 1 (4): 122; *Der Heidegarten* 55: 33 (2004); \_\_ 56: 49 (2004); *Ericultura* 130: 38 (2003).

**'Hebbe'** accepted

C.2008:08: registered on 12 May 2008 by Brita Johansson, Vargön, Sweden.

\* Flowers single, corolla pale lilac-pink (H11), calyx lilac pink (H11); sparse, [August]-September; foliage light green, with yellow tips, with a hint of pink, in spring; in September "astonishingly fresh yellow-green, a definite burst of color beside ordinary green-foliaged neighbors". Habit broad, upright, after 10 years 40cm tall x 50cm across (25cm x 38cm pruned September 2008).

♥ Deliberately raised in 1988 by Brita Johansson.

☞ *Heathers* 4: 16 (2007); \_\_ 5: 72 (2008).

① Hebbe was the nickname of a character in a Swedish television series about a rag-and-bone man, Albert, and his son, Herbert ("Hebbe"). It is also a deliberate pun on *Hebe*, because the plant was once mistaken for a member of that genus by visitors to the Johanssons' garden.

**'Waquoit Wild'** accepted

C.2008:09: registered on 24 June 2008 by Jane Murphy, Oxford, PA, USA.

\* Flowers single; corolla H8; August-September. Foliage medium green; habit upright; after 3 years 18ins tall, 12ins across.

♥ "Wild" seedling, found by Paul A. Murphy Jr. at Waquoit Nursery, Waquoit, MA, USA, in September 1997.

☞ *Heather notes* 18 (3): 6 (2008); J. Prothero, *Hardy heather cultivars originating in North America*, 13 (2008).

▲ *Heather notes* 18 (3): 7 (2008); Prothero, 13 (2008).

**'Little Skookum'** accepted

C.2008:10: registered on 25 August 2008 by Karla Lortz, Shelton, WA 98584-8429, USA.

\* Low-growing, creeping with swirling branches, after 7 years 6-8 ins tall, 20 ins across, grey-green foliage; flowers mauve, August-September. "One of the lowest silvers. Both 'Grey Carpet' and 'Silver Cloud' are much taller than listed here. It has a more swirling pattern than those two."

♥ Chance seedling found in her nursery and propagated by Karla Lortz.

☞ *The Journal* (local Mason County newspaper) (September 2008) [not seen].

① Pacific Northwest Native American name for a local river.

**'Sun Sprinkles'** accepted

C.2008:11: registered on 29 November 2008 by Wilson's Nursery Ltd, Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

\* Flowers white, single, August-September; foliage mid-green, with yellow-gold growth in spring; habit moderately compact, upright.

♥ Chance seedling, found and selected by David Wilson in 2006 at Wilson's Nursery, Chilliwack, Canada.

*Daboecia cantabrica*

'Graceful Muxoll' established here

\* Flowers "double", all upwards-pointing on pedicels longer than corolla; corolla cylindrical, 11mm long, 5mm wide, deep H9 at the base, shading to H2/H12 at tip; inner petals white; flowers do not drop after fading; July–October. Buds deep H9, develop to good size long before opening, adding very much to the floral display. Foliage: deep green. Habit: nearly upright, spikes a little arching; after 3 years, 25cm tall, 30cm across.

♥ Deliberately raised and selected by Jens Kjaerbol; parent plants include 'Charles Nelson' and 'White Blum'; other cultivars have also been used in production of double-flowered plants.

*Erica*

*E. cinerea* 'Yule Fire' accepted

E.2008:01: registered on 24 January 2008 by K. Hutchins, Mossyrock, WA, USA.

\* Flower single, corolla & calyx amethyst H1, June–October. Shoots with bicoloured golden ends with brilliant glossy red inner leaves, colours deepen to orange and red in winter cold; habit compact spreading, 20cm x 40cm.

♥ Sport on 'Atropurpurea', found by Ken Hutchins at Oregon Rhododendrons, Corvallis, USA, in 1994. "Distinctive bicolored foliage gives winter foliage color in areas that can not grow *Calluna*. The red is much more brilliant than other gold" bell heathers.

☞ J. Prothero, *Hardy heather cultivars originating in North America*, 18 (2008).

