



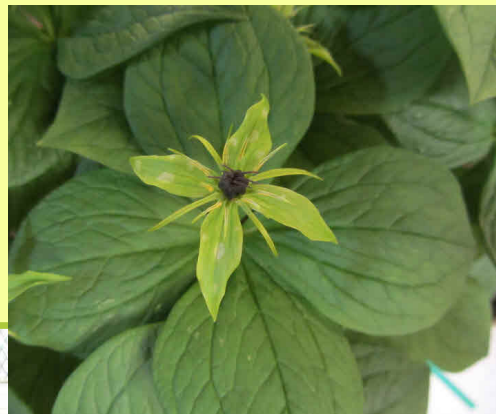
The Scottish Rock Garden Club SHOW REPORTS Aberdeen 2011



Forrest Medal Best Plant in the Show

Paris quadrifolia

shown Margaret & Henry Taylor



Best Plant from a New Exhibitor labelled *Silene* with no species name but to me it looks like a *Lychnis* was shown by Graeme Strachan. Over the years Henry and Margaret have won several Forrest medals and innumerable Gold Medal bars. Still the pleasure Graeme got on seeing his plant win his first, First Prize at an SRGC and the subsequent Best New Exhibitor Prize gave him just about as much pleasure! Well Done Graeme on to greater heights next year!



The granite city suddenly appears over a hill as you approach from the south. The drive from Dunblane to Aberdeen is one of the prettiest I make to go to an SRGC show. Going South there is motorway which is easy to drive on but gets a little monotonous because the hard shoulder is always there and you know you just cannot stop but travelling North via Perth along the A9 and onto the A90 to Dundee and Aberdeen the route is dual carriageway and passes through extremely diverse countryside. Rolling Hills frame the views for most of the way until eventually the Grampian mountains form the western horizon. The green valleys, of Perthshire and Angus are amongst the most fertile and productive in the country.

Eventually just south of Stonehaven you catch the first glimmer of the sea. I love to see the sea. Dunblane is about as far from the seaside as any place in Scotland [maybe Pitlochry is further!]. On past ASDA and some housing estates and Aberdeen greets you. Shining in the morning sun, the granite houses always look solid and permanent. Nearly every house has a good garden; lots of interest there, if you have time to wander about. That is why I always look forward to driving to Aberdeen and you might just see the fields of Daffodils in Kincardineshire on the way up. Just keep below the limit and watch out for the speed cameras!



**SRGC
Folk**

Whichever show you go to you can be sure to find a number of fellow members suffering from Haemadoots. This condition leads them to query rational decisions made by the judges earlier in the day. These members are not certain that the judges made the correct decisions in every case!

The RBG Ed Way

Once again John Mitchell and Elspeth Mackintosh staged a Gold Medal winning display for the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, using some superb plants. My favourite was *Weldenia candida* which I tried to grow many years ago but lost during a cold winter. That's one of my excuses for not looking after a plant properly . As usual the display beautifully laid out .

Many thanks to the Regius Keeper for allowing the plants to come to our show.



Calanthe tricarinata is an outstanding orchid with a wide distribution from the Himalayas, northeast India, southern and western China to Japan and Taiwan, on damp grassy banks in mixed forests, in clumps on fallen, rotting tree trunks in open forests, on steep open grassy slopes and in

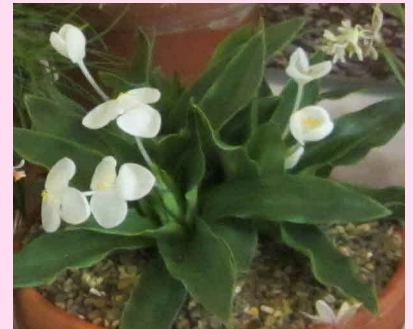


bamboo scrub at elevations of 1500 to 3300 m. In the garden it can be grown in the same situations as hostas and ferns. It has semi evergreen pseudo-bulbs. The old leaves should be removed in

the spring. The flower spikes emerge before the leaves fully open. Most species are fully hardy in this country. The bold maroon patch on the lips sets off the typical lime green orchid flowers. Its flower stems look like giant *Orchis* flowers.

A wonderful plant I would love to grow!

As you can see ***Weldenia candida*** is a beautiful plant. There is only one species of *Weldenia*. On the display it was almost lost behind the more floriferous white rhodohypoxis. The opening buds look like a 3 petalled crocus which when open transform into pristine white *Tradescantia* [wandering sailor] flowers. *Weldenia candida* is tuberous-rooted from volcanic slopes and craters, in alpine meadows, and in clearings in pine forest, at altitudes of 2,400 to 4,000m in the mountains of Guatemala and Mexico. Discovered in 1829 , it was named in honour of Baron Ludwig von Welden (1780-1853), a Master of Ordinance in the Austrian army.



