



BULB LOG 42..... 15th October 2014





Corydalis 'Craigton Blue' with *Pseudofumaria lutea* and *alba* continue to add colour to the garden. The *Pseudofumaria* has flowered continuously since spring while some plants of *Craigton Blue* have produced late, out of season, flower stems. The section of *Corydalis* that includes 'Craigton Blue' lose their leaves as the weather



warms up drying the ground in the summer then a new crop of leaves appear in the late summer/ early autumn as cooler moist conditions return. These leaves persist through the winter unless we get very hard frosts.

In this picture you can see the yellow of the flowers stems that I have left up to now for decoration I will remove them now the new leaves have appeared.

Corydalis 'Craigton Blue'



Arisaema ciliatum berries add colour as they collapse into the yellowing leaves of *Dactylorhiza* and *Roscoeia*. I will often take handfuls of these berries and scatter them in areas and beds that I would like to introduce this plant

Vaccinium ovatum

We plant our garden for interest and decoration this does not mean that we do not have some edible fruits like the blue berries on this *Vaccinium ovatum*.

Many sweet and tangy berries are produced in clusters at the ends of the branches of this shrub - the berries are smaller than those that have been bred commercially but tastier.





Not all that looks like a berry is a berry – if you look closely at Gaultheria what looks like a large berry is in fact a swollen fleshy calyx surrounding a dry seed capsule.



This is a hybrid of a New Zealand Gaultheria and Pernettya that we were given by Mike and Polly Stone many years ago.



Sorbus hupehensis

We have many trees that bear berries in our garden including Sorbus hupehensis. Sorbus are great trees for smaller gardens because most do not get very large and once they reach their size their growth rate slows down. Every year they give us flowers in the spring along with attractive leaves then berries in the autumn for both us and the birds to enjoy.



Due to the small leaflets that make up the leaves of most species when they turn yellow/red and fall in the autumn they are not such a problem on the ground.



I mentioned last week I was bound for Uppsala in Sweden where I spent four happy days two of them at the STA symposium where I met many friendly gardeners. Amateur gardeners around the world are very nice friendly people and take their plants very seriously. Many have great knowledge of and enthusiasm for the plants they grow so the term 'amateur' is only applied because they do not earn their living from the plants not because they do not have a professional attitude to them. I was very pleased to see a number of 'younger' people attending this event and hope that we can attract many more to take an active part in our interests and groups.



Three of the speakers including myself were active Members making valuable contributions and posts to our Forum and the IRG including **Jonny Andresen**, above, a Norwegian living in Sweden who talked about his wonderful collection of plants such as Magnolia and Trillium, most raised from seed.



Next day the well-known collector and grower of bulbs from Latvia, **Janis Ruksans**, delivered a fascinating talk showing many of his introductions to our gardens as well as some of the new species of Crocus he has described. We are very pleased that Janis is a regular contributor to our Forum and the [IRG](#) where he has described new species of Crocus. Janis is especially active among the [Crocus threads](#) as well as posting daily reports when he is on his [expeditions](#) when internet access allows.



Janis Ruksans Plant sales

Wherever there is a gathering of gardeners the excitement level rises when there is the chance to buy plants: in Uppsala they split the delegates into groups; one group for each seller after a short period they had to move around to the next seller. A limit was set as to how many they could buy on the first round so all could get a share of the goodies that were on offer.



Jonny Andresen plant table



Some surprise was expressed at the sight of me buying some plants at the recent SRGC Discussion Weekend. Most people know I prefer to raise my plants from seeds but sometimes I am tempted and there was an excellent selection of Androsaces on offer— just what I wanted for two troughs that I have, already landscaped and awaiting plants.



Whenever I buy plants I always wash away as much of the nurseries' potting mix away from around the roots – the only time I would not do this is in the winter but then I would not be planting them anyway. Although we are well into autumn the temperatures are still mild enough to ensure some root growth to allow the plants to settle in before the onset of the cold of winter – I believe a ground temperature of above 8C will allow slow root growth and in the troughs the temperature is still in double digits. Supporting the root ball with my fingers I dip it into a bucket of water and shake it around until as much of the mix is washed away as is possible without damaging the roots.



One more dip and shake will remove all but the lumps that the roots have penetrated.

£3.00 *ANDROSACE robusta* ssp *purpurea* 'Dolpo Dwarf'
 Small, woolly, silvery grey rosettes on wiry reddish
 stolons carry deep lilac flowers, May-Jul. For alpine
 house, gritty scree or trough. 3-5cm high. From an
 original collection from Dolpo, with much small
 rosettes than the GS collection..

Roots washed
 now it is ready
 for planting into
 the sharp sand
 medium I use in
 my troughs

Now the thrifty
 Scot in me
 really comes out
 as I examine the
 plant, spotting
 that I can
 remove some
 side shoots that
 already have
 their own roots
 and can be
 planted
 separately from
 the main plant.



I do not like labels in the garden and they especially distract from the natural looking effect I try to create in troughs so I take a digital picture of the labels beside the newly placed plants – this will act as a record to remind me of both the names of the plants and the size they were when planted out.



Here is the planted trough which is one of my fishbox version 2 (cement on polystyrene ones), the 'rock' is broken concrete blocks and the planting medium pure sharp gritty sand. Now I have to wait and see how the plants fare. I showed in recent logs the plants sometimes suffer an initial partial die back when first planted out but given time they find their niche and recover.



Colchicum coustourierii



Crocus speciosus hybrid

In my absence some flowers have come and gone but I am in time to capture images of some of them.



Crocus mathewii



Crocus thomasii

Occasional brief glimpses of sunshine are enough to raise the temperature in the bulb houses encouraging the Crocus flowers to open.....