



# The Scottish Rock Garden Club SHOW REPORTS Glasgow 2011



**Forrest Medal**  
**Best Plant in the Show**  
**Daphne calcicola**  
shown by **Cyril Lafong**



**Here is the show!**



# WELCOME!

Come in, Come in it's nice to see you  
How's yersel', yer looking grand Tak  
a seat and ha'e a drammy  
Man, yer welcome, here's my hand

Andy Stewart's welcome is one you expect at every SRGC event. Founded by friends 69 years ago, the club is still maintained by friends who meet together to talk about plants, show plants and look at plants. Our shows are competitive but the competition is tempered by friendship. So! Welcome to Glasgow!



**Centre Top.** Stirling Group member Nan MacKay spent most of last winter seriously ill in hospital. As soon as she recovered where was she? On the way to Glasgow to the show! Note the essential accessory a big bag in which to put all the plants she planned to buy. For many years Nan worked on the plants sales table at the Stirling show where she could tell customers all about the plants for sale.



**Searching for the right plant!**



**Asking for advice!**



**Friends**



**We want you!**



# The RBG Ed Way

The Royal Botanic Garden supported the show with yet another superb display. Many thanks to the Regius Keeper for allowing the plants to come to Glasgow and to John and Elspeth for bringing them and displaying them so well. Another well deserved Gold Medal for a display full of interesting plants



**Podophyllum delavayi**

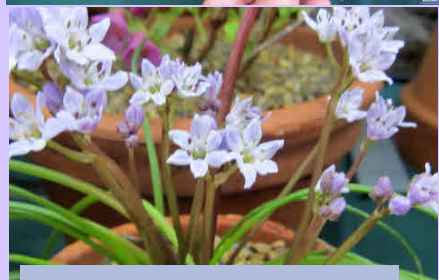
**Fritillaria camschatcensis yellow form**



**Viola aff. sororia**



**Iris acutiloba**



**Brimeura fastigiata**



**Delphinium luteum**

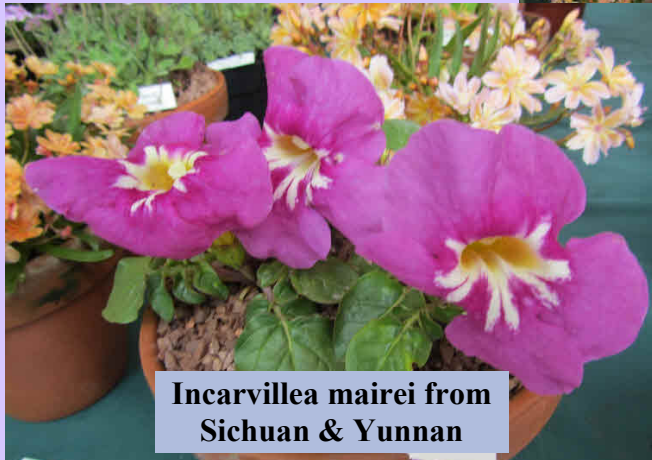


David Rankin with SRGC Hon. Pres. Bette Ivey

The 6 pan class was won by Stella and David Rankin who not only entered plants in the show but were busy on Kevock Nursery's sales stand. Having travelled widely in the footsteps of George Forrest they have a interest in Chinese plants. When they exhibit you are on the lookout for a few Chines specialities.



Stella & David's entry on the left



Incarvillea mairei from Sichuan & Yunnan



Tiny Primula primulina from Nepal, needs a humus rich soil and shady high humidity. The £1 coin is mine not a bribe!



**Primula reidii** [right] always reminds me of a visit many years ago with the Glasgow group to Mrs Betty Sherriff's garden at Ascrievie. Here she grew many of the plants especially Rhododendrons, Primulas and Meconopsis which she, her husband George and Frank Ludlow collected. George and Betty Sherriff ran the British Mission in Lhasa from 1943 to 1945. George was also a legendary plant collector in Bhutan and Tibet. He created a delightful garden at the residency, often visited by local dignitaries, including the Dalai Lama's family. Incidentally to show how inter-connected were the Plant hunters, Frank Ludlow was taught botany at Cambridge by Professor H. Marshall Ward, father of Frank Kingdon-Ward.