▲ Prothero, 18 (2008).

*E. × darleyensis* 'Pretty Polly' accepted

E.2008:02: registered on 24 January 2008 by K. Hutchins, Mossyrock, WA, USA.

\* Flowers single, 10mm x 5mm; corolla lilac pink (H11), calyx heliotrope (H12); December–May. Foliage very dark green with red tips in spring; habit neat, low, spreading mound. 25mm x 50mm.

♥ Sport on 'W. G. Pine' (?), found in 1997 by Ken Hutchins at Oregon Rhododendrons, Corvallis, USA.

☞ J. Prothero, *Hardy heather cultivars originating in North America*, 20 (2008).

*E. patersonii × perspicua* 'Crystal Palace'

established here

E.2008:03: registered on 26 March 2008 by Satoshi Miwa, Hamamatsu, Japan.

\* Flowers numerous, in clusters of 2–4 at ends of leafy shoots; corolla to 2cm long, tubular, white, translucent, 4-lobed, minutely hirsute on exterior; sepals 4, pale green, with gland-tipped marginal hairs; ovary pale green, glabrous, squat, 6-lobed, emarginate; style erect, recessed in top of ovary, glabrous, style-apex capitate, not emergent; stamens 8, included; filaments slender, erect; anthers dark, minute ( $\pm 1.2$ mm long), with slender, linear appendages ( $\pm 0.7$ mm long). Foliage mid-green; leaves in whorls of 4, linear,  $\pm 7$ mm long, with sparse, minute hairs. Habit: erect, to 0.7m in 2 years from cuttings.



♥ Chance seedling which appeared among seedlings grown from the seed supplied by Silverhill Seeds from South Africa. First flowered in February 2000 at Shiota Heath Garden, Hamamatsu, Japan. Identified as a natural hybrid of *E. patersonii* and *E. perspicua* by Dr E. G. H. Oliver. It is very close to *E. patersonii* in overall appearance having hairy, translucent, white corolla and anthers with appendages.

***E.* × *afroeuropaea* ‘Vossbarg’ accepted**

E.2008:04: registered on 4 May 2008 by K. Kramer, Edewecht, Germany.

\* Farbe der Blütenkrone rosa; Blütenkrone glockenförmig, größer als bei *E. australis*; Farbe des Kelchs rosa; Blütentyp einfach; May–June. Blattfarbe grün; Wuchs ähnlich *E. arborea*; Höhe nach 3 Jahren in 50 cm; Durchmesser in 30 cm.

♥ Type clone; selected seedling from *E. arborea* ‘Alpina’ × *E. baccans*.

① Vossbarg (= fox hill) is the name of the area around Kramer’s house.

***E. cinerea* ‘Nessie’ established here**

E.2008:05: registered on 12 May 2008 by Margareta Dahlin, Varnhem, Sweden.

\* Striking purple (H10) flowers; June–August. Foliage mid-green. Habit: spreading, after 3 years 15cm x 30cm.

♥ Wild-collected in Scotland in 2004 by Margareta Dahlin and Brita Johansson. We “took cuttings ... from a plant with a striking purple colour, hoping that it would prove hardier than cultivars from south England. So far it has behaved very well”.

① Nessie is the name of the Dahlins’ Portuguese water-dog: “Of course Loch Ness is in the background.”

***E. carnea* ‘Arro’ established here**

E.2008:06: registered on 12 May 2008 by Brita Johansson, Vargön, Sweden.

\* “It has the same habit as ‘Sneznik’, only even more compact and with a stronger flower colour. The mini-flowers are densely packed. I cut exactly five centimeters from well flowering shoots of this plant and of ‘Rosantha’. The piece of ‘Rosantha’ had 57 flowers the other one 105!”

♥ Chance seedling in Brita Johansson’s garden: it “came up near to ‘Sneznik’ 6 or 7 years ago”.

① Arro is the name of one of Mrs Johansson’s daughter’s ferrets!

***E. carnea* ‘Ryan’ accepted**

E.2008:07: registered on 3 July 2008 by J. G. Flecken, Kerkrade, Netherlands.

\* Corolla H14 magenta (paler at start in January); calyx H12 heliotrope; January–May. Foliage greenish gold; in spring and early summer striking orange/red young shoots; habit spreading, compact, after 3 years 15cm high, 30 cm across.