3 PAN WONDERFUL

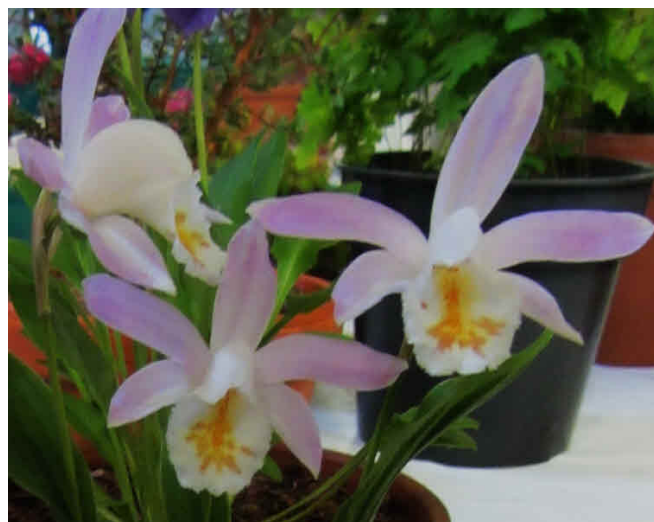
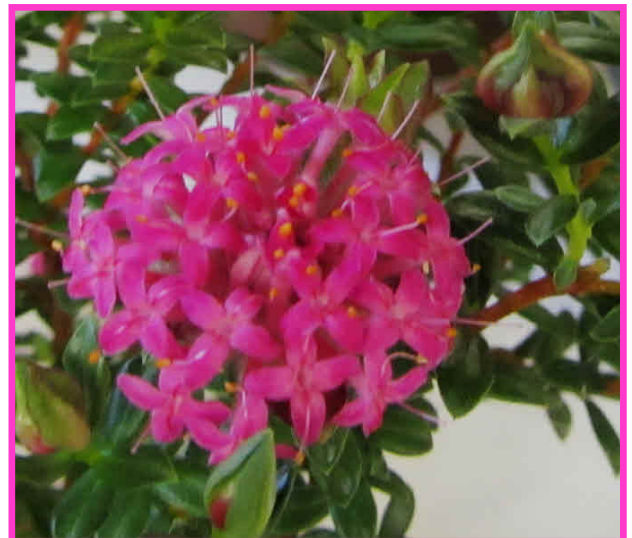


You tend to think of blue poppies as big plants for the herbaceous border but **Meconopsis delavayi** is only a few inches tall and grows well in a north facing trough, where it can stay cool away from direct summer sunlight. These plants were in Cyril's 3 pan entry which won the Harold Esselmont prize



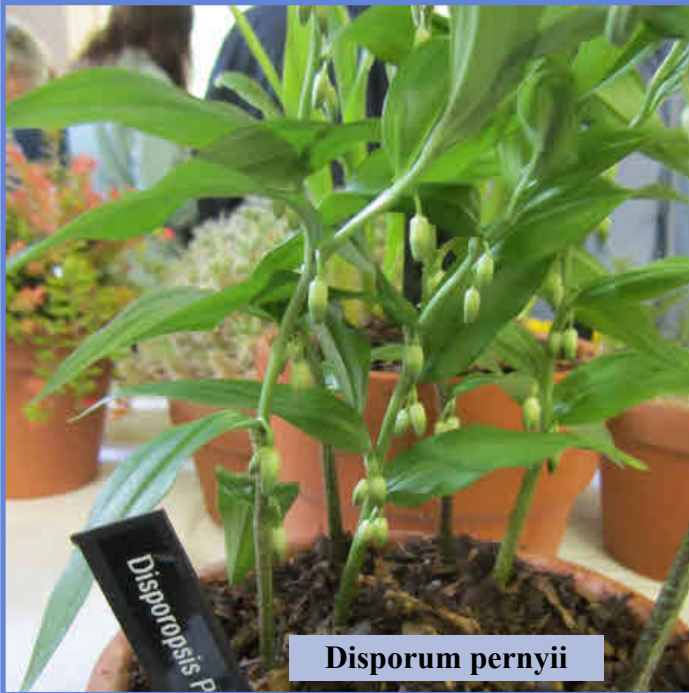
Pimelia ferruginea

On first glance I took this for a plant of *rhododendron ferrugineum* solely because of the epithet and the nice pink flowers. Closer attention revealed Daphne like flowers in clusters. Reading Cyril's notes enlightened me much more. *Pimelia ferruginea* is a member of the Thymelaeaceae from coastal areas of south western Australia in sand dunes and rocky soils. There are 80 members in the Genus mostly from Australia but some from the islands to the north and some from New Zealand. Cyril says it will grow in a range of soil types as long as the drainage is reasonable. ~it might not be bone hardy. Cuttings of firm current season's growth usually strike reliably



Pleione hookeriana grows over a wide area from Nepal to south china on mossy tree branches in rhododendron forest between 1600 & 4200m. In cultivation it is grown in a mixture of open mossy / bark compost and kept cold [short of freezing] over winter until April or May. It needs to be started into growth with warmth and humidity. It is given a dilute feed occasionally to compensate for the shorter growing season in cultivation.

