



BULB LOG 12.....23rd March 2016





Erythronium dens-canis

It turns out that I did not miss Spring last week - the sun has been kind to us making several appearances over the past week and that was enough to trigger the rapid flowering of many bulbs. Clumps of *Erythronium dens-canis* are among the first to rush into flower with buds of *Erythronium revolutum* in the foreground.



Erythronium dens canis

Some of the darkest colour forms we have appeared in this basket of seedlings- raised from seed collected in our own garden – the one in the foreground also has particularly dark leaves which are mostly brown with only a few specks of green showing through.



Erythronium caucasicum

A month after the earliest forms of *Erythronium caucasicum* flowered a number more are flowering now. Sadly this species does not form clumps, not in our garden anyway, leaving seed as the only way to build up numbers. To give the best chance of a successful seed set I walk around the garden with my paint brush transferring pollen from one plant to the other wondering why I did not plant them all in one group. The answer is simple; rather than risking them all in one spot, where they may not survive, I spread them about planting them in different parts of the garden each of which has differing ground conditions and micro climate - this lesson I learned from nature.

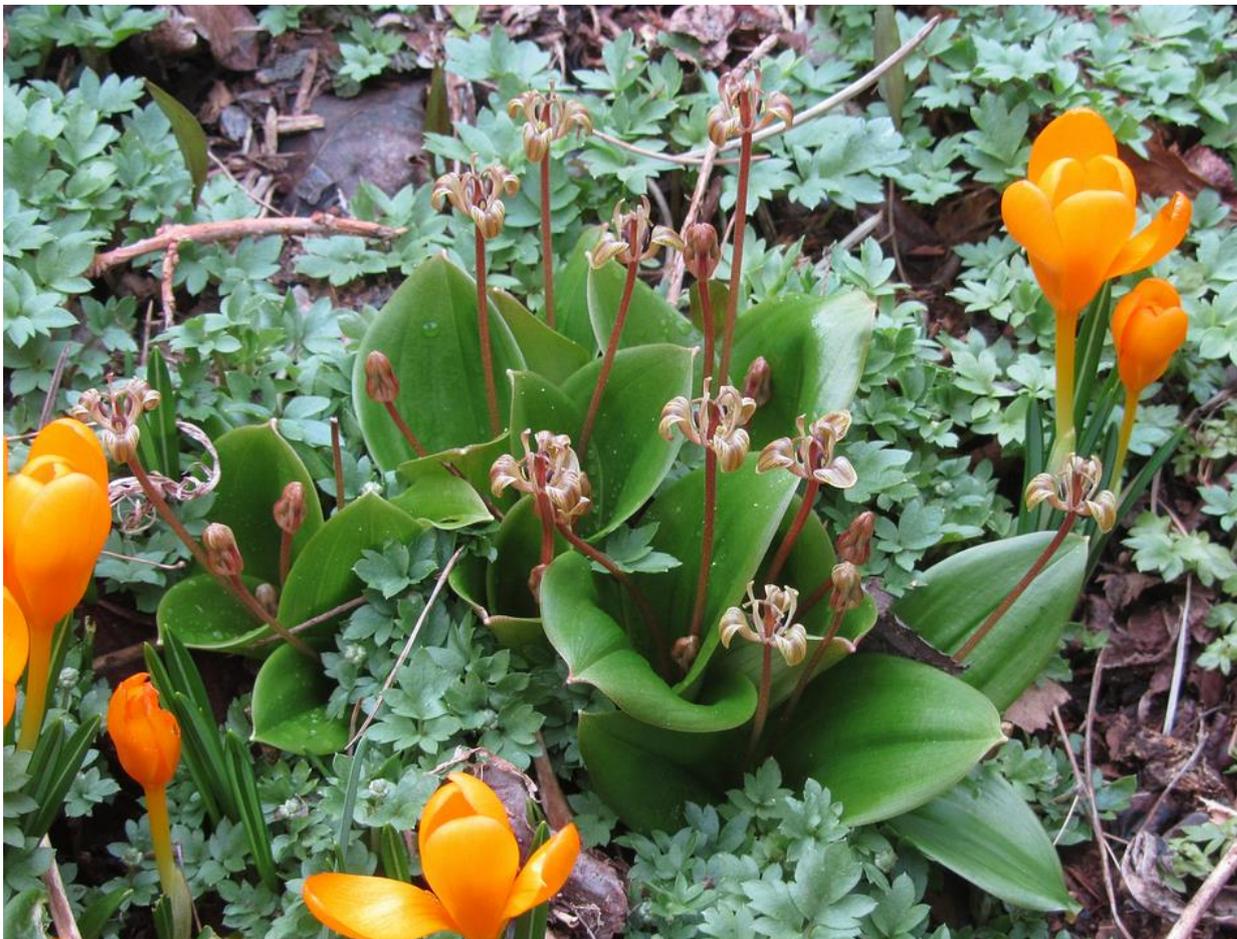


One of my reference pots of **Erythronium oregonum** flowering in a frame.

I keep some of the original bulbs raised from known wild sources in pots or plunge baskets so I can refer back to them.



Crocus herbertii and **Scoliopus hallii** flowering through the low-growing spread of **Adoxa moschatellina**.



