



The Scottish Rock Garden Club SHOW REPORTS ABERDEEN SHOW 2012



The Forrest Medal for The Best Plant in the Show went to Cyril Lafong's *Daphne calcicola*.

I quote Stan da Prato here because he beats me every show by getting his pictures to you much earlier than I do. --- 'Stan da Prato took the Walker of Portlethen Trophy for most points in Section 1 due to taking the most plants to section 1; he also took the Simpson Rhododendron Salver with a perfect plant of Rhododendron 'Ermine'.



[below on the right, with a fabulous Rho-do 'Maruschka on the left]

Cyril Lafong took the Craig Cup for The Best Primula in Show with *Primula forrestii* [right] and received a Certificate of Merit for *Cypripedium Maria* in the 3 pan class for small pot sizes.



Harold Esslemont had the record for most Forrest medals until Cyril overtook him recently - fittingly Cyril won the Esslemont Quach for 3 pans of rare or difficult plants'.





Scotland's sharpest wall!
Cross with care!



Mid-May can be relied on upon to produce decent weather [most years anyway!]. This makes a visit to the Aberdeen show one of the highlights of the SRGC year. It's always a pleasure to see just how well most Aberdonians keep their front gardens and are willing to share their lovely plants with passers-by. It puts you in the mood for a good flower show.



From the outside the granite walls of the church and church hall give little sign of the beauty within. The contrast is between the grey granite outside and flowers like *Dodecatheon meadia* inside.

The show is well supported by local members! Some bring lots of plants others fewer. Some bring wee pots and others great big pans which can hardly be lifted - the latter referring



to Angela's huge prize winning *Sempervivum*!

Stan da Prato, on the left, whose words I stole to introduce this report spends a long time photographing the show for the SRGC Forum.

Stan also supports the shows with great entries for such a busy man. He must have won all the rhododendron classes at this years shows. Stan is the editor of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society's year book.

Mum, Dad & the Wain!

Ian's Meconopsis entry was of great interest to plants-people because he succeeded in reuniting a super hybrid with its parents and all were in flower in good condition. By looking at the parent plants you could see how the hybrid resembled and differed from both - just like a child will look like its mum and dad but not be identical to either. The plants I am writing about are the red flag, *Meconopsis punicea*, which when crossed with the pale blue *M. quintuplinervia* gives the hybrid smokey pink *Meconopsis x cookei*. [See Nairn show for more on 'cookei']. Normally *M x cookei* is monocarpic like most *punicea* but Ian's hybrid is much longer lived and is a perennial now named 'Old Rose'. I photographed them individually and from the side so that they can be compared and contrasted. Ian received a Certificate of Merit for this exhibit [and for his *Cypripedium* 'Aki'].



The stems of 'Old Rose' glisten with hairs like its parent *M. quintuplinervia*. The colour of the hybrid 'Old rose' is a bit too red in the photo below. The bottom picture is a more accurate shade. Ian and Ann Christie are standing chatting to Cyril Lafong, just behind the Meconopses [or is the plural just the same as in sheep ie Meconopsis? I will have to ask the 'Meconopsis Group' for guidance. Any way here are 3 exciting plants.



X



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Meconopsis quintuplinervia

Meconopsis punicea

Meconopsis x cookei 'Old Rose'



Just to labour the point about the hybrid



X



=



Meconopsis quintuplinervia

Meconopsis punicea

Meconopsis x cookei 'Old Rose'



This flower is eternally Young unlike Meconopsis 'Rose' which is now condemned to be eternally 'Old'.

There may be a prize for anyone who can decipher the symbols or even better make up a story using the symbols as illustrations. e.g :-

“ Once upon a time a Young girl lived in the Blue Mountains where there were frequent lightening storms.....



Helen Greenwood makes sure the judges get a cup of tea and a bite to eat before she sends them back into the hall at the right time for judging. Ian Bainbridge is waiting to judge. Glassford photographs the plants for The Rock Garden. His notes are meticulous.



It is always a privilege to be asked to judge at one of our shows. Judging must be fair and standards must be maintained but exhibitors mustn't be discouraged. Each class is judged by 3 judges. No exhibitor can judge his or her own plants. So if your plant is in a class or is chosen for the short list for any trophy, medal or prize you have to stand down. There are always substitute judges available..

When you are a judge you get time to see plants in detail and seriously compare them so they can be placed first second and third. Show secretaries don't normally like a class with First equals. They will usually tolerate a third equal. However at the Aberdeen show for a world record first and maybe only time the judges could not separate three entries in one class.



