



The Scottish Rock Garden Club SHOW REPORTS Perth 2011



Forrest Medal Best Plant in the Show *Soldanella alpina alba* shown by Cyril Lafong



ALL FOR ONE

Local Group convenor Susan Band holds on tight to her multi award winning pan of the fabulous *Primula maximo-wiczii*. As well as winning a first prize in its class, Susan's *Primula* won 3 trophies all commemorating distinguished former members of the Perth group and of the Scottish Rock Garden Club! Remarkably these former stalwarts of the club were contemporaries in the Perth group, which must have been a powerhouse of plant introduction and cultivation, then as now.

Susan took home the following trophies :-

The **Major-General D. M. Murray-Lion Trophy** for Best Plant exhibited by a member resident in the former Tayside region. [Originally the Member had to be resident in Perthshire]

The **R. S. Masterton Memorial Trophy** for Best Asiatic *Primula*

The **John Duff Memorial Prize** for Best Plant in Section II. Incidentally the *Primula* was named for another famous man - Karl Ivanovich Maximowicz (1827-1891) - botanist, plant collector and Director of the Herbarium at the St. Petersburg Botanical Garden. **Well done Susan! It shows what one great plant can do.**





Once again Cyril Lafong set the standard at the show with his winning 6 pan in Class 1. The *Erythronium helenae* can be appreciated more with the incident light streaming through the flowers when it looks like a solar system of bright sunny stars. While the *Androsace vandellii* in this class is good, just along the bench was its bigger and better Certificate of Merit winning big sister. I look forward to seeing the *Paraquilegia* in a couple of years time.

I just love the wee *Primula dubernardiana* at the front right.



I was curious to know who was 'Dubernard' of the *Primula dubernardiana* and I found a reference to him by Ken Beeken in an article called 'Primulas and the Plantsmen' on the web site of the National Auricula and Primula and Society, Northern Section.

*"When China first opened its doors particularly after the Opium war of 1860 French missionaries were quick to take advantage, although a few had gained acceptance earlier because of their scientific knowledge: this newly found freedom of movement was always relative and precarious and some were murdered. Abbe Soulie, who discovered *P. polyneura* and is commemorated by *P. soulei* was caught by the monks of Petang during this period of Chinese/Tibetan friction, tortured and finally shot. His colleague Bourdonnec was killed some months later together with his successor, Pere Dubernard (*P. dubernardiana*), who had been of help to Forrest, was murdered during the same period, and Forrest himself, who was in the vicinity, had to flee leaving all his equipment and belongings. He was hunted remorselessly before finally making his escape".*

One is humbled by the hardships and sacrifice these monks and plant hunters made in the pursuit of knowledge about Chinese plants.

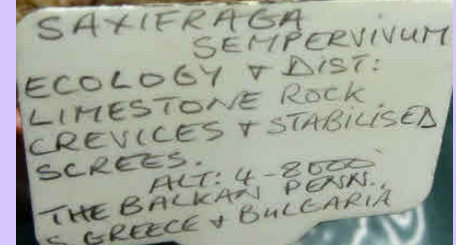
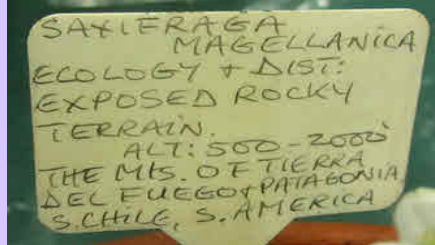
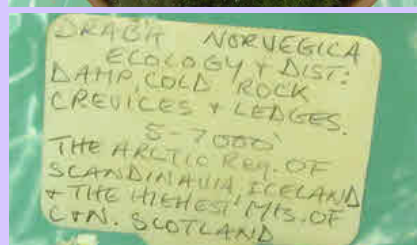
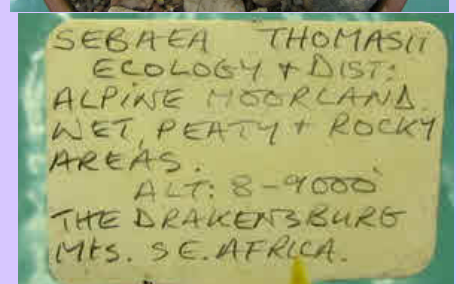
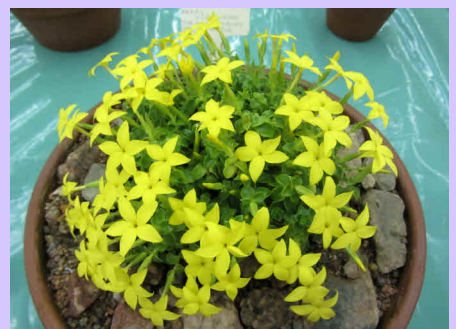
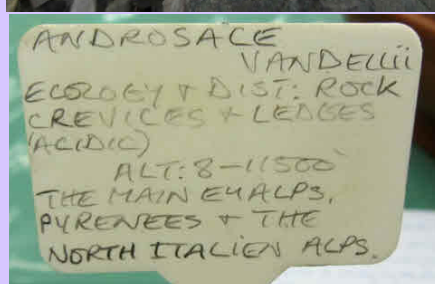
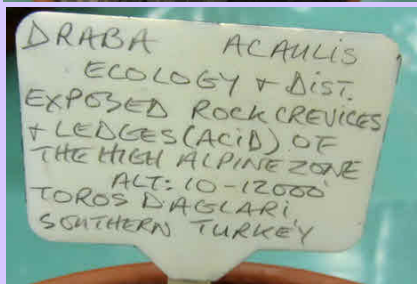


