

The Meconopsis Group

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Newsletter September 2013

Dear Member,

We hope that many members will be able to join us at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh on **October 26th 2013**, for our next Group meeting. The Program and arrangements are on page 2.

RHS trial of big perennial blue poppies (2010-2013)

The RHS Trial has now concluded but has to be ratified officially before information can be made available. A full report will be made at the October Group meeting.



Gardening Scotland 2013

We are delighted to let you know that our stand at Gardening Scotland was awarded a Gold Medal by the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. Our thanks to Sharon Bradley, our new Gardening Scotland Co-ordinator, and all who helped with the arrangements and provided the plants.

We are delighted to report Seed sales this year were outstanding and thank Ian Scott, Seed Exchange Manager, for his exceptional work packaging them.

Preliminary Commendations

M. 'Strathspey' and *M. 'Mildred'* received preliminary commendations from the Scottish Joint Rock Committee at Gardening Scotland.

Alpine Garden Society Awards

For a second time, the AGS have honoured Evelyn Stevens with an award: In 2011 it was the Kath Dryden Award for her work on *Meconopsis*. In 2013 it is the Clarence Elliott Memorial Award for the best article published in the Society's Bulletin, *The Alpine Gardener*, in 2011, Volume 79: "'Sorting out' the Big Blue Poppies" pp.163-179.

Seed Exchange Letter

The current Seed Exchange letter for 2013-2014 is enclosed /attached. Dr. Ian Scott is our new Seed Manager. Please read the letter for details.

ICRA

In July, in Beijing, the executive committee of the ISHS (International Society for Horticultural Science) commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration approved the reappointment of The Meconopsis Group as ICRA (International Cultivar Registration Authority) for *Meconopsis*.

The Explorers' Garden, Pitlochry

It is pleasing to learn that Julia Corden, Garden Manager, is planning a big expansion of the *Meconopsis* area in the garden so it should be easy for visitors to compare plants and so learn about them.

Membership Renewal 2014

Subscription Rates, agreed at the AGM in March 2013, will be held at £8 for UK members and £13 for non UK members. There is no need to pay at this time!

Fact-sheets

6 Fact sheets are available now. Copies will be available at the Group meeting, or on request from UK Members, enclosing a LARGE stamp.

For non UK members, if you wish a copy emailed to you please let me know.

Spring Group meeting - March 15th 2014

The Spring 2014 Group meeting and AGM will be held at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh on Saturday March 15th 2014. Program details in January.

Program for the Group meeting on October 26th 2013 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	'Report on RHS Trial'	Pat Murphy
11.30 - 12.30	'More Plants of Distinction'	Evelyn Stevens
12.30 - 13.30	<i>Bring your own picnic Lunch - Complimentary Teas and Coffees</i>	
13.30 - 14.30	'Branklyn'	Steve McNamara
14.30 - 15.00	'A few <i>Meconopsis</i> you cannot afford to miss'	Jim Jermyn
15.00 - 15.20	'Polyploidy in <i>Meconopsis</i> '	John Richards
15.20 - 15.30	Final discussion	
Time will be allocated for questions throughout		

Meeting Arrangements

Venue The Conference Room of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is accessed 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 public transport.

Meeting Charge There will be a nominal charge of £1 to attend this meeting, but this will include a numbered ticket and your tea/coffee. 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 for the latest information.

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 me.

Items enclosed / attached

I enclose /attach a number of items.

- ◆ Newsletter September 2013
- ◆ Seed Exchange letter
- ◆ Reply slip for October 2013 meeting

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)