

The Scottish Rock Garden Club & The Alpine Garden Society HEXHAM SHOW 2nd March 2016



The Saxifraga 'Coolock Gem' Show. Different plants of S. 'Coolock Gem' from different exhibitors, not only won the George Forrest Medal but also the Large 6 pan [AGS Medal] and Large 1 Pan Rock Plant in Flower classes.





There is always a huddle when the Forrest Medal plant is being chosen. Each judge is asked to look round the hall and choose which plant is, in their opinion, THE BEST. The selected plants are grouped together and after much discussion judges make up their minds, decisions have



to be taken and the strict voting procedure eventually whittles the plants down till there is a winner. Sometimes it is obvious and there needs to only a few voting rounds. This year Mark Childerhouse's excellent Saxifraga 'Coolock Gem' [centre] was judged the winner. The picture shows the judges at the top, and each of the others shows the long benches of plants which were entered.

These pictures were taken while judging was taking place. As soon as it was finished everyone else piled into the show area



Winner of the large 6 pan class was George Young and second was Stan da Prato. George's plants were *Sebaea thomasii*,

Calianthemum anemonoides,

Saxifraga grisbachii,

Trillium rivale,

Saxifraga 'Coolock Gem'

and *Primula 'Broadwell Milkmaid'*.

If you wanted 6 plants to grow on to Forrest medal winners these would be a good six to choose.





Frank & Barbara Hoyle won the Large 3 pan Primula Class with 'Marjorie Wooster', 'Pink Aire' & 'Mrs Dyas'
Tom Green came second with 'Pink Aire', 'Philip' [the marginata type] & 'Blindsee'



All these are eligible for the 1 Pan Primulaceae Class. They would even be OK in a 1 pan Primula. All these domes of flower and only David Valentine [far left, front] is showing his leaves. Don Peace won with P. Broadwell Milkmaid'

In the Asiatic Primula Class the very tiny, pink, yellow-eyed P. warshenewskiana beat its much taller primrose and yellow cousin, P. elatior ssp. cordifolia.





Family Melianthiaceae? Well I would be stuck too. Imagine being on 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' and the million pound question was to name a genus in the Melianthiaceae Family. It would take me hundreds of guesses to come up with 'Trillium'.

I was delighted to see Fred & Pat Bundy's plant of *Trillium chloropetalum* 'Val Mulverhill' win again. I wish it were widely available. It is so distinct. With plain leaves and the maroon pink suffusion into the petal bases, I took it for a yellow form of *T. albidum*.

I also liked Alan Spenceley's fabulous pot of *T. nivale*. A real wee gem. Ian Instone showed a pan of *Trillium nivale* seedlings, which showed colour variants from pink to white.



Don Peace won with *Pleione* 'Heckla' & *Fritillaria crassifolia*. Cyril Lafong with *Tecophilea cyanocrocus* & Ian & Carole Bainbridge with the daffodil with the very long name, *Narcissus rupicola watieri* 'Abaleish'





The 1 pan Saxifraga Class with Mark Childerhouse's Forrest Medal winner, the biggest and best 'Coolock Gem' in the show.

SAXIFRAGES

'Sissi' Allendale Hobbit
 Allendale Ghost Allendale Harvest





CLASS 102

Caltha
polypetalata x *leptosepala*

A sterile, bi-generic hybrid between the above two species. Starts into flower, usually by 1st week in March, continuing until late May. (approx 10 wks.) Seed was collected from *C. polypetalata* in 2011, both species grow close together in my garden. Before the crop flowered as typical *polypetalata*, one early flowering seedling (as shown) opened, as seen, 4 wks ahead of



The Class for 1 Rock Plant in Flower [19cm pot] had a tremendous entry. It was won by Don Peace's *Primula [aureata]* Netta Dennis.

In the New & Rare Class Alan Furness took first and the E.G Watson Trophy with his *Callianthemum farreri*. You have to marvel at its pale blue flowers. Eric Watson was a past President of the SRGC and was especially interested in the new and rare classes.

The yellow *Caltha* hybrid was shown by Graham Butler of Rumbling Bridge Nursery. He raised the seedling himself. The notes tell you it is a hybrid between *C. polypetalata* and *C. leptosepala*. It must be one of the richest yellow flowers in existence Both were recommended for a Preliminary Commendation by the RHS Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee.

Hepaticas in the show



Tommy Anderson's excellent 3 pan entry of

Saxifraga 'Allandale Ginn',

Trillium nivale & *Corydalis glaucescens* was awarded the R.B.Cooke Plate. Great to see three white flowered plants in peak condition in this class.



