



BULB LOG 51 19th December 2018





“Here is one I made earlier” is a good sub-title for this week’s ‘special edition’ of the Bulb Log with the cover picture being of a page from one of my old sketch books and the contents bringing together the various cultivars that I have raised and named over the years.

With one exception they all start with ‘Craigton’ (the area where we stay) which I apply to make it easy for anyone trying to trace the original source of the plant in the future.

First to bring you up to date a current picture from the bulb house sand bed where the passing of every week sees more Narcissus

flowers are opening.



When grown in close proximity the Bulbocodium group of Narcissus are very promiscuous hybridising freely, as the variation in this relatively small selection of flowers shows so it should be no surprise that through the years I have named a number of Narcissus cultivars.



**Narcissus
'Craigton
Gem'**

I only select out a plant if there is good reason and with some such as this *Narcissus romieuxii* the reason may not be that it is very different to look at - it is often because it is a very good grower, flowers freely and bulks up well. After many years of being grown and increased vegetative old

clones will often start to get weak and or diseased so introducing young, healthy vigorous stock is good.



Narcissus 'Craigton Clumper'

Narcissus romieuxii 'Craigton Clumper' is a vigorous selection I raised some years ago that increases very well.



Narcissus 'Craigton Bell'

'Craigton Bell' and 'Craigton Clanger' are both *Narcissus bulbocodium* hybrids.



Narcissus 'Craigton Clanger'

I now always name a plant before I distribute it so it cannot be confused and can also be traced back to its origin. In the long term only the very best plants will persist and become widely grown and many named forms will simply disappear.



Narcissus x susannae

I fell under the spell of this narcissus the first time that I saw it in John Blanchard's narcissus book where it was illustrated under the name *N. munzoi-garmandiae*. It is a naturally occurring hybrid between *N. triandrus* and *N. cantabricus* but was not available from bulb sellers so I decided that, as we had the parents, I would make the cross myself. To my delight when they flowered four years later they looked remarkably similar to the one illustrated in the book. I never named my own form as this cross already had the name *Narcissus x susannae*.



Narcissus 'Craigton Coquette'

This is one of my own hybrids between *N. triandrus* and *N. watieri*, made at the same time as I made our *x susannae*, it quickly increased to make a good pot full and although there are at least five clones here they are indistinguishable from each other. Sadly I have now lost this beautiful plant perhaps it was destined like its seed parent, *Narcissus triandrus*, to be short lived in our garden but perhaps some of the bulbs I distributed may have survived and increased.



Narcissus 'Craigton Chorister'

Narcissus 'Craigton Chorister' is one of many good seedlings I have raised using Narcissus 'Camoro' as a seed parent but the crystal white widely flared wrinkled corona made this one stand out. I chose the name because the

corona reminded me of the decorative collars worn by choristers.



**Narcissus
'Craigton
Chalice'**

I selected 'Craigton Chalice' from the many seedling bulbs growing in one of the sand beds. This time it was the distinctive cup shaped corona that made it stand out from the others as suggested in the name that I selected.



***Fritillaria pyrenaica* 'Braeside'**



***Fritillaria pyrenaica* 'Braeside'**

Fritillaria pyrenaica 'Braeside' was the first plant that I named. It flowered well on a significantly shorter stem than the other *Fritillaria pyrenaica* seedlings we had raised.



Fritillaria 'Craigton Cascade'

Fritillaria 'Craigton Cascade' - I suspect Fritillaria 'Craigton Cascade' is a cross between *F. recurva* and *affinis*. It is a very beautiful plant that can have as many as eleven flowers on a cascading stem.



Fritillaria 'Craigton Cascade'



Fritillaria 'Craigton Max' is a selection I made from a batch of *Fritillaria kotschyana* seedlings. At about three years old one seedling bulb was more vigorous than the others, it was not only bigger but it was also producing small bulbils freely, so we separated it out and grew it on as a clone. When it flowered it had very large greenish flowers quite different from its sister seedlings which all had smaller brown flowers.



