

Aberdeen 2010



The SRGC show in Aberdeen is always very well supported by local members, who bring in most of the exhibits. The quality of these entries is always very high and there is huge enthusiasm for joining in. I suspect a bit of bullying and coercion by Mrs. Showsec. Section 2 was refreshingly full, reflecting the number of novice exhibitors, although if a grower only shows at Aberdeen he or she will be able to remain a novice for several years unless they win first prizes with every plant. Complimenting the local members, in both senses of the word are the enthusiasts from further afield. For many this means a drive up the A90 via Dundee and Perth. In mid May the countryside is beautiful. Fresh green leaves on trees and hedges; myriads of dandelions on the roadside; late flowering daffodils; Rhododendrons; fields of chrome yellow Rapeseed etc. Uniquely alongside the A90 north of Brechin there are fields of daffodils. I suspect the farmer moves them around but this year they were easily seen from the road. Once the sea is glimpsed shimmering south of Stonehaven you begin to feel the tingle in the bones caused by the radioactive granite of the eponymous city! The last bit of the drive along South Anderson Drive gives you a taste of the city's floral beauty. Gardens, roundabouts and roadsides bursting with flowers and bushes lift the senses and prepare you for the floral treats in the show.



Below the spire of Ruthrieston West Church rises above an enormous berberis bush.



Show secretary Ian hides behind a huge Trillium grandiflorum flore plena as exhibitors stage their plants and below John Lupton tidies up an entry while Mike guards the door





The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh staged an especially wonderful exhibit. Their new backing picture perfectly sets off the plants. They were awarded a Gold Medal for the display, a Professional Forrest Medal for the Large *Lewisia cotyledon* in the centre [at the right of the picture above] and a Certificate of Merit for the apricot *Lewisia cotyledon* alongside. Well done John, Elspeth & Struan.



YES. These two plants are as big as they look!

The Forrest medal was won by Fred Hunt with a great *Lewisia*. This time - *L. columbiana* 'George Henley', a massive plant with hundreds of perfect magenta flowers was the winner. Fred has shown this plant at Aberdeen for many years. I tried to find out who George is and was directed by Google to a site for an actress Georgie Henley who appeared in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. There seem to be several George Henleys in the UK. I'd like to know about our one!



It was a good year for American plants. Here are *Uvularia grandiflora* and *Trillium grandiflorum* flore plena from the eastern mountains.



Uvularia grandiflora



Trillium grandiflorum flore plena, a plant always connected to Harold Esslemont.

Tiarella cordifolia 'Cygnet' is a fine selection of the species. Colloquially in the USA it is known as the Allegheny Foamflower - sounds like a cowgirl in a bath to me! It is grown as a woodland plant. They are closely related to *Heuchera* and will hybridise with the *Heucheras*. Imagine a plant with flowers like these on top of some of the new fabulous *Heuchera* foliage.



Pteridophyllum racemosum is a species of flowering plant endemic to Japan. It is the only species in the mono-generic family Pteridophyllaceae, which is sometimes treated as a subfamily of Papaveraceae, so

says Wikipedia. At Aberdeen, possibly the Scottish city closest to Japan it was superb!



Not to be outdone the Himalaya also provided a great plant, *Androsace studiosorum* 'Doksa' which has won Forrest for Cyril in the past. The type species is pink.



And Scotland? How about Nick Boss's *Silene acaulis* in a 15inch pan. Incredible!



The plant beside it is in a 3 inch pot.

Also from Scotland Margaret & Henry Taylor's Paris quadrifolia.



Stan da Prato's Rhododendron



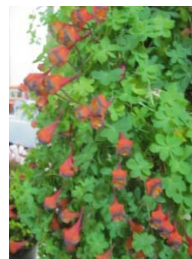
Anne and Viv Chambers' Gentiana acaulis



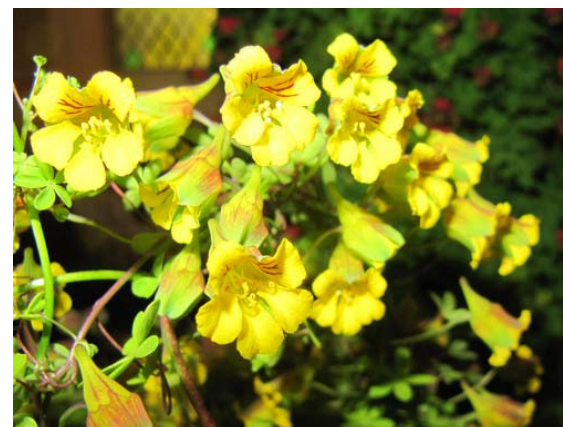
Magnificent! We could give this one a 'Farrer' medal.

Sometimes bad luck just wallops into you: John Lupton had one of the best 3 pan entries in the show but because the schedule asked for 3 pans of the same species these 3 different species of Tropaeolum had to be disqualified. None the less they are exquisite plants and very well grown and they show the range of variation in Tropaeolums [Tropaeola?].

They sound like a Circus act. 'Ladies and gentlemen< please give a big hand for the 'Flying Tropaeolums''. Super plants John.



Tropaeolum brachyceras [yellow] also below, speciosum [red], azureum [blue].



The following pictures give you an idea of just how good the show was. Flowers and folk from all over.....



I spy with my little eye..... something beginning with blue!



They're blue ... but which pot does she mean?



No Fred! I said Blue.





Royal Botanic Garden Page

Lewisia cotyledon, *Hyacinthoides vincentina*, *Iris iberica* ssp *lycotis* [left]

Iris acutiloba ssp.*longipetala*, *Calanthe tricarinata*, Elspeth and Ian





Aeonium arboreum atropurpureum nigrum
'Schwarzkopf' – take me back to Tenerife,
Hans! Methinks this is a severe disease... a
purple-black and black head. Hard to beat for
show and shine.



Centaurea lagascana a Spaniard from M&HT
in Invergowrie



*Leiophyllum
buxifolium
nanum*, a
fabulous
ericaceous
plant shown
by Cyril
Lafong



Myosotis eximea from New Zealand and
South American *Phaiophleps biflora*



Daphne calcicola also from Cyril. And *Dryas
drummondii* below





Calochortus tolmei

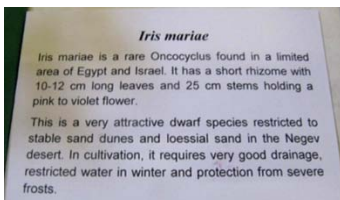


**Leucocoryne
coquimbensis**

**A liliaceous plant from
Chile, known as 'Glory
of the Sun'**



Primula handelliana



Iris mariae

Iris mariae is a rare *Oncocyclus* found in a limited area of Egypt and Israel. It has a short rhizome with 10-12 cm long leaves and 25 cm stems holding a pink to violet flower.

This is a very attractive dwarf species restricted to stable sand dunes and loessial sand in the Negev desert. In cultivation, it requires very good drainage, restricted water in winter and protection from severe frosts.



Allium akaka



**Pimula gemmifera var
monantha**



Iris mariae



**Incarvillea himalayensis
Frank Ludlow**



**Fritillaria pyrenaica
'Picos Form'**



With no space to show everything, this page has more but reduced in size pictures. If you want to see the plants in more detail, get yourself along to an SRGC show. The next one is in the autumn. In the meantime you can apply to attend Alpines 2011 in Nottingham. It promises to be a great event. I am looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones. Join us there!
Sandy Leven