

Edinburgh 2010



Past Presidents Ian & Glassford with Anne Chamber's exquisitely detailed cards



Some of Eileen Goodall's beautiful paintings



Editor Anton with President Liz

Spring probably started this morning! At least for those folk who haven't yet been to one of our shows. Today the sun was shining brightly AND the air was warm. No need for a jacket to keep out non-existent winds and gales. Inside the Fairmilehead church halls there was all hustle and bustle of friends meeting up with one another, chatting away, while all along, each one really wanted to get into the plant sales to part with hard earned cash to exchange for new garden treasures. The harsh winter weather has killed off at least a few plants in most gardens. Some Southern Hemisphere plants seem to have suffered more than others. Around Stirling it has been a bad winter for Phormiums with coloured leaves. Look on the bright side. If a big plant gets killed then there is space for a redesign of that part of the rock garden or at least for some new plants. Truthfully, the harsh winter only culled those plants which we always knew were at least of doubtful hardiness and which we hoped would be OK. The other casualties have been mature trees many of which have lost branches or been split asunder by the combination of long term freezing followed by the massive late fall of heavy snow. The weight seems to have caused the tree branches, already brittle and frozen to snap. Some show plants in the alpine house may be a bit later than usual in flowering but at least they have been protected. We had lots of great plants to marvel at in Edinburgh. Cyril won the Forrest medal with his breathtaking *Jeffersonia dubia alba*, which vied for the medal with its partners in his 3 pan entry. Together, they won the Henry Archibald Rose Bowl



Tulipa polychroma Certificate of Merit for John Lee



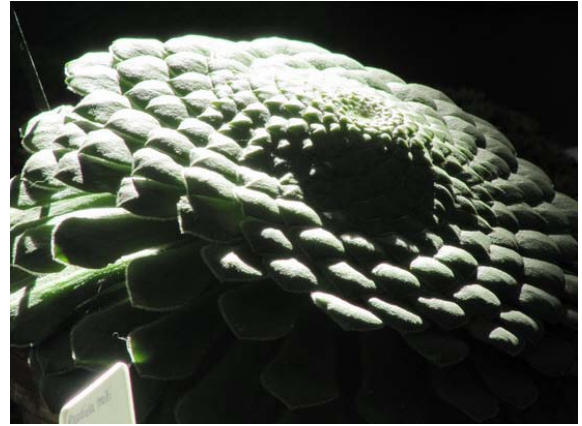
Sebaea tomasii Certificate of Merit for Tom Green



Erythronium multiscapoideum



Lewisia tweedyi



Erythronium hendersonii



Soldanella alpina alba



Rhododendron 'Snow Lady'



When going round the show I tend to focus my attention on individual plants but it is good to step back from peering at labels and to take in the whole effect of dozens of pots of wonderful plants in full flower. When grouped together the pans enhance one another. When there is a big entry of a particular genus or even a species like *Primula allionii*. You can compare different selections and decide which you like best. This year Primulaceae were superb at Edinburgh. Cyril had fabulous domes of *Androsace*, Sam Sutherland's 3 pan entry contained a magnificent pan of *Dionisia 'Monica'*, which I feel should have had a Certificate of Merit because by any standards it can't be an easy plant to grow to this standard especially in Kincardine.





SHOW VIEWS



Anemone blanda gives a great show in the spring garden but I find Paraquilegia anemonoides [grandiflora] tricky outside. Recently it has been tricky inside as well, dying off in late summer!



The tulip could hardly have been brighter!

Narcissus 'Mitzy' starts off yellow and cream and turns white with age – don't we all!



Outside Maggi & Carole entertain Bob, [Pleione Shantung below] while John Lee stands guard over his great pan of tulips. Ian & Carole Bainbridge's *Arum creticum* looked to me to be in fine fettle but missed out on a first prize. Ian sports his complete the words T-shirt! Can you complete the sentence? Scarily Bob is up in the corner of the photo below!





The small tulip at the front is *Tulipa sogdiana*. Last year at Stirling I commented that it must be one of the smallest tulips in the world but it was a bit bigger this year, Not much but a wee bit bigger. The tulip polychrome behind it is magnificent. Look at all the SRGC members bending and studying the plants. This is what the show is about. It provides lots of interest for everyone. Carole is happy with her big dome of the Himalayan *Saxifraga georgii*. It takes skill to get it to this size in Scotland.



Just beside it can you see the edge of *Sanguinaria canadensis flore plena*? I get the feeling this is not quite as prevalent as once it was in our gardens. Fashion? Does it die down too soon and get planted over?





Best plant from a new exhibitor was this well presented pan of *Pleione forrestii* shown by Graham Catlow from Corstorphine. What a great plant for section ii far less from a new exhibitor. I feel Graham must have been practicing before coming to this year's show. Well done Graham! Best plant in Section was *Iris bucharica* grown by Mike Hicks. Another triumph!





Daffodils in all shapes and sizes. Wordsworth would need a few more verses to include them all. No lonely clouds here: just bright sunshine. Too warm for some! Ian is brighter inside with Glassford behind his popular labels than outside in the sun with Stan!

Ian reveals the motto on the T-shirt. I am certain everyone must have bought something at the show so several spaces will be being filled up again in Scottish rock gardens. Good to see Fred Hunt back at the shows. Here he is with Anne Brown and with Susan & Adrian