Clematis 'Craigton Comet'

Through the 1980's I did a lot of hybridising using *Clematis x cartmannii* 'Joe' as the pollen parent and crossing it back onto a female *C. marmoraria* - selecting the best compact offspring then crossing them back to *C. marmoraria* again. After a few generations I got some good free flowering compact plants - I named the best of them 'Craigton Comet', 'Craigton Meteor' and 'Craigton Asteroid'. I distributed them but I do not know what has become of them. I still have some of these other crosses which I planted in the walls of the raised bed where they have survived but not thrived – perhaps it is time to take cuttings and try growing them in troughs where they may flower again.



Clematis 'Craigton Meteor'



Tecophilaea 'Craigton Cloud'



Over the years I have been selecting the whiter forms of *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus* var *leichtlinii*, which only goes to show how obtuse gardeners are. When a plant, such as *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus*, is famed for its outstanding blue colour why on earth should I be trying to raise a white form – you may well ask. I suppose it is because it occurs and *Tecophilaea 'Craigton Cloud'* was one of my early selected seedlings which I named.



Tecophilaea 'Craigton Snowdrift'

'Craigton Snowdrift' only has some blue towards the ends of the petals and it looks very good when it is displayed in with the other forms of Tecophilaea. I always think that mixed colours of any plant look good when growing in mixed drifts and when there are white forms included the effect is even greater.



Tecophilaea 'Craigton Snowdrift'



Corydalis 'Craigton Red'

Corydalis 'Craigton Red'

I have grown hundreds of *Corydalis solida* from seed but have only selected one to name - *Corydalis* 'Craigton Red'. The reasons I selected this one to name are one, the colour is redder than any other *solida* type we have seen; two, it holds its flowers on a strong spike well above the leaves and three, it flowers nice and early.





Corydalis 'Craigton Blue'

One plant I am happy to see spreading around is *Corydalis* x 'Craigton Blue' my hybrid between *Corydalis omeiana* (*elata*) and *flexuosa*. As well as seeing it in many other gardens and offered by nurseries in many countries I have seen it in several award winning displays at major shows around the country and I cannot tell you how much pleasure that gives me. Apart from having great colour it is proving more adaptable to many gardens where the parent species do not do well - this clump by our front door not only looks great but it welcomes us with its delicious honey like scent.



Corydalis 'Craigton Blue'



Corydalis 'Craigton Purple'

Some years ago I started to observe that a lot of the self-sown seedlings around *Corydalis capitata* were very different to their seed parent. The first most obvious indicator was the colour of the flowers had changed and was more to the blue end of purple they were also a bit more spread out than in *C. capitata* and the foliage also differed. It is clear that these are hybrids with *Corydalis capitata* being the seed parent – the pollen parent could be either *Corydalis flexuosa* or more likely *C.x 'Craigton Blue'*.



Corydalis 'Craigton Purple'



**Erythronium
americanum
'Craigton
Flower'**

I selected this plant from Erythronium americanum seedlings that I had raised initially for its well-marked foliage but then, more importantly, because it flowered well every year.



Erythronium americanum 'Craigton Flower'



Erythronium americanum 'Craigton Flower' growing in the garden.



Erythronium 'Craigton Beauty' is our own selection raised from E. 'White Beauty' seed. As the seed was just a result of open pollination I do not know if it was selfed or if it crossed out and another species was involved. The result is that the leaves are much better marked than 'White Beauty' while the flowers are similar.



Erythronium 'Craigton Cream'



Erythronium 'Craigton Cream' is another good, increasing, easy going hybrid that arose from seed of *E. helenae*, from which it inherited the style that bends downwards.

It may have crossed with oregonum or more likely with *E. 'White Beauty'* (which is a great parent as it usually passes on to its offspring its ability to form clumps).



Erythronium 'Craigton Cream'

**Erythronium
'Craigton
Cover Girl'**

Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl' is the only one of the many revolutum hybrids that have appeared in our garden that I have named so far. It is such a good plant because it combines a good strong pink colour with the ability to increase quickly forming clumps.





I will round off this week with **Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl'** which has up to three flowers per stem held well clear of the leaves to maximise the beautiful display.....