



The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Glasgow Show

2014



Milngavie Town Hall is an appropriate setting for a show of rock garden plants as Milngavie sits at the Southern end of the West Highland way. Despite this I am pretty sure that of the thousands of walkers who set out towards Loch Lomond and the hills beyond, very few take much notice of the flowers along the way. One does not have to walk the whole route in a 'one-er'! One can join it or leave it at various places. Our Rotary Club walked the whole West Highland Way in one day by assigning groups of walkers short sections of the Way according to their ability. Perhaps the SRGC should arrange a series of walks, throughout the year, to photograph and record memorable plants and places along the way. Wild and cultivated plants could be combined. Most folk claim to know nothing about gardens and plants! They might be telling the truth. We in the SRGC could be considered 'experts'! Combined with views such a booklet would be a nice addition to Scottish Guide Books. I own a wonderfully detailed book about Ben Eigh, the mountain above the woodland. Then there is 'Wild Flowers of the North Highlands of Scotland' by Ken Butler and Ken Crossan - a superb book but sold out and now out of print and it was only published in 2009! There are several other 'Ways' in Scotland.

I wanted to hold you in suspense before marching into the show hall and letting you gasp at the extraordinary wealth of rock garden plants on the benches. I was greeted at 9.00 am on the Saturday morning, by Show secretary John Lee, with the words, 'You hav'nae brought any plants have you?' I agreed that indeed I hadn't but any guilt which I had harboured about not supporting the show evaporated as John explained that they were having difficulty accommodating all the entries. I was delighted to be one of the judges. Two things make you look properly at show plants. One is judging, the other photographing them. Perusing the photos afterwards deepens your interest and knowledge. Despite an influx of superb plants from south of the border as well as from Scottish Exhibitors Cyril Lafong triumphed with his *Cypripedium* 'URSEL' winning the George Forrest Memorial Medal.



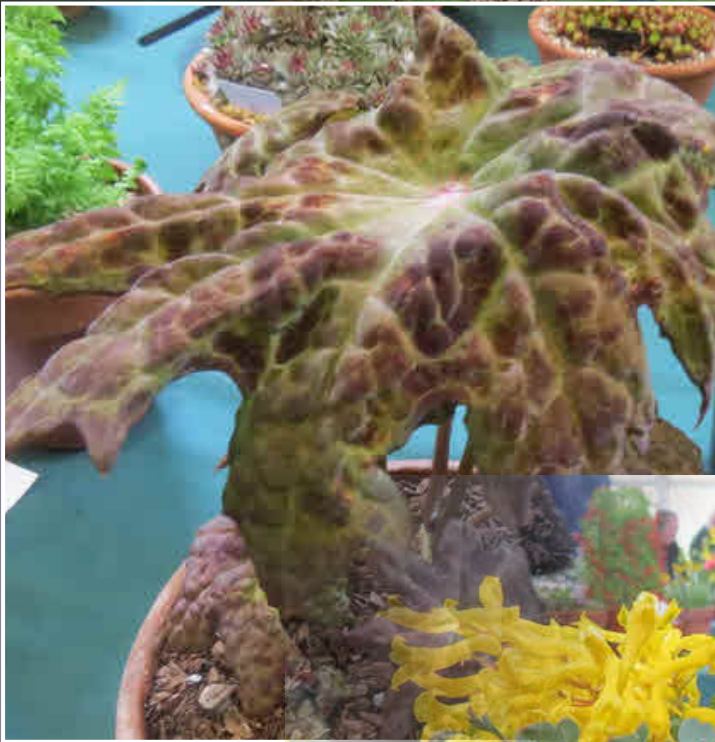




**6 Small
pans**

1st Cyril Lafong
2nd John di Paola
3rd Tommy Anderson





Meconopsis x harleyana 'Ivory Poppy'
Dicentra spectabilis 'Valentine'
Trillium grandiflorum fl. plena
Podophyllum delavayi
Corydalis wilsonii



A great winning 6 pan entry from Tommy Anderson & Lamium armenun is the centre of attraction. Stan da Prato's 2nd prize entry is below



Corydalis rupestris

Corydalis rupestris belongs to Section Strictae in the Genus *Corydalis*. It is a chasmophyte (cliff dweller), native to arid parts of Iran and Afghanistan. It is uncommon in cultivation.

A very well-drained compost and a restricted rootgrowth is required to simulate the conditions in its natural habitat. It is safest grown in the alpine house where if happy, it will set seeds through self-pollination.



x Jancaemonda HJ-23

This is a hybrid between *Jancaea heldreichii* and *Ramonda nathaliae* alba originally made by Harry Jans in 2000.

In its native home *Jancaea heldreichii* and *Ramonda nathaliae* enjoy cool moist conditions. In cultivation *x Jancaemonda* needs similar growing conditions. A shady place suits it best in the summer months. It is said to be easier to grow than the *Jancaea* but still not common in cultivation.

