

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club

## Farrer Medal Hexham 2019

### Shortia uniflora

### Shown by Cliff Booker



Cliff took just one plant to the show which went on to win The Farrer medal, for the Best Plant in show at an AGS show. Hexham, like Kendal is run in alternate years under SRGC or AGS rules so that a Forrester and Farrer medal is also awarded in alternate years.

Cliff's Shortia sat quietly, midway along the first show bench attracting the attention of everyone who passed. Its delicate white flowers, rimmed with a touch of pink were evenly distributed on stems 1 inch [2 cm] long sitting above its dark shiny deep green leaves.

Cliff told me that his plant was a present from Jean Wyllie when he was hosted by her during his lecture tour of Scottish SRGC groups, about 8 years ago. Jean is also an expert grower of Shortias, which are notoriously difficult to propagate and slow to grow on.

Shortia is in the Diapensasiaceae family. It is one of the most beautiful of all small shrubs. Out of flower you can admire its well marked leaves which turn rich red in autumn.



Shortia uniflora is a dwarf shrub which is native to Japan. It grows in low hilly woodlands. Its Japanese name reflects the shape of its leaves and its home. It is 'crag-fan'. Crag...rocks. Fan... the shape of the Japanese non-folding fans.

Congratulations go to Cliff for growing this wee present into a magnificent champion.