The Nick Boss Way

Nick Boss is a plantsman who is keen to grow his alpine plants in ways as close to that in which they grow in nature. He seeks to recreate in his pans of alpines, mountain nooks and crevices with soil and rock conditions as near to natural as possible, while growing them in a more lowland part of the country. Nick's exhibits are always well labelled with much information about the plants and their habitats as he can fit onto a label... and you would be surprised at just how many words he can get on a label - whilst maintaining legibility. To my recollection he has always grown and exhibited his plants in this way. He is not after big pans full of flower but tries to capture the essence of a naturally growing alpine. I quote from Nick's notes beside his pan of *Draba acaulis*.

'A holistic approach to the cultivation of *Draba acaulis*

- The main objective is to grow a healthy plant. Priority has therefore to be given to studying the plants requirements, those that enable it to function well generally, remain healthy and in character. The traditional methods of cultivation required for show perfection, to suit ordinary garden or greenhouse conditions were not considered, neither was the plant's 'garden value'
- Essential requirements
- Winter dormancy. Slight moisture during this period. This is provided through the inclusion of sphagnum moss in a very well drained acidic compost
- Growth : during the spring and early summer watering is increased but then reduced towards the end of June / July.
- The plant is resident in the greenhouse throughout the year and has plenty of ventilation also full exposure to light.





The camera never lies! Ian Christie tries to hide behind Stan da Prato's, **E. H. M. Cox Trophy winner, Rhododendron 'Snipe'** which was Best Rhodo. in the show. An appropriate winner too because 'Snipe' is a Glendoick hybrid, a plant from the world famous Nursery business carried on by Euan Cox's son Peter and grandson Kenneth. Another nice hybrid was Jean Wyllie's Rh.

'Riplet', which though a smaller plant had larger pink flowers with a yellow base. It was raised on the other side of the world, about as far from Glendoick as it is possible to get, in Seattle WA. USA by Lem Halfdan and has an august parentage - *R. forrestii Repens* x (*R. campylocarpum* x *R. fortunei ssp fortunei*).



Primula scotica - below

How delightful to see a great pan of our native Scottish primrose. Every year I mean to travel up to the Caithness coast to see it but every year I seem to be doing something else. It is very difficult to photograph and get its purple rose flowers to turn out the correct colour