♥ Chance seedling found by Jos Flecken in 2004 in his garden at Kerkrade.

☞ *Ericultura* 151: 6–7 (2008)

▲ *Heathers* 6: 1-8 (this issue).

① After Ryan Doveren (born 2000), grandson of finder, son of Colette Flecken and John Doveren.

*E. cinerea* 'Ted Oliver' established here

E.2008:08: registered on 23 August 2008 by Susie Kay, Lettergesh, Ireland.

\* Bicolour, single flowers, corolla with purple base fading to white at tip; foliage deep green; habit semi-erect, parent plant in wild 40cm tall.

♥ Wild-collected at Glassillaun, Connemara, County Galway, Ireland, in June 2007 by Dr Oliver and Mrs Susie Kay; propagated by Forest Edge Nursery, England.

① After Dr E. G. H. Oliver.



Susie Kay at the spot where 'Ted Oliver' was found.

*E. × darleyensis* 'Winter Treasure' accepted

E.2008:09: registered on 29 November 2008 by Wilson's Nursery Ltd, Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

\* Corolla pink; sepals red-brown; foliage dark green; habit loose, upright; November–May; differs in having dark buds and clear pink flowers.

♥ Selected seedling from the deliberate crossing in 1999 of *E. carnea* 'Treasure Trove' × *E. erigena* 'Irish Dusk'; made, selected and named by David Wilson.

*E. arborea* 'Golden Joy' accepted

E.2008:10: registered on 29 November 2008 by Wilson's Nursery Ltd, Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

\* Flowers white, March–May. Foliage yellow-gold, habit upright; it is a very nice bright yellow and tightly upright and distinct from 'Estrella Gold'; more floriferous than 'Albert's Gold' and easier to propagate.

## NAMES NEW TO THE ICRA

Unless otherwise indicated names are **accepted**. Further details, if available, can be obtained from the Registrar. [pbr = plant breeder's rights]

### *Calluna*

'99CK7' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 111 (2007).

'99CK9' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 111 (2007)

'Agneta' : ☞ *Beauty-ladies EUROPLANT Candere GmbH catalogue* (pdf) 2008: 9.

Yellow foliage; white bud-bloomer with remarkably long upright shoots.

'Anja' : ☞ *Beauty-ladies EUROPLANT Candere GmbH catalogue* (pdf) 2008: 9.

Yellow foliage; white bud-bloomer with a slightly flat habit; good shelf-life.

'Anke Elisabeth' : ☞ *Blatt für Sortenwesen* 38 heft 5: 193 (May 2005).

Originally registered by Johannes van Leuven as 'Anke-Lisa' (January 2003, reg. no. 191); pbr granted on 15 April 2005 (Bundessortenamt website accessed 21 December 2005).

'Antje' : ☞ *Beauty-ladies EUROPLANT Candere GmbH catalogue* (pdf) 2008: 9.

Yellow foliage; white bud-bloomer; upright growth, appealing habit.

'Carmen Neu' : ☞ <http://www.heidejungpflanzen.de/pflanzen.html>.

'Cezilia' : CLL347; pbr applied for 30 August 2006; granted 9 May 2008.

'CKLAV' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 112 (2007).

'CKLAVLI' : CLL 271; pbr applied for 15 September 2003; granted 7 August 2006.

'CKPURPINK 2' : CLL 352; pbr applied for 1 September 2006; granted 9 May 2008: no. 8123.

'CKRED 3' : CLL 257; pbr applied for 15 September 2003; granted 7 August 2006.

'CKREDHOPE' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 112 (2007).

'CKWHIGLOW' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 112 (2007).

'CKWHILON' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 112 (2007).

'CKYELGR : CLL270; pbr applied for 15 September 2003; granted 7 August 2006.

'Darkness' : **error** for 'Darkness'

[http://www.baumschule-nielsen.de/product\\_info.php/info/p361\\_Calluna-vulgaris--Darkness-.html](http://www.baumschule-nielsen.de/product_info.php/info/p361_Calluna-vulgaris--Darkness-.html) [accessed 22 December 2007].

