

Edinburgh Show

It seemed as if all the gardeners in South Edinburgh were waiting for the show. The show was well supported by exhibitors, especially from the Edinburgh Group and the nursery room seemed to be full from 9am onwards. Lots of empty trays for the nursery folk means good business and more importantly for the gardeners it means we have lots of new treasures to

fund places for in our gardens. Winter must be a difficult time for the trade as few people will be buying rock plants. It is good that growers and gardeners can meet at the shows. Everyone benefits!



It was good to see Show Secretary and Past SRGC President Ian Bainbridge [actually his is a joint position with his wife Carole] back to full strength. Here he seems to be singing, 'Here we are again!' accompanied by Maggi Young [also a joint Show Secretary with husband, Past SRGC President Ian! Maybe they are singing 'Let's change partners

and judge'!



Cyril won the Forrest medal with his splendid Androsace muscoidea. When he brought his plants to the show he thought one of his other Androsaces might be the Forrest medal winner. In the three pan class the muscoidea is on the right and Androsace vandellii is nearest Cyril. His other A. vandellii was in another class. To be honest that plant was my favourite in the show.



Meeting friends is one of the most important parts of the show scene. Here Julia Corden from the **Explorer's Garden** in Pitlochry is with SRGC President Ian Christie. The SRGC holds regular events in the garden and has sponsored the peat garden there. If you haven't been to the Explorer's Garden why not go this spring. Check out the Theatre programme as well as partaking of a fine meal or snack in the theatre restaurant. This is not an advert it is sound advice from a rock gardener who has loved all these aspects of Pitlochry. Still not tempted? There is a distillery and wonderful walks as well.

People and Plants

Harley is not stealing this plant. The picture was taken during judging and Harley was intrigued by the delicately small plant of *Erythronium multiscapoideum*. You can see it did not make it to the discussion and vote for the Forrest medal which as I said above came down to a decision between two of Cyril's *Androsaces*.



This is a view of the display mounted by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. As I have written before it is great that the RBG E. in the form of John, Elspeth, aided by Struan, bring these excellent plants to enhance our shows. I will put a bigger picture later



The early morning sun caught the water droplets on David & Carol Shaw's fine *Sempervivum*. They work hard bringing the books to the shows. Please support them and the club by buying your books from them



My selection of fine plants from the show



Two quite different
Primulas from
Tom Green

P. 'Johanna'
&
P. 'Pink Aire'



Rhododendron
'Snipe'

from Stan da
Prato and
Primula elatior
from Mike Hicks
[section 2]

Lewisia
tweedyi in
yellow and
pink forms. Size
matters to win
the class but
both are
beautiful



Fritillaria davisii

named for
Peter Davis
from the RBG
Ed who
travelled far in
the middle east
in search of
bulbous plants.

Hepatica
americana





Two fabulous cushions from Sue and Hector Riddell
Draba bertolonii was lifted from the garden!
Saxifraga georgei is Himalayan and was lifted from a trough



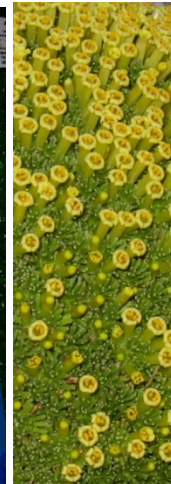
The Jubilee [i.e. Jubilee in 93] six pan classes have proved very popular over the years and they enable exhibitors to show a wide range of plants. Just look at the 18 plants here. Everyone is different and interestingly there is only one pan of bulbs!



Within the six pan classes it was easy to compare two forms of *Paraquilegia*. ~in the centre is the normal form *P. anemonoides* and on the left another form of it with smaller whiter flowers. Discussing this e came to the conclusion that the white one may be a form known as '*microphylla*'. The *Pteridophyllum racemosum* is there because I want to thank Mr Howie my old Latin teacher for forcing me to understand what little Latin I do.



I like to see the plants in the show in different associations than that planned by the show schedule. When the Primulas are lined up side by side they can be seen to their best individual advantage but occasionally happenstance sets two together to their mutual advantage.



At Hexham I commented on the **Benthamiella nordenkjoldii** which was Yellow. Here Cyril shows a white flowered B.n. and the yellow flowered **Benthamiella patagonica**, a pan of which was at Hexham. 2 shows; 3 species of a rarely grown genus.



We all like to see new plants and different forms of those we know: if it weren't for those who grow from seed the shows, plant stalls and our gardens would be infinitely poorer. From The left these 'seed exhibits' are from Margaret & Henry Taylor, Cyril Lafong and John Lee. **Primula farinosa**, right





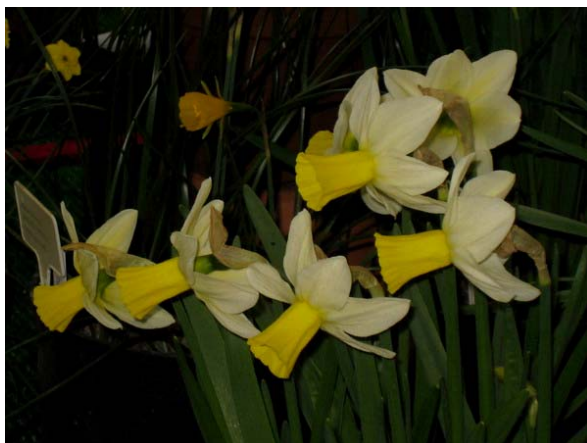
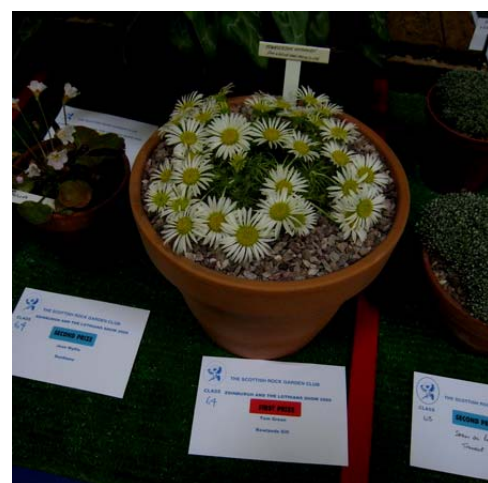
The most beautiful plant in the show to my mind was *Jeffersonia dubia alba*, grown from seed by Cyril; below, with Peter Semple



Primula auricula albocincta beautifully presented by the Invergowrie Taylors



Mike Hicks from Ratho won the bronze medal for most points in Section II. Here is his Jubilee B winning entry. Pity he had to compete with the white radiator and the red wall! Space was limited because of the good entry but the plants would benefit from better lay out. Two big ones at the back and the smaller ones in a semi-circle in front, perhaps? Well done Mike, keep up the good work. The more you show the more you will enjoy it and the more friends you will make.





Gems from
the
RBG



At the end of the day everything has to be packed up and taken home. Then the plants are replanted or pots put back in the frames or alpine houses, watered if necessary and the whole business starts again in a fortnight! See ya then!

See Rock Gardeners
.....See