

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Forrest Medal Aberdeen 2105

Daphne calcicola Napa Hai

shown by Cyril Lafong



Back in Aberdeen, where he won his first George Forrest Memorial Medal, Cyril retained his number one position by winning his 52nd Forrest with this big plant of **Daphne calcicola 'Napa Hai'**. What a wonderful name for a variety of plant. Napa Hai is a town in Napa National Park near Shangrila in Yunnan Province of Western China.

Cyril's *Daphne calcicola* 'Napa Hai' is now quite mature. It has an open branching habit with typical *Daphne* flowers clustered among deep green leaves. The stems themselves are attractive pale green. It is recorded as growing in this area, the Makong –Salween Divide by Peter Cox and Peter Hutchison.

These men and George Forrest, who I hope also saw it would have been well impressed by Cyril's magnificent plant.





Napa Hai is a town in Napa National Park near Shangri La in Yunnan Province of Western China. It is quite near Arunashal Pradesh and Myanmar [Burma]. It is north of George Forrester's base town of Dali and the university city of Kunming. We have had many talks from SRGC members who travelled in this area.



Napa Hai Lake

During the dry season the water recedes from Napa Lake [3500m] and grasslands appear. Migratory birds flock there during the winter months. Black-necked cranes overwinter there. The grasslands become grazing grounds for yaks, cows and sheep on the surrounding farms. The lake is surrounded by high mountains and in spring the thawing waters inundates the land round the lake, turning it into an even bigger lake with wetlands surrounding it. By summer much of the lake disappears leaving much smaller pools. Another lake is the green diamond shaped Bita Lake which has crystal clear waters. In May it is said the fish are all drunk after eating Azalea petals and so float on the lake surface.



In 2015 fire ripped through the 1300 year old Tibetan community of Duzekong now known as Shangri-La, as it is reputed to be the place which inspired James Hilton's novel 'The Lost Horizon'. Southeast of Shangri La are two notable brother mountains, the Yulong Sha and Haba Snow mountains. Haba Snow mountain is 5,396 metres high and consequently its slopes feature all climate zones from subtropical, temperate, cool temperate to frigid zones. Our interest would be in the alpine zone with meadows and alpine shrubbery. This is a dangerous but beautiful land of glaciers, ice falls, waterfalls, cliffs, gorges and streams



running into the Jinsha river, flowing through The Leaping Tiger Gorge.

VisitScotland could learn something about attractive place names from the folk at VisitChina!



Aberdeen — Radioactive city!