



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

ISSN 2514-6114

Pictures and text © Ian Young

BULB LOG 19 9th May 2018





Trillium grandiflorum

Trillium grandiflorum grows very well in our garden where some forms increase well by the clump, others by seed - among those seedlings we have many shades from pure white through to deep pink forms.

Maggi's hand shows the size of the flower and how appropriate the specific name is; however not all the forms have such big flowers as this one.



We do not have enough **Trillium ovatum** which is very similar in many ways to Trillium grandiflorum but sadly it does not increase so readily for us. One problem has been that wasps are particularly attracted to the seeds of this species and many years they have bored into the capsule and stolen all my seeds so I have been unable to increase it as much as I would like.



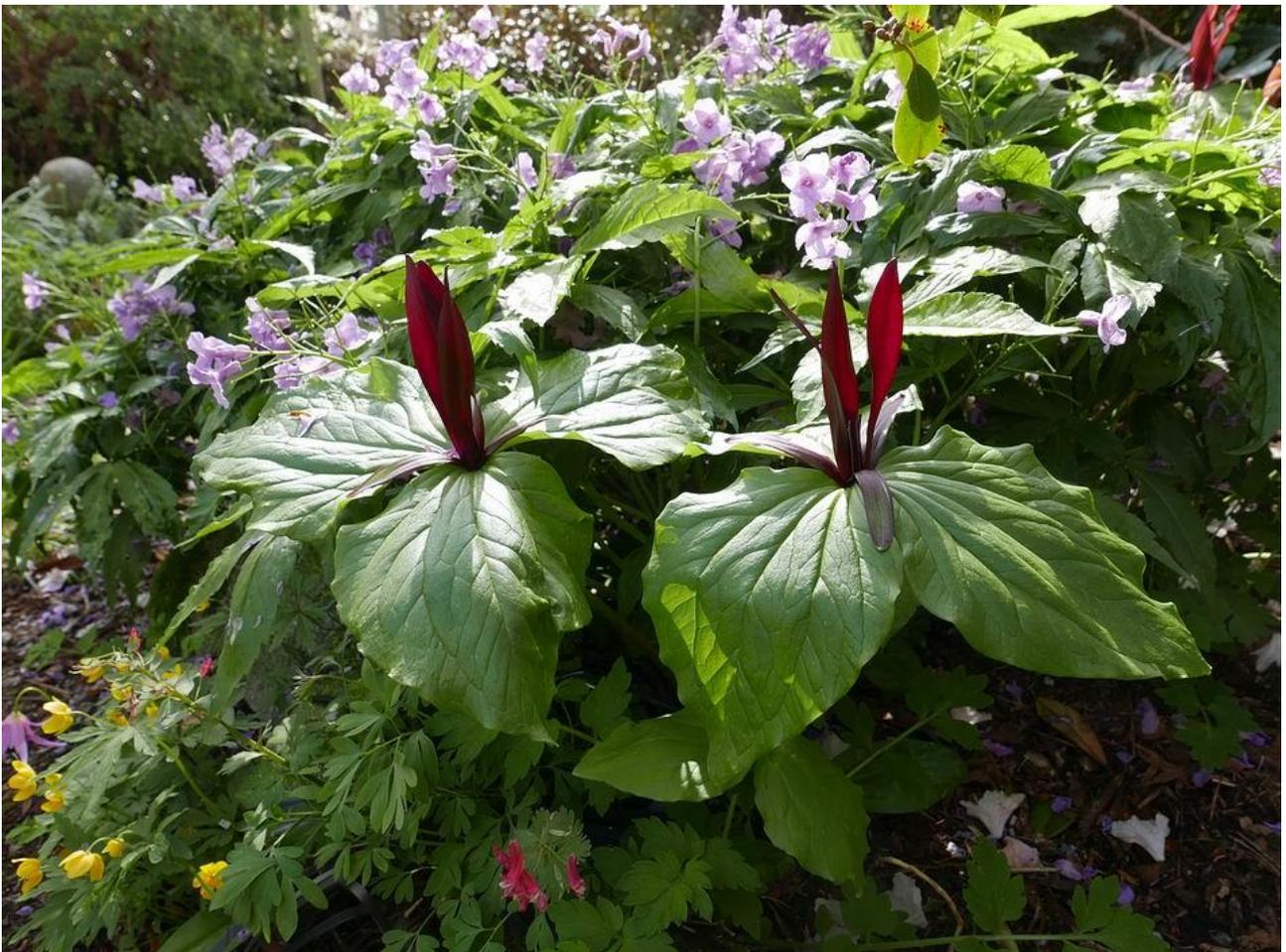
The **Trillium grandiflorum** in this picture forms clumps that are best divided every three to five years and the best time to do that is as soon as the flowers fade. Self-sown **Erythronium revolutum** adds to this scene.



