



The Scottish Rock Garden Club SHOW REPORTS Edinburgh 2011



2 Forrest Medals!

Forrest Medal

Best Plant in the Show

Narcissus obesus 'Lee Martin form'
shown by **Bill Robinson**



Bill Robinson

Professional Forrest Medal Best Plant on a Trade or Profes- sional display

Iris willmottiana
shown by the Royal Botanic
Garden Edinburgh



John Mitchell





It is unusual for two Forrest medals to be awarded at a show because there can only be one Best plant. However the powers that be foresaw that sometimes there might be a plant in the non-competitive classes which deserved special recognition. So at Edinburgh, Bill Robinson's *Narcissus obovatus* 'Lee Martin Form' was judged to be the best plant in the competitive classes while the *Iris willmottiana* on the RBGE display was also outstanding so it was awarded a Professional

Forrest Medal. The RBGE has supported the SRGC with excellent displays at most shows. Many thanks to the Regius Keeper and to John and Elspeth who stage the displays for the RBGE



Views of the show hall.

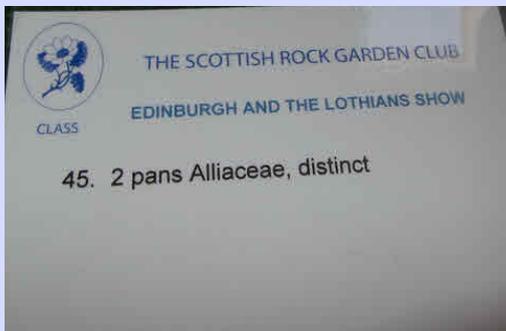
Multihued bulbs

Cyril Lafong staged a wonderful entry of 3 pans of Tecophiea. [T. Cyanocrocus, T.c leichlinii and T.c. Violaceae]. Many gardeners have difficulty in staging a small pan of Tecs. and recent hard winters have decimated some members stocks of the bulbs. To get pans this big you need to keep your bulbs growing and increasing for about a decade. Quite remarkable. I can't imagine what it must be like to see it growing in the wild in Chile, where its is now very rare.

NEW FAMILIES

This year we judges had to adapt to the fact that the Club has adopted a new revision of plant families, which meang that certain well known genera have 'moved'.

Gone is Amaryllidaceae even for Amaryllis! Its members like Narcissus, Galanthus and Tecophilea are now in Alliaceae where they join Allium, which was formerly in the Liliaceae.



Some Liliaceae like, Erythronium, Lilium, Fritillaria and Tulipa remain with others in the Lily family but a huge number are now in Asparagaceae. which family now includes Narcissus, Chionodoxa, Hosta, Muscari and Scilla amongst others. I was just getting used to Trillium moving from Liliaceae to Trilliaceae when I now find they are in Melanthiaceae along with Veratrum, Ypsilandra and Scolioipus

Perhaps we are getting much too botanically correct for a flower show! Still if it was only that we had to learn something new, that would be OK but it is much more difficult to relearn something you thoughhyou already knew.

Maybe sometime in the future the classes will be based on genera rather than on families. I realise Classification is vitally important but it can be confusing.

Lets hope it doesn't become like the Driving Test and we don't get a written test before we are allowed to show plants



Muscari and Scilla are now the class for 2 Pans Asparai cegcg

3 entries - 1: good plants



1,2,3, it's as easy as A,B,C..... Went the song.....but not when you are judging six pan classes. These pictures show you just how good were the first second and third entries in the 6 pan class. The winning entry from Cyril featured plants of 6 different genera. *Trillium rivale*, *Pulsatilla* 'Budapest' seedling, *Shortia uniflora kantuense*, *Androsace muscoidea*, *Draba dedeana* and *Primula yuparensis alba*.



Draba dedeana



Last year *Jeffersonia dubia alba* won the Forrest medal for Cyril. While still in excellent condition I think it had fewer flowers than last year. Since the flowers are so fleeting it is very difficult to get it perfect for a show. I remember it being at Stirling one year. There are two members of the genus, *J. diphylla* from Eastern USA and this one *J. dubia* from Manchuria. Unlikely at it may seem *Jeffersonia* is a member of the Berberidaceae. It was named in honour of US President Thomas Jefferson. Traditional Chinese medicine uses *Jeffersonia dubia* for strengthening the stomach and bringing down fevers.

