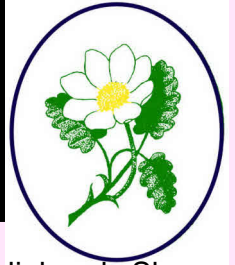




The Scottish Rock Garden Club

75th Edinburgh Show

2014



Anniversaries should be happy occasions and this year's Edinburgh Show proved to be a very jolly affair. 75 years takes us back to 1939 but there were shows prior to then. The first SRGC flower Show was held in St George's Church Hall, Edinburgh on April 16th 1936. There was a break during the World War II. Soon Edinburgh Shows were being held in the Waverley Market. [I'm not sure where they were held before then, as I cannot find the very early Club publications before Issue 1 of the Journal.]

The Waverley Market was a large exhibition space beside Waverley Railway Station. I remember it from my boyhood as a place where great dog shows were held. These, like the early SRGC shows, lasted more than one day. The space is now occupied by a shopping centre. The earliest report I can lay my hands on is of the 1938 show in SRGC Journal No 1. By 1951 the Waverley Market had become too expensive and the show was moved to the Assembly Rooms in George Street. SRGC Council wondered whether the change in venue would damage support for the show and indeed numbers attending fell by 18%. These early shows must have been more like the RHS London shows, which sadly are reducing in number. The 1937 show was opened by the Lady Victoria Wemyss, who expressed her pleasure at the increasing size and interest of the show. At this show 'members exhibits made a splendid nucleus'. There were numerous nurseries and garden sundry companies with exhibits in the hall. Back then there was the same symbiotic relationship between the Club and Nurseries. 'It is understood that the Club's appreciation of their help is reciprocated by them in the light of the business transacted at the Show, the extent of which evoked the intention of attending successive shows with more material.' A wordy way of saying that the Club appreciates the nurseries and they sold lots of plants! Still true today!

My first Edinburgh show was a Discussion Weekend show held in Pollock Halls. The next spring I went to the show in Corstorphine Church Hall and have been going there every spring since. There was a strenuous time when they were held upstairs in Cluny Church Hall, which meant humphing the plants up a couple of flights of stairs. The move to Fairmilehead was greatly appreciated as it is all on the flat.

I remember with great fondness James Aitken who was show secretary, Alf Evans who ruled the judges as well as the Edinburgh Ladies, Betty Cormack, Isobel Simpson, Shiela Maule, Kirsten Gibb and Mrs Simpson-Hall. Each and every one a source of friendly advice and encouragement. Sir George Taylor chaired the Joint Rock and Mrs Knox Findlay, John Duff, David Livingstone, Major Murray-Lyon. Mustn't forget Joyce Halley of Seed Distribution and John Mowatt former editor or Lewis Bilton, Treasurer! They led .We follow





Section II continued on the other side of the entrance doorway. This is part 2 of Section II. Once again well done Edinburgh Group in conjuring up so many plants for Section II

The delight of Edinburgh as a venue is that it attracts members from the North of England as well as from all parts of Scotland. The Edinburgh by-pass makes driving there quite simple and since my sister lives close by I have no difficulty finding a place to park my car.

There were plenty of excellent plants on the benches. Section I entries were up to scratch and it was gratifying to see such a good entry of good plants in Section II, pictured on the left.

Sam Sutherland's Forrest medal winning plant of *Ranunculus parnassifolius* proved that you don't have to grow a huge specimen of a plant to triumph at our shows. Everyone admired it as soon as they saw it and proclaimed it to be a worthy winner of the George Forrest Memorial Medal.



Cyril Lafong's entries always have a certain star quality in presentation and choices of plants. His winning 6 pan entry gives us an insight to his plantsmanship and attention to detail. Here were *Erythronium 'Rosalind'*, *Primula bracteata*, *P. 'Rumbling Bridge'*, *Paraquilegia anemomoides*, *Androsace chamaejasme* and *Androsace vandellii*. Everyone is a 'choice plant'. The entry is well balanced and as for colour, white is always hard to counter. Here the *Androsaces* balance one another while the other four plants have nice pastel shades. The height of the plants rises from front to back.