With the leaves and flowers topping a long stem, Trillium are well adapted to growing through a ground cover such as Dicentra.



Telling the difference between *Trillium kurubayashii* and *Trillium chloropetalum* is never easy especially in a garden where they have been raised from seed and intermediates occur. I have given up trying to be definitive and accept that we have garden hybrids: some, like the one above, are more inclined towards *Trillium kurubayashii* the one below sits somewhere in the middle and the plants in the two pictures that follow it are more inclined towards *Trillium chloropetalum*.





These beautiful plants were raised from our garden seed and are close to *Trillium chloropetalum*.





Trillium flexipes, *Trillium erectum* and other similar species also hybridise freely when grown together in a garden producing a wide range of variation that are excellent garden plants.





Trillium erectum hybrids



I think Trillium look at their best when growing with other compatible plants such as this *Trillium grandiflorum* with mixed *Erythronium* and others.



Trillium rivale

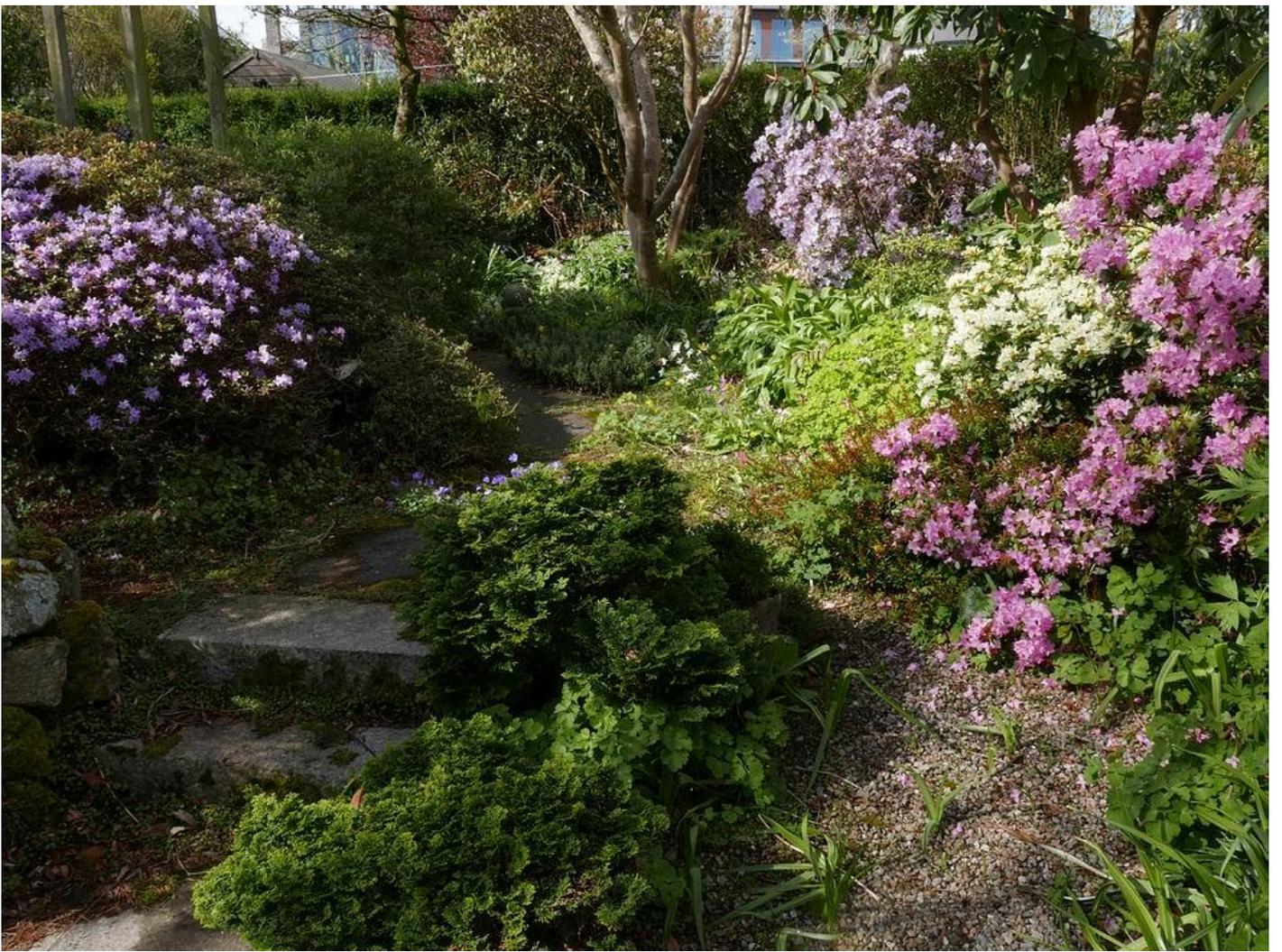


Trillium rivale

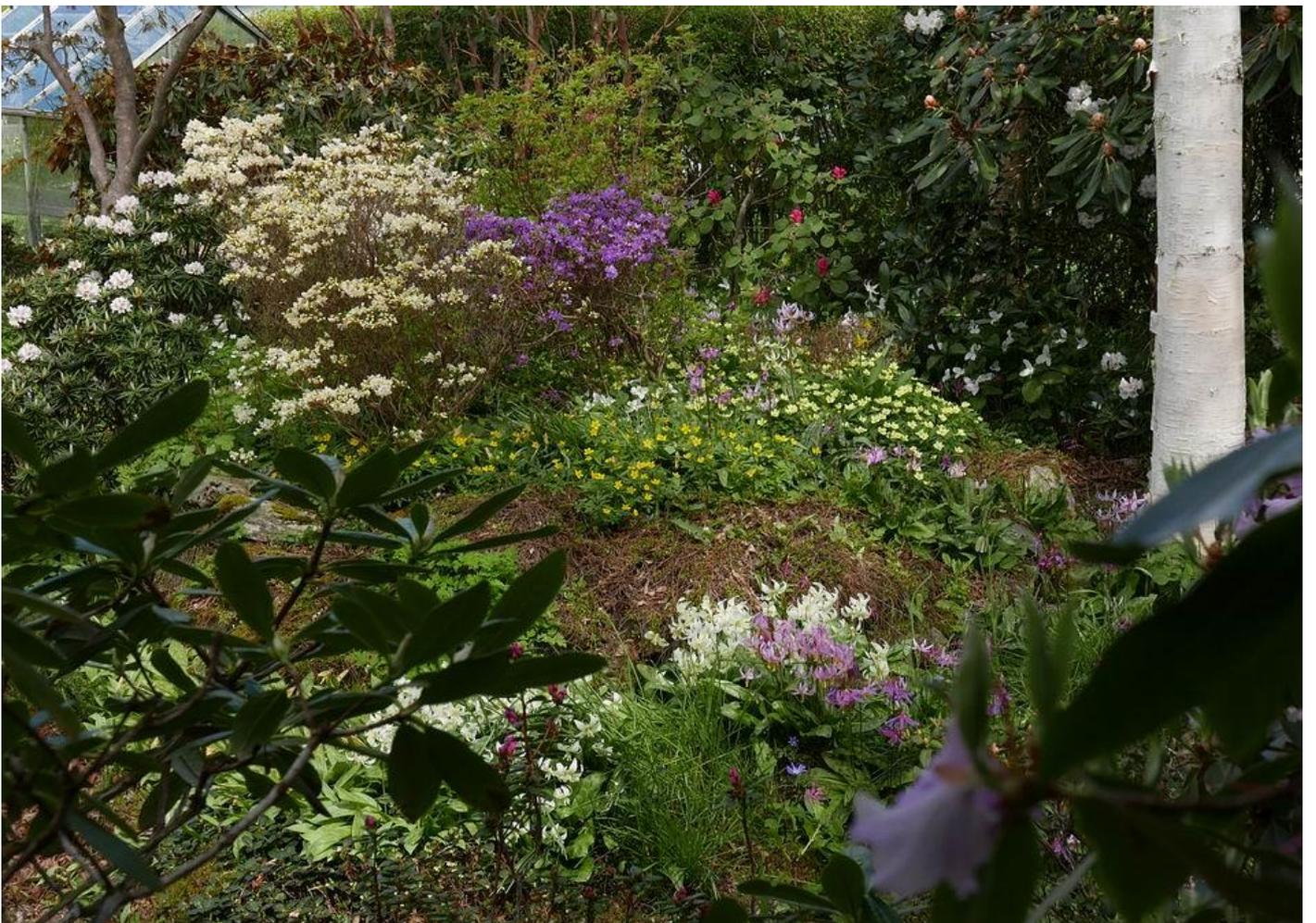
Perhaps my favourite is *Trillium rivale* which grows and seeds well for us - it displays best in a raised bed associated with other smaller growing plants.



