

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Perth Show 15th April 2017



For as long as I can remember, two plants which are always to be found in flower on the benches at the Perth Show are *Lewisia tweedyi* and *Fritillaria pallidiflora*. Over the years different exhibitors growers have brought them along but I am certain they will always show up. This year Cyril Lafong showed a superb white flowered *L. tweedyi* and Peter Semple showed the big *Fritillaria*. Both are superb plants to grow in an unheated alpine house. The *F. pallidiflora* might even be happy in most Scottish gardens. Whether or not you grow them to perfection like these show plants they will give you a lot of pleasure and will not be too demanding.

25 years ago the *L. tweedyi* which were shown were nearly always pale pink with pale yellow centres. Then along came the wonderful selections with deeper pink / almost red flowers. Ten years ago yellows appeared and since then the whites are popping up. No doubt all these shades have always existed but now we almost take the wide colour range for granted.

It is a similar story with *Lewisia cotyledon*. First came the pale shades of pink and cream, some with darker edges to the petals—these are most like the wild plants from Oregon. Jack Drake produced the Sunset Strain



This bright pink *Lewisia cotyledon* won the Major-General D. M. Murray Lyon Trophy, for the Best Plant grown by a member in 'former Tayside', for Margaret & Henry Taylor

in the 1960's. These plants had deep pink and rich orange flowers. The pinks got pinker and white flowered *L. cotyledon*s also appeared. Other nurseries followed suit and revolutionised the range. Most can be raised from seed. Special clones [like 'John's Special'] need to be propagated from cuttings. Ian Christie remembers how 20 years or so ago gardeners craved yellow flowered *L. cotyledon*. He had a superb display of these at the Ayr Flower show one year.

These bright 'in your face' shades provide a lot of colour at the late spring shows. If its yellow you want then the *Narcissus* are still flowering. For those with more subtle tastes then *Fritillarias* might be for you. *Frit. pallidiflora* is one which will blend into almost any multi-pan class.



Pleione Britannia 'Doreen' from Jane and Alan Thomson,



Narcissus bulbocodium from Carole & Ian Bainbridge



Draba longisiliqua x mollissima from Cyril Lafong



Pulsatilla grandis from Sue Simpson



Paris quadrifolia from Watt Russell



Calanthe tricarinata from Watt Russell

These plants grabbed your attention and stopped you in your tracks, demanding your full attention.



Cyril won the Dundas Quaich with his 3 pan entry in Class 2. his *Jeffersonia dubia alba* [below] was judged Best in Show and won the George Forrest Memorial Medal.



Narcissus x cazorlanus won the 1 pan Narcissus class for Ian & Carole Bainbridge



Primula 'Lindum Golden Orb'



Primula



Saxifraga 'Joachim Barrande'



Nar. bulbocodium obesus 'Diamond King'



Androsace vandellii



Anemonella thalictroides 'Oscar Schoaf'

Sue Simpson's won Class A for the 6 small pans.

This 6 pan class was introduced at all shows in the Scottish Rock Garden Club's Diamond Jubilee Year in 1993

Stan da Prato won the large six pan class and the Alexander Caird Trophy. His entry is nicely balanced in colour and 'feel'.



Cassiope tetragona



Lathyrus rosea



Andromeda polifolia 'Nikko'



Phyllipsis 'Askival'



Trillium cuneatum



Cassiope 'Randle Cooke'



DAPHNE KELSEY ANN
FROM RICH WAPP USA
D. VEZNOVSKI X D. JOEPIKES
MATURE OLD FROM THE SMALL
CUTTING

PETROCOLOBA COZYSSA
NEW THRUARD - INDIVIDUAL SCOURMED
FROM THE LAST YEAR OUT OF THE THOUGH OF
FRUIT IF NEARBY THE BIRD'S NEST. DON'T TAKE
DIRECT SUNLIGHT. SUCCEEDS IN A MOUNTAIN
OF ABOUT 50'. KEEP COOL GOOD AIR.
SUCH AS A - A FINE BIRD NEST
MIX. IF THERE'S ANY GENTLE BIRD THAT
PEOPLE - FINE BIRD. KEEP UNDER BIRD'S
HALLS COMES. DON'T TAKE BIRD'S BIRD'S
BIRD'S NOT HAVE THE BIRD'S OF BIRD'S
D. BIRD'S

September 2002
Grown in a gritty compost, kept in a
winter covered frame. This plant and a
sister one grown outside in the pot
just hanging on its life!



Daphne modesta
Daphne modesta is native to W. Siberia and Turan
mostly on open sandy hills, rocky slopes, 1100 m and
2000 m. It is deciduous and fruits are greenish yellow.
The herbaceous is unknown.
It modesta has few white flowers and has sometimes
been placed in the genus W. Siberia. It is probably
not D. modesta.



Hymenoxys lapidicola
Seeds from Alplains sown 30/11/13,
germinated 25/3/14.
Grown in a gritty compost and a deep pot and
given full sun in the alpine house.