# Stan's ferns



All shows need backbone of plants shown for foliage. Stan seems to have huge collection of plants for any occasion. A few weeks after this show he was able to provide about a quarter of the plants needed for the SRGC/Kevock display at Gardening Scotland. Although usually instantly recognisable as Ferns, the family shows a wide variation in frond shape and colour. [Left: a pic of a fuzzy Stan with Ron MacBeath]





Near the beginning of the show schedules there are usually classes for 6 pans and for 3 pans of rock plants. Usually we see big pans in the 6 class and smaller ones in the 3 class [not always and rarely south of the border]. It is usually important that the exhibits be balanced but balance can be achieved in different ways. The most obvious ways are to use plants in the same sized pots, complimentary colours or similarly sized plants.

At Glasgow Stella and David Rankin's exhibit achieved its harmony, despite comprising 3 different sized and shaped pots, 3 different genera, all of which would be grown in different ways by being patriotic in red, white and blue. The big plants in different heights of pots were balanced because their overall heights were the same and the flat pan at the front fitted nicely below them. Most importantly they were 3 pans of well grown quality plants. Each of three could have won a first prize in a single pan class.

My favourite of the 3 was the **Pinguicula grandiflora**. Congratulations to them for presenting so many plants in full flower and great condition at the same time. I don't think this can be an easy native plant to keep in the garden. Its always a thrill to find the butterwort growing on a moist bank in the highlands.

In my search for the correct spelling of Pinguicula, I found that there is a web site devoted to the genus Pinguicula and that there are tropical as well as temperate species in the genus. Here is a wee snippet about the life of a very interesting plant

**Life cycle :** In spring, the cycle begins by the opening of the winter buds and the production of the first carnivorous leaves. The first leaves are followed by the flowers in summer. New carnivorous leaves are produced during all the season. Near autumn, or earlier, if your conditions are not optimal, the next hibernacula is revealed in the centre of the rosette. Then leaf production stops and the old leaves decay slowly. The plant (reduced now to a small hibernacula) is ready for winter and for the next cycle.

**And to confirm my thoughts on cultivation being difficult here are few hints on growing them**

**Media:** I use a 100 % mineral media : 2 perlite, 2 vermiculite, 1 small sand (for aquarium), 1 fine white sand, 1 pouzzolane (volcanic lava), 2 marly calcareous detritus.

**Pot :** In small box, with direct sun for 5 hours per day.

**Cultivation :** The long term cultivation of temperate *Pinguicula* is difficult : If the summer growing conditions are not optimal, the plants will form very weak hibernacula which easily rot.

Optimal summer growing conditions are : good air humidity, cool temperature and UV lights.

Thank you [www.pinguicula.org](http://www.pinguicula.org)



**Pinguicula grandiflora in the 3 pan class with Lewisia cotyledon and Saxifraga 'Pearly King'**  
Close up of P. Grandiflora in centre and in late summer in Glen Arkaig, near Fort William



*Globularia bellidifolia*



*Linum boissieri* from Kaz Dag in Turkey



A wee bit of déjà vu before the event! One benefit of writing up the report late is that one is blessed with a kind of foresight ie the Aberdeen show was past before I wrote this. Margaret & Henry Taylor's super Scottish native *Paris quadrifolia* was awarded a certificate of Merit here at Glasgow before going on to win the Forrest medal at Aberdeen

*Telesonix jamesii* [formerly *Boykinia*] is a member of the Saxifrage family. ~I wonder if it was grown more widely 30 years ago because it has always been spoken about in hallowed terms indicating great rarity and difficulty in cultivation. It is rarely seen at our shows these days and here it was part of Cyril's 3 pan class [new rare or difficult]. We spent several hours looking for it in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. We found other things but kept searching for the *Telesonix*. I took lots of pictures and then when we did find the *Telesonix* I realised that there was only one slide left on the film and all the other films were down in the car. That is why my only picture of *T.jamesii* in the wild is at the tail end of a film with perforations through it, So, I was especially pleased to Cyril's plant, grown from seed from Pikes Peak. Cyril notes that it flowers best when pot-bound.



