

# THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB

## PERTH SHOW

20 4 24



THE Perth group is one of the most active and vibrant in the Scottish Rock Garden Club. It is led by an equally capable show secretary and a convenor who makes everyone feel welcome; members, exhibitors and visitors alike. They are supported by a great team of volunteers. This year the show venue had to be changed at short notice. The North Inch Community Campus proved to be an ideal venue. New for a show certainly but it is where the Perth Group hold their monthly meetings. Car parking is convenient and only a short walk from the entrance. On this sunny morning it was quite relaxing to walk past and admire the island beds with silver birches and low growing shrubs. Perth is famed as a winner of Britain in Bloom and even in financially strained times the council pays attention to horticulture. Even the dandelions in the grass seemed appropriate. I used to think of them as weeds to be rooted out and killed off. Now I view them as part of spring's tapestry. First Snowdrops, next daffodils and then its dandelion time. Scottish roadsides and farmers fields are splashed with their canary yellow flowers. En-mass a magnificent sight. Once the flowers are over they are replaced by their fluffy seed heads. As children, we never seemed to tire of blowing away at these dandelion clocks, totally ignoring their nick name of 'pee the bed' or once we reached secondary school, 'pis en lit'. As soon as I entered to centre's automatic door I was greeted by a cacophony of happy voices. People were thronging around the many nursery stands, selecting and buying plants with admirable alacrity. Others were in groups chatting with friends and reminiscing. Many had already found the teas and coffee. Since it was morning it was coffee and cake, to be followed by filled rolls at lunch and afternoon tea and more cake. All this excitement and the show was not yet open as judging was still going on. The people of Perth came to support the show and to spend their money buying wonderful plants for their gardens. We must thank the nursery trade people for cultivation , propagating and bringing such a diverse range of varieties. Our shows are in many ways travelling plant fairs. Let us hope that many of these visitors join us in the SRGC.





Judging is thirsty work and a bit of cake doesn't go wrong



Recording the results, counting points and stewarding are important tasks



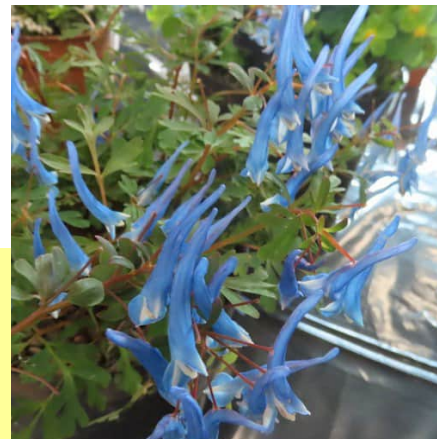
Where would we be without the Show secretary. She is in overall charge. Days and weeks of planning. She had to book the venue, deal with the council, take entries by e-mail and telephone, print entry cards and supervise setting up tables with covers and class cards. Some trophies are returned on the day of the show, others at some time convenient to the exhibitor beforehand. The show secretary has to make sure the right person and the right plant get the right trophy. At the end of the show everything has to go back in its place. On everyone's behalf I want to thank Alison and all the other show secretaries.

I enjoyed my day at the show and will enjoy the plants I bought. **Thank you Perth group volunteers and the members who brought plants for sale.**



The first two Classes at Perth are 6 pan classes. Slightly different entry requirements. Tom Green won Class A and Stan da Prato was second but in Class 1 Stan prevailed.

The winner of Class is awarded the Alexander Caird Trophy.



Clockwise from top right  
 Androsace hirtella ★ Phlox 'Bedazzled'  
 Corydalis 'Heavenly blue' Arenaria montana  
 Two Campanulas Primula pubescens





*Trillium decumbens*.  
The plant comes from United States Amer.  
It is the most prostrate trillium, which  
is how it got its name, decumbens.  
Very slow to grow and does not often set  
seeds, even when cross pollinated. Also  
the seeds are hard to germinate even if  
sown fresh.