Primula henrici
Own seeds sown 21/11/12, germinated 15/4/13
Grown in a gritty compost in the alpine house
and kept dryish during winter.



Caltha x "Moonshine"
 (*C. polypetalata* x *C. leptocepala*)
 Seed sown in July 2011 from *C. polypetalata* having been, unknowingly, open pollinated with *C. leptocepala*. The sterile hybrid shown, flowered in 2013, the only seedling to differ from all others which were true *Caltha polypetalata*. *Caltha* x "Moonshine" starts to flower in late February through till May each year.

Saxifraga aretioides
 Seeds sown December 2007, germinated April 2008. Seedlings are initially very tiny and very slow growing. They were left in the seed pot for two years before pricking out.
S. aretioides occurs only in the Pyrenees and the Cordillera Cantabrica. It is not an easy plant to cultivate. Grown in a very gritty loam-based compost in the alpine house, given weak liquid feed Spring to Summer and shading during the summer months. It grows slowly and has only been potted on three times. The flowers are not often produced.



These plants were all grown from seed by the exhibitors. The SRGC likes to encourage us to grow our own plants from seed, especially from SRGC seed.
 If a deliberate cross is needed, then it may be necessary to transfer pollen from the male plant to the female parent with a small paint brush. Make sure you get permission!



Sometimes gardeners strive for brightly coloured flowers. At other times they look for the bizarre!
Here is *Anemone nemerosa viridescens*, whose flower parts have all turned petaloid and green.
Nick Boss won the cushion plant in flower class with a nice *Androsace muscoidea* which hails
‘from damp stony turf, 17,000 ft up in the Hindu Kush Mountains of Kashmir.’
The best Cushion out of flower, *Gypsophila aretioides*, was shown by Watt Russell



Cyril Lafong won the Bulb Trophy with one which is rarely seen these days, *Fritillaria glauca*. This wee American won a Forrest medal at Perth many years ago for David Mowle when he showed it at the Rodney Pavilion. It is a wonderful soft golden yellow with glaucous leaves. Colloquially known as ‘Mission Bells’ it is native to the Siskiyou mountains of southern Oregon and Northern California. I would love to see it in the wild.
Wasn’t it once offered as ‘Goldilocks’?

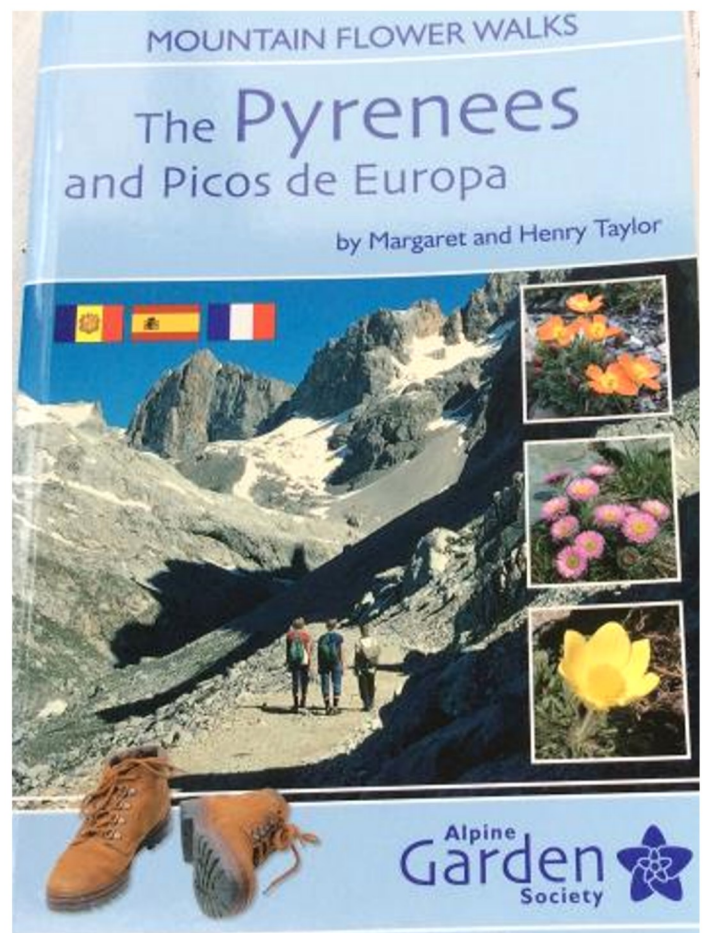


Narcissus pallidiflorus and Narcissus moleroi were shown by Margaret & Henry. Both plants grow in the Pyrenees. The *N. pallidiflorus* is more widespread throughout the Pyrenees, while *N. moleroi* is a more recently described species endemic to the eastern Pyrenees. I think that *N. pallidiflorus* was once regarded as a subspecies of *N. pseudonarcissus* which is the 'wild daffodil' found in Scotland. The other trumpet Narcissi from the Pyrenees to look out for are *N. alpestris* and *N. nobilis*. If

you want to know more about Pyrenees plants and especially if you plan a visit, you must buy a copy of Margaret & Henry's invaluable guide to Mountain Flower Walks in The Pyrenees and Picos de Europa. The book is available from the Alpine Garden Society. It describes dozens of walks and is packed with information and pictures of the mountains, villages and views, as well as the plants you can expect to see. This saves a lot of time as Margaret & Henry have done a lot of the hard botanising work for you.



