



# The Scottish Rock Garden Club Perth Show 16 /4 /16

I looked for Perth's coat of arms on the internet and at first glance I thought it was eminently suitable for Scotland's fair City, winner of many Britain in Bloom competitions. Then I realised the big birds were black swans and that the 'Floreat' [flowering] motto was that of Perth, Western Australia. The Scottish Perth Council's coat of arms feature a double headed eagle and the words 'Pro Lege et Libertate' [I translate as 'for law and liberty'!]. I don't like the two faced eagle, unless it signifies it is open to all ideas, but both mottos would be appropriate for show of plants grown by Rock Gardeners



This wittering on has a point. As can be seen at our shows, members of the SRGC are at liberty to grow a wide range of plants but we like them to be defined into classes and organised at the shows with rules. Imagine the disgrace of your plant being marked 'NAS', not according to schedule, i.e. against the rules. Not much liberty there! However who could disagree with 'floreat'! A world full of flowers. Just what the doctor would order for rock gardeners. Part of New York city was settled by Scottish immigrants and is called Perth. There is another Perth in Eastern Ontario and it sits on its own River Tay. We had a nice lunch there a few years ago. Perth Tasmania is a town of over 2,200 people. Its claim to fame is that the body of murderer John McKay was gibbeted [ hung from gallows and left to rot] near the spot where he killed Joseph Wilson in 1837. These are all towns or cities. Perth , North Dakota , however had a population of only 9 people in 2010. I hoped there would be a Perth in New Zealand but, No! Let us hope that when the 2021 international Rock Garden conference is held in our Scottish Perth that gardeners from these other Perths will attend.



The picture below is the BLACK WATCH MUSEUM IN Perth is adjacent to the Perth SRGC show hall. While the show was on, outside there were bowls matches. Inside in the other part of Bell's Sports Pavilion numerous games of Netball were underway. Just outside the Sports Hall is the North Inch, a huge park beside Scotland's longest river, the Tay. Close by are the Fair Maid's House and the Concert Hall which has been reserved for **2021 International Rock Garden Conference**. The conference will start with the show on **Saturday 8th May, until Tuesday evening on 11th May, 2021.**



The big sport's hall has more than enough space for our SRGC show. The good thing is that there is plenty space for nurseries and for the catering. The main disadvantage is that like Hexham the lighting is artificial but this does not detract from the plants nor spoil the colours in digital photographs.





Above is the 3 pan Primula class won by Tom Green. Quite an entry and a great win! With 3 plants of Broadwell Milkmaid in the class, it is a tribute to the breeder Joe Elliott, whose Broadwell Nursery was a Mecca for rock gardeners in the 60's 70's and 80's.

On the left is Stan da Prato's entry which won the large 6 pan class and the Alexander Caird Trophy. Hats off to Stan for bringing these large pans of Rhododendron to the show and just look and admire that Cassiope





Tom Green won the small 6 pan class with 5 Primulas and a Draba rosularis. The Primulas were Lockeys's Red, Broadwell Milkmaid, Pink Ice, Stella and Primula hirsuta. Sue Simpson was second and Barry and Cathy Caudwell third.





Cyril Lafong won the Dundas Quaich with his 3 pan entry of Pleione x confuse, Trillium rivale and Pulsatilla halleri slavica alba. I predict a Forest medal in the future for the Pulsatilla!

Sue Simpson took the E.H M. Cox Trophy for Best Rhododendron with this beautiful pan of Rh. megeratum 'Bodnant'. Watt Russell's 3 pan entry included the scarlet attention grabbing Tropeolum tricolor. Androsace vandellii in prime condition took a first for Cyril Lafong. Erythronium 'Winifred Lorraine' won for Ian Christie.