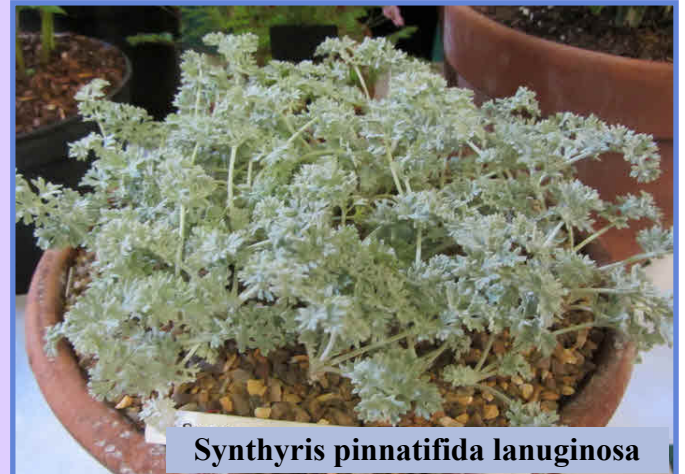
Leaves!



Disporum pernyi



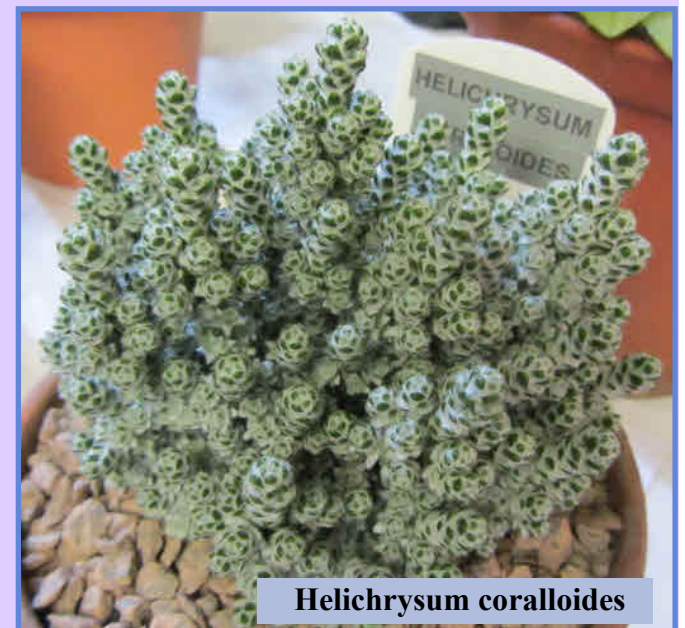
Maianthemum yakushimanum



Synthyris pinnatifida lanuginosa



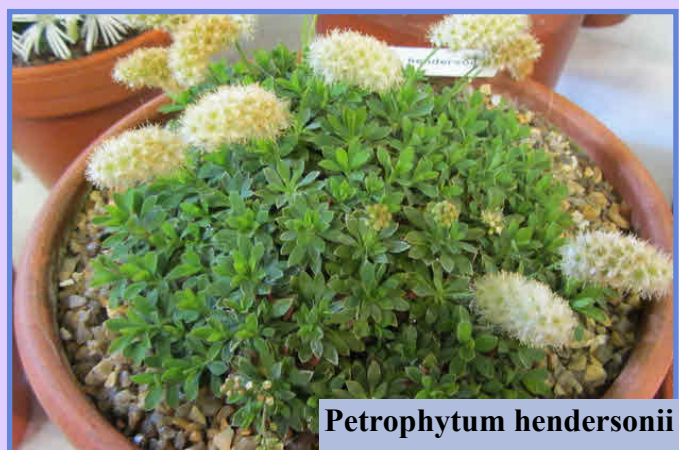
Kelseya uniflora



Helichrysum coralloides



Sam Sutherland's Silene acaulis



Petrophytum hendersonii

Similar but DIFFERENT

Polygonatum hookeri has been in cultivation for a long time. ~It has a wide distribution through the Himalayas and into China.



Polygonatum graminifolium came into cultivation more recently. A miniature, alpine species, it was collected by Kit Grey-Wilson in 1973 in alpine meadows in Nepal.



The plants are very similar. To me *P. graminifolium* has longer narrower leaves and longer tubular flowers. Both were more or less prostrate in their pans.

It was nice to see something new.

