



# The Scottish Rock Garden Club Professional Forrest Medal Kincardine 2017

[*Narcissus x munozii garmendiae*]  
= *Narcissus x susannae*

Shown by The Regius Keeper of  
The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh



Photograph by Richard Ian Brown of the RBGE Alpine Department.  
Copied from the SRGC Forum. My picture was out of focus!

Every now and then an outstanding plant on a display or professional exhibit is awarded a Professional Forrest Medal. On several occasions the medal has been awarded to fabulous plants exhibited by the Regius Keeper of The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. These exhibits, in recent years, have been of an unbelievably constantly high standard. Very often the whole display is awarded a Gold Medal and that's that. There are always a few star plants among those which can only be described as excellent. It is these star plants which catch a judges eye. Elspeth Macintosh who designs and stages the RBG Ed. displays has a rare talent, namely a great eye for colour and balance. The RBG displays are symmetrical which means that for every great plant she has to find a twin of the species which is of equal merit and size to place in the mirror position. The only exception is a plant placed dead centre.

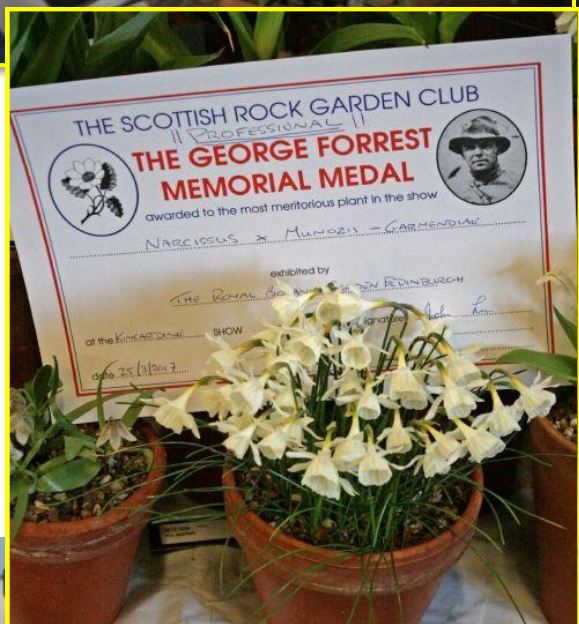
## A WEE BIT OF BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION

Justifiably in central position on the Hexham RBG display was a plant of a wee white *Narcissus* labelled '*Narcissus x munozii garmendiae*'. On seeing a picture of the winning plant, Ian and Maggie Young immediately queried the name which according to the RHS 2016 botanical classification of Daffodils should now be used for a subspecies of *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. The presently 'accepted' name for the winning plant is *Narcissus x susannae*. It is the hybrid between *Narcissus triandrus* and *Narcissus cantabricus*. The award clone is one which was collected for the Garden, in Spain, many years ago by Ron MacBeath. Ian and Maggi among others have raised the hybrid from cultivated plants. According Ian's Bulb Log, they "*have made the cross a few times now using different forms of N. cantabricus but all the offspring are almost identical to those pictured in the [Blanchard's] book. The name Narcissus x susannae is now applied to all offspring of this cross*". Since wild collecting is now banned and *N. x susannae* is almost impossible to buy, then you will have to make your own hybrids. First obtain the parents *Narcissus triandrus* and *Narcissus cantabricus*. ***Well done to the Keeper's staff.***





The above is a montage of three pictures of the RBG exhibit using 3 hand held images. I should have used a special setting on the camera to make it easier to align. The picture shows the symmetry of the design—both in plant species, flower colours and heights. Note also the way Elspeth has used the different flower colours to show each plant to its best advantage. The display was awarded a Gold Medal as well as the Professional Forrest for the centrally placed Narcissus. Below SRGC Honorary President Bette Ivey in front of the display.



Julia Corden's picture of *Narcissus x susannae*