Bulbs around the World



Fritillaria from Duschambe in Tajikistan, F. Michailowskii from Turkey, Erythronium 'Ardovie Bliss' from Dundee, E. Sibiricum from

Rusia and Gagea fibrosa from the eastern end of the Mediterranean to the Caucasus, F. tortifolia barlekensis from China. Here are plants from all over the world and all grown here in Scotland. Some need more protection than others. I wrote that Erythronium came from Dundee; really it is a hybrid of E. hendersonii which occurred in the garden of Betty Jusker in the Dundee suburb of Monifieth



NEW, RARE or DIFFICULT

So here are some beauties from Edinburgh grown by resourceful, enterprising and superb gardeners!



Geoff Hill's *Primula grignensis*

In 1998 two new species of *Primula* were described from plants growing on dolomitic limestone rocks in the southern Italian Alps. *P. grignensis* and *P. recubariensis* are both closely related to *P. hirsuta* which usually grows on acidic rocks in the Alps and the Pyrenees. Populations of *P. hirsuta* in the Alps are rather more variable than those in the Pyrenees and some forms have been found growing in limestone areas. John Richards has accepted *P. recubariensis* as a new species but at present treats *P. grignensis* as a distinct form of *P. hirsuta*. It is a tiny plant in the wild where it grows in rock fissures in shady places at above 1800m. Much more dwarf in stature than *P. hirsuta* it has small leaves with a distinct petiole and erect teeth to the calyx. This plant was acquired in 2006 and has been grown under glass in a compost mix of 50% J.I. No. 3, 10% Peat/Composted bark, and 40% grit.



Stella & David Rankin's

Primula petelotii KR 7877

This *Primula* is unusual in producing roots from the flowering scapes, and so giving extra plants as runners. It was collected in northern Vietnam by Keith Rushforth, but unfortunately only one clone survives, so no seed is produced. It is grown under cover in a humus-rich soil.

Experienced show goers make a bee-line for the 'new, rare or difficult in cultivation' classes. Sometimes the plants are new to cultivation, others were in cultivation very many years ago and have been reintroduced recently, others are rare because they are difficult to find, inferring a difficulty in propagation or cultivation and still another group are all three of new, rare and difficult. Some plants deserve to be rare because they appear to be uninteresting or have of little aesthetic merit. The AGS schedules split the category up into 'new or newly reintroduced', in flower and out of flower' and a third 'rare in cultivation'. Part of the reason was that at some of their shows the classes had lots of entries and it was a good way to spread the entries out in a sensible way. They disregard 'difficulty' as a category! At our shows the combined category still works mainly because the entries in the class are smaller in number.

One thing about 'rare' is that someone somewhere manages to source and the thing about 'difficulty' is that someone somewhere manages to grow the plant. Well done them!

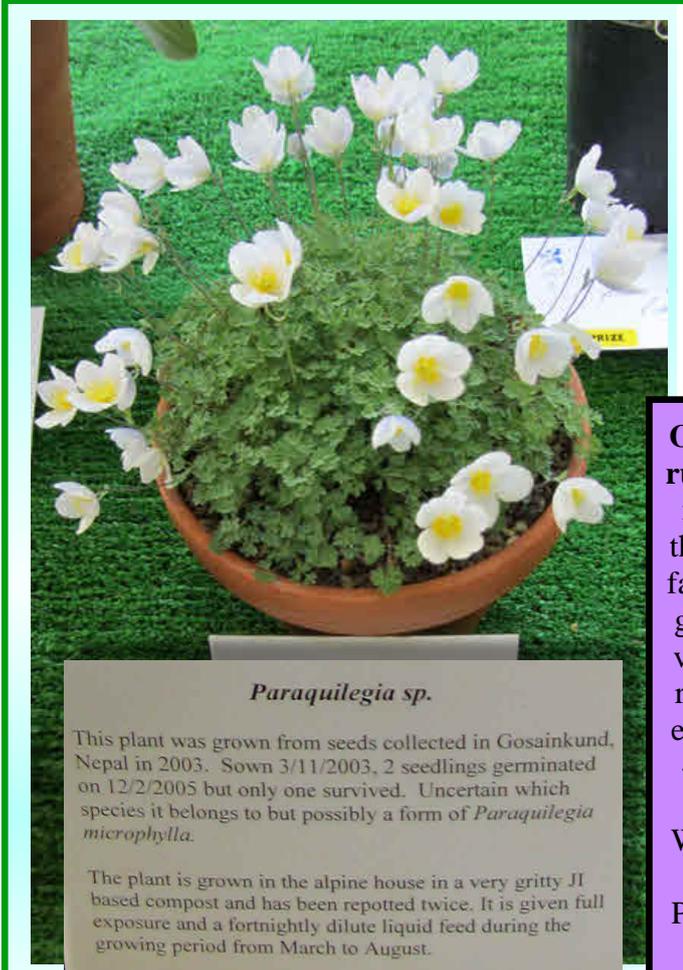
To help us lesser mortals we ask that these entries be accompanied by notes about their cultivation.



