

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club & The Alpine Garden Society Forrest Medal—Newcastle Show *Gaultheria crassa* 'John Saxton' Shown by Rachel & Keith Lever



Rachel & Keith could not attend the show but son Tim brought their Forrest Medal winner to the show as well as manning Aberconwy Nursery's sales stand. Rarely does a plant in fruit win the Forrest but equally rarely do we see such a wonderful specimen. Goodness knows how many berries were on it—hundreds. As can be seen from the wide selection of exquisite plants on their sales stand, the Lever family have an eye for a good plant. *Gaultheria crassa* is a New Zealand shrub with white ericaceous flowers and in the clone John Saxton these are followed by the luscious red berries. It is found in sub-alpine regions of both islands in New Zealand, hence its small thick leathery leaves. It can grow to 1m in favourable places. *Gaultheria crassa* 'John Saxton' is definitely worth seeking out. I know where I would start looking for one to buy.....

.....—North Wales! I visited Aberconwy Nursery with fellow members of the RHS Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee. There can be few plant nurseries which are as well cared for as this. Many of the plants for sale can be seen in garden settings and in their new crevice bed. The seedlings and cuttings are cared for and raised in almost

clinically clean conditions. The range of species and varieties offered for sale is surely unequalled in the UK. We were privileged to be taken for a walk through the private garden areas, a 'gardeners' treasure trove'. Tim and his parents are skilled at raising many very 'difficult' plants. This is the home of scarce and unusual plants for rock gardeners. If you are ever in North Wales pay a visit.

**Thank you Tim for delivering the plant safely to the show.**



**Brachyglottis bidwillii 'BasilFox'** is another fine shrub introduced by Aberconwy nursery. It was part of George Young's winning entry in the '3pan foliage class'.



**Tim, Keith and Rachel with Peter Erskine at Aberconwy Nursery**

