



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Forrest Medal - Kincardine 2017

Narcissus bulbocodium 'Lee Martin form' Shown by David Millward



As soon as he saw David's pan of Narcissus, Cyril Lafong predicted that it would win the Forrest Medal at Kincardine.

Cyril should know! Several plants were in contention for the title Best in Show but there was really no doubt as to which would win. Well grown David! This clone won a Forrest Medal for Bill Robinson at the Edinburgh show in 2011. Bill gave some bulbs to David, perhaps after reading his kind words about the plant on the SRGC Forum. David grew them on.

On the SRGC Forum David Millward wrote about Bill's excellent pan of Narcissus as follows....."A cheery thought from me concerns the Best in Show. Many of the Forrest Medal plants over the past few years have been not only magnificent, but HUGE plants; so much so that one might be forgiven for thinking that to be Best in Show, the plant has to be enormous. Saturday proved

that notion to be wrong and that should please us all. So I take my hat off to Bill Robinson for showing his wonderful pot of the "Lee Martin form" of Narcissus bulbocodium obovatus, referred to by some growers I think as the "Farrer Medal form"

Bill initially named the clone as 'Marion Robinson' after his wife but circumstances proved that the clone had been named earlier. It was a great disappointment to him when Bill realised that the clone could not be named Marion Robinson.

Bill has been very generous by giving many members bulbs of this clone. It is a 'good do-er'. David told me that Bill's cultural advice was "grow it in a shallow pan and water well." It needs plenty water when the leaves appear.

There is little doubt that this is one of the best clones of Narcissus bulbocodium for growing in a pot in Scotland. David and Bill both say it multiplies well hence David was able to produce such a large panful. David's flowers were taller than were Bill's but the pan was so big and full that the stems had to grow to find light! There must have been over 100 flower [President David Rankin counted them]. With two or three flower stems to a bulb, that is a lot of bulbs. Incidentally the bulbs were plants at a depth of about 5 cm and all at the same level, not layered as some exhibitors might do. What a delight it was to behold. If Wordsworth could have been in Kincardine he would have penned a poem extolling their beauty.



The following is written with apologies to Wordsworth and all SRGC readers :-

I wandered out last Saturday morn

Where river Forth joins the sea

The sky was pink with shades of dawn

When Kincardine hosts the SRGC

The annual show gives members pleasure

Every plant 's a mini-treasure.

'Twixt river Forth and Ochil hills,

Upon the bench a shimmering sight;

The sun filled hall made brighter still

'T was Dave's gold daffs reflected light

Each little flower, a perfect sun

These bulbocodiums were set to win

Last view of the Forrest medal plants was this view captured in the car park. The flowers seemed even brighter sitting in the car boot, reflecting the afternoon sun. A plant like this certainly deserves its personal chauffeur! Once again, 'Congratulations Dave!'



Bill Robinson with his George Forrest Memorial Medal winner at the Edinburgh show in 2011.

