



The Scottish Rock Garden Club George Forrest Memorial Medal GLASGOW 2011



Daphne calcicola shown by Cyril Lafong

Dwarf shrubs do not often win the Forrest Medal unless they are Daphnes and the most usual of these to win is the pink *D. petraea grandiflora*. Quite different in habit and colour is the wonderful Chinese Daphne, *D. calcicola*. Not only was it the best plant in the show, it was first introduced in 1906 by George Forrest, so, it is doubly suited to win his memorial medal. It is closely related to *D. aurantiaca* but *calcicola* is more compact plant. Forrest described it as one of the most beautiful he had seen in Yunnan and wrote '**it frequently smothers the ledges and faces of limestone cliffs and out cropping rocks with golden yellow or orange**'. Cyril's plant probably stems from a more recent introduction in 19

the Yulong Shan, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Imagine having that as your address! The 1996 introductions were propagated

by Daphne maestro, Robin White of Blackthorn Nursery. Since it is a slow growing species, the medal winner must be a fair age. I find it interesting that another of Forrest's introductions *Primula forrestii* is almost exactly the same shade of yellow.

Once more '**Congratulations**' to our great grower and well done. It's just as well we don't have to wear our medals to the shows, otherwise Cyril would be weighed down!

