



The Scottish Rock Garden Club SHOW REPORT HEXHAM, Northumberland SHOW 40th Anniversary 2012



**Forrest Medal Saxifraga x edithae 'Bridget'
shown by Chris Lilley**





THE SCOTTISH ROCKGARDEN CLUB
CONGRATULATIONS
40
NORTHUMBERLAND
SHOWS



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A taste of America



Colour forms of *Lewisia tweedyi*



Trillium pusillum ozarkanum



Fritillaria gentneri



Trillium hibbersonii



Sanguinaria canadense fl.pl.



Primula rusbyi



Townsendia spathulata
'Cotton Balls'



**Cyclamen
pseudibericum**



Primula fDavid Valentinefielator x juliae



Primula petlotii



Primula Family



Dionysia viscidula x freitagii





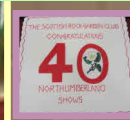
You can judge for yourself the standard being reached in the Northumberland by these great entries in Section 3 [AGS Rules - these would be Section II under SRGC rules]



Scilla liliohyacinthus



Pulsatilla vulgaris





1. *Asarum taidingshaniani* a
This tiny Chinese *Asarum* is a dainty relation of the much more common 'mouse plant'. The whole plant is about 6" tall, even smaller than Wilma & Jim Wright's wonderful *Asarum campaniforme* which appeared at Blackpool. Alan Newton who exhibited *A. taidingshaniani* grows it in a mixture of humus, peat, perlite and coarse sand in an unheated alpine house, under the bench.

2. *Primula albenensis alba*
might be an example of one of the rarest *Primulas* in Europe. Quite recently described, the Italian *P. albenensis* is usually blue flowered and is still very uncommon. This white form of the rare *Primula* is even rarer. Like its cousins it has wonderful farinose leaves. The white flowers have a charm of their own. It is grown, plunged in a sand-bed in an alpine house 'open all year' round.

3. *Viola spathulata* from Iran where it is a cliff dweller, like *Dionysias*. It is grown in an alpine house in 2 parts JI No 2 and 3 parts grit. It is sprayed frequently to protect it from Red Spider Mite and Aphids. Young plants collapse if sprayed for pests. Shown by Ian Kidman.

4. *Saxifraga felineri* is endemic to the Picos de Europa where it grows on vertical limestone cliffs. Once included in *S. aetioides* it now has specific rank. It too is grown in a 50 : 50 mix of JI No 2 grit. Shown by Frank & Barbara Hoyle

5. *Gentiana oschtenica* from the Caucasus is a plant I first saw at a Northumberland show when it was even rarer than it is now. It was shown by Eric Watson.

6. *Cryptantha humilis* var. *nana* is a beautiful plant from The great Basin area of Nevada & Utah. It is a relation of *Myosotis* & *Eritrichium* and is as tricky as the latter in cultivation.





1



2



3

1. **Barry Caudwell looks without touching.** Oh that more visitors would keep their hands off the plants. Ladies handbags can be a hazard to plants on the bench!

2. **Ranunculus crithmifolius** shown by Sam Sutherland is a superlative New Zealand buttercup. You will rarely see a better example than this without travelling to The Southern Hemisphere.

3. **Ranunculus alpestris** from Lionel Clarkson - Europe's contender for Best Buttercup! Precision in miniature

4. **Viola jooi** always stuns me, from Robin Pickering. It must be the perfect violet. 'Order for Miss Doolittle!'

5. **Viola brevistipulata hida_ana** shows what Japanese violets are like. Recognisable as violets but different



4



5



1 *Fritillaria alfredae glaucoviridis* & 2. *Fritillaria crassifolia kurdica* from Don Peace



3. *Pterostylis curta*
4. *Cymbidium goeringii*
5. *Trillium luteum*
6. *Fritillaria bucharica*





Three wonderful hybrid Narcissus
 1. N. rupicola x triandrus
 2. N. obsesus x triandrus
 3. triandrus x pallidiflorus
 Below Primulas at the show





John Savage's variegated *Skimmia japonica* 'Magic Marlot'. I wonder what a 'marlot' is? I have heard of marmots, harlots, matelots, Marlyn, mascots but what is a Marlot! I looked it up on Google and am no wiser as to what a Matlot is but just read the description of the plant!

'Launched on 22nd August 2007 in Holland at the international trade fair for horticulture, in the largest plant growing region of the world, it wiped the floor with competing new varieties, hardly surprising after 13 years in development! With three conspicuous stages per year it is truly a fabulous plant. In its first stage in autumn the flower-buds are white. In its second stage these colour attractively deep red. Finally, in its third stage the small but pleasantly fragrant white flowers open. All these dramatic colour changes occur against a background of attractive silver-variegated foliage. 'Magic Marlot' will be a jewel in every garden. 'Magic Marlot' combines a compact habit, variegated foliage, rich flowering, excellent colouration from autumn into spring and good winter hardiness into a unique and successful plant for a variety of garden situations. It is highly ornamental over a long period, and surprises everyone with each colour-change.'

I want one for my garden too.

Cassiope wardii from Stan da Prato is superb Ericaceous plant, well worth looking after. The modern plant maybe come from new introductions but seem to me to be much more floriferous than the plant shown by Harold Esselmont in the 1980's. Cassiopes are back in vogue!



Cassiope is named after Queen Cassiopeia, wife of King Caepheus of Ethiopia and mother of Andromeda. [another Ericaceous genus]. As well as beautiful she was arrogant and vain. She brought the wrath of the sea God Poseidon upon Ethiopia, by boasting that she and Andromeda were more beautiful than the daughters of another sea [the Aegean] god. Poseidon decided to flood Ethiopia, whose king and queen then consulted an oracle asking how to save their kingdom. They were told to sacrifice their daughter. Thus Andromeda was chained to a rock and left to drown. Her hero Perseus arrived in time to save Andromeda and married her. Nice plant though!



1. *Brachyglottis bidwillii* 'Basil Fox'



2. *Senecio serpens*



3. *Santolina rosmarinifolia* 'Lemon Fizz'



4. *Celmisia aff. gracilentia*



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- 1. *Anemonella thalictroides* 'Green Hurricane'
- 2. *Aubretia* 'Elsa Lanchester' from Mgt. Pickering
- 3. *Pleione* 'Rakata' from Wilf Lombard
- 4. *Muscari* 'Ocean Magic' from Russel Hall
- 5. *Soldanella carpatica* alba
- 6. *Primula auricula*
- 7. *Primula albenensis*
- 8. *Primula* 'Eric Watson' from George Young



White Primulas occur in many sections of the genus. In the allionii / pubescens groups there are now many hybrids which look similar but no doubt suit some growers better than others. A few years ago the assumption would have been that a white allionii type was *P. allionii* 'Snowflake'. However take a close look below and you will see that there are now many white cushion Primulas in cultivation.



1. *Primula irregularis*
2. Broadwell Milkmaid
3. Loibach??
4. Avalanche x *hirsuta alba*
5. *hirsuta exscarpa nivea*
6. Broadwell Snowstorm
7. Aire Waves
8. Aire Mist
9. Wharfedale Village