Scoliopus hallii

Scoliopus hallii is the smaller relative of *Scoliopus bigelovii* - it is not an eye catching type of plant, many would walk past it without being aware that it is there, but it does deserve close attention.



Scoliopus bigelovii



Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'

Eranthis 'Guinea Gold' starts to flower as the flowers of Eranthis hyemalis start to go over.



The first of the Galanthus flowers are also past their best while others are just reaching their peak.



Galanthus and Eranthis



I never cease to be amazed and delighted, by the speed with which bulbs spring into growth and flower at this time of year.



Leucojum, Galanthus and Corydalis provide flowering interest, carpeting sections of the garden with great sheets of colour.



View across the Bulb Bed



Scilla mischtschenkoana* and *Corydalis solid forms

See more of this bed in a new [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) 'Bulb bed on 22 03 16'



Mixed colours in this group of *Corydalis solid incisa* seedlings – a number of years ago I planted out the seed pot.



Corydalis and Hepatica planting

A few weeks ago I was wondering if I had made a mistake in creating this bed where I pricked out Hepatica and Corydalis seedlings among a mini-landscape of broken concrete. The moss and liverwort was all that seemed to be growing; now with the magic of spring I am spending hours enjoying this small area - I am also seeing the evidence of self-seeding as the seed that fell from these plants last year is germinating.



Corydalis solida and Hepatica

There are many attractive colour combinations between the Corydalis and Hepatica appearing in this completely random planting.



Corydalis solida and Hepatica

This bed features in another new [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) 'Erythronium, Corydalis and Hepatica' I have uploaded this week.



Corydalis solida and Hepatica



Hepatica x schlyteri (Ashwood Hybrids)

One of the many magnificent hybrids raised at [Ashwood Nurseries](#) one of the best sources for Hepaticas in the UK.



Hepatica nobilis pyrenaica* and *Galanthus nivalis

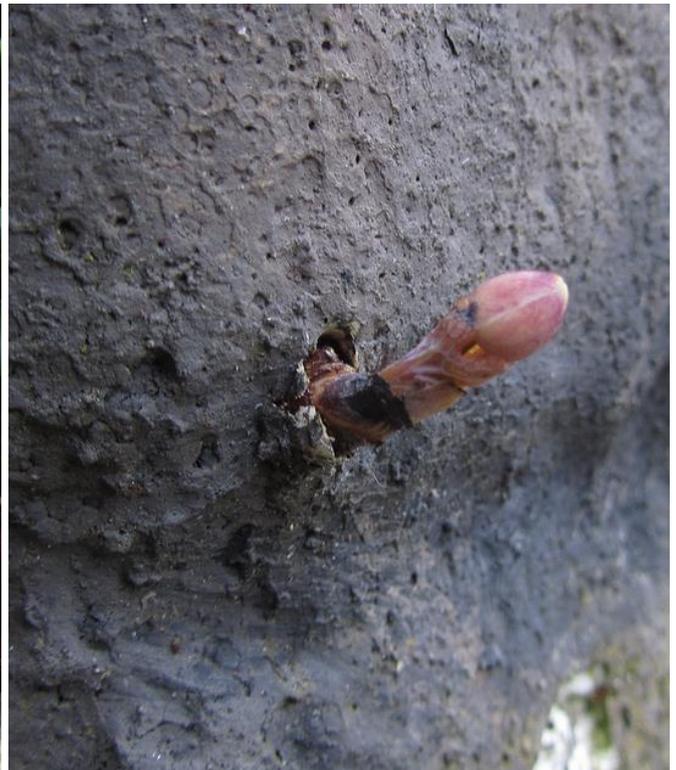


A chance self-sown group of *Crocus heufflianus* escaped from a bed in an attractive combination with a fern.



Trough

This old polystyrene fish-box trough is in need of some touching up, especially along the top edges where the paint has been worn away, but your eye has to be drawn to the *Galanthus nivalis* in full flower. I must have made this trough at least fifteen years ago and for all that time I have used it to grow the *Sanguinaria canadensis* multiplex form. Growing it in a trough allows me to replant and split the rhizomes every year or two. One year I found a single snowdrop bulb had found its way in so I left it and over the ensuing years it has increased to the stage that I will have to remove some when I replant it later this year.



Above left you can see the buds of the *Sanguinaria* sitting on the surface below the *Galanthus* foliage but then I noticed some of the buds were more adventurous - they had punched their way through the polystyrene walls in at least two places. It has been two years at least since I last replanted this trough and I think the plant is telling me that it needs done this year.



Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'

This is one of two smaller troughs where I grow Eranthis 'Guinea Gold' for the same purpose of making it easy to replant on a regular basis and so maximise the rate of increase.



Hellebores are also coming towards their peak flowering here seen with *Leucojum vernum* and *Eranthis hyemalis*.



Hellebore hybrids look attractive flowering with the early spring bulbs. This is a good combination because by the time the Helleborus leaves develop, casting some shade on the ground, the bulbs will have retreated back under ground.

Helleborus and Corydalis solida



Helleborus and Hepatica are also self-seeding around in the front garden, establishing new territory in the areas where we removed the overgrown shrubs over the last few years.

Don't forget to view the [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement 22 03 16 Erythronium, Corydalis and Hepatica](#) and [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement Bulb bed on 22 03 16](#).....