Riano in Leon. Mgt. & Henry used a picture of the lake and bridge on the back cover of their book. We followed their advice and visited the town.



PRIMULAS



Top left. Jane & Alan Thomson's *Primula aureata* won the R.S. Masterton Trophy for best Asiatic Primula. The farina on its leaves was perfect and the fried egg flowers very fresh. With its deeply toothed edged flowers this looks to me to be 'forma imbricata'.

Centre left. The 3 pan Primula class was won by Sue Simpson with these 3 terrific well grown overflowing potfuls or should that 'potsful'? They were *Primula marginata* 'Adrian Evans' in front, *Primula marginata*, centre and *Primula* 'White Lady' at the back. The latter won a Forrest for Fred Hunt at Perth several years ago.

Bottom left Stan da Prato's fabulous *Primula petiolaris* 'Sherriff's Form'

John Di Paolo was second with a well matched sunshine threesome. The old hybrid, beautifully grown at the front is *P.* 'Blairside Yellow'; Centre *P. marginata* hybrid, 'Celtic Maiden' a nice soft primrose yellow and *P.* 'Lindum Golden Orb', with its huge panicles of rich yellow flowers.






PRIMULA x 'LATE FROST'

SEED SOWN IN 2012 FROM P. MARGINATA 'WHITE LADY' HAVING BEEN OPEN POLLINATED AMONGST VARIOUS P. x PUBESCENS CULTIVARS. P. x 'LATE FROST' EXHIBITS P. MARGINATA IN LEAF YET HAS THE COMPACT HABIT AND FLOWERING PERIOD OF P. x PUBESCENS. PLANT GROWS IN LEAFMOLD BASED COMPOST WITH PERLITE, COIR AND GRIT. DILUTE LIQUID FEED WEEKLY.




A photograph of a potted Rhododendron 'Swift' with numerous small, light yellow flowers. The plant is in a brown plastic pot and is displayed on a table covered with a silver reflective material. Other potted plants are visible in the background.

Rhododendron 'Swift'

A photograph of a potted Rhododendron 'Patty Bee' with many large, white flowers. The plant is in a brown plastic pot and is displayed on a table covered with a silver reflective material.

Rhododendron 'Patty Bee'

A photograph of a potted Rhododendron 'Chikor' with many large, pale yellow flowers. The plant is in a brown plastic pot and is displayed on a table covered with a silver reflective material.

Rhododendron 'Chikor'

A photograph of a potted Rhododendron megeratum 'Bodnant' with many large, bright yellow flowers. The plant is in a brown plastic pot and is displayed on a table covered with a silver reflective material.

Rhododendron megeratum 'Bodnant'

Four Yellow Dwarf Rhododendrons

On the bench were three of the finest yellow Rhododendrons for a small garden. You might even put them in a trough or tub. Stan da Prato's Rh. 'Swift' won the E.H.M Cox Trophy for Best Dwarf Rhododendron. A great but difficult choice. 'Swift' is a Glendoick hybrid and Glendoick is the home of the Cox family who raised it. 'Chikor' is another Glendoick hybrid. You can be sure that if you grow a Glendoick-raised Rhododendron it should do well in your Scottish garden. We now take yellow Rhodies for granted and for this we owe a debt to the work of hybridists and collectors like Euan, Peter and now Kenneth

Cox. Many species Rhododendrons prove to be difficult in cultivation, perhaps because of hardiness or they had a weak constitution. Glendoick's aim is to raise hybrids which would resemble the species but would be more amenable to cultivation in Scotland. They also grow plants raised around the world which do well here.

The plant of Rh. megeratum 'Bodnant' was shown by Sue Simpson. If you are in Scotland visit Glendoick. If you are in north Wales visit Bodnant [on right]. Both are wonderful.





Androsace vandellii from Cyril



Androsace incana from Nick Boss



Cyclamen rhodium ssp. peloponnesiacum from David



Cyril's Daphne cneorum pygmaea 'Peggy Fell'



Ian's plant of Daphne 'Bonnie Glen' which was raised by Cyril



Stan's Kalmiothamnus 'Sindelberg'



Sue's Lamium sandrasicum



Brian Brocklehurst's *Cypripedium formosanum* drew a lot of attention, however it was pipped by the two *Calanthes*.



Hamish MacIntosh had a good day, winning the Section 2 six plan class and the John Duff Memorial Prize for Best Plant in Section 2



Henry Taylor with the Major-General D.M Murray Lyon Trophy for the Best Plant exhibited by a member resident in the former Tayside region.

