



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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Beach at Termonfeekin

This has been another week where I have had little activity in the garden mainly because I have been away speaking at the Dublin AGS Group's wonderful weekend conference in An Grianan, Termonfeekin, County Louth in Ireland. An grianan means sunny place in Gaelic and that was certainly the case while I was there. It is always a great weekend with a very open and friendly atmosphere and I send my thanks to the organisers for inviting and hosting me - also to the very attentive audience, many of whom told me they are regular readers of the Bulb Log, for listening to my talks and all your interesting questions.



It is interesting how my interests in life seem to go around in circles – one of the talks I gave 'Nature Gardeners' Tutor' is about the lessons that I have learned from nature and how I interpret them into the garden – it is meant to be a slightly provocative talk challenging many of the accepted gardening methods and practices replacing them with nature's way. One of my big interests as a boy, brought up near the seaside, was collecting the shells on the beach this then lead me to collect the pebbles which evolved into my interest in geology and travelling in Scotland looking at rock types and formations. When I was around 12 years old these interests extended to looking at the wild plants I saw at the seaside and mountains which would later develop and grow into the garden. During the breaks in the conference programme I took the opportunity to walk the short distance to the beach to do some beach-combing where I found some interesting shells - little did I know as that young boy collecting shells that it would evolve into this lifelong interest which would take me to so many places around the world. This razor shell I found has been colonised and beautifully decorated by sea worm casings and barnacles. The cover picture is of one of a series of metal sculptures I made and exhibited in the early 1980's along with my own shadow which brings in my other lifelong interest in art which I never separate out from gardening – to me it is all part of the same creative process that I am constantly exploring and developing.



Thinking that I would be short of time to take pictures and write this Bulb Log, before I left last Thursday, I had a walk in the sunshine taking pictures of interest - most of these are of foliage and now form a photo-essay through the rest of these pages.





Cyclamen hederifolium



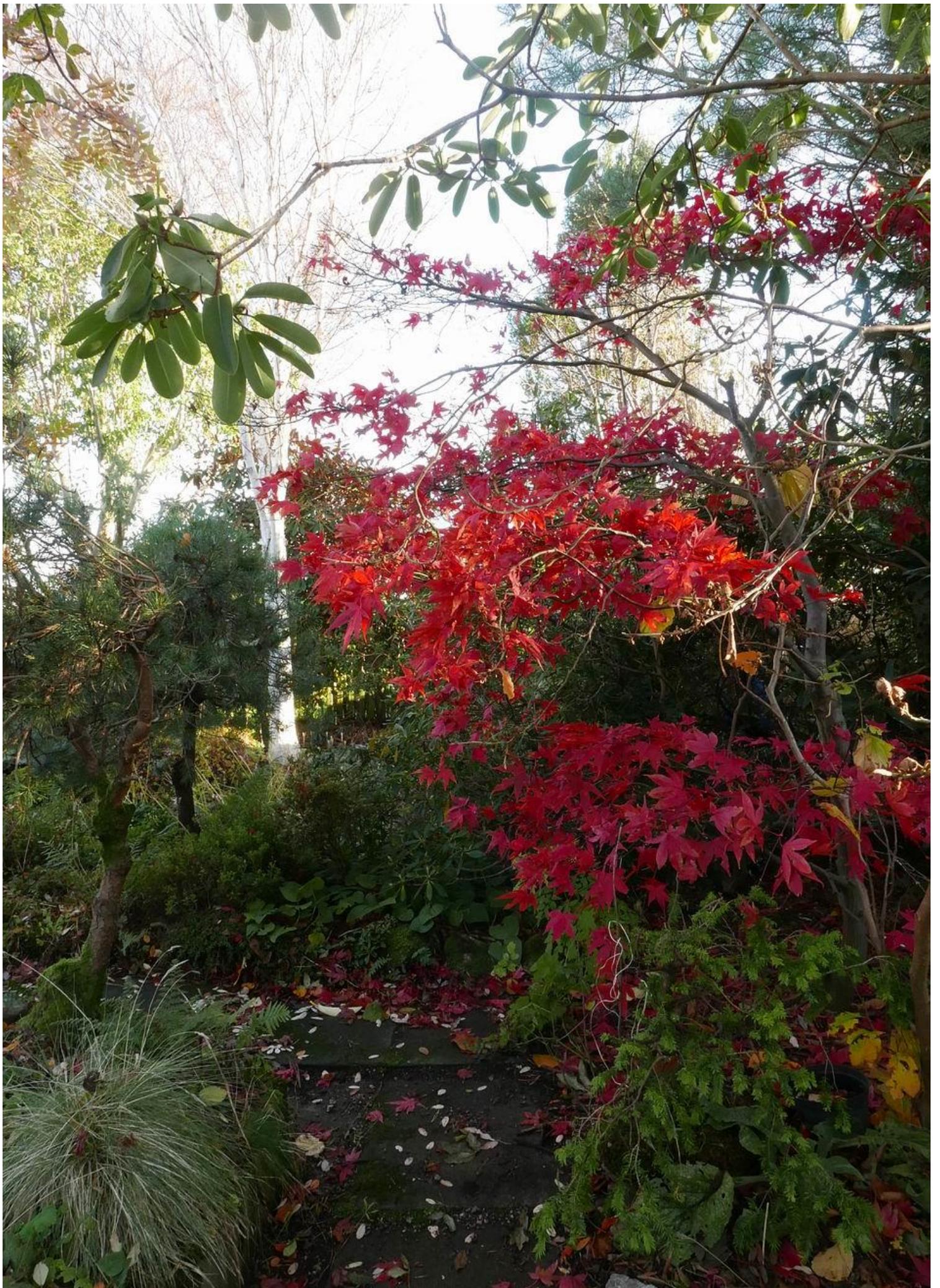


Chrysosplenium macrophyllum





I am looking forward to seeing the first season of growth in this new bed I made and planted up this summer.



Some leaves tentatively hang on, adding highlights of autumn colour.



Among the many fallen and decaying leaves some plants like *Arum italicum* and *Corydalis* 'Craigton Blue' are growing their new leaves for next season.





Walking around I get another view back across the new bed towards the pond.



Pond



Pyrola media



The fallen leaf of *Paeonia lutea* lies on a carpet of *Oxalis* foliage - all will soon be gone for the winter.



Celmisia lyallii



***Celmisia
hectorii***





Celmisia semicordata



Leucojum shoots appearing.



This is the very wet dark scene of the garden that I look out to as I write on Tuesday morning.

