



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Nairn Show 2013



The Forrest Medal at Nairn was won by *Narcissus rupicola watieri* 'Abaleish' shown by our Lady President and her husband. Carole and Ian Bainbridge had travelled all the way from the southern outskirts of Edinburgh or may even from Dumfries-shire, across the length of Scotland for the show. The adjacent picture hardly does them justice as cuts off their feet down beside which I was kneeling. The second picture



from my kneeling position ... and they are not even looking at me!

Narcissus rupicola watieri 'Abaleish' won them their second Forrest Medal in 2 weeks!! Well done Mrs President. That's a splendid pan of bulbs and more spectacular when you consider that it is not the easiest *Narcissus* in cultivation. It is one of the prettiest and highly desirable. I am impressed how well it coped with the journey and remained in perfect condition after 5 hours or more in the car.







Another Highland Spectacular

Nairn is a great venue for a rock garden plant show. It sits beside the sea, on the edge of the highlands, which most of us must cross to get there. This creates an instant rapport with the mountains and their plants. Admittedly the flora is less splendid than that of the Alps but it is our flora. There are plenty hotels and guest houses but it sensible to book your room early as non SRGC folk go there as well! Apparently golf is a draw for some. Take time to visit some of the coastal forests to see the gems which grow there.

A terrific effort by local members as well as good support from more distant enthusiasts



meant that once again this, our most northerly show, was a great success. Prominent among the further travelled exhibitors was Stan da Prato,, SRGC Showman of the year sorry I meant Plantsman of the Year, for this and several years prior to this season. However the epithet 'showman' might be deemed more appropriate as it is the prize given to the exhibitor who gains the highest number of first prize points at the SRGC shows during the year. The winner receives The Alpine Garden Society Salver. You must have a lot of plants to cover the season so comprehensively as does Stan. Not only that the plants must be in good

fettle to win first prize points. The picture here shows Stan busy packing up after the show, loading boxes of plants into his car. Friends have nicknamed his car the Tardis as its internal capacity seems to be bigger than its outside dimensions.

Well done Stan for showing us all the way to do it.



**Nurserymen -
old and new
We need them all**





Mind the Language

Beside the show venue there is a fish and chip shop which evidently relishes competition. I tend to buy my chips in Aviemore on the way back south but I was tempted by the local offerings in Nairn. ‘Creeping Gaelicalisation’ is bringing longer words to our high streets as the sign for the local library illustrates. And why do

Gaels spell the names of towns differently from everyone else? For example ‘Dùn Dè’ is Dundee, ‘Peairt’ is Perth, ‘Obar Dheathain’ is Aberdeen, ‘Dùn Bhlàthain’ is Dunblane. Now you might guess these but what about ‘Sruighlea’ for Stirling, ‘Baile na h-Eaglais’ for Kirkwall, ‘Gleann Iucha’ for Linlithgow and ‘Ceann a’ Ghiuthsaich’ for Kingussie? The Gaelic makes The Latin seem easy. Don’t complain again about binomial plant names just be glad that Linnaeus was Swedish and not from Stornoway



A wee plant with a long name *Parahebe densifolia*, written in Latin but more comprehensible to me and easier to pronounce than Gaelic names I do wish ho that I could read, understand and speak Gaelic but it just looks very difficult. So I’ll just ask ‘ciamar a tha thu?’



Gunnera magellanica



Ranunculus amplexicaulis



Tristagma leichtlinii



Arum creticum



Iris bucharica & I. vicaria



Primula polyantha



**C. rhodium ssp. peleponnesiacum
& Cyclamen repandum**



**Kalmiopsis leachiana
[Douglasia]
Androsace idahoensis x laevigata**





Narcissus 'Humming Bird'



Erythronium helenae





Primula elatior



P. auricula 'Black Jack'



Trillium grandiflorum



Lewisia tweedyi



Primula auricula hybrid



Primula rusbyi



Celmisia ramulosa



Iris orchioides bicolor

These perfectly grown and shown exhibits exemplify the wide range of species which come under the title 'Rock Garden Plants' Pictures of a selection of the plants follow too many to name them all. Thanks to all who grew and showed them.