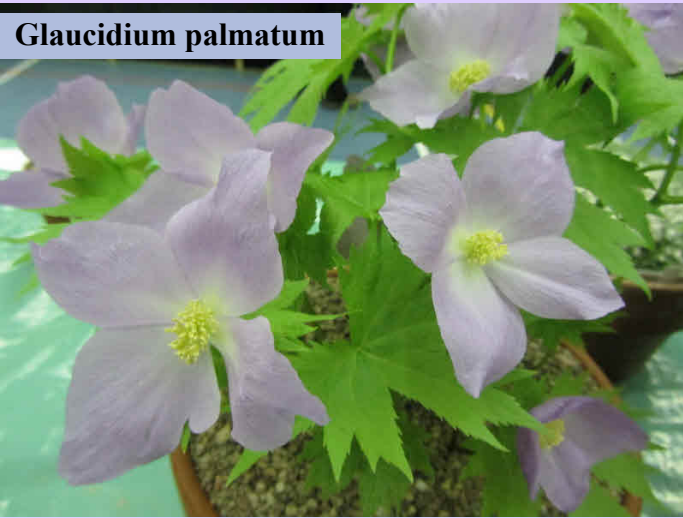


Graham Catlow's grand pan of Pleione grandiflora



Close ups

Glaucidium palmatum



Trillium grandiflorum roseum



Primula x irregularis



Pulsatilla sukaczewii



*Schizocodon
intercedens*



Lewisia tweedyi rosea



Iris bucharica



Ranunculus parnassifolius



Something DIFFERENT

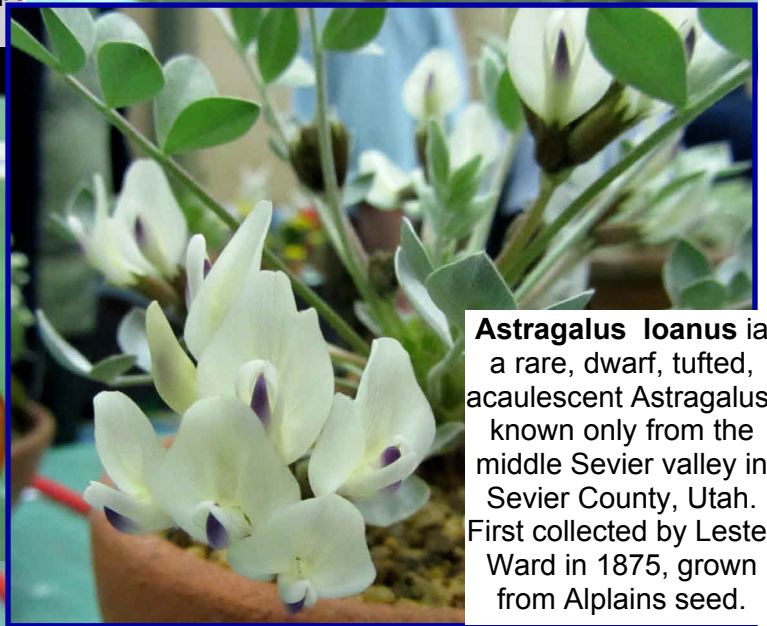
Primula euprepes THE BLACK PRIMULA

This spectacular primula with jet black flowers was collected in China after a collaboration between botanists from seven nations. Grown from their own seed by Stella and David Rankin, the show plant was from seed sown 3 years ago in January and grown on in a standard loam / organic compost in a shady tunnel, covered in winter.



Townsendia sp 'Cottonballs'

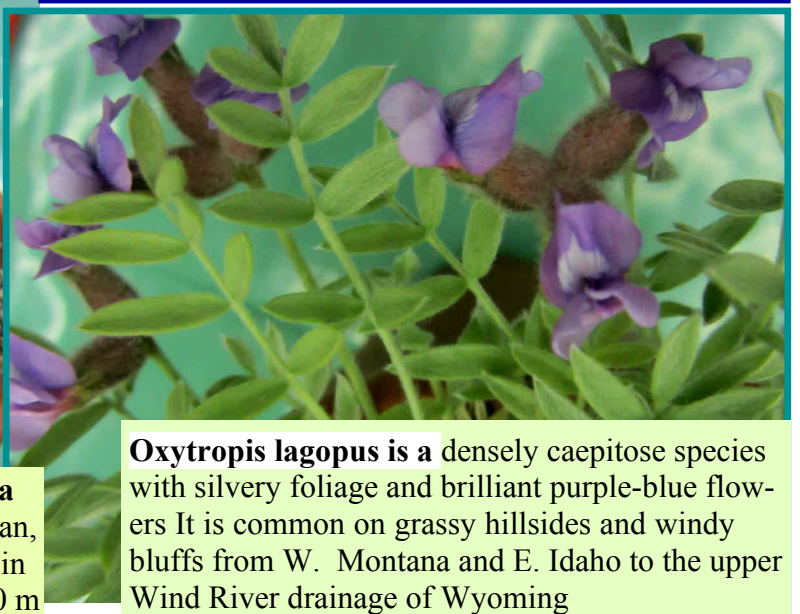
The plant was found by Brian Welzenbach in 2006 in the eastern Beartooth Mountains of SW Montana at around 1980m. It grows in a very small range in shallow limestone scree on top of steep ridges. Nicknamed 'Cottonballs' because of its hairy leaves. Cyril grows it in an alpine house and kept just moist in winter to prevent it rotting off.



