



BULB LOG 12.....25<sup>th</sup> March 2015



At this time of year the garden changes by the minute especially when we have sunny days and extended daylight now we have passed the spring equinox. Despite the cool air conditions the sun does warm the ground enough for many of the early risers to burst into flower.



### **Corydalis and Hepatica.**

A chance self-seeding of a Corydalis beside a Hepatica elsewhere in the garden gave me the inspiration for this small bed between the path and the Erythronium plunge. Nature showed me how attractive and appropriate this combination can be so a few years ago I reworked this area landscaping it with broken concrete blocks and planting it up with Corydalis and Hepatica seedlings: now each year we can enjoy the wonderful combination of colours.



As well as white there is a harmonious mix of colours among the **Hepatica** seedlings.



This shows the small scale of this bed between the path and the Erythronium plunge. Check out the latest [Bulb Log video diary supplement](#) now available through the SRGC Forum.



### **Hepatica Taeka**

Last year we had a visit from some botanists and growers from Japan who very kindly brought us gifts including some *Hepatica japonica* forms – including this lovely multiplex form.

I am not a fan of all double flowers but when they have a good ordered structure with such decorative colouring and highlights as *Hepatica* 'Taeka' I am completely won over.

We have tried growing *Hepatica japonica* and its forms in our garden many times and they have never survived – they are simply not suited to our climate so I have made space in a bulb house to keep this treasure and the others we were given protected.



**Hepatica nobilis**

There are plenty species of Hepatica that are perfectly hardy in our garden such as this pink form of H.nobilis that comes perfectly true in colour as it seeds around the garden. Sometimes I remove the old leaves in the winter: obviously I have not done so with this group.



The pink Hepatica coordinate perfectly with the flowers of **Rhododendron cilpinense** always one of the first into flower in our garden – so far this year they have not been frosted!



**Erythronium dens canis** and **Corydalis malkensis** growing in the plunge bed. These Erythroniums are grown in square plastic mesh baskets and the Corydalis just seeds around adding charm and without causing problems.



This is among the darkest clones of **Erythronium dens canis** that we grow – it is a good plant that should be lifted and divided every three to five years – this helps spread it around and keeps it flowering well.



Although the same seasonal cycle comes round every year the garden varies depending on the inconstant weather conditions we get. Some years the flowering of some plants may be simultaneous, others there will be an overlap with the flowers of one fading just as some others open, then other years there may be no overlap at all.



Early flowering tends to be dominated by cooler colours with yellows and whites and then gradually the warmer colours appear especially noticeable among the *Corydalis solida* where reds and pinks are prevalent.



Galanthus and Eranthis flowers start to go past their best in this bed but they will soon be replaced by Corydalis, Anemone and Erythronium while Crocus and Hepatica flowers help bridge the gap.



That same bed shown above is seen in the background behind one of the sand beds which is also filled with a variety of flowers. Iris, Cyclamen and Galanthus are seen here.



The pale, almost white, *Iris winogradowii* hybrid with *Cyclamen coum* and *Narcissus cyclamineus*.



Another bed in a transition period as the *Corydalis* emerges to take over from the *Galanthus* and *Leucojum*.





**Corydalis 'Craigton Red'**

Red flowers wind blasted off *Rhododendron thomsonii* scatter the ground in support of *Corydalis 'Craigton Red'*



Here the spring mix includes **Scoliops bigelovii** in the foreground with flowers just starting to open.



We have to be careful where we plant the smaller **Scoliopus hallii** so it does not get swamped or overlooked, then we can see and appreciate its tiny subtly coloured flowers as they emerge.



**Heloniopsis acutifolia BSWJ 218**



**Trillium ovatum forma maculosum**

I showed this plant of *Trillium ovatum* forma *maculosum* two weeks ago as the flowers first opened; now that the anthocyanin has developed the flowers appear pink. I hope that this also means that I was successful in my attempts to self-pollinate the plant and that seed will result.



Two more of the seedlings are now just coming into flower so I will be cross pollinating them with the previous plant. You will also notice that the previous plant has much more attractive dark markings on the leaves than these two have – this dark mottling on the leaves is what distinguishes the *maculosum* form from typical *T. ovatum*.



**Saxifraga trough 2013**

In 2013 I planted up this trough with Saxifrages from the Czech Republic and as I hate labels spoiling the look I take pictures of the labels next to the plants at planting time - this acts as my reminder and record of the plants.



**Saxifraga trough 2015**

Now I can both see the names and also how well the plants are growing.



### **Saxifraga trough 2015**

I will leave you this week with this trough, made from cement and landscaped with concrete, that brings such strong colour this early in the year; in addition the rock hugging mats provide year round interest.

Please don't forget the [Bulb Log video diary supplement](#) available through the SRGC Forum.....