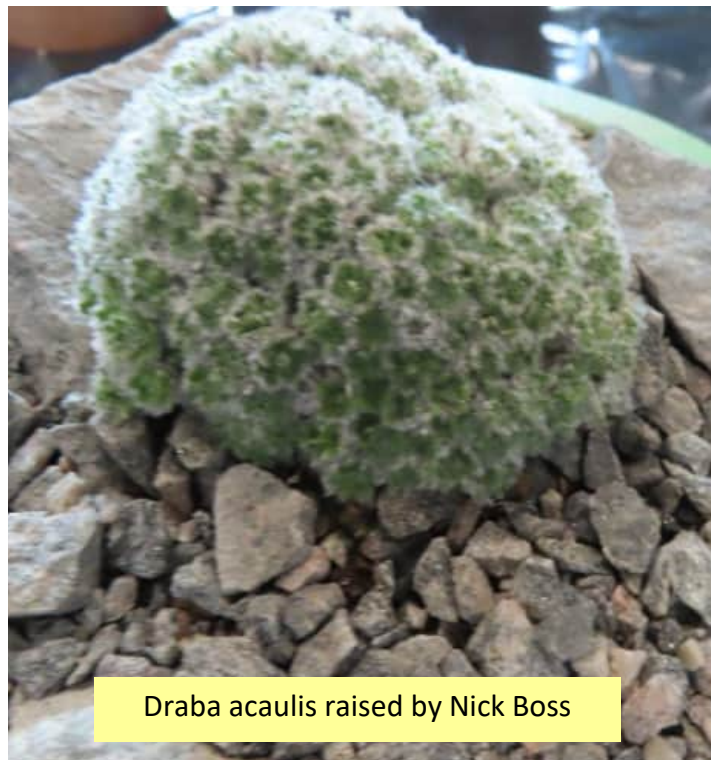
*Androsace barbulate*  
This is a Caucasian form of *Androsace villosa*, synonym  
of *Androsace villosa* subsp. *koso-poljanskii*.  
Wild collected seeds sown 28/01/21 germinated 3/04/21.



*Eritrichium nanum*  
Seeds sown 9th March 2022. Two seedlings germinated  
27th July 2022 and were kept in the plastic seed pot for  
the first year. In March 2023, the seedlings were potted  
on *en masse* in a bigger terracotta pot (the current pot)  
with minimal disturbance using a compost consisting of  
loam, perlite and grit. The plants are grown in a well  
ventilated alpine house in full sun.

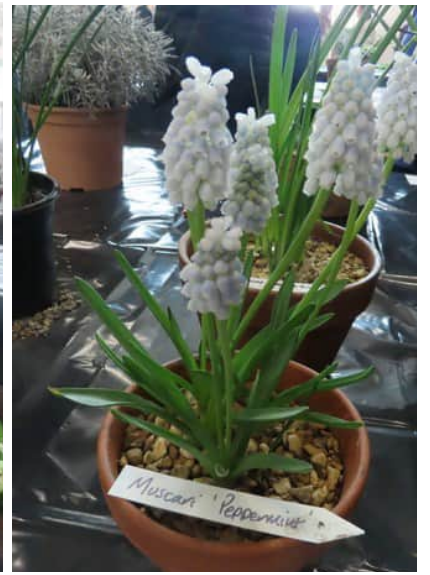


**RARE & VERY RARE**



## RARE & VERY RARE

Plants can be rare for several reasons. They may be difficult to propagate from cuttings or division; seed might not be produced in cultivation; they might not even flower or they cannot be introduced from the wild for any number of reasons. Including legal issues. In the main new introductions nowadays are by seed. The importance of raising plants from seed and introducing new plants to cultivation is why we have special classes and trophies for both categories. The Margaret & Henry Taylor Award is named for our friends from Invergowrie who have introduced and raised from seed, many fine plants. Their Narcissus hybrids in particular are marvellous. One of their most beautiful introductions was the pink flowered Nuria form of *Ranunculus parnassifolius*. If you don't have it, I recommend that you get a copy of their book on the Pyrenees. The Taylors travelled widely in the European mountains and as far as the Himalaya. This prize is one of the most coveted at Perth.



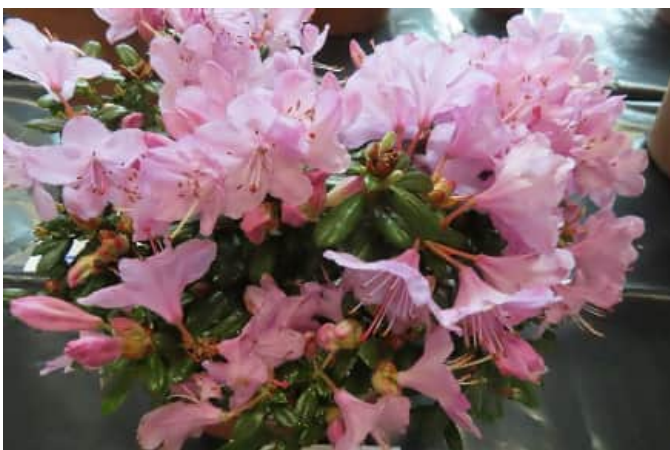


Pleione Shantung [below] from Cyril and Pleione Shantung Ducat [above ] from Alex Samokin were awarded Certificates of Merit





Rh. Dora Amateis [above] won the Cox trophy for Best Rhododendron. It was shown by David Milward . Appropriately a hybrid Rh. Tricia Cox [below] was beside it on the bench. Far left is Rh. 'Wee Bee'







Primula bracteata var bracteata won the R. S. Masterton Trophy for best Asiatic Primula for Cyril Lafong [pictured with John Lee & Stan da Prato]

Bobby Masterton was a veterinary surgeon who lived and built the famous Cluny Gardens near Aberfeldy, he grew many Himalayan and Chinese plants in his famed woodland garden. You can still visit Cluny Gardens.