Trillium rivale and Trillium hibbersonii seedlings planted out together in the new bed last autumn.



Rhododendrons add colour and structure to the garden all year round.





These views show the garden has a series of raised beds with plenty of trees and shrubs to add height and structure.





The rock garden bed, on the right, backs onto the Erythronium plunge with the slab beds behind.



Towards the left is the white **Erythronium oregonum**, to its right are a group of hybrids that self-seeded from it into the adjacent rock garden bed.



Erythronium howellii



Erythronium elegans



Erythronium hendersonii

Erythronium hendersonii is also promiscuous and we get many hybrids among our seedlings, some are very close to the species and you have to look carefully to distinguish them.



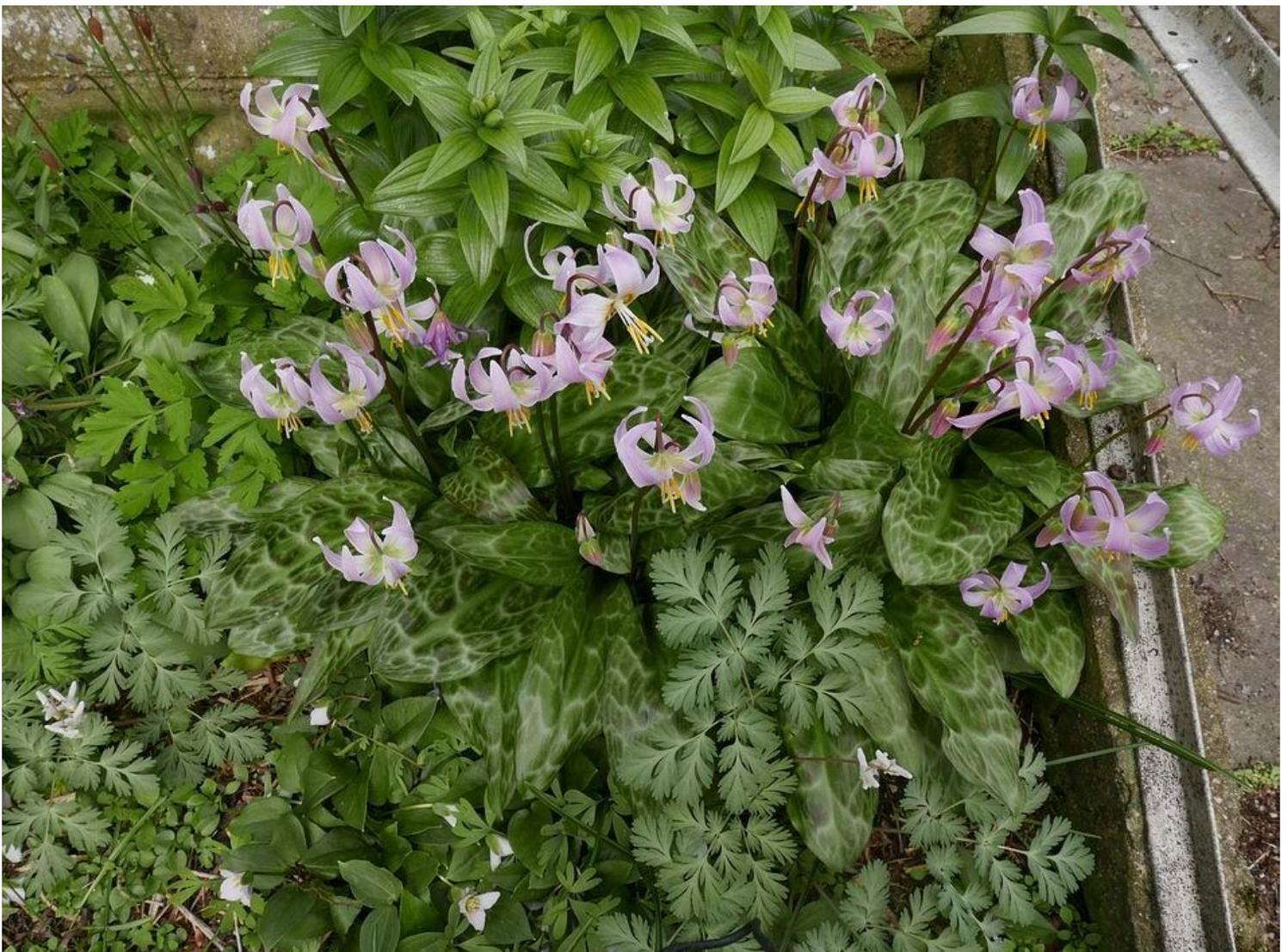
Erythronium hendersonii and hybrid



Erythronium hendersonii hybrid

Clues to detect *Erythronium hendersonii* hybrids are the shape of the filaments and the tip of the style: look carefully at the previous pictures and you will see the typical species flower on the left with a hybrid on the right which has wider filaments and a more divided style.

A yellow zone around the blackcurrant centre as seen on this picture is generally another sign of hybridity. Hybrids of *Erythronium hendersonii* can be more vigorous forming clumps making them better garden plants.



Some of the ***Erythronium revolutum*** hybrids that I have selected for assessment are growing in plunge baskets in the frames.



Another of the **Erythronium revolutum** hybrids.



Erythronium 'Joanna' is one of the larger hybrids and associates well with larger plants.



I encourage many plants to self-seeding in the garden and here you will see a pink **Erythronium revolutum** in the centre with the white **Erythronium elegans** growing through the corydalis behind and to the right and left are two hybrids.



Erythronium elegans x revolutum.



***Erythronium elegans* x *revolutum*.**



Different colours of *Erythronium revolutum*.