Tommy Anderson came a close second with another half dozen wee beauties:- *Narcissus 'Solveig's Song'*, *Anemonella 'Betty Blake'* [green flowers], *Saxifraga burseriana major*, *Lamium armenum* and two pink *Lewisia* hybrids. One looked to me like a *brachycalyx* hybrid and was named *L. nevadensis rosea*.

Still in Class 1 Watt Russell's entry was of 6 Primulas. My favourite two were P. 'Lismore Jewel' and an *allionii* selection named 'Garnet'



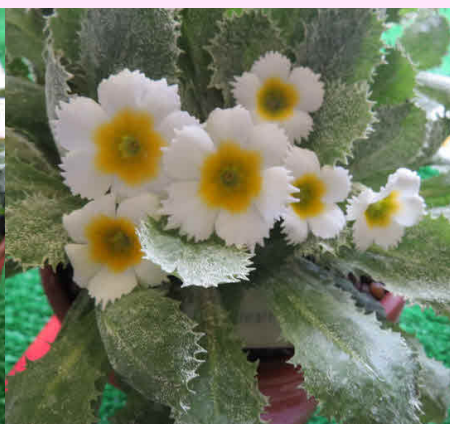
Asiatic Primulas

I was delighted that someone is still growing some of Mr Tinney's 'famed from yore' Asiatic Primulas. Here was Tinney's Monlight with delicate pink edges alongside P. 'Netta Dennis'



Three More Asiatic Primulas

White flowered P. 'Valerie Lockey' from Stan da Prato and P. aureata from Watt Russell. Stan showed the P. aureata fimbriata in the next class.





***Daphne rosmarinifolia* 'Goldstrike'**

Daphne rosmarinifolia comes from Sichuan and Yunnan in China and also Upper Burma up to 3750 m. It grows on rocky slopes forming a rounded little shrub 0.4 m high. It is evergreen but in very cold areas can be semi-evergreen.

During a trip to China Jens Nielsen and Ron McBeath collected this species and introduced it to Europe. *Daphne rosmarinifolia* 'Goldstrike' is a named clone selected for its compact habit.

Daphne rosmarinifolia is a *Daphne* species having flowers with five lobes and is sometimes placed in the genus *Wikstroemia* (like *D. modesta* and *D. gemmata*).

How to do it
 Cyril generally has plants in the 'Grown from seed' or 'New or Rare' classes. He is generous with his instructions on growing the plants and with words about their backgrounds. Even with his help few can rival his grasp of the art of rock gardening.



Saxifraga dinnikii forma alba

This *Saxifraga* species comes from Russia: Caucasus, V. Balkaria, on cold dolomitic walls at 2500m. It is from Section Porophyllum, with grey encrusted leaves, and cushions 3-12 cm wide in the wild with rose flowers on 3 cm stems.

This eye catching form with huge white petalled crystalline flowers originated from a sowing of wild collected seed, made by Frank Schmidt of FlorAlpin nursery in Germany end of the 90s.



Androsace species nova

Androsace species nova was collected in Kyrgystan (by one of the Czech collectors) and is closely related to *A. selago* and *A. tapete*. The flowers are borne on 3 mm stalks and are occasionally twinned (similar to *A. selago*). It has adpressed silky hairs at the entire upper end of the lower surface of the leaves (similar to *A. tapete*). *A. selago* has hairs only on the edge of the upper end of leaves.

A. selago grows in Xizang [Bhutan, India, Sikkim]. *A. tapete* grows in S Gansu, Qinghai, W Sichuan, S Xinjiang, Xizang [Bhutan, Nepal, Sikkim]. So both species are not reported to grow anywhere near Kyrgystan and *Androsace species nova* may turn out to be a new species.