GARDENGIRLS™ : **registered trademark** for bud-flowering clone marketed by Kurt Kramer.

[http://www.gardengirls.de/index.html?con=/gardengirls/index\\_en.html](http://www.gardengirls.de/index.html?con=/gardengirls/index_en.html)

'Hesse' : **not established**

'Isabella Mittrach'

Bud-bloomer; ruby to amethyst (RHS 61A--71A); Sept.–Dec.; foliage dark green; habit erect. Sport on 'Amethyst' found in 2003 by Frank Mittrach (Görlitz, Germany).

'Josi' : ☞ Sortenliste 2008/2009 Husmann-Jungpflanzen

Double, bright red flowers, Aug–Sept. Erect habit.

JYSK NATURFORM: **trade designation** : ☞ <http://www.lyngplanter.dk/calluna.htm>

'Kerstin Jacke' : **uncertain** (may be 'Pink Kerstin') : ☞ Vergleichsanbau bei Calluna vulgaris

(2. Versuchsjahr) ... Versuche im deutschen Gartenbau.

'Kongenshus' : ☞ <http://www.lyngplanter.dk/calluna.htm>

Naturform fra Kongenshus Hede. Lys violetrøde blomster; Aug–Sept. Tæt vækst.

'Krebs01' : CLL162; pbr applied for 3 September 2001; granted 2 July 2003.

'Krebs02' : CLL163; pbr applied for 3 September 2001; granted 5 May 2003.

'KRKN 302 WE' : CLL206; pbr applied for 1 September 2002; granted 8 November 2004.

'Low White' : <http://www.lyngplanter.dk/calluna.htm>

Hvide blomster Augt–Oct. Grønt løv med svag blåligt skær. Lav, flad vækst, ca. 10 x 30 cm.

'Lunolila' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 111 (2007).

'Lunorosa' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 111 (2007).

'Lunospätweiss' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 112 (2007).

'Lunoweiss' : ☞ CPVO annual report, 111 (2007).

'Mariska' : **rejected** (original name 'Marisha') : ☞ *Beauty-ladies EUROPLANT Canders GmbH catalogue* (pdf) 2008: 11.

'Pink Ines' CLL 339; pbr applied for 3 February 2006; granted 23 May 2008.

'Pink Kerstin' : CLL 338; pbr applied for 3 February 2006; granted 23 May 2008.

'Selly' : ☞ *Beauty-ladies EUROPLANT Canders GmbH catalogue* (pdf) 2008: 7.

Redbud-bloomer, upright-growing, with good shelf-life and strong colour.

'Siska' : ☞ *Beauty-ladies EUROPLANT Canders GmbH catalogue* (pdf) 2008: 7.

Dark red bud-bloomer, upright-growing with strikingly dense and good bud clusters.

'Veluwe' : ☞ *Beauty-ladies EUROPLANT Canders GmbH catalogue* (pdf) 2008: 13.

White bud-bloomer, blooms late and enjoys an excellent shelf-life.

'Venca' : **rejected** (original name 'Venka') : ☞ *Beauty-ladies EUROPLANT Canders GmbH catalogue* (pdf) 2008: 13.

Semi-upright, white bud-bloomer for an early retailing season.

'W12' : CLL 278; pbr applied for 30 September 2003; granted 1 April 2008.

'W13' : CLL 279; pbr applied for 30 September 2003; granted 1 April 2008.

## Daboecia

'Sandra' : ☞ *Blatt für Sortenwesen* 2008 heft 6: 111.

'Sarah' : ☞ *Blatt für Sortenwesen* 2008 heft 6: 111.

## Erica

*E. x darleyensis* 'Ilsengold' : ☞ *Blatt für Sortenwesen* 2008 heft 6: 111.

*E. x darleyensis* 'Lenigold' : ☞ *Blatt für Sortenwesen* 2008 heft 4: 77.

*E. x darleyensis* 'Yellow Perfection' : **rejected** : ☞ Heather Society Plant-Ordering Service / Heather's Heide June 2007 list

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**All material for the 2010 issue of the *Yearbook of The Heather Society* must reach the Editor not later than 31 October 2009.**

**Articles may be submitted by e-mail.**

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Website: [www.heathersociety.org](http://www.heathersociety.org)