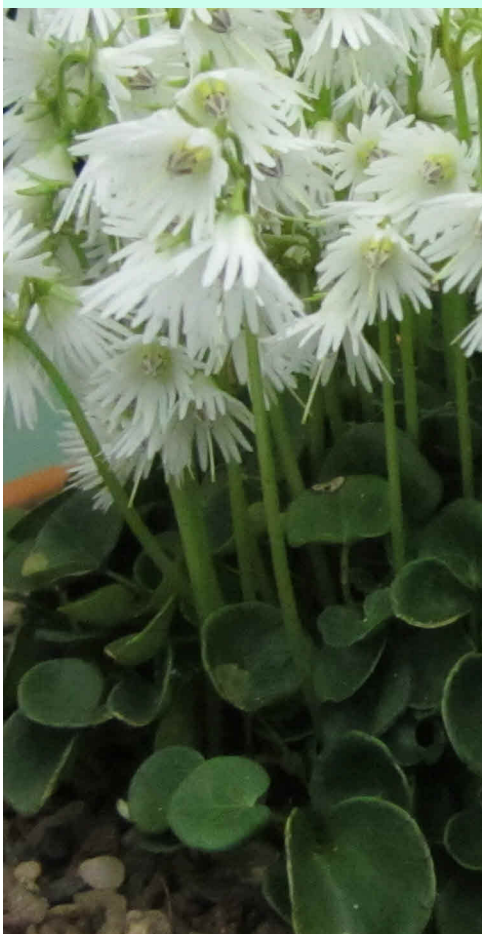




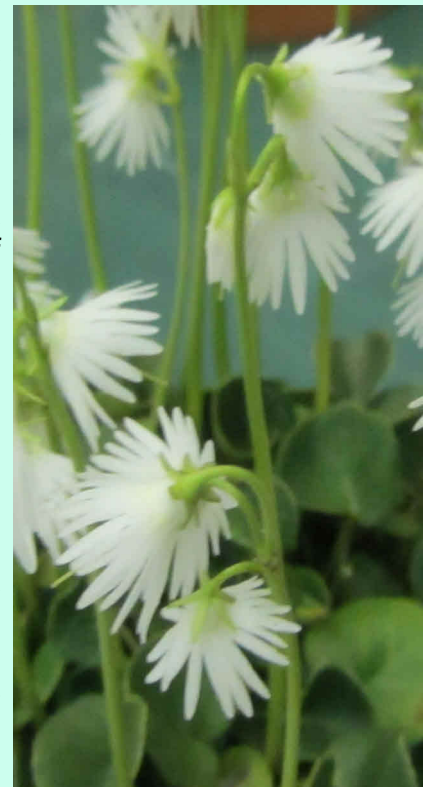
The Scottish Rock Garden Club George Forrest Memorial Medal PERTH 2011



Soldanella alpina alba shown by Cyril Lafong



Perth's winner was a superb pan of an exceptional form of the traditional old-fashioned weel kent European mountain plant, a true alpine, **Soldanella alpina alba**. Most of us are familiar and may even have seen Soldanella alpina growing in the wild but like white heather a pure white form is much more rare. Even in cultivation it isn't common. Many find Soldanellas to be shy flowering in cultivation but obviously Cyril has understood his plant's needs and even more importantly he has satisfied them. Despite its diminutive stature the Forrest medal winner was a mass of blooms, each perfectly white with a green eye. Fairy thimbles? These must have been washed in 'Fairy' as well! Not only were the white flowers in perfect condition the dark green leathery leaves were also perfect. Here was a plant that we all could covet and think to ourselves, 'Maybe I might manage to grow that!'



Cyril never ceases to surprise us with the vast range of fantastic plants he has shown over the years. His Soldanella alpina alba showed how in order to triumph, it is important to choose the right plant and to grow it exceptionally well.

Congratulations and thank you to Cyril for lightening the gloom of the cavernous exhibition hall with this shining beauty.