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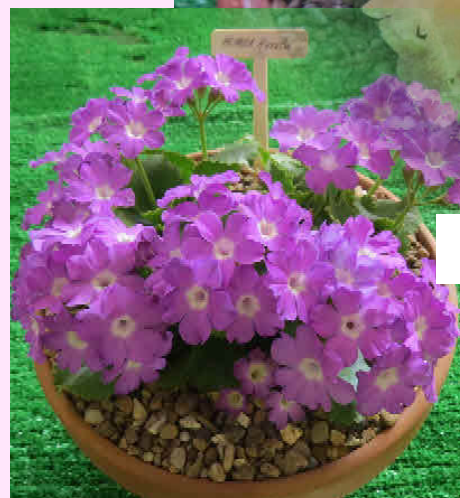
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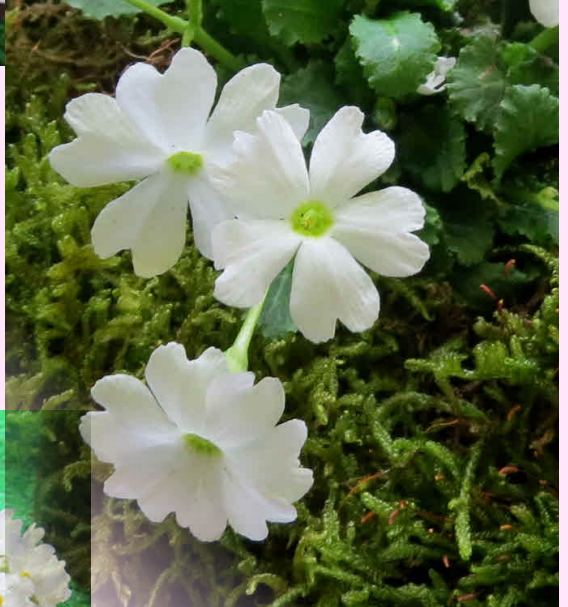
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Another selection of Primulas from Edinburgh.

1. Is 'a fine new auricula named President George' in honour of George Anderson, President of the royal Caledonian Horticultural Society .
2. Primula auricula itself
3. An Auricula hybrid raised by Graham Butler, 'Rumbling Bridge' named for his nursery.
4. Primula veris columnae
5. Primula hirsuta and P. hirsuta alba
6. P. 'Aire Mist'
7. The famous favourite P. 'Linda Pope'



PRIMULA ODONTOCALYX ALBA
New introduction from China in 2012
Multiplies rapidly from tiny scapes.
Grown in a polythene covered shade
frame in a rich compost.



Primula yunensis and P. y. alba

2 pan Ranunculaceae class





ANEMONE
tholictoides
White



Pulsatilla vulgaris alba



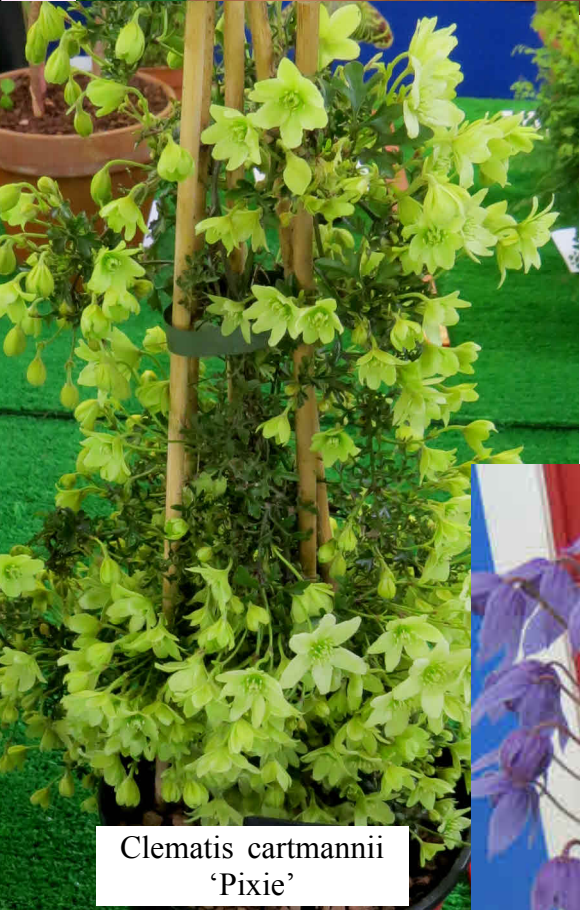
RANUNCULUS CRITHMIFOLIUS



Anemone thalictroides
'Oscar Schouf'



