

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Highland Show 30 /4 /16

Twixt Bens & Shore

Between the Cairngorm mountains [above] and the Moray Firth [below] is Dava Moor, a range of low hills sloping down to a wide coastal plain. This fertile land in the north continues east towards Aberdeen and thence south to Dundee. Several rivers the Nairn, Findhorn and Spey, run north into the Firth from the Cairngorms. Of these the Spey is most famous for its whisky distilleries. It is a land of castles, gardens and sturdy Scottish towns. Over the Firth is the Black Isle with Ben Wyvis towering above it. This year there is a lot of snow on the mountains. Some would say this is the most civilised part of Scotland. Perhaps the most dramatic is the Findhorn which cuts a deep gorge through and tumbles over massive rocks at Randolph's Leap. SRGC members who drive to Nairn from central Scotland know that their journey will be through many of the best parts of Scotland. Some may think Nairn is a long way north but for others, who live in Caithness, Sutherland or Ross and Cromarty the long journey to Nairn is in a southerly direction. The show in Nairn is the local show for our highland members. It is important for the health of the club that we hold events throughout the country. We used to have a group in Thurso but these days the Moray Firth is our northern border. From whichever direction you approach, try to spend some time in the Moray region. You won't find better beaches anywhere. The woods are home to many special plants. For the Shakespeare buffs, Cawdor Castle is nearby and you will be surprised to find Dallas marked on your map.

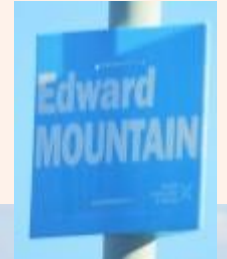


ROADSIDE HISTORY! As I was passing through Carrbridge this carving caught my eye. I like to think it may be of Alexander Stewart, The Wolf of Badenoch (1343—1405), great grandson of Robert the Bruce, who ruled the country round here. 'The Wolf' had his castle on the island in Lochindorb which I passed a few minutes later. It lies just inside Nairnshire. He is buried in Dunkeld Cathedral. Each autumn there is a wood-carving festival in Carrbridge and I presume the carving was produced at one of these. We need more roadside stuff like this!



The Gaelic sign on the Nairnshire boundary seemed welcoming but did not actually say so!

However if I lived in Carrbridge I would definitely support the candidate called Edward Mountain. I hope he gets elected



We all know that the membership of the Scottish Rock Garden Club is worldwide but it comes as a surprise to find that his honour Clay Koplin, Mayor of Cordova in Alaska had come to visit the Nairn show. Clay shadowed the judges while they went round the show and enjoyed listening. He never offered his opinion but I am sure he realised that every decision is considered and involves much discussion, not all of it completely relevant. His home city of Cordova sits on the coast, at the mouth of the Copper River about 150 miles west of the border with the Yukon. When I commented on just how big Alaska is, Clay told me that Alaska is the most Easterly and most westerly State in the USA. He says it has to do with the International Date Line.



Nairn Community Centre





The most noticeable thing about the Highland show is just how well entered are the classes in Section II. The reason is partly historic. For as long as I remember there has been a local group show in Inverness. It ran until the Highland group decided to turn it into a National show, thus allowing exhibitors from all over the country to enter. Since one has to win 50 First prizes in Section II before being forced into Section I, this takes a long time up here because there are so many seasoned local exhibitors. The quality of exhibits in section II would give other shows Section I's a run for their money. Section I classes are on the second table and run round the outside of the room along with classes for cut flowers. The picture also contains a rare picture of Stan da Prato who really supported the show very well. He was the main non-Highland group exhibitor.



Primula scotica
 Trillium chloropetalum
 Erythronium 'White Beauty'
 Pleione 'Tongariro'
 Erigeron 'Canary Bird'
 Benthamiella patagonica
 Salix hylematica





6 PAN CLASS Stan da Prato, Francis & Margie Higgins



Lewisia tweedyi alba
Primula 'Harry Jans'

Stan's Rhododendron racemosum won the Grouse Trophy for best Ericaceus Plant in Show and Francis & Margie's Erigeron Canary Bird gained a Certificate of Merit.



Arabis androsacea



LITHOPS



TITANOPSIS

Nairn has a class for plants which are Native to Africa. These two would blend very well into the parched landscape. Hardy? We often forget just how cold parts of Africa can become. These two from Francis & Margie filled the bill.



Saxifraga oppositifolia grows in countries all round the north pole. This form from St Kilda must be one of the most isolated.



ADIANTUM VENUSTUM

Adiantum venustum is one of around 200 members of the Maidenhair Fern Family. This one grows on humus covered, damp rocks in China and the Himalaya. It has the advantage of being evergreen.



JUST PAUSE

Section 1 Class III

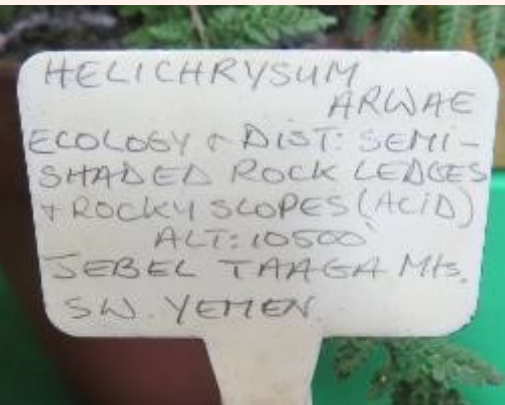


JUST PAUSE

Section 1 Class III

You might also find Semperivium arachnoideum growing on rocks but this time in the European Alps where it prefers hot dry areas.

