



The Scottish Rock Garden Club George Forrest Memorial Medal DUMFRIES WEEKEND 2011



Gentiana 'The Caley' shown by Ian & Beryl MacNaughton



I think it must be very rare indeed for a Forrest medal plant to have been raised from seed, as part of a deliberate programme of improving a species to win a Forrest medal. Ian Macnaughton has been at the

forefront of autumn Gentian cultivation in Scotland for decades. Ian has been striving to raise better and better compact, well flowered plants which will flower a bit earlier than the old hybrids and so avoid the worst of early Scottish winter weather. Like others, I have admired many of his plants over the years. Luckily for all of us we need covet in silence no longer. Some of Ian's best seedlings have been propagated and are being sold by the family firm Macplants - you must have admired their exquisite stands at Gardening Scotland!

The winning plant was shown modestly in a black [plastic pot, which was completely hidden from above by the mass of tightly packed flowers. Looking down into the flowers reveals their true beauty, with fountains of white splashes rising from the depths of each trumpet, the white spilling onto the rolled over plicae. Well done Ian and Beryl and I hope you have further success with your other gentian hybrids. SRGC folk will be making a pilgrimage to Pencaitland!