Class 96 was the famous class! It was in the Junior Section where the young bloods of the SRGC learn the ropes and hopefully are encouraged to begin a lifelong interest in rock plants. Funnily enough the entries came from three sisters from Deeside, grand daughters of a previous Northumberland Show Secretary.

Their miniature gardens were each wonderful in their own way. They were well planted with suitable plants, which were healthy with no dead flowers or dead leaves to spoil them. The girls shared The Elizabeth Bowl for the best exhibit from a Junior Member. Top to Bottom on the right the entries are from Rowan, Rosie & Erica.

Well done girls!



There were many good plants in Section 2 which is supposed to be for beginners but as you can see there is a lot of talent resting there.

Helen McGregor's *Trillium grandiflorum* fl.pl and Angela Townsley's *Cypripedium* 'Karl Heinz' were first in their classes. The *Cypripedium* won the Aberdeen Quach for Angela as it was Best Plant in Section 2. She also won the Brian Bull Trophy.



Helen McGregor's excellent pans of *Sedum spathulifolium* 'Capa Blanco' at the top and *S.s. purpureum* beneath. First time exhibitor, Tom McLeish won the Jubilee 6 Pan class in Sections 1 and 2!



Isobel McWilliam won the Section 2 seed class with this charming *Mertensia primuloides* Sown in 2008, it was planted out in 2010. It seems to have been lifted and potted up for the show. I like the plant but would have liked it even more if it had been shown with darker gravel.

Cinderella would have loved these Lady's Slipper orchids



Cypripedium 'Karl Heinz'



Cypripedium parviflorum



Cypripedium pubescens



Cypripedium calceolus



Cypripedium 'Paul'



Alan Gardiner's
cypripedium reginae alba



Graham Catlow's
Cypripedium smithii



Another from Ian Christie and a plant of which he is very fond is this new form of *Lilium mackliniae* 'Saramati'



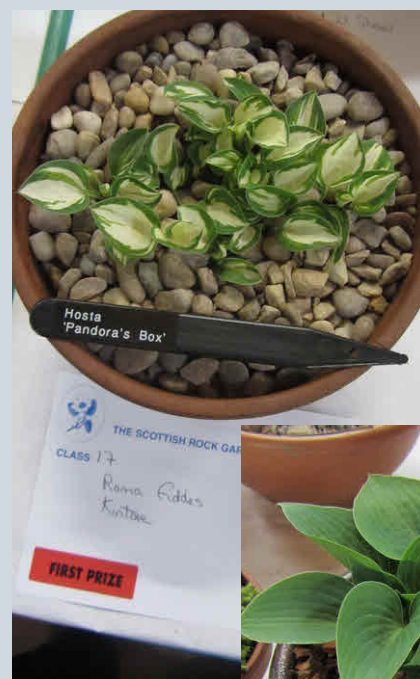
Anemone trullifolia alba



Jim & Janet Paterson's *Frit. camschatensis*



Campanula nitida alba [shown by Angela Townsley] must be propagated from cuttings. If you sow seed from it you get *Campanula persica*. *C. nitida* is a genetic recessive. Angela won a Certificate of Merit for this plant and for one of her cypripediums.



Dwarf Hostas like these from Roma Fiddes and Graham Catlow make a great addition to the shows and in troughs.