Another great Scottish plant was Jim & Janet Patterson's *Salix reticulata*

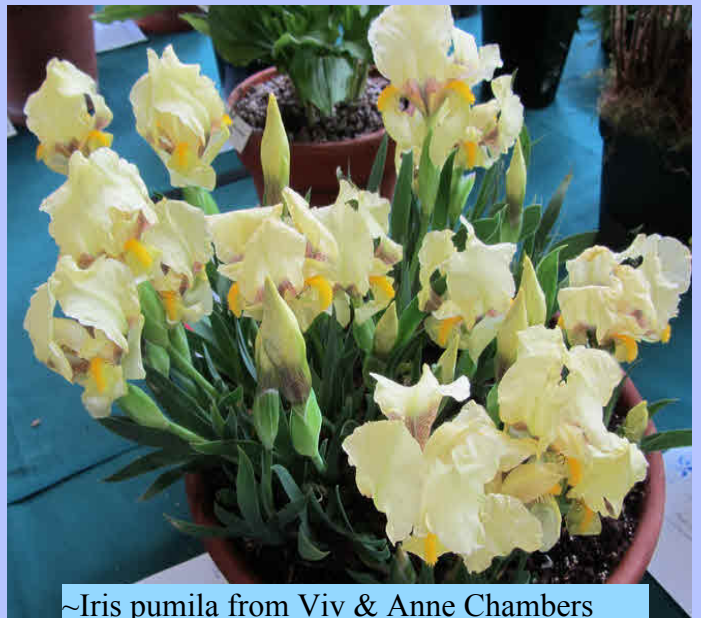


# STAR ATTRACTIONS

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**Delosperma congestum**



~Iris pumila from Viv & Anne Chambers



**Saxifraga pubescens 'Snowcap' David Millward**



John di Paola's **Saxifraga 'Southside Seedling'** has nicely marked flowers. Sometimes there is more; sometimes less red in the markings. Buy it in flower but remember the flowering rosettes die.



John also had a nice 2 pan exhibit of Androsaces. **A. Cylindrica** [from Western Pyrenees] and **A. hirtella** [Northern Pyrenees]. The two species often hybridise. In the case of either species or their hybrid it is advisable to grow them from seed and select the best forms or buy then in flower.

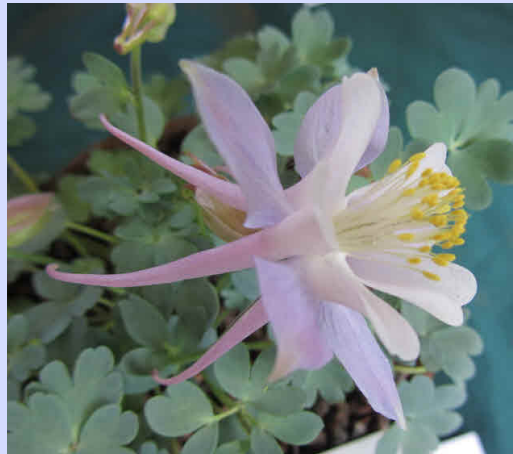
Another species to be chosen in flower is **Lewisia cotyledon**, another of John's prizewinners







Although it did not have many flowers this **Aquilegia scopulorum** showed that it is well worth growing for the glaucous leaves and large flowers. The flowers can be darker blue but I like this pale form.



Also the flowers can point straight up and then it is quite a dramatic sight.



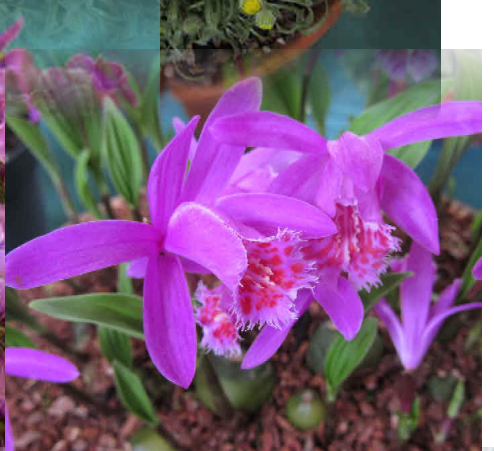
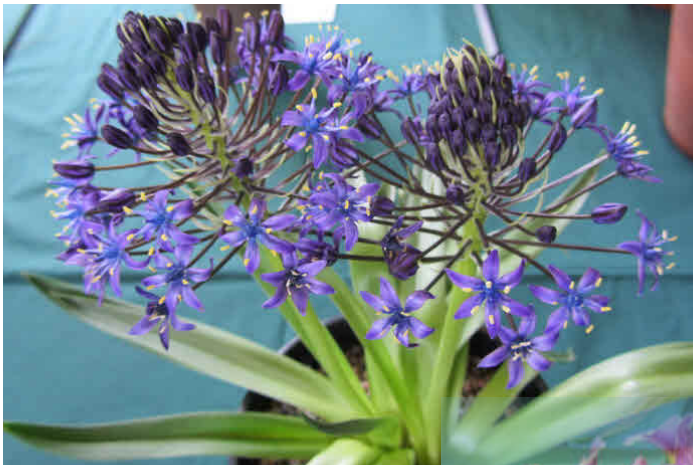
Another plant which I associate with the Glasgow show is the Chinese **Corydalis tomentella**. [sometimes called *C. tomentosa*] It is just like the more frequently seen *C. wilsonii* except that *tomentella* has lovely soft hairy stems, buds and leaves, which feel like felt. I was given a seedling many years ago by Past President, Joan Stead and although individual plants died after about 3 years there was always a seedling or two sprouting in the sand plunge. Unfortunately since the crash and demolition of my alpine house the sand plunge is no more! The plant was discovered in China in the 1890's by the French missionary, Pere Paul Farges who was sent to China in 1867 and remained stationed in north-east Sichuan until 1903. Although he had always nurtured an interest in the local flora and fauna, it was not until 1892 that he started to collect herbarium specimens in earnest. Then he collected and preserved over 4,000 specimens. He was the first to send back seeds of the handkerchief tree *Davidia involucrata*. We planted one in our garden 25 years ago and it has yet to produce a tissue far less a hankie!



