

Forrest Medal Aberdeen 2010

Two Forrest Medals Awarded at Aberdeen

How can this be? **Fred Hunt** won the George Forrest Memorial Medal for the Best Plant in the competitive classes in the show with **Lewisia columbiana 'George Henley'**. This wonderful plant has travelled to Aberdeen and won many first prizes over the years. This year it was a supreme example of the rock gardener's craft. Covered in hundreds of magenta flowers it shone out on the benches. Just up the hall a wee bit however there were some more Lewisias, this time on the **Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh** exhibit. Centrepiece of the table was a magnificent pale pink **Lewisia cotyledon** equally as large a specimen as Fred's plant. The judges awarded it a **Professional Forrest Medal**. This is the first time I can remember this medal being awarded, so it is 'quite something'. Alongside this **Lewisia** was another which gained a Certificate of Merit. This was certainly the year of the Lewisias at Aberdeen. When one sees pictures of these plants in the wild you realise just how much they have 'come on' in cultivation, thanks to careful selection and breeding. These plants quite outstanding were – as Joda might have said [but which I typed wrongly]. Congratulations to Fred and the staff from the RBGE on their successes. I have few small **L. cotyledon** and in 20years time if they don't die beforehand, I would still be lucky to have plant half as good as these.



Top pictures RBGE Display ; Bottom pictures Fred Hunt's *Lewisia columbiana* 'George Henley'



Elsbeth Mackintosh of RBGE and Fred Hunt