Alan Newton's
Corydalis remota

CORYDALIS REMOTA.
Family: FUMARIACEAE.
Country of origin: CHINA.
Grown in a woodland mix, outside
all winter/all year round.

Unusual



Paraquilegia sp.

This plant was grown from seeds collected in Gosainkund, Nepal in 2003. Sown 3/11/2003, 2 seedlings germinated on 12/2/2005 but only one survived. Uncertain which species it belongs to but possibly a form of *Paraquilegia microphylla*.

The plant is grown in the alpine house in a very gritty JI based compost and has been repotted twice. It is given full exposure and a fortnightly dilute liquid feed during the growing period from March to August.

CHIRITA

Two species of genus I had not heard of intrigued me . They were part of a 3 pan entry from Alan Newton [along with *Oresitrophe rurifraga*, which did not strike many chords in my mind either!] *Chirita brassicoides* and *Chirita fimbriata* are members of the Gesneriaceae from China. The pale lilac tubular flowers are beautiful. I like the marroon caps formed by the sepals which sit at the end of the tubes. The plants are quite similar, though I am sure there are many differences when viewed with a expert eye. I tried to find out more about the Genus and discovered there are about 150 species ranging from Sri Lanka and India through the Himalayas into China and Southeast Asia down the Malay Peninsula, with a very few species reaching the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. While some are deffiniely tender these shown by Alan Newton survive temperatures down to -11° C.

Bill Price from Vancouver writes in the magazine of the gesneriad society, '*Chirita brassicoides is native to SW Guangxi province (Longzhou Xian) in southwestern China and that it grows among rocks on limestone hills. The climate of the whole province was stated to be "dry mild winters and long hot humid summers"*.



Oresitrophe rurifraga a member of the saxifrage family which grows in ravines, cliffs, rock crevices; from 600 -2100 m in Hebei, W Liaoning, E Shanxi. Provinces of China





Edinburgh show always has a good number of **Primulas**, perhaps not as many as Hexham but there are always interesting ones. The first two pics here show the 3 pan class.. First prize at the far left went to Sam Sutherland, with *P.allionii* Ken's Seedling and a pink seedling from Aire Mist. 2nd to Stella and David Rankin with P0 Harry Jans at back and below, and *P. pubescens* 'Lilac Fairy' in front.



On the left is a picture of Harry Janu



P. x Johanna

Primula limbata



Primula x Linda Pope

Primula irregularis



Primula denticulata





Dionysia 'Tess' shown by John Lee, D. 'Andreas' from Bill Robinson and D. zagrica from Alan Newton. These jewels from hot dry, countries like Afghanistan and such places are beautiful to look at. Just how difficult must it be to keep them alive and fungus free when growing them in the west of Scotland.



Anemone nemerosa



'Vestal' a double form of Anemone nemerosa



Helleborus 'Ivory Princess'



Helleborus 'Mary Johnston'

MARY JOHNSTON
 THIS PLANT WAS GROWN FROM SEED
 COLLECTED FROM 'THE POWERS' A GARDEN
 MADE AT THE SAME TIME AS 'BRANKLYN'
 IT IS NAMED AFTER THE WOMAN WHO
 STILL OWNED THE GARDEN
 AS NO ONE KNOWS THE NAME OF THE
 HELLEBORE WE THOUGHT IT FITTING IT WAS
 NAMED 'MARY JOHNSTON'
 IT COMES TRUE FROM SEED.

The sun shines on the righteous!



SRGC
Folk



Best plant from a new exhibitor was Ian Pryde's *Narcissus rupicola*. Left **The Kilbride Cup** for the best arrangement of Flowers went to Moira Peter Right **Best Plant in Section II** was *Pulsatilla vulgaris* from Ewan and Jeanne Mason Below



Section II

Mike Hicks won the **SRGC Bronze Medal** for most Pints in Section II.

Here are his *Primula darialica* and *Tulipa humilis* which were part of a very good 6 pan entry



And finally once again I am sorry if your plant is not here. I probably messed up the picture!



Tom Green's wonderful *Townsendia rothrockii*

Their own Hybrid Nar. 'Ballet Girl' was a big hit for Mgt & Henry Taylor

Peter Semple's Rh. Lucy Lou

Bob Meaden with his fabulous *Pleione Shantung*

Sandy Leven