



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Discussion Weekend Show Grantown on Spey 2014



I have compiled this report using pictures which **Stan da Prato** uploaded to the SRGC forum. Most of words are also Stan's.

I thought it was important to have all the SRGC show pictures together in the report section and they could be read and looked at easily.

This was about the first Discussion Weekend I have missed since I started going to them half a lifetime ago. Judging by people's comments and Stan's pictures this one was the best of The Best Discussion Weekends Ever, Anywhere, At ALL! So! Sorry I missed it.

Sandy Leven.



A very successful weekend enjoyed by all.

First quick pictures. **The Forrest medal** went to a fine *Shortia* from past and present presidents Carole and Ian Bainbridge.

The Peel Trophy for three gentians to Beryl and Ian McNaughton with three of Ian's hybrids. 'The Caley', 'Braemar' & 'Barra'

The Jim Lever Cyclamen trophy was won by Roma Fiddes with *C. rohlfsianum* as part of a good three pan entry.





Mala Janes had a merit cert. with a fine *Cyclamen hederifolium*.
The Mowat conifer trophy was won by weekend organisers Carol and David Shaw, with *Picea glauca* 'Blue Planet.'



The **East Lothian trophy** for class 3, three alpines, went to your reporter [Stan] which could be said to be appropriate as I live in that fine county. Due to entering the most plants I also retained the **Mary Bowe Trophy** for most points in the open section. My *Cassiope* which unexpectedly burst into full flower in the last few days received a merit cert. A snap I took on a local beach was awarded the **Reivers trophy** for a Scottish native plant.



HOLIDAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



However the best photos in the show were from the talented McCaughey pairing with another very good set of holiday pictures. The other cups listed in the schedule were not awarded due to lack of entries in the relevant class or section. Although the show was a good one it was disappointing that there were so few section 2 entries that the two potential exhibitors just put their plants into the open section.



Now a walk round the hall. Class 1 for 6 small pans then class 2 for three small. I think Jean Wyllie was second in the six and first with the three -she put lots of bulbs into the show.

[Modesty forbid Stan from saying he was first in the 6 pan class]



Then views of the gentians and Erica-ceous plants & finally Roma's three Cyclamen.



Two colourful Colchicum pots



Now: hardy succulents including one of Nick Boss' distinctive Sedums growing in its habitat, cushion plants won by Lionel Clarkson with an impressive pair, finally plants in fruit with *Microcachrys tetragona*, one of the world smallest Conifers, with tiny cones



This time :- African plants, Australasian plants, plants that did not fit any other classes with a colourful Oxalis I think from Kath Rimmer, a nice set of Sorbus fruits from Cathy Caudwell, and another holiday photo set from those inveterate travellers Margaret and Henry Taylor.





**Members
in action**



**More
members
- more
action**



**Some members
- inaction!**

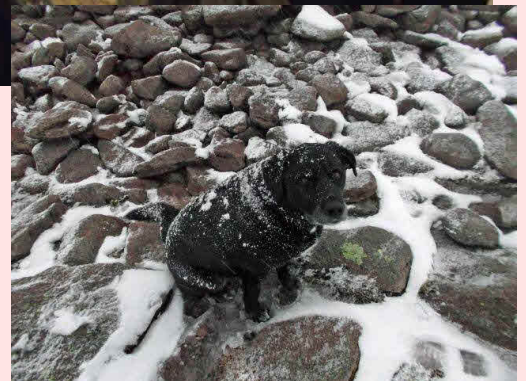




David Shaw wrote:-

As one of the DWE organisers I can say that I was extremely happy with the show and the whole weekend. So many of the attractions were so much better supported than in 2013 and that was entirely due to the delegates. In the show hall staging had to be halted on Friday morning, when we realised that entries were going to be much higher than anticipated, so that we could insert another row of tables (pic 2380). That is the hotel manager with his back to us and wearing a 'proper' shirt! Quality was generally good also even though we all were having a difficult time with our bulbs. Crocuses were not good and all entrants were constantly removing handfuls of fallen blooms from our cyclamen. On the other hand some plants, such as the gentians, really shone. See Stan's pics for for the plants, so much better than any I took - thanks for sharing them, Stan.

The photo competitions were also much better supported. In 2013 the trade stand people were not overly impressed with their sales but had no reason to feel disappointed this year. One of the most surprising differences was in the Friday evening 'bulb exchange'. One of the poorest that I have seen in 2013 but this year we were inundated with donations (pic elow). And, not only that. We normally remove unsold bulbs at the end of the exchange and take them down to the club sales table, this year, for the first time that I can remember, the last packet was lifted from the table in less than half-an-hour after the start of the event! Remarkable.



That Saturday afternoon when most of us were in the lecture hall a colleague, Pete Gordon, was taking his usual weekend constitutional on the Cairngorm plateau with Dava the dog - what had fallen as rain at Grantown was snow higher up - the first of the winter,
 "It's all right you for you mate I'm in me bare feet" So sayeth Dava