Trilliums are always popular though I am afraid to lift any in case I damage the tubers. Here are clockwise from left;-

- T. pusillum,**
- T. decipiens,**
- T. grandiflora plena,**
- T. luteum**





**Oxalis enneaphylla rosea**  
 [centre]  
**Scilla peruviana**  
**Erigeron chrysopsidis**  
 'Grand Ridge'  
**Pleione 'Fuego'**  
**Haberlea rhodopensis**  
 'Connie Davidson'  
**Phlox grayi**  
**Viola tricolor**  
**Penstemon rupicola**  
**Glumicalyx milligani**  
**Ramonda myconi**





Clockwise from top right

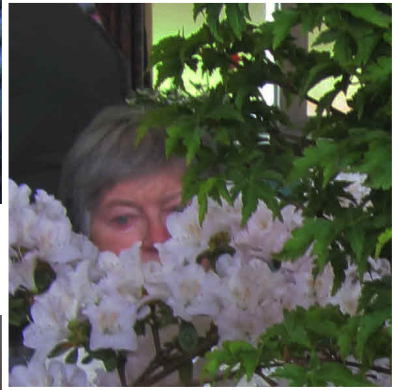
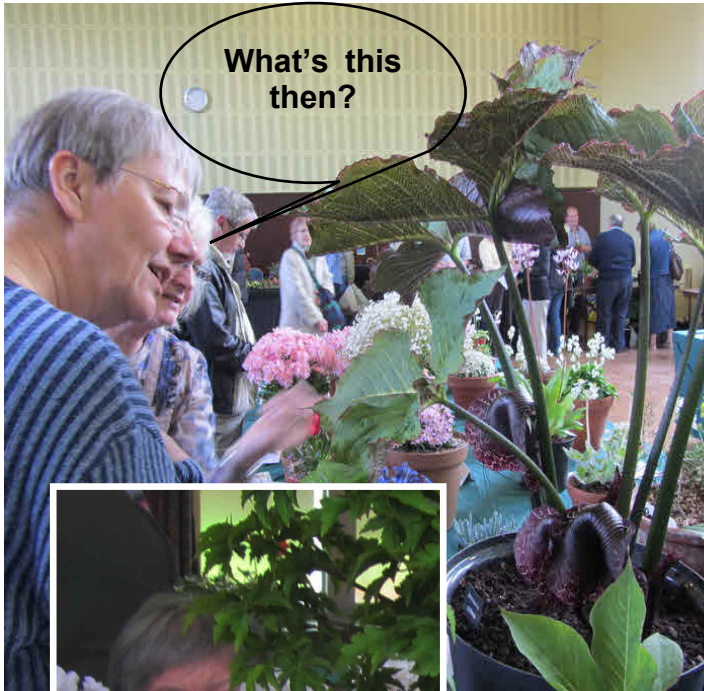


Best Orchid  
Graham Catlow's  
Pleione 'Fuego'



Daphne malyana  
Daphne velenovski hybrid  
'Weber's Findling'  
Anagallis monspessulanus  
Lewisia rediviva  
Edrianthus pumilio  
Cystus decumbens  
Pleione 'Fuego'





SRGC Folk



Judges