

Aberdeen Show 2009

I felt lazy and guilty at Aberdeen. I did not enter any plants in the show and because of that I slept longer. Exhibitors have to be on the road by 7am or earlier. This year it was wetter than I can remember for an Aberdeen show. There was much mist and spray during the drive north so that the flowers in the hall were even brighter by contrast. On the top bench, compelling you through the hall was a wonderful display of plants from the RBG Edinburgh and the competitive 6 pan class. Mike Hopkins provided strong opposition to Cyril Lafong's winning [and I have to be realistic and write unbeatable] entry comprising four pans of 'ladies slipper' orchids, *Cypripedium*, in perfect condition, an *Androsace* and a *Sebaea*. Any one of three *Cypripedium*s might have been the winner but the judges chose *Cypripedium pubescens parviflorum* and who would argue? An American cousin of a European Alpine favourite winning on the day of Eurovision Song Contest! Thank goodness plants can't speak, otherwise the cacophony of languages at our shows would be unbearable. None the less it is humbling to reflect on the 'home countries' of our plants and remember those who brought them to our gardens.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD! I was delighted to meet Malcolm, Chris, Anna Garland and Phil from New Zealand who were visiting 'The Old Country'. They were returning from Malcolm's ancestral home in Orkney and stopped in Aberdeen to see Ian and Maggi, the Show and meet fellow Scottish Rockers. See SRGC folk! See friendly folk!



**Cyril Lafong's Forrest medal
Cypripedium pubescens
parviflorum.**



Expert beginner!

John Owen of Askival Nursery brought a very good entry to the show and had a very good day! Left John's *Cyp. calceolus*; First prize; Best Plant by a new Exhibitor; Best plant in Section II and a Certificate of Merit. Well done John!



Cyril's *Cypripedium* 'Rascal' was recommended for an AM by the joint Rock Plant Committee and so a specimen was needed for the Wisley herbarium. Secretary Carole removed a stem from the plant while Cyril watched[worried]



Cyril's unbeatable 6 pan entry. Below right is Mike Hopkins' Diamond Jubilee winning small 6 pan entry and his excellent entry in the large 6 pan where he was pipped by Cyril. Just look at Mike's plants. Any one was worthy of a first in single pan classes. His entry comprises plants of different colour, habit and origin but together they sum up rock garden plants. Any one of us could find these. The trick is to present them all in good condition and flower at the same time for your own show.



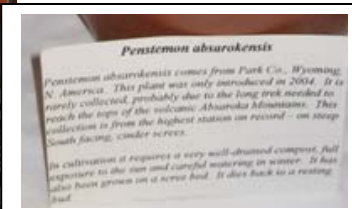
Stars from Aberdeen



Myosididium hortense
from Ian & Carole



Penstemon
absarokensis
from Cyril



Tiny Celmisia
phylocremna



Ian Christie's *Celmisia*
sp. from North Island



Lilium nanum



Arisaema nepenthoides
Certificate of Merit for
Anne Chambers



Arisaema amurense

Display by Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

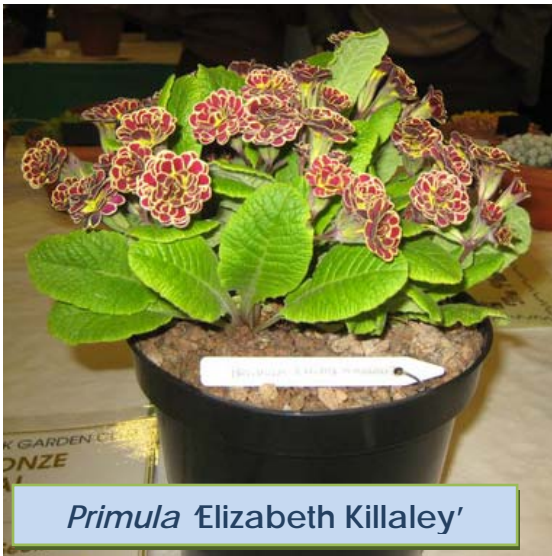


Struan and Elspeth discuss the RBG E exhibit with Cyril and David. This is their most colourful display of the year. Big bright Lewisias and delicate Irises.

The large Irises at the front are *I. ibirica* ssp. *elegantissima*. The tall blue ones are *I. Cycloglossa*.

Hyacinthoides vicanentina, *Viola sororia* pictured beside *I. cycloglossa* and the rarely seen annual *Androsace bulleyana* which gained a CC.





Primula 'Elizabeth Killalee'



Meconopsis x cookei



Best Primula for John
Graham *P. yuparensis*



Helichrysum
'County Park
Silver'

This is a
plant I
haven't
seen for a
while. It
belongs to
David Aitken
from Parkhill



Uvularia grandiflora



Primula veris



A wide range of Alpines in Aberdeen

Globularia cordata 'Blue Bunnets', *Dianthus* 'Conway Star', *Sedum pachyclados*, *Sedum humifusum*, *Telesonix jamesii*, *Petrophytum hendersonii*, *Lewisia nevadensis*, *Aquilegia flabellata* x and *Primula sieboldii*



PURPLE IS REGAL



Oxalis hybrid



Oxalis 'Gwen McBride'



Edrianthus pumilio



Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Tom Thumb'



Lewisia cotyledon magenta



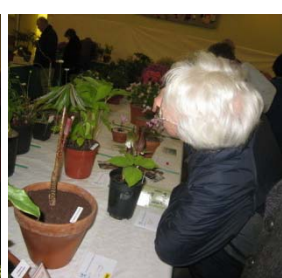
You can see from these two pictures how closely Dodecatheon resembles Cyclamen



Two Paris [or should that be Paree?] from Ian Christie.



Nick Boss's Silene acaulis won the Alpines 2001 Trophy



John Mitchell, Mike and Pearl Dale , Mike gave Pearl a 1st Prize,

Anne Chambers talks to an Arisaema

Sandy Leven