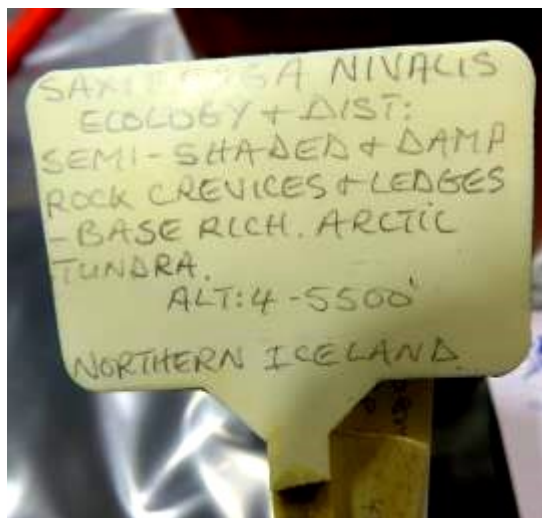






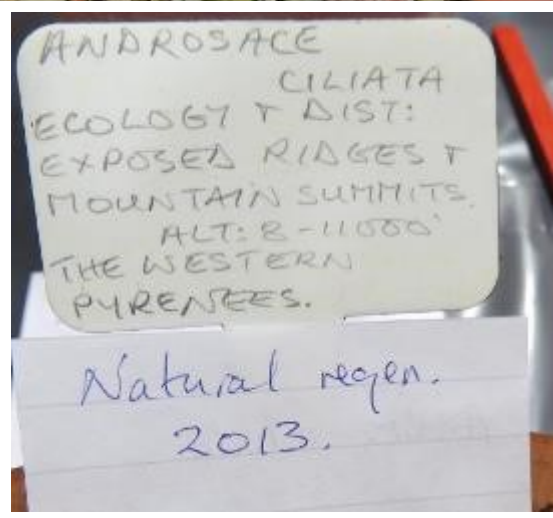






**NICK'S WAY**

Nick Boss believes in growing his plants in as 'near to nature' way as possible. He researches well and grows his plants hard. He is looking for a natural plant not a big show-biz specimen. Hence we see the Saxifraga nivalis as small plants and several of Androsace ciliata in their pan. He always provides copious notes even when notes are not required. I always learn something from his exhibits.



Bob Maxwell took first prize with Narcissus bulbocodium obovatus 'Marion Robinson', the same clone which won a Forrest medal for Bill Robinson in Edinburgh a couple of years or so ago. Bill named the clone after his wife. ***We wish Bill a speedy recovery from his recent illness and hope to see him back at our shows very soon.***







 THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB  
 CLASS 352  
 NORTH SHOW 2018  
 Carole and Ian Bainbridge  
 Dalkeith of Fife  
**BEST PRIZE**

The pink Saxifraga 'Marysandi' in Ian & Carole Bainbridge's winning Sax. pair along with yellow Sax. 'Alice'. Sax. 'White Star' is a nice white mossy one from Stan da Prato. 'Allandale Accord' from Tom Green and 'Allandale Goblin' from Stan were bred by Ray Fairbairn.





*Berneuxia thibetica*

*Berneuxia thibetica* grows in Wet Abies forests, broadleaved deciduous forests, thickets; 1700–3500 m. NW Guizhou, Sichuan, SE Xizang, N Yunnan.

It is closely related to *Shortia* and needs an acid soil and semi-shade. It is grown in a mixture of Swedish peat and grit. Rare and very seldom available commercially.

*Saxifraga columnaris*

This *Saxifraga* species comes from Russia: Caucasus, V. Baikaria, on hot dolomitic walls. It is from Section *Porophyllum*, with grey encrusted leaves, and cushions 5–20 cm wide in the wild with rose to purple sessile flowers.

Seeds from Vojtech Holubec sown January 2009, germinated April 2009. Seedlings are initially very tiny and very slow growing. They were left in the seed pot for two years before pricking out.

In cultivation it is grown in a very gritty loam-based compost in the alpine house, given weak liquid feed Spring to Summer and shading during the summer months. It grows slowly and only needs potting on every 3–4 years.



*TROLLIUS RANUNCULINUS*

Seed from Götterburg Bot. Garden  
Sown 17/2/12

The plant grows in moist places in Turkey and Iran 2–3000 m. Very variable in the wild.

Grown in rich soil, kept in alpine house



As I get older I appreciate wee trees more and more. The diversity available, especially of conifers, from our nurseries increases year on year. In the shows it seems that Pines are hard to beat, probably because they are attractive to the eye. Another factor might be that judges when faced with a class of wee trees might be influenced by their own preferences. The other thing about pines is that they can be difficult to tell apart. For the first Scotland's National Garden show in 1996, Ian and Maggi Young lent us a trough with a dwarf Pine which was then more than 10 years old. Growing with it were dwarf ericaceous plants like *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*. That pine will now be nearly 30 years old. I copied Ian's planting idea and my "pine in a trough" is now 20 years old. It is about 18 inches high and as much across. Perhaps it is a bit bonsai'd but even in the open ground, these dwarf selections do not grow big. For showing it is important that there are no dead brown needles, broken branches and it should be symmetrical. The needles should be green and healthy. New growth is a bonus. You might even get wee cones. Remember that as well as obvious conifers like pines, spruce, juniper and yew there are conifer species from the southern hemisphere, like *Podocarpus*, which look quite different and behave differently. On the left are :-



*Pinus mugo* 'Mops Midget' from Stan da Prato, *Picea mariana nana* and *Abies koreana* 'Oberon'. They can be used with great effect in the Lilliputian landscape of a trough. A lot of work goes into the miniature gardens and each reflects the whims and personality of the exhibitor.

#Remember that 'Dwarf' and 'Slow growing' are different things!



THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB  
 14th 6th  
 14th APRIL 2016  
 Sheila Murray  
 Edinburgh





Cerastium alpinum  
Hepatica 'Millstream Merlin'  
Cyclamen persicum  
Pteridophyllum racemosum  
Erythronium hendersonii  
Tropaeolum tricolor



These exhibits were staged by Francis and Margaret Higgins, most of them in Section II. It is great to see plants of such quality being shown by 'new exhibitors'. If you have interesting plants at home why not join our exhibitors and share them with the rest of us.