3 rarities from Cyril with his own descriptions of source and growing



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Stan's winning 3 Rhododendron on left and John di Paolo's second on the right

Swift [yellow] , Enzian [purple], Ginny Gee [pink], Scarlet Wonder, Himmelberg and Dora Amateis[both white]



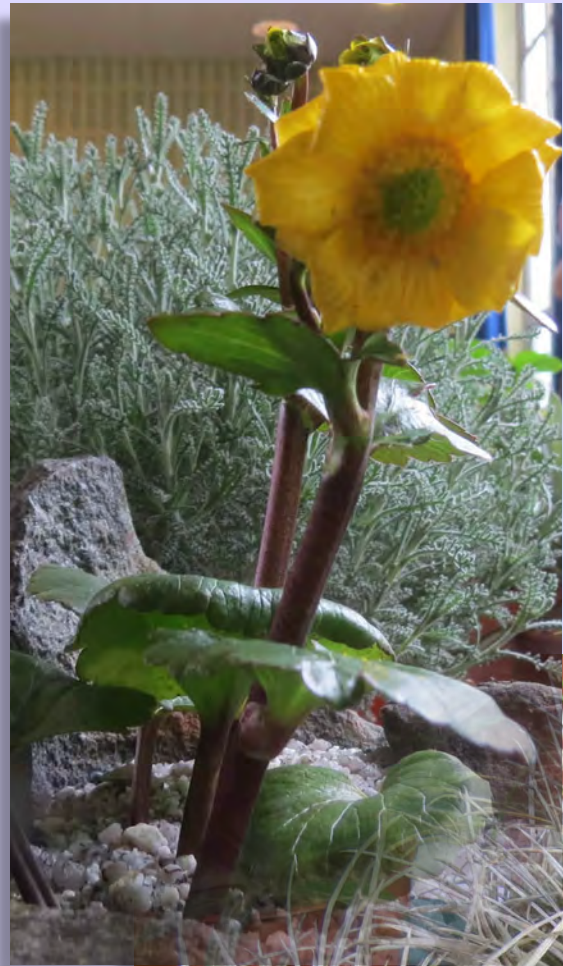
Eritrichium nanum

Eritrichium howardii
 This has a limited distribution in the Rocky Mountains, in Montana and Wyoming, where it grows over limestone on high plateaux. Seeds were sown in a gritty compost with plenty of added powdered limestone in January 2012. Seedlings have been potted on from time to time in a similar compost, and the plants are kept under cover in an alpine polytunnel.

Eritrichium nanum
 'King of the Alps'
 Boraginaceae
 A circumpolar high altitude alpine occurring in the North American Rockies as well as the European Alps. It was thought to be mostly self pollinated but recent studies have shown that small flies pollinate the plants effectively even at this altitude.
 This plant is growing in a 50/50 mix of perlite and limestone granules, in semi-shade.



It seems to take a couple to grow The king of the Alps!
 Rarely seen but at Glasgow we had two pans of *Eritrichium* in flower. One is from John & Clare Dower from Frodsham and one is from David & Stella Rankin from Lasswade



Ranunculus insignis,
Aciphylla subflabellata,
Raoulia logani & Celmisia spedenii,
all from New Zealand
like the class of
plants below



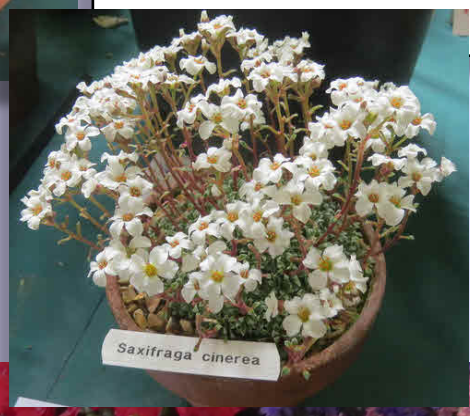


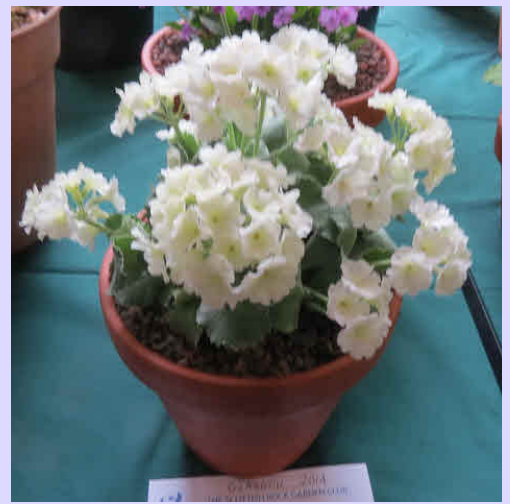
I find it interesting that plants which grow hundreds or thousands of miles apart manage to evolve similarly. Look at the New Zealander, *Raoulia logani* on the previous page and below and see how it is quite similar in size, form, leaf shape and colour to the African *Helichrysum pagophyllum*. Former Glasgow show secretary

Rodger Smyth showed a plant of *Ourisia* 'Snowflake'.

