



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Perth Show 2013



This was one of the best Perth shows for many years. Just as in Hexham and later on in Glasgow, the peculiar spring weather resulted in a wide mix of plants in flower. How do you judge such a show? Easy answer - one class at a time and get good judges. The Perth show is in the capable hands of Julia Corden ably assisted by Barry and Cathy Caudwell. So who judged this year?

Bob Maxwell, who brings all his experience of Aberdeen show to Perth,

Ron Macbeath, ex RBG Ed., plant hunter and nurseryman,

Elsbeth MacIntosh RBG Ed and Plant-hunter,

Ian Christie Nurseryman and Plant-hunter,

Harley Milne Past SRGC President and dentist and **John Lee** Glasgow Show secretary, Forrest medal winner and school master. Who would argue with their decisions?



Luckily the Best plant in the show and winner of the George Forrest Memorial Medal *Saxifraga andersonii*, was exhibited by Ian and Carole Bainbridge respectively a past and the current SRGC Presidents. I think this is the first time spouses have both been President of the SRGC. If Hilary Clinton wins in the USA next time we can claim the SRGC had priority in having a married couple as its President. Well done to them for raising such a magnificent plant of this rarely seen species.

A Professional Forrest Medal was awarded to the RBG. Edinburgh's plant of *Erythronium multiscapoideum*. Shown on the next page held by a happy Elspeth Macintosh



Professional Forrest Medal

Erythronium multiscapoideum shown by
the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

Certificates of Merit

1. Ian and Carole's *Kelseya uniflora*,
2. Cyril Lafong's *Primula* 'Broadwell Milkmaid'
and 3. *Tecophilea cyanocrocus leichtlinii*
and
4. *Tecophilea cyanocrocus* 'Storm Cloud'
5. Bill Robinson's *Narcissus bulbocodium*
obesus 'Marion Robertson'
6. Tom Green's *Townsendia rothrockii*



6

4

5

2

1

3

The Joyce Halley Award is for the best plant grown from seed and went to Cyril Lafong's *Pulsatilla aurea*. As you can see it is a fabulous rich yellow colour. Cyril's notes are reproduced below.

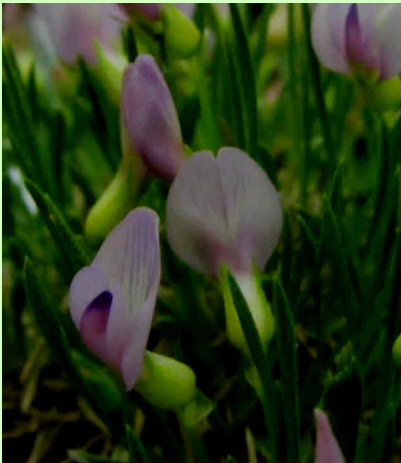


Pulsatilla aurea

Pulsatilla aurea (also known as *Anetilla galushko*) is endemic to the central and western Caucasus, where it grows on steep hillsides.

The plant was grown from seeds collected by Josef Jurasek in W. Caucasus 2300 m in 2007. It is difficult to grow. The seeds germinate reasonably well but the seedlings need very gritty, humusy well-drained compost and a sunny situation. The plant is very liable to rot in the winter. In the wild it grows at an altitude of 2300-2400 m, where in winter it is kept dry deep under the snow, but gets a lot of water in the spring before the summer drought.

Also in the 'raised from seed' which took my fancy were. Two *Astragalus* from Sam Sutherland namely, yellow flowered *A. asoanus* and pale lilac *A. simplicifolius*. Both are small plants at present but of Sam grows them on to be as big as his Forrest medal winning plant at Nairn, last year, they will be magnificent



Ranunculaceae
'The backbone of
the spring
garden'



Pulsatilla rubra



Pulsatilla albana



Paraquilegia anemomoides



Anemone ranunculoides



Ranunculus bilobus





Primulas
Ideal for a trough,
raised bed, cold
frame or in the
alpine house

Primulas from the garden in Section II.
The Sanguinaria canadensis won the class but you must
consider the Primulas for their beauty in a border.



Primula cashmeriana

Tom Green's winning trio
included P. 'Clarence Elliott'
in the centre



Primula k Ufg\ YbYk g _]UbU [UWcj Y] is one of the smallest
Primulas and benefits from being divided regularly, shown
by Stan da Prato





Primula Gold Lace hybrid



Primula auricula



Primula pubescens hybrid from Tom Green



Primula hirsuta

The range of European Primulas and their hybrids in the show is illustrated here



Primula latifolia



Primula marginata



Primula x florkeana

From Margaret & Henry Taylor

We take many plants for granted and perhaps none is overlooked more than the diminutive *Primula juliae*. This wee gem has been used in the hybridisation of many popular garden plants.