Spring Posy



Bellevalia paradoxa



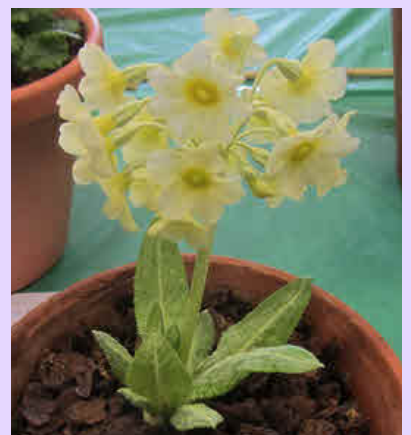
Tulipa tarda



Primula denticulata



Primula aureata



**Primula calderiana
ssp. strumosa**



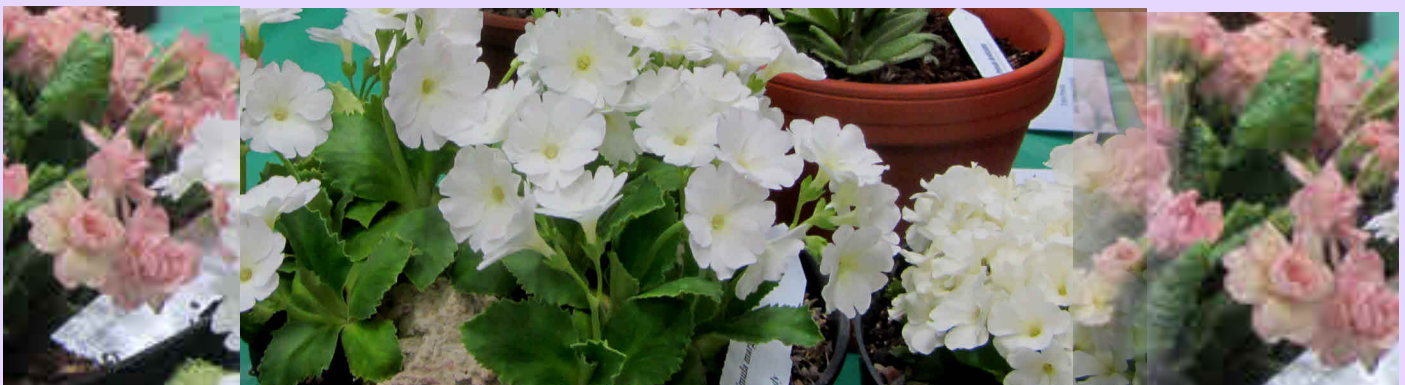
Vitliana primulaflora



Saxifraga x editthae



Primula irregularis hybrid





Androsace vandellii - Certificate of Merit



Primula rusbyi



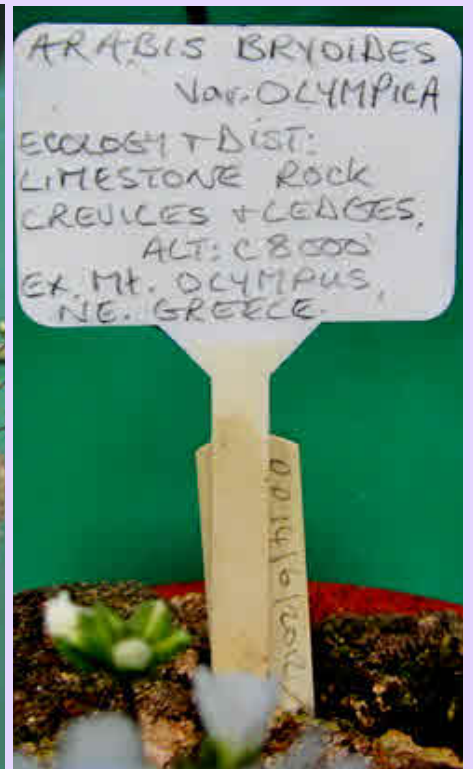
Nick Boss' approach to growing in his own words

A Holistic Approach to the Cultivation of *Arabis androsacea* bryoides

The main objective here is to grow a healthy plant. Priority has therefore been given to studying the plant's requirements, those that enable it to function well generally, remain healthy + in character. The traditional methods of cultivation required for show perfection, (suit either an ordinary garden or a greenhouse, were not considered, neither was the plant's 'Garden value'.

Essential requirements:-

- (i) Growth: full exposure to UVB + plenty of ventilation, + if weather permits, outside as a free-standing pot with drip tray, even if its only for a week or two. This sp. will except showers of rain in the Spring, but later on better in the greenhouse.
 - (ii) Watering: as normal, as soon as there are signs of growth in the Spring, but then reduce from the end of May.
 - (iii) Dormancy: the cold conditions experienced in the greenhouse together with plenty of ventilation will suffice.
- Misc. - This plant produces very little viable seed, therefore, it was a very lucky seed that germinated in 1996!





Arrivederci Nairn!

Goodbye, goodbye to Nairn
 Flower show with a million tiny petals
 Plant sales with a thousand super choices
 Where I found that special treasure
 Far from home

Arrivederci, Nairn
 It's time for us to part
 Save your silver sands for our returning
 Keep the mountain flowers bright and blooming
 Please be sure we keep them in our heart
 Arrivederci, Nairn!