The other was a hybrid named Karl Heinz, [*C. calceolus* x *C. cordigerum*]. It

was raised in Germany by Cypripedium World Champion, Mr Werner Frosch in Germany in 1990. Two very beautiful plants.



Primula bella from Ian & Carole Bainbridge, grown from seed collected in Szechuan by Vojtec Holubek.. It grows in among boulders on mountain slopes; 3700-4800 m.. It was collected by Frank Kingdon-Ward and by George Forrest.

A wee stoater!

Angela's Orchids



**Cypripedium
'Emil'**

Angela Townsley showed two well grown pans of Cypripediums, to win the Brian Bull Trophy, one, 'Emil', with very twisted maroon petals and maroon splotched yellow

pouches was wrongly labelled *C. macranthos*. I had only seen purple versions of this species [like the one which won a Certificate of Merit for Angela], so it



**Cypripedium
'Karl Heinz'**



Cymbalaria muralis



Sedum spathulifolium

Sempervivums and a Jovibarba



S. King George



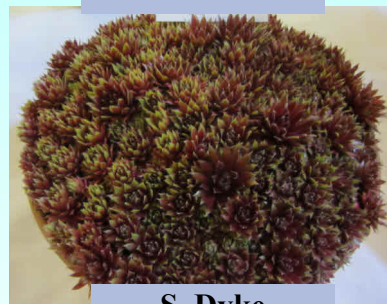
S. Engel's Rubin



S. un-named



S. arachnoideum



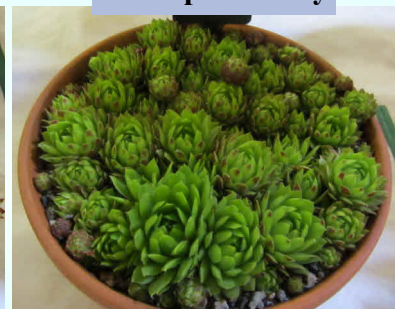
S. Dyke



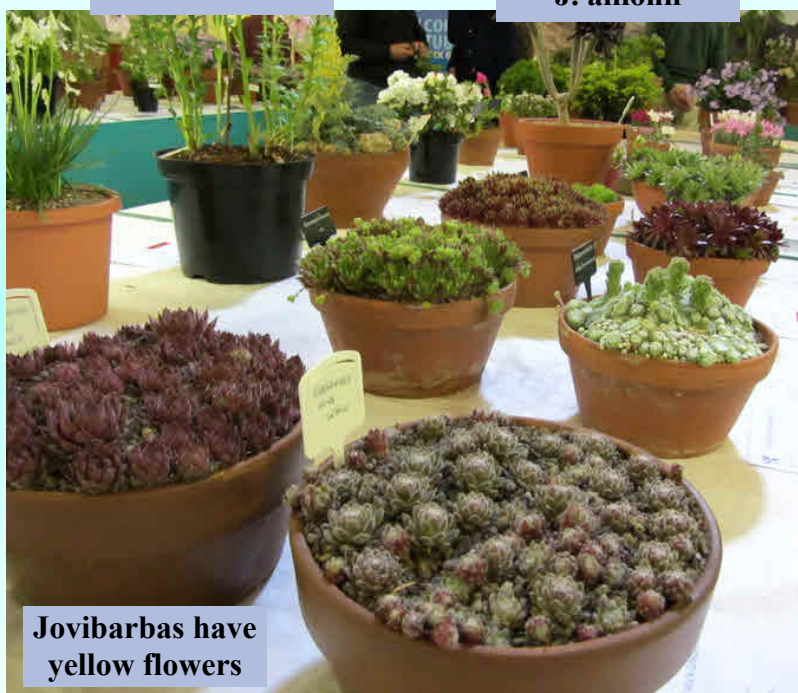
S. Purple Beauty



S. imbricatum



J. allionii



Jovibarbas have yellow flowers

Certificates of Merit



Certificates of Merit are awarded to plants of high quality. Often they are plants which are 'runners up' to the Forrest. Angela Townsley's *Cyripedium macranthos* was stupendous. Just look at those plump flowers on strong stems crouching there!



Two others went to Nick Boss. The first for *Corydalis tomentella*, a volcano of yellow flowers erupting over a silvery blue mountain of foliage.



Nick's second Certificate of Merit was awarded to his fabulous *Saxifraga cebennensis*



Aster alpinus 'Dark Beauty'



BEST PRIMULA
Mike Hopkins'
Primula japonica



**Best Plant in Section II was Glenn Gordon's
*Trillium grandiflorum flore plena***



**Ropsemary Lupton's delicate
Leiophyllum buxifolium var. *hugerii***



Lois Thompson's *Primula sieboldii* was fabulous enough to have won Best Primula but it was just past its best.



***Zaluszienskya* 'Semonkong'**



Parahebe catarractae