Most sources indicate that *P. juliae* was discovered by Julia Mloskossjewicz (or Mloskosewitsch), the daughter of the Polish aristocrat, botanist, and forest inspector Ludwig Mloskossjewicz, near wet stones eighty miles east northeast of Tiflis in the Eastern Caucasus. Records vary as to whether it was April 20 of 1900 or 1901, but agree that the first documented showing of the plant in England was by a Mr. Baker at the RHS on April 2, 1912 and that the plant was given an Award of Merit. Mr. Baker probably received his plant or seeds from the Oxford Botanical Garden where Prof. Kustensow of the Dorpat Botanic Garden, who first described and named the plant, had sent plants and/or seeds in August of 1911.

The bright magenta colour, relative ease of culture and increase, hardiness and distinctive appearance of *P. juliae* attracted the attention of amateur and professional gardeners. *P. juliae* became the most commonly grown species of *Primula*. British and other European hybridizers were soon busy crossing the miniature plant with many of the other species in the *Primula* section, and after WW II, American enthusiasts were doing the same. A hybrid cross between *P. juliae* and a crimson form of *P. acaulis* resulted in 'Wanda,' which won the Award of Merit

in 1919, and was described as 'the most striking of the many hybrids so far exhibited'. Doretta Klaber said 'Wanda' is 'bright and glowing, like a glass of wine seen against the light.' The vigor, floriferous habit, rapidity of increase, tolerance of sunlight, and attractive color of 'Wanda' led to its extensive use as a breeder's plant, and eventually to an entire strain of plants now called 'Wanda Hybrids. The charm of the species lies in its exceedingly neat habit, with finely toothed waxy heart or kidney shaped leaves of only one half to three quarters of an inch long, springing



Primula juliae



A 'hose in hose' selection of the ever popular old garden favourite Primula wanda

not from rosettes, but from the creeping rootstocks.

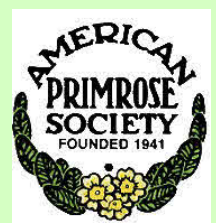
Primula Blue Ribband



The foliage has a reddish bronze tint and spreads into a flattish mat when grown well. The rosy purple flowers are borne singly on one-inch stems, and are darker and redder near the bright yellow five pointed star eye. Each petal is heart shaped with a notch at the outer edge. *P. juliae* is now listed as rare or endangered in most of the area where it grew wild, and is protected by law in Georgia and the Northern Caucasus.

This article was pinched from the **American Primrose Society** web site please look at it:

www.americanprimrosesociety.org/





Primula petiolaris 'Sherriff's Form'



Primula 'Valerie Lockey'



Primula yuparensis alba

Three Asiatic Primulas,
Many growers lost their petiolarid Primulas in a hot summer several years ago and when they went to buy replacements they found few sources for them It is good to see some coming back onto the benches.
We must be faithful to our nurserymen and women and make sure that we do our best to see them thrive. Mind if they start to turn up in Rolls-Royces I may start to quibble at the prices



A terrific selection of Fritillarias in the 2 pan class



Fritillaria michailkovskyi



**Fritillaria aurea
'Golden Flag'**



Fritillaria grandiflora



Fritillaria tubiformis



Fritillaria latifolia

While we miss the 'good old days' of only a decade ago when growers like Fred Hunt and Ian & Maggi Young grew and showed Fritillaries so that each mounted table demonstrations on their own, it was a sight for sore eyes when so many good pans of the genus turned up at Perth. Several old favourites seem to have been resurrected recently. A few years ago many 'Fritterers' found that a strange ill had befallen their collections, specially the Greek and Turkish species. The plants looked fine up till flowering time when they suddenly wilted, faded and went brown and wizened.

While the bulbs OK, they got smaller year on year.

In my experience American and Chinese species have not been affected as much.



2 splendid pans of
Erythronium

E. citrinum x
oregonum left

E. x 'Ardovie
Bliss'
on far left



Sue Simpson continued her winning form by gaining the SRGC bronze Medal for Most Points in Section II as well as having the Best Plant in Section II

Elsbeth Macintosh used the plants from the royal Botanic garden in Edinburgh to great effect and gained the Gardens a well deserved Gold Medal. Elspeth has a 'great eye' and her sense of symmetry pleases me . I particularly like their Iris willmottiana





Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee

This is not the result of the raffle but shows members of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee carrying plants from the show to the committee room. The committee can recommend plants for the RHS awards of First Class Certificate, Award of Merit, preliminary commendation or for consideration for the Award of Garden Merit. Anyone can put forward for consideration, and rock garden plant to the committee. Committee rules forbid anyone voting for their own plant! The committee meets at several SRGC shows during the year. Names of Committee members are in the SRGC year book. Sandy Leven is Vice Chairman and Carole Bainbridge is Committee Secretary. If you have a plant for consideration please contact the Chairman secretary or any member who will be delighted [and perhaps surprised!] that you asked for help.

You will get help.



**Still the man to beat!
Cyril Lafong's impeccable
6 pan entry**