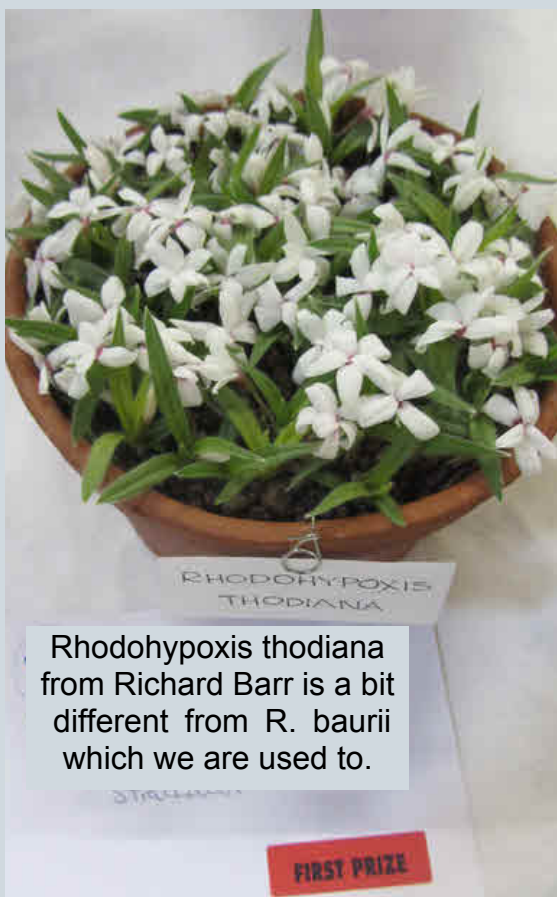




John Graham's *Cortusa matthiola alba* [left] was an interesting change from the usual magenta flower form. One of the most stunning plants which has to be 'right on the day of the show' was Sam's *Iris babadagica alba*. I am sure it was Sam S. who showed the purple form at Kincardine. The white is a brilliant plant - literally - and had so many open flowers. The plant was sourced from Janis Ruksans who speculates that it might be a new species or a form of *Iris furcata* or *I. aphylla*, which is usually a much taller plant. Whatever it is is well worth hunting out in Janis' list. Cyril also showed this plant.



Iris babadagica var. *alba*



Rhodohypoxis thodiana from Richard Barr is a bit different from *R. baurii* which we are used to.



Stan da Prato's *Hebe* 'Baby Marie'



Junellia tridactylites



Pleione 'Fuego' from Graham



Iris sari 'Lupina' from Sam



Teesdaliopsis conferta from M&HT



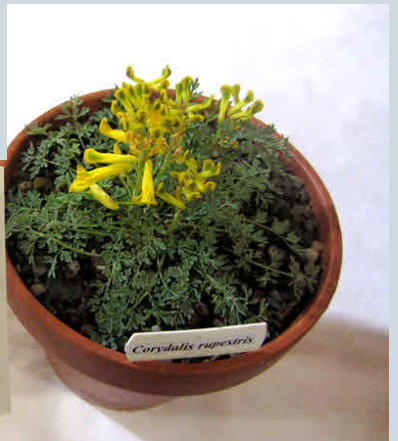


Margaret & Henry's '3 pans distinct' entry Gypsophila cerastioides 'Rosy Stripe', Primula 'Emily' [P.auricula x hirsuta alba x 'White Linda Pope', Corydalis pachycentrum



4 of Cyril's plants grown from seed: Corydalis rupestris
Haastia pulvinaris
Linum boissieri

Corydalis rupestris
Seeds sown Feb 2009, germinated March 2010.
Corydalis rupestris belongs to Section Strictae in the Genus Corydalis. It is a chasmophyte (cliff dweller), native to arid parts of Iran and Afghanistan. It is uncommon in cultivation.
A very well-drained compost and a restricted rootgrowth is required to simulate the conditions in its natural habitat. It is safest grown in the alpine house where if happy, it will set seeds through self-pollination.



Haastia pulvinaris
Haastia pulvinaris is a member of the daisy family and one of the plants commonly known as a 'vegetable sheep'. It is found in rocky areas in the mountains of Nelson and Marlborough, South Island, New Zealand.
H. pulvinaris forms mounds of vegetation up to 6.5 ft (2 m) across. The tiny, hair-covered leaves densely cover the branches. In its natural habitat the flowers are yellow daisies, without the ray, in summer.
Difficult to grow in cultivation, as it readily succumbs to winter wetness. The plant is grown in a very gritty J1 compost in the alpine house but never allowed to become too dry even in winter.



Androsace bisulca var. aurata
Seeds from Josef Jurasek sown 8/12/09, germinated 14/5/10
Androsace bisulca in Subsection Villosae, grows in W and SW Sichuan and E and SE Xizang (Tiber), where is found on dry meadows, on sunny grassy or stony slopes at 3000-4500 m. Var. bisulca has white flowers. Var. brahmputrae has flowers in various shades of pink.
Var aurata has flowers rich egg-yellow, deeper at the eye. Seeds were originally brought back by the ACE Expedition in 1994 but plants have not survived. In cultivation, it is grown in the alpine house and requires a very well drained compost and protection from frost once growth has started in spring.

Linum boissieri
Linum boissieri comes from Kaz Dag, Turkey at 1600 m. It is a species between L. arvensis and L. catharticum in size and forms very dense cushions, linear short leaves with 1-3 yellow flowers on scape 5-10 mm. It grows on limestone rocky slopes.
The plant was grown from seeds sown 25/12/2006, germinated 17/3/2007. Grown on in a very gritty J1 compost and given full exposure in an alpine house.



Aquilegia scopulorum and Epimedium youngianum alba