



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



**Shortia uniflora
Shown by Ian & Carole Bainbridge**



THE PRESIDENTS' PLANT
Its not often that a plant shown for foliage wins The Forrest Medal We usually expect it to go to a well flowered plant. It was good to learn that this time the judges realised that the Best Plant in the show was not one which had been entered in a class for flowering plants but in one for foliage and was of such outstanding merit that it deserved the Forrest Medal.



It is nice too it was won by our President Carole and ex-President Ian. Last year they won Forrest medals at Nairn and at Perth. Many years ago at a Discussion Weekend show at Queen Margaret College [now a University and in a different part of Edinburgh!] they won the Forrest with Daphne jasminea.

With these two Presidents looking after it, how could the Shortia fail to be well grown. The Bainbridges are leading from the front. As well as the presidential care it helps to have a good plant! Shortias have superb foliage and each leaf is worthy of our attention so that we can appreciate the delicate veining. They are slow to grow but this gives you time to appreciate it all the more. It is quite easy to damage their leaves, causing brown edges, if they are not tended properly. You can see just how richly the leaves colour up in autumn, perhaps enhanced slightly by the camera flash. Sorry about the slight blurring in the second picture.

Shortia uniflora is a Japanese dwarf shrub, native to mountain woodlands in Eastern Honshu. In spring when well flowered is absolutely fabulous as it covers itself in wonderful outward facing 5 petaled pink or white bells. In spring there is more green in the leaves. Perhaps Ian and Carole can do the double and win another Forrest with it when it is in flower. Put it on your list of 'must have plants' As a garden plant it can be seen growing to perfection in Gothenburg Botanic Garden.

Well done Mrs Pres and Mr ExPres!