Here you can see a range of forms and hybrids of **Erythronium revolutum** - I originally raised the short dark coloured one from seed collected around Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island and all the resulting generations remain distinct retaining these characteristics.



Fritillaria meleagris growing alongside **Erythronium revolutum** hybrids and the fronds of **Matteuccia struthiopteris**.

Self-sown seedlings of *Erythronium revolutum* are permitted to invade the gravel path.



From a standing position many *Erythronium* flowers appear superficially similar but I try and look at the detail of each and every flower then I notice the slight variations.



Can you spot the many differences between these flowers – such as pollen colour?



One of the many double forms of *Anemone ranunculoides* that are very popular and much sought after makes me think about how we value different plants in our gardens.



Clear your memory and with a completely unbiased view which of these flowers do you find the most attractive?



Taraxacum officinale, my pet Dandelion of some 20 years is cherished, dead headed so it never gets the chance to shed seed and reminds me of the value of all plants.



When the garden is so full of flower I tend to pay less attention to the bulb houses with the exception of watering as required however there are still many bulbs of interest growing in the pots, such as two narcissus I grow as *Narcissus triandrus loiseleurii* and *Narcissus x cazorlanus* – not necessarily the most up to date names.



Tropaeolum azureum* and *Tropaeolum tricolourm growing in one of the bulb house sand beds.



Tropaeolum azureum

When I think back to how we coaxed Tropaeolum azureum into flowering when we first received seeds little did I know that now it would be self-seeding around in the bulb house sand beds.

Click the link and walk with me among the Trillium and Erythronium in this [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).