

The Meconopsis Group

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Newsletter September 2011

Dear Member,

We hope that many members will be able to join us at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on **November 19th 2011** for our next Group meeting. The Program and arrangements are on page 2.

Gardening Scotland Show 2011

For the fifth year running The Meconopsis Group had a stand at Gardening Scotland, once again organised by Geoff Hill, and assembled and manned by Geoff and a number of members. Thanks to all. The display featured fine photographs of different species and cultivars of *Meconopsis* as a backdrop to the stand and large clumps of big blue poppies in pots, supplied by Evelyn Stevens.

The sale of *Meconopsis* seed continued to be very popular with the public.....especially anything that had blue flowers. Seed of *M. 'Lingholm'* and *M. baileyi* was in fact sold out by late Saturday.

We look forward to seeing front gardens with fine displays of *M. wallichii* and *M. horridula!*

Meconopsis on trial

The Royal Horticultural Society's trial of a range (23 in total) of the big perennial blue poppy cultivars to assess them for the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) has commenced. The purpose of the award is to help gardeners choose plants judged for their all-round garden value. The *Meconopsis* trial runs from 2010 – 2013. The trial has been set up at Harlow Carr with four Demonstration / Comparison beds at two other RHS gardens (Wisley and Rosemoor), together with Holehird in Windermere and a private garden in central Scotland. At present the only big blue perennial poppy cultivar with an AGM is *M. 'Slieve Donard'*. The first assessment earlier in the summer showed promising results from some plants under the varying weather conditions.

PayPal

The PayPal account to enable subscriptions to be paid on line has proved very popular with members, especially from outwith the UK. Cheques (and cash at meetings only) will continue to be accepted.

'Guidance on Taxonomical Procedures' by Chris Brickell and Evelyn Stevens

This attached/ enclosed report is Chris Brickell's guidance on how taxonomy is carried out, particularly with regard to the the procedure for revisions resulting in new names (or amended names) of species, genera or particular groups of taxa. It has been written up by Evelyn Stevens.

Username and Password for Members' Area of website

All members have now received a new or updated Username and Password. Please note that the original (more personalised) ones will shortly be discontinued.

Membership Renewal 2012 / Membership Contact List

This is a reminder only that Subscription Rates, agreed at the AGM in March 2011, will be £8 for UK members and £10 for non UK members. A Membership Contact List will be prepared for circulation next year (but you have the option to opt out). This will help put members in touch with other members. Renewal Forms will be sent out later. Payment is accepted for all renewals by PayPal.

Program for the Group meeting on November 19th 2011
Conference Room, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 10.00 – 15.30
Meeting Chairman: John Mitchell

10.00 - 10.30 Arrival - Complimentary Teas and Coffees
10.30 - 11.30 'Meconopsis in Bavaria' by Jenny Wainwright-Klein
11.30 - 12.00 Series: 'Species from seed' #2 by James Cobb
12.00 - 12.30 'The Explorer's Garden at Pitlochry: '* by Julia Corden
12.30 - 13.30 Bring your own picnic Lunch - Complimentary Teas and Coffees
13.30 - 14.30 'The Call of the Wild 3: Meconopsis found and lost' by Margaret Thorn
14.30 - 15.30 'Travels in Bhutan in search of the pink Poppywort' by Tim Lever

* 'The Explorer's Garden at Pitlochry: its development, mission and plants, with special emphasis on *Meconopsis*'

Meeting Arrangements

Venue The Conference Room of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is at 20a Inverleith Row Edinburgh EH3 5LR. If you require directions please access the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh website, or contact me. There is also a regular bus service from Central Edinburgh if you are coming by train.

Meeting Charge There will be a nominal charge of £1 to attend this meeting, but this will include a numbered ticket. (Plants or seeds for lucky numbers). Additional tickets can be purchased to help defray costs.

50:50 Plant Sale Please bring plants for a 50:50 plant sale (2 labels per pot, one for your name and the price, the other for the plant name). This is an important part of our day as the sale of plants will help to distribute the plants more widely among members and will boost our funds. *Meconopsis* and other plants are welcome. Please be aware that some hardwood species are banned from the RBGE. This includes rhododendrons. Please check.

Picnic lunch Please bring your own lunch to the meeting. Tea/coffee will be provided at 10.00am and lunchtime.

Guests will be made very welcome.

Note for New Members If you are unsure of the arrangements please contact Norma McDowall.

Seed Exchange

The current Seed Exchange letter for 2011-2012 is enclosed /attached. The seed list is sent on request. Please read the letter for details.

Spring Group meeting - March 3rd 2012

The Spring 2012 Group meeting and AGM will be held at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh on Saturday 3rd March 2012.

Items enclosed / attached

I enclose /attach a number of items.

- Newsletter September 2011
- 'Guidance on Taxonomical Procedures' by Chris Brickell and Evelyn Stevens
- 'Meconopsis from seed #1' by Geoff Hill
- Seed Exchange letter

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)