Primula 'Celtic Maiden'



Primula 'Beatrice Wooster'



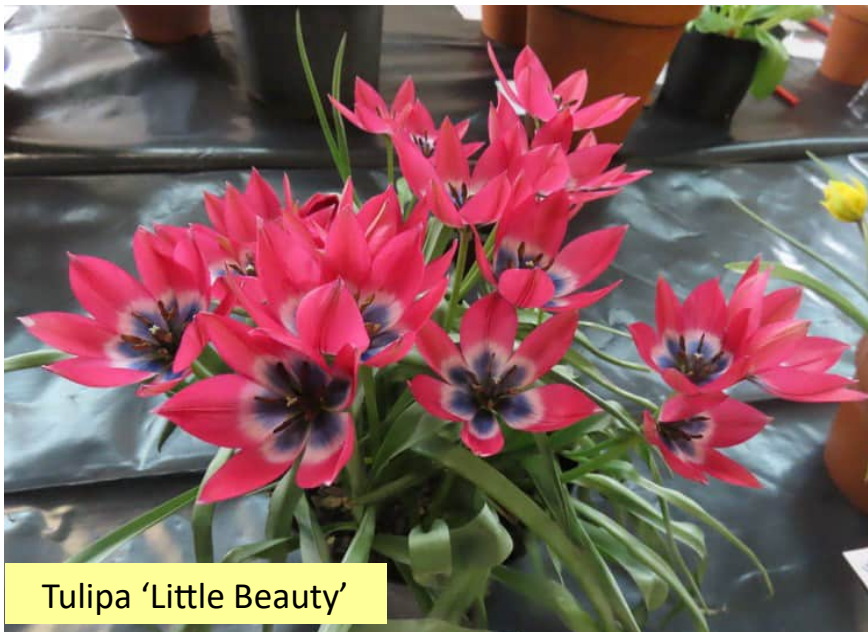
Primula 'Mrs Wilson'

For me one of the stars of the show and a cultural achievement was this pan of *Primula scotica* shown by Jim Low of Perth. I was delighted to see the pan of *P. scotica* exhibited by Ian & Carole at Edinburgh last week and just like buses you wait for years and then here is another one. Congratulations to Jim, Carole and Ian for cracking the secret of growing our native plant without moving to the Caithness coast.



Eilidh Fletcher from Perth was first [ bottom left] in the closely competed class for an arrangement of cut flowers and foliage. This class is easily overlooked as it is in Section V and is Class 95 at Perth. This is a class which can show the range of plants flowering at the current time. In these vases we see Primrose, Erythronium, Narcissus, Anemone, Daisy, Muscari, Fritillaria, Forget-me-not, Epimedium and others.

Why don't more folk enter this class and show us what their garden grows?



Tulipa 'Little Beauty'



Tulipa aucheriana?



Tulipa 'Technicolor'



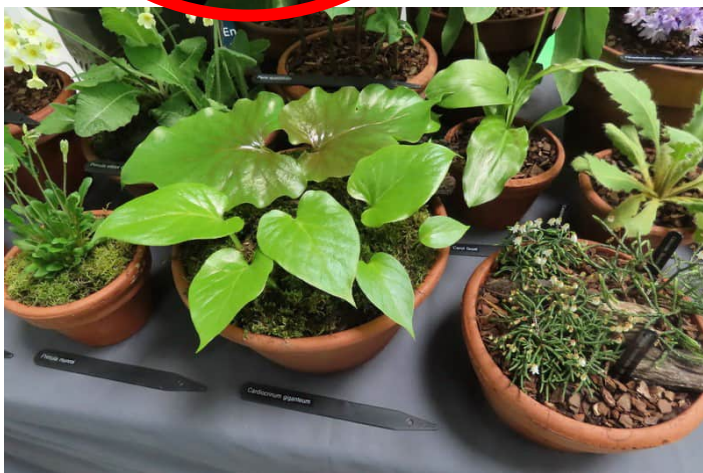
Tulipa sylvestris



Graham Catlow showed two fine wee trees  
 [Left] *Salix serpyllifolia* displaying luxuriant spring foliage has the colloquial name 'Thyme-leaved willow'. It is a true tree with a wooden trunk and in the wild it is usually prostrate. It is native to the mountains of southern Europe, from Spain, the Alps and the Balkans. Graham's plant seems to be growing it own wee pointed hat! A very nice entry!

Below left at front is his *Picea sitchensis* 'Papoose' This is a bushy tight growing miniature Sitka spruce. Its dark green needles have a silvery back. It is said to be a good plant for coastal regions.





Thank you Branklyn Garden for this Gold Medal exhibit





There was something for everyone at Perth!

