

The Meconopsis Group

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Newsletter May 2010

Dear Member,

Gardening Scotland Show 4th, 5th and 6th June

We have a stand at the Gardening Scotland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh. Please come and visit!
A meeting of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee of the RHS will be convened at Gardening Scotland.

This will allow a further assessment of *Meconopsis* and other plants.

Special lectures by Toshio Yoshida

Over 70 members and friends of the Group were present on May 8th at the RBGE to hear Toshio Yoshida, the renowned plant photographer and field botanist from Japan, speak on "Photographing plants in wildest China, with the main emphasis on *Meconopsis*".

His morning lecture took us to remotest NW Yunnan (2006-2009); the afternoon we also saw his work in Mianning, SW Sichuan. A report of these lectures will be available at a later date.

Gardens to visit now

1 The Woodland Garden at the **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh** has been planted with *Meconopsis* recently given Awards. It is open daily at this time of year from 10am to 7pm. Garden entry is free, with a charge for the Glasshouses.

2 **Branklyn Garden** (NTS) in Perth has a range of outstanding plants - rhododendrons, alpines, herbaceous and peat-garden plants. Steve McNamara has developed a *Meconopsis Trail*, with Fact sheets detailing the location of many of the named plants. Gardens open daily 10 am to 5 pm at 116 Dundee Road, Perth PH2 7BB

There are other Gardens to visit too - **Explorers**, **The Scottish Plant Hunters Garden** (Pitlochry), **Logan Botanic Garden**, (Port Logan), **Dawyck Botanic Garden**, (Peebles) and **Crarae Garden**, (NTS) (Inveraray).

***Meconopsis* on trial**

In the June 2010 edition of the RHS publication 'The Garden' (page 387), there is public information about the three year trial of large-flowered blue *Meconopsis*. At Harlow Carr, 23 cultivars from three hybrid groups have been planted. Their performance will be compared to demonstrations at two other gardens in the UK - at Windermere and Stirling (Dunblane). Planting at RHS Gardens Rosemoor and Wisley will show how they cope in hotter, drier areas.

Next Group meeting - November 20th 2010

The next Group meeting will be held in the Conference Room at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) at 10.00am for 10.30am.

The provisional programme is interesting and varied. Speakers include Jenny Wainwright -Klein from Germany, Evelyn Stevens, James Cobb, Alan Elliott and Pat Murphy.

The detailed programme for the meeting will be sent out in the autumn.

Suggestions for future speakers

Suggestions for future speakers and topics are invited. If you would like to volunteer, it need not be a full hour - short talks would be very welcome. Please contact any Committee member.

Membership Renewal 2010

If you have sent your subscription but have not received a receipt and membership card please let me know.

1st Class post

This mailing has been sent 1st class following a generous donation of 1st class stamps from one of our members. Many thanks.

Annual General Meeting 6th March 2010

The Minutes of the AGM will be available before the AGM to be held in spring 2011.

Reports from the meeting held on March 6th 2010

I enclose with this newsletter a number of items following our Group meeting on 6th March 2010

- Newsletter May 2010
- '*Meconopsis grandis* and its allies' by Christopher Grey-Wilson
(in meeting programme as 'The taxonomy of the large blue poppies - trials and tribulations')
- '*Meconopsis horridula* and the Small Blue Poppies' by Christopher Grey-Wilson
(in meeting Programme as 'A miscellany of old and new - getting intimate with the smaller *Meconopses*')
- 'New findings on *Meconopsis* from Nepal' by Paul Egan

If you do not receive any of them, please let me know.

If you have any problems with this mailing please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Norma McDowall (Secretary)