

Editorial

Preserving and Adapting

Davidsonia has now completed 3 years since publication was resumed in 2002. The response has been very positive, due in large part to the quality of papers that have come our way and the outstanding illustrations that Daniel Mosquin and, most recently, Eric La Fountaine have prepared. The down side is that high quality publication is expensive, particularly when colour illustrations are essential to success. **Davidsonia** has relatively few paying subscribers - not a surprise for a small journal in any discipline - so our cost recovery does not meet our financial needs. Starting with the January 2005 issue, **Davidsonia** will be an e-journal and will print only the necessary paper copies to send to subscribers. This will mean a slight change in format and, I fear, size, but the result will be that we can afford to stay in business and will be able to serve the community at considerably less cost. The papers published will continue to be peer-reviewed. The new publication form will allow us to publish colour illustrations within the text of the article rather than as centrefolds and will allow us to publish longer papers that a reader can download in the published form. The prospects indeed seem bright.

I note with sadness that The Karaca Arboretum may cease publication of its journal, The Karaca Arboretum Magazine, in 2005. If this turns out to be true, the botanical garden and plant science communities will have lost a valuable resource that has made its mission to give wider circulation to the botany of Turkey. I recall in the early days of *Flora Europaea* that its editors saw inclusion of the Turkish flora as essential to giving the enterprise proper perspective. We can only hope for a last minute resurrection.

Periodically, it seems timely to re-publish a paper with an up dating commentary. Such is the case with Art Kruckeberg's 1979 paper on serpentine flora of BC. Gary Lewis, a recent graduate from the UBC Botany depart-

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ment, who did his M.Sc. thesis research on the Tulameen serpentine system, graciously agreed to write the commentary that precedes the Kruckeberg reprint. The major interest in heavy metal ecology and ecosystem regeneration after mining and other disturbance points to future long-term interest in natural systems that are characterized by what in human-damaged systems would be called “polluted soil”. However, the presence of high levels of heavy metals attracts the mining prospector and the risk of ecosystem loss must be countered by increased understanding of serpentine soils and their seemingly (genetically) well-adapted flora. As I have mentioned in previous editorials, **Davidsonia** plans to publish reviews of as many endangered ecosystems as we can attract authors to submit their work to us. The broad interest may be worldwide, but the best researchers to understand local situations are those with immediate access to their study sites. I hope that **Davidsonia** can contribute to any initiative that can enhance our understanding of serpentine and other systems that are endangered by human encroachment, and maybe by rapid climate change.