This is a plant it seemed that which everyone used to grow but is not seen nearly often enough these days. I suspect that when it was popular it was offered by Jack Drake's Nursery and with the changes in ownership of Inchriach, is no longer available there.

Below you can see some of the wide range of *Saxifraga* in the show. They vary from the large dome of *S. pubescens* 'Snowflake'. To the dark Mossy *S. arendsii* 'Ruby Red' and the tight cushion of the rare *S. cinerea*

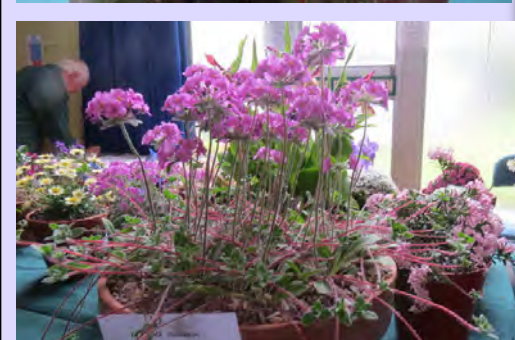
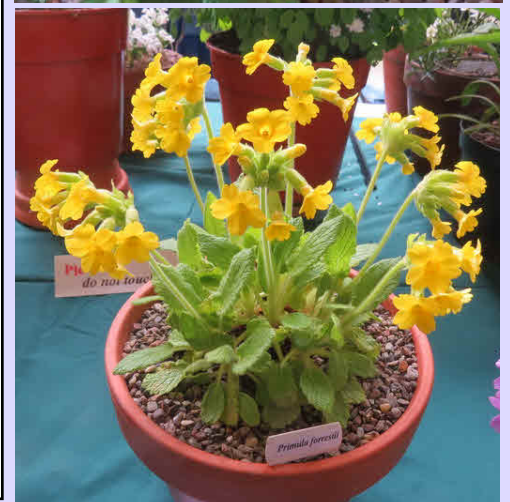




Primulas are a mainstay of our gardens and shows. They grow in most countries in the Northern hemisphere as well as in South America [why there? Ask *P. magellanica* why]. At Glasgow there was a good selection. I particularly liked the white flowers of *Primula* 'Emily'. Watt Russell and Ian & Carole both grow and show *P. rusbyi* very well.



Whenever I see *Primula forrestii* I want it to win the Forrest Medal. It certainly has more chance than either his rhododendron or his iris! At the show there were 4 plants of *P. forrestii* each slightly different. I preferred the one whose flowers had the dark centre. The one bottom right has more tubular flowers. Must get some seed and try again.



I once had a nice plant of *P. forrestii* and showed it at Aberdeen when their show was held in the prestigious Music Rooms. Alas, I messed up my entries and put the pot in a 3 pan class for European Primulas! What happened? It was NAS'd! Lesson learnt but plant did not thrive after the ignominy which I brought upon it..



Left 4 Androsaces

- A. studiosorum 'Chumbyi'
- A. sarmentosa watkinsii
- A. studiosorum
- A. robusta robustsa



Anemone multifida

Fritillaria acmopetala is often overlooked as being 'common'. Take a closer look. What a stunner!

Meconopsis x cookei 'Old Rose'

Corydalis pallida with *Corydalis wilsonii* [inset at bottom right]
I like the purple insets on the petals of *pallida*

At the bottom left *Fritillaria pontica* is a beautiful jade colour which I am certain would go down well with lovers of Chinese antiques.





George Young's *Fritillaria liliaceae* was judged Best Bulb and quite rightly so! And so won The AGS Ulster Group Quaich.

Steven Mc Farlane's *Trillium grandiflorum* flore plena was awarded a Certificate of Merit

Exotic, *Iris sari lupio* towering over a splendid pan of *Iris* 'Cherry Gardens'

Trillium grandiflorum roseum and *Calochortus tolmei* complete the selection on this page.





From DAISY DAISY!
To DEAR, DEAR, DEAR!
Erigeron vagus
Erigeron montanensis
Erigeron 'Canary Bird'
Erigeron aureus



Lewisia 'Brynhyfryd' is a four way hybrid from David & Stella
The big Lewisia cotyledon gained a Certificate of Merit for Cliff Booker who was this year's SRGC Travelling Speaker



Daphne calcicola
Daphne whiteorum
Daphne x rollsdorfii 'Wilhelm Schacht' Cyril
with his Forrest Medal winning
Cypripedium 'URSEL'