Astragalus ioanus is a rare, dwarf, tufted, acaulescent *Astragalus*, known only from the middle Sevier valley in Sevier County, Utah. First collected by Lester Ward in 1875, grown from Alplains seed.



Androsace chamaejasme subsp, *lehmanniana* has an arctic- alpine distribution from Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia and W. N America. It grows in rock crevices and dry stony slopes; 2900 - 3000 m



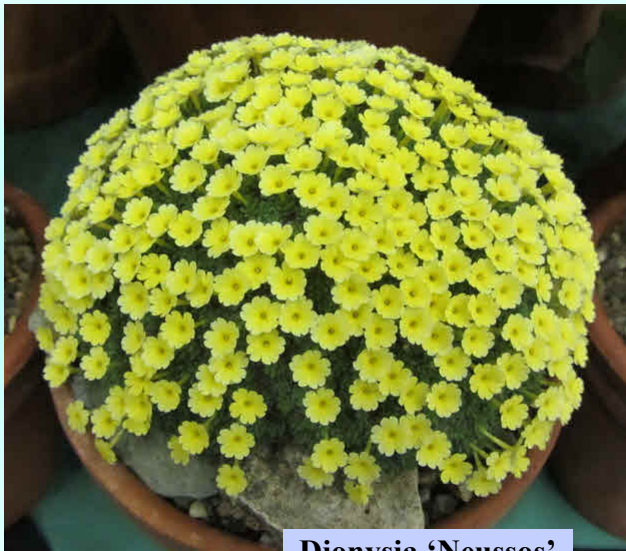
Oxytropis lagopus is a densely caespitose species with silvery foliage and brilliant purple-blue flowers. It is common on grassy hillsides and windy bluffs from W. Montana and E. Idaho to the upper Wind River drainage of Wyoming.



Gymnocarpium dryopteris



Graham Catlow 's magnificent Lathyrus vernus was awarded a Certificate of Merit. Pretty good for a plant exhibited in Section II. Well done Graham!

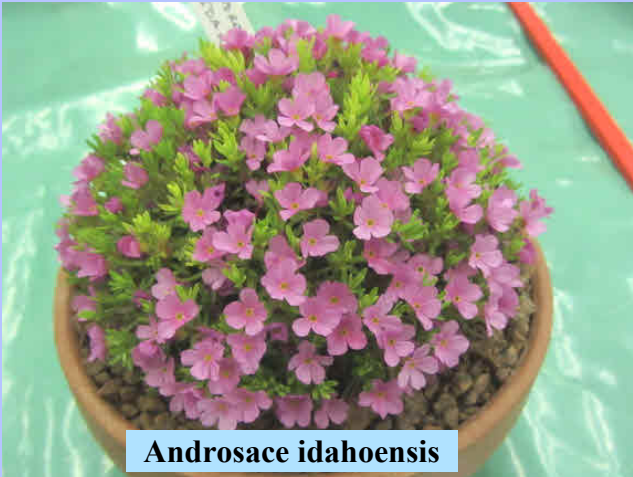


Dionysia 'Neussos'



AMERICAN ALL STARS

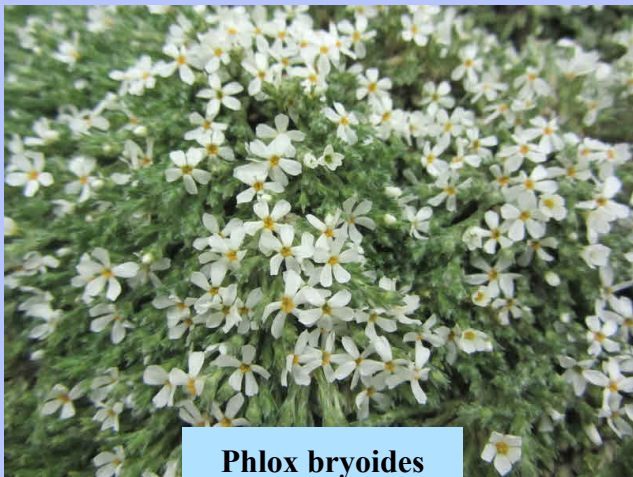
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Androsace idahoensis