Clematis columbiana tenuiloba 'Ylva'



Clematis cartmannii
'Pixie'







Tulipa sylvestris



Narcissus 'Hawera'



Erythronium 'Flash'



Ornithogalum sieberi



Fritillaria meleagris



Fritillaria meleagris alba





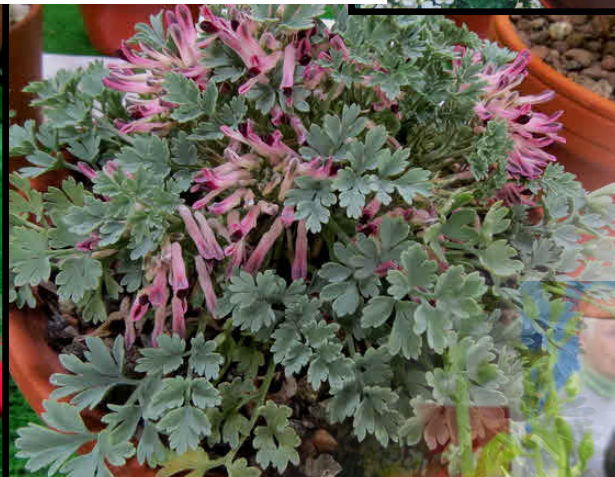
Draba longisilliqua



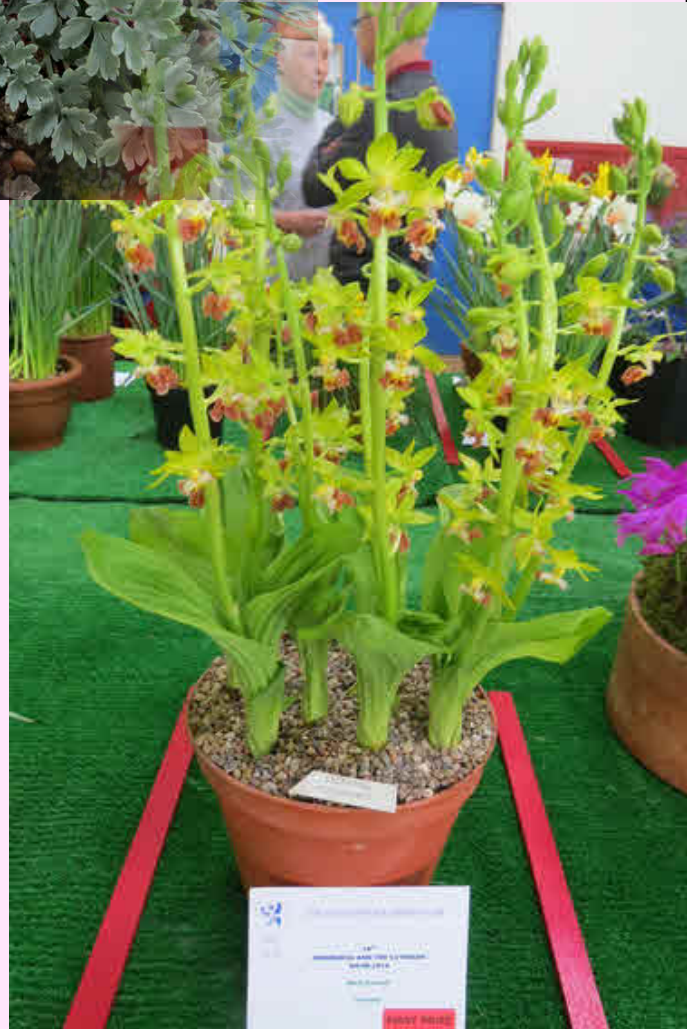
Rupicapnos africana



Dicentra cucullaria



Calanthe tricarinata





Trillium pusillum



Trillium
ovatum x rivale



Erythronium helenae



Trillium
hibbersonii

