

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Dunblane Summer Event

17 8 19

THE HOF MEISTER IN DUNBLANE

After the heavy downpours of previous weeks we were blessed with a fine sunny day for the Summer Event. It really did look like summer in Dunblane with its eye-catching summer flower displays. A good contingent of members gathered to hear Christoph Ruby talk about his passion for Trilliums and to learn about the Hof Botanic Garden, in north Bavaria it is close to the old East German border and about midway between Berlin and Munich. Christoph has travelled widely in North America to study Trilliums. He is friends with and has corresponded with many experts in the States. His knowledge of the genus is unparalleled,

In his first talk which was devoted to Trillium, Christoph started with the species from Western North America, then the Eastern ones and finally those from the Southern states. He showed many examples of variation in flower colour, shape and size within species as well as a host of interspecific hybrids. He demonstrated wide variation in flower colour within the species.

When it came to the talk on The Hof Garden, I and others were astounded at the wealth of exceptional alpine plants which he showed us. He has an obvious passion for Campanulas and Paeonies. One very interesting part of the talk was when he showed photos of the same border at different times of the year. Apart from the hedge at the back and the rocks at the front everything changes in the border along with the seasons. The Hof is a public garden belonging to the local community. Christoph described it as 'small' but it has a number of distinct rock gardens, some in island beds as well as crevice gardens. Several different rock types are used, each type for a separate rock garden. In order to orientate us, Christophe described the garden taking a clockwise route.

From the start Christoph captured our attention and held it all the way through both talks. We came to realise that our passion for rock plants is shared by many others. I now have another gem to add to my list of gardens to visit.....and this one is free to enter!





This year if there had been a Forrest Medal for the best display at the SRGC Summer Event, it would have been awarded to Margaret and Henry Taylor for this wonderful exhibit of cut flowers. When I suggested the idea of a Summer Event, Council and members enthusiastically supported it and in the first year, we had a big entry of plants and cut flowers and foliage, which needed many tables in the hall. The talks were held in the adjacent church hall. Over the years, the number of exhibits has declined and this is a pity. This year the number was down again. First I want to thank those generous members who brought plants for the display and plants sale. Thank you as well to those of you who wrote to say that they could not attend. I hope we will see you next year. We all are curious to know which plants our fellow members grow in their gardens. This is the opportunity for us all to show our wares. There is no formality about entries and I hope that the wonderful continued support for the day, shown by this year's exhibitors, will encourage more to bring plants next time.

On the bright side I am delighted that this year we had wonderful entries from Cathy and Barry Caudwell, Nick Boss and Anne Chambers. As well as Margaret & Henry. Between them they provided a lot of interesting flowers and plants. For the first time I had no entry on the show bench as the troughs which I usually take and which were at Gardening Scotland were so heavy with water from our almost incessant downpours that I could not lift them. They may as well have been made of stone rather than polystyrene. Under these weather conditions even an empty big fish box gets very heavy with absorbed water. Perhaps I should increase the drainage with more stone chippings but then the trough would be heavy all year round.

Christoph's talks were enjoyed by more than 60 members who were engrossed by his presentations. Our Summer Event is a good platform for our members to hear speakers from overseas because we can tempt them to visit Scotland in summer. They can tour around and see our gardens in bloom. At other times of the year their garden visits may be restricted. Over the years Olga, Susanne, Razvan, Kenton and others have enjoyed seeing Scotland in summer.

Thank you to my wife Anne in the tea room, Anne and Liz on the ticket sales, Fred with the plant stall and to the nurseries for donating plants for the raffle. A big thank you too to everyone who donated plants to the 50 : 50 plant sale, especially to Lyn Bezzant whose bulbs proved so popular that they were all sold by the time Julia and I had worked out how to change Christoph's presentation into PowerPoint. Lastly to our own Trillium expert, Ian Christie who invited Christoph, and his wife Anne who hosted him during his visit.

As president Julia said in her welcome and summing up this was a wonderful day for the 'People who love plants' . We enjoyed one another's company while learning a bit more. This is what a club should be. This is the Scottish Rock Garden Club



LEONTOPODIUM
PUSILLUM
ECOLOGY & DIST: STAB.
SCREES, EXPOSED. COLD
HABITATS.
ALT: 4876-5638m.
HIGHER MOUNTAINS OF
E. TIBET, SIKKIM +
KASHMIR.

Nick's way



SILENE ACAULIS
ECOLOGY & DIST:
EXPOSED MORAINS
ALT: 4206 m.
THE HOHE TAUERN
REGION, SW. Austria.

