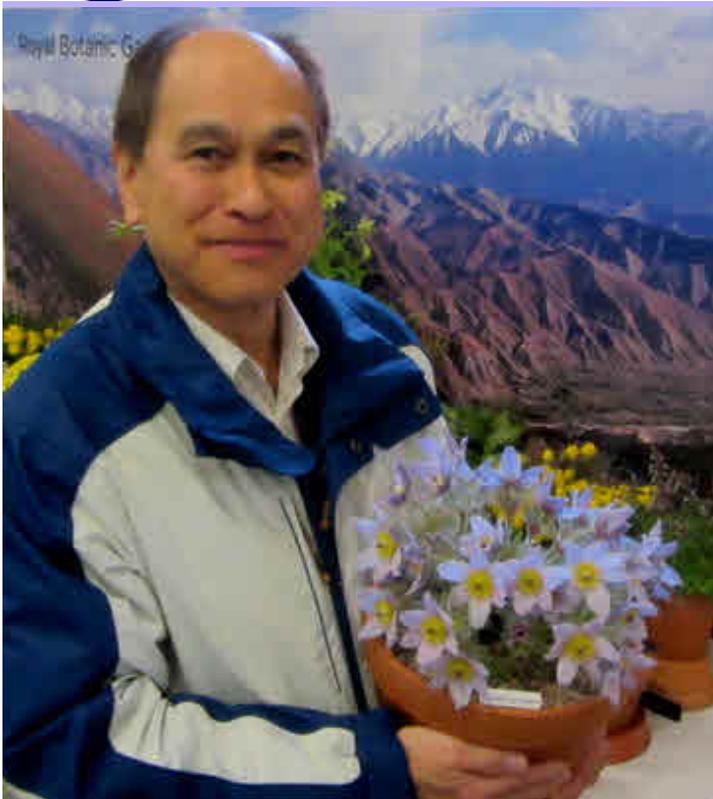




The Scottish Rock Garden Club Forrest Medal Stirling Show in Kincardine 2013



Best Plant in the Show *Pulsatilla* aff. *vulgaris* shown by Cyril Lafong



The winning plant at Kincardine was one which we know well. Cyril started showing it in a 6 inch pan several years ago when it was a youngster. It has increased in stature year after year and is now a superb specimen. On small, young plants the big *Pulsatilla* flowers can look heavy and out of proportion but when the plant is mature they are 'just right'. You can see how many flowers it has. Each of them a delicate pale lavender blue with a forest of yellow, pollen-heavy anthers. In the centre is a boss of deep purple pistils. In early summer these pistil stigmas become the fluffy seed heads. The whole effect is that of a regal or imperial Bull's Eye.

Cyril is unsure as to the exact specific name for the plant hence it is described as '*aff. vulgaris*' i.e. it is a species very close to or it might even be *Pulsatilla vulgaris*. It has delicate ferny foliage which at present is hidden by the big flowers. The finely cut leaves are quite hairy, giving them a silvery sheen, especially at the edges. I photographed Cyril and the Forrest medal winner against the mountain background of the RBG Ed. Because I thought the plant would take your breath away if you came across a specimen like this in the wild.