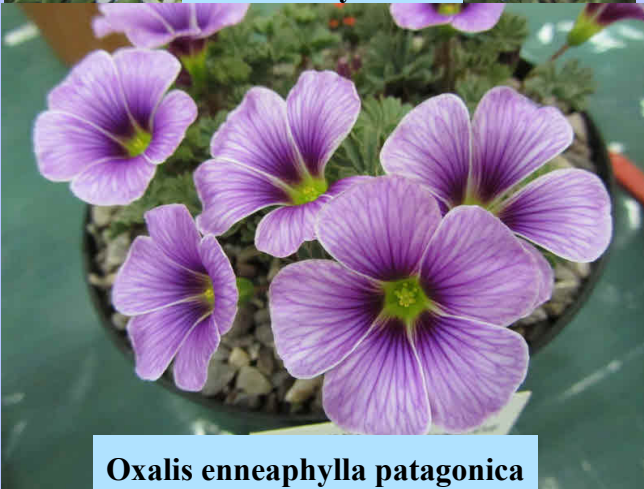
Lewisia tweedyi



Phlox bryoides



Lewisia nevadensis



Oxalis enneaphylla patagonica



Lewisia pygmaea



Dodecatheon pulchellum



Erigeron 'Canary Bird'



BEST PAN OF BULBS went to John Lee's outstanding, both aesthetically and physically, pan of **Tulipa tarda**. John says he did not expect it to win but decided to grow the T. tarda for his wife because she likes brightly coloured flowers. So do we John. As he says himself 'It shows what can be done with ordinary things.' Yes but you have to care for them, look after them and nurture them. A bit like wives!



**Nick Boss's
Gentiana
pumilla**



Tallest plant with wee flowers in the show was definitely John Lupton's **Tropaeolum tricolor**. John had two other nice Trops in the show but my picture of them did not do them justice

A Beautiful Silene

There are over 700 species of Silene! and 147 of these grow in Turkey. **Silene araratica** is one of these Turkish species and is relatively new in cultivation. It hails from Anatolia in Turkey where it was found growing in cracks in cliffs between 1800 and 2000 m. It was shown by **Tom Green**. It is a startling white flowered plant. With its Lovat green foliage covered with icy stars it sits there demanding attention.



The Royal Horticultural Society's Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee met at the Perth show

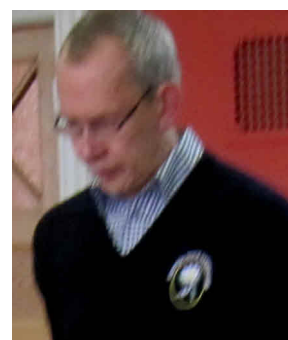


2011 Committee
Vice Chairman
Sandy Leven

SRGC representatives
Susan Band
Ian Christie
Fred hunt
Cyril Lafong
Elspeth MacIntosh
David Millward



John Mitchell
David Rankin
Peter Semple
Glassford Sprunt
Ian Young
Hon. Secretary for SRGC
Carole Bainbridge
RHS Representative
Jim Jermyn



At Perth in 2011 the Joint Rock Garden Plant committee recommended the following awards to plants and exhibitors

Awards for Plants

The Committee **AGREED** to award:

a. First Class Certificate

To *Pteridophyllum racemosum* as a hardy flowering plant for exhibition exhibited by John Lupton

b. Award of Merit

To *Soldanella alpina alba* as a hardy flowering plant for exhibition exhibited by Cyril Lafong

To *Narcissus obessus* Lee Martin Form as a hardy flowering plant for exhibition exhibited by Bill Robinson

To *Phlox bryoides* as a hardy flowering plant for exhibition exhibited by C & I Bainbridge

c Preliminary Commendation

To *Astragalus loanus* as a hardy flowering plant for exhibition exhibited by Sam Sutherland.

d Botanical Certificate

To *Primula euprepes* as a hardy flowering plant for exhibition exhibited by S & D Rankin.

Awards for Exhibitors

The Committee **AGREED** to award:

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

To Peter Semple for *Ranunculus calandrinoides*.

To C & I Bainbridge for a pan of *Phlox bryoides* .

The Committee can also recommend plants it thinks should be included in the list of plants given an Award of Garden Merit.

All recommendations are considered and ratified by the RHS Horticultural Board..

Anyone can ask the JR Committee to consider their plant. Forms are available from the Show Secretary or JR Secretary at all shows at which the committee meets - see show schedules for a list of meetings. If you have a good plant which you feel deserves recognition please bring it the the committee's notice.



John Lupton's
Pteridophyllum racemosum
Peter Semple's
Ranunculus calandrinoides
Bill Robinson's
Narcissus obessus Lee Martin
form
Carole & Ian Bainbridge's
Phlox bryoides
The other award plants are pictures elsewhere in the report



Sandy Leven