To find Bolax gemmifera compacta growing wild you would need a boat or a plane and hope for good weather. It grows in the Falkland Islands, Tierra del Fuego and parts of mainland Chile and Argentina.



You learn something new every day! I read the Daily Mail and the Glasgow Herald and so have a balanced view of the world. Neither delves deeply into the world of plants but I thought that through my 46 years of reading our Journal of the Scottish Rock Garden Club I would have known where *Helichrysum arwae* came from. I have grown it; not so well as Nick but I took several years to kill my plant. I always assumed it to be South African but NO!; it comes from that war benighted country, Yemen. Reputed to be best grown in an alpine house as a foliage plant 'expert, writers would be astonished to see this large plant covered with flower buds. In flower it will a terrific sight—Forrest medal perhaps.



Graham Butler is President of the Scottish Primula and Auricula Society so it was most appropriate that his home raised plant of *Primula x pubescens* 'Rumbling Bridge' was judged Best Primula. It must be great to win a trophy named after a battle! The close up is a bit bleached because of the flash. It has nice pale primrose flowers on good trusses.





GENTIANA PUMILA
SSP DELPHINENSIS
ECOLOGY & DIST: DAMP
STONY MEADOWS ON
LIMESTONE
ALT: 8 - 10000'
THE PYRENEES & THE
SW. ALPS.



GENTIANA
BRACHYPHYLLA
ECOLOGY & DIST:
EXPOSED ROCKY &
GRAVELLY HABITATS
-ACID. ALT: 9-13500'
HIGH MOUNTAINS OF
THE MAIN EN ALPS, ALSO
PYRENEES.



SECOND PRIZE NICK BOSS
KINCARDINE O'NEIL
A Heuristic Approach to the Cultivation
of *Gentiana brachyphylla*

The main objective here is to grow a healthy plant. Priority has therefore been given to studying the plants requirements. These that available to function well generally, remain healthy & in character. The traditional methods of cultivation required for show perfection, to suit an ordinary garden as greenhouse were not considered, neither was the plant's garden value.

Essential requirements:-

- (i) Growth: Full exposure to UVB, either in a south facing raised plunge bed, or, free-standing in a deep tray, which ever provides the most exposure. A very well drained stony but moist compost-acid.
- (ii) Dormancy: cold conditions & slightly damp with overhead protection.
- (iii) Seed germination: cold conditions, or, if not possible refrigeration.

Misc: Natural region. -/-/2013.

Nick Boss' guide to
Gentiana pumila &
Gentiana brachyphylla



Sometimes you have to hate the folk who look at plants with well known names and who then find a reason to change that name. this has been known to me as *Douglasia vitaliana* and *Vitaliana primuliflora* ssp *praetutiana* and has been/perhaps is now *Primula vitaliana*. You

would think that a plant which has been known to botanists since 1758 could have settled down by now. If you are Scottish and a fan of David Douglas, you can think of it as Douglas' primrose but it doesn't look like a primrose.



Anemone x lipsiensis & A. obtusiloba [centre above] and Anemone pavonius [above] and Clematis marmoraria [right]



FERNS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Doodia aspera 'Rough Ruby' hails from Australia and New Zealand's North Island where it is common especially in coastal pohutukawa forest. [thank you fernbookuk; New Zealand Ferns] which goes on to say.... 'track sides and grassy hillsides. What a smashing fern!

Chielanthes eatonii is north American found on dry calcareous rocks from Virginia to Arizona

Woodsia intermedia grows from Siberia, through NE China, Korea, Manchuria to Japan. It likes crevices and shady rocks. It has much more delicate foliage than the other two.

Blechnum penna-marina is the Antarctic hard-fern. It is a southern hemisphere circumpolar plant. It grows in the Magellanic forests of Chile and Argentina from sea to tree line and in Australia and some pacific islands.





THE SCOTTISH GARDEN CLUB
 2014
 HIGHLAND SHOW
 2014
 FRANK & MARGE
 HILLIER
 BISHOPSCOTE
FIRST PRIZE

Calochortus Colmiei
 Washington state to California

THE SCOTTISH GARDEN CLUB
 2014
 HIGHLAND SHOW
 2014
 FRANK & MARGE
 HILLIER
 BISHOPSCOTE
FIRST PRIZE

Cyclamen repandum

THE SCOTTISH GARDEN CLUB
 2014
 HIGHLAND SHOW
 2014
 ROMA FEDES
 ABERDEEN
FIRST PRIZE

Calochortus Colmiei
 Washington state to California

Narcissus Gazorlanus
 Natural hybrid between
N. bulbocodium and *N. triandrus*
 Bulb exchange 2013



THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB
CLASS 64
HIGHLAND SHOW 2016
CAROL & DAVID SHAW FORRES
SECOND PRIZE



Why does Carol and David Shaw's *Cyclamen persicum* grow like this?
Is it a new form or does *persicum* do this.
It is not grown under other plants







THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB
 HIGHLAND SHOW
 2016
 COLINNE SOUTER
 ABERLOUR

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB
 George Roslyn- Shirras Trophy
 Most Points Section II



HIGHLAND SHOW
 2016
 TINA FINCH
 ALDEARN
FIRST PRIZE



HIGHLAND SHOW
 2016
 JIMMY MACDONALD
 NEW ELGIN
SECOND PRIZE



HIGHLAND SHOW
 2016
 HANNAH MACDONALD
 NEW ELGIN
THIRD PRIZE