The '1 pan rock plant in flower' class was contested by another 6 white flowered plants alongside a pink *Corydalis solida* which although correctly entered must have felt that it too should have had white flowers. Frank & Barbara Hoyle triumphed with their *S.* 'Coolock Gem'

Jim Watson just pipped Ian Kidman in the 3 pan Primulaceae class





Alpine Garden Society
&
Scottish Rock Garden Club

Class 51

3 pans rock plants, distinct genera



Alpine Garden Society
&
Scottish Rock Garden Club

Class 56

3 pans Primula Asiatic



Don Peace 's plant of **Primula petelotii** caused a stir when it was shown to the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee. Primula expert John Richards enthused about it. This beautiful plant, a member of the petio-larid section, is uncommon in horticulture. It is native

to North Vietnam and S.E. Yunnan. In a write up in the Edinburgh Journal of Botany by Chinese Botanists C.M Hu and G. Hao wrote that it was known from one collection from Mt Chapa in Vietnam. John Richards wrote that this was in 1932. Don's plant shows what a beautiful plant it can be when grown by an expert. The second collection mentioned by Hu and Hao was from Vietnam. After flowering, each scape slowly bends toward the ground and starts to grow a new plant. Roots appear on the plantlets just above the bracts. I hope it bends a lot and roots prodigiously. In many shows a rare plant like this would be trumpeted and displayed on a high plinth but at our SRGC / AGS shows such behaviour would be inappropriate. So there it was just sitting on the bench in a big class of Asiatic Primulas. It was awarded a Certificate of Merit. Well done Don and thank you for bringing this rarity.

Alan Furness' Primula clusiana 'Murray Lyon' is another splendid Primula. It is a member of the Arthritica subsection of the Auricula section of the genus Primula. That's the section I would be in! It hails from the Austrian Mountains west of Vienna. This clone has been in cultivation for longer than I have been a member of the SRGC. Its name commemorates the late General Murray Lyon who was a staunch supporter of the Perth Group. Below Left. Tommy Anderson's beautiful entry which won the AGS Medal for the small 6 pans.



Below: once the joint Rock Meeting is finished Carole and Ian Bainbridge's work begins. Carole is secretary of the Committee and must write up descriptions of the award plants for the RHS. This involves taking samples of flower and leaf. The plants are also photographed. Carole has pictures going back many years to when she started photographing the award plants at Scottish SRGC shows.



I admired Lionel Clarkson's *Primula petiolaris* 'Sherriff's form'. There must be hundreds of buds to come. The name commemorates George Sherriff [below right] who with Frank Ludlow collected in India, Tibet and Bhutan before and after WW11. I bet they would be gratified to know that this collection of theirs was still going strong.



SILENE CALIFORNICA Caryophyllaceae
 This lovely *Silene* comes from the foothills of the mountains in California and adjacent States. It has recently been reintroduced as seed by Apleains the seed firm from the USA

John Burton
 Lancaster

FIRST

***Hepatica acutiloba* 'Louise Koehler' (Ranunculaceae)**

Louise Koehler is best remembered as the Minnesota gardener who grew and shared with the nursery trade *Anemone thalictroides* 'Schoaf's Double'. She found this semi double form of *Hepatica acutiloba* in a Minnesota woodland and offered it to Merv Eisel, a horticulturalist with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to propagate. He registered the name to remember Louise Koehler. In 1966, Lincoln Foster wrote in the NARGS bulletin that he had never come across any double forms of the American hepaticas. This form of *H acutiloba* has only recently become available in Europe.



CLASS 100
 Diane Clement



Alan Furness always show us how beautiful are the Celmisias. Since they flower in the summer, we rarely see Celmisias in flower at the shows but Alan presents them so well as foliage plants that we never miss their white daisy flowers. I am impressed at how large this metallic silver Celmisia spedenii has grown in two years!

Celmisia x *spedenii*, own seed sown 14/1/14
 Seed was collected from several plants of *C. spedenii* which had been raised from wild collected New Zealand seed. *C. spedenii* is characterized by very narrow, silver leaves.
 All of the 3 young plants raised from the sowing have silver leaves, but wider than those of the parents. Those of the extreme are particularly so. The supposed other parent might be *C. semi-cordata* ssp *tenacea* which also has silver leaves; but wider than those of the parents.
 Northumberland AGS SHOW 2014