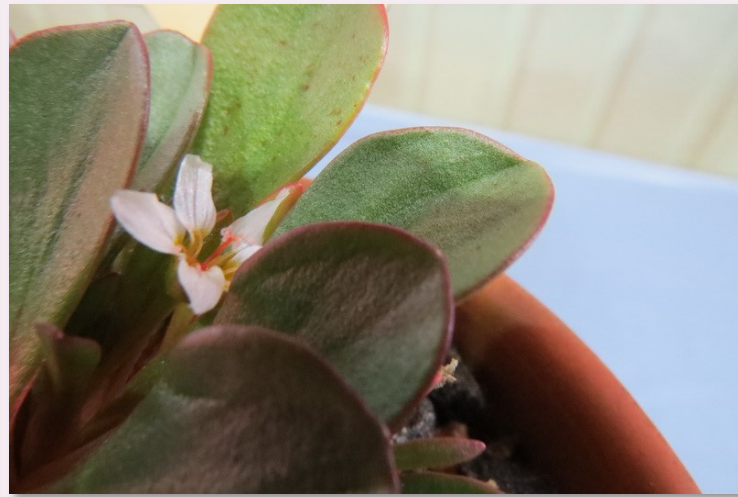


GYPSOPHILA
ARETIODES
ECOLOGY & DIST: EXPOSED
LIMESTONE ROCK
CREVICES + LEDGES.
ALT: 1524-2133m.
THE MTS. OF N. IRAN, N.
CAUCASUS + TRANSCAUCASUS,
GEORGIA.



ARTEMESIA GENIPI
ECOLOGY & DIST:
EXPOSED ROCKY
RIDGES, STAB. SCREES
+ MORAINS - ACID.
ALT: 2743-3810 m.
HIGHER MTS. OF THE
STUBAIER ALPS (EX)
SW. AUSTRIA

Nick's
Plants



CLAYTONIA
MEGARHIZA
ECOLOGY + DIST:
BOULDER SCREES OF
THE HIGH ALPINE
ZONE. ALT: 4328 m.
ROCKY MTS. COLORADO,
NORTH AMERICA



SAXIFRAGA PUBESCENS
SAXIFRAGA
ECOLOGY + DIST: CREVICES
LEDGES ON EXPOSED
ROCK (SH. THRESSES +
CLIFFS) (ACID)
ALT: 2438-2850
W. P. FURBER

MAMILLOPSIS SENILIS
ECOLOGY + DIST:
COOL, SEMI-SHADED
ROCK LEDGES (ACID)
ALT: 2438-2850 m.
THE SIERRA MADRE
OCCIDENTAL MOUNTAIN
RANGE, N. MEXICO.



MASSONIA SPECIES
AFF. ECHINATA
EXPOSED GRANITE
BUTTRESSES, 'SUMMIT
PLATEAU', HIGH ALPINE
ZONE.
ALT: 3100-3372m.
NE. OF SANI PASS,
DRAKENSBURG MTS, SE.
AFRICA



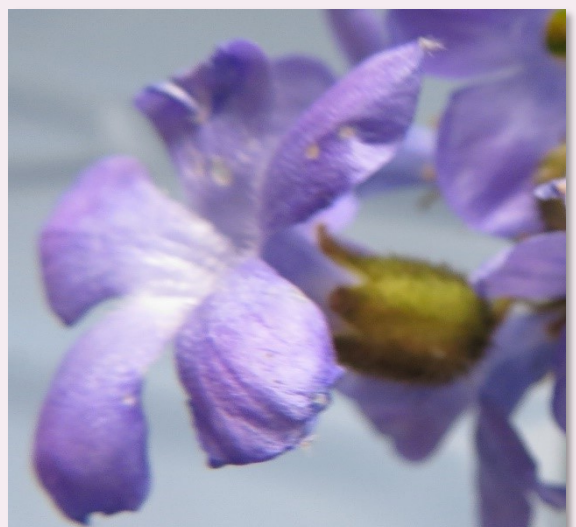
PHILESIA
MAGELLANIC
Evergreen, trailing
shrub 12-15" tall
semi-shade.



HARKNESS ROSE
'SIMPLE PEACH'
Flowers June - November.

SALVIA
'MYSTIC SPIRES'
Blt. Perennial BUT
Keep frost free
in winter







2 GAULTHERIAS
9-12" tall
'PINK', best.
G. PROSTRATA
PENTLANDII.
'PINK',
CHAMPAGNE



Anemone hupehensis



I am sorry that I did not photograph the other entries. I got distracted, talking with other members, about the flowers and plants that I ran out of time when the afternoon lecture started. Altogether it was a most enjoyable day.....friends; plants to see; plants to buy; interesting lectures; a cup of tea; and good company. This is what we 'people who love plants' in the SRGC love to do.