



BULB LOG 46.....14th November 2018





Galanthus reginae-olgae and the other autumn flowering forms are not hardy in our garden - we have tried and lost them several times; however they do survive under cold glass protection. This one is flowering in a pot in the bulb house and other forms have flowered in the sand beds.



Also in a pot is this **Crocus laevigatus** in full flower – we also have a number of them, all seed raised, growing in the bulb house sand beds and, as shown on last week's cover, also in the open garden.



**Crocus
caspius**

There is also plenty of growth in the sand beds in the form of both leaves and flower buds appearing including this *Crocus caspius* and the *Narcissus* shown in the picture below.



Narcissus and Crocus in sand bed



Narcissus romieuxii mesatlanticus



I found these **Narcissus seeds germinating** in a pot of Crocus, the seed must have fallen from an adjacent pot. It was easy to lift them without damaging the root replanting them into one of the sand beds so the new forming bulb was deeper down. While autumn is the time many plants are shutting down for the winter a number of bulbous plants are just starting into life.



These Narcissus seedlings were sown deep, half way down the pot, in August. Sowing deeply like this, rather than on the surface, places the young bulb in the best environment to maximise future development. The strong leaf growth indicates good growth and the young bulb will not be exposed on the surface for the first year or have to divert energy to moving itself down into the soil as it would if the seed were surface sown.

Narcissus seedlings



In contrast some weeks back I found these **Cyclamen hederifolium** seedlings germinating on top of the parent corm in the garden so I lifted them, planting some directly into the garden and potting these up to grow on for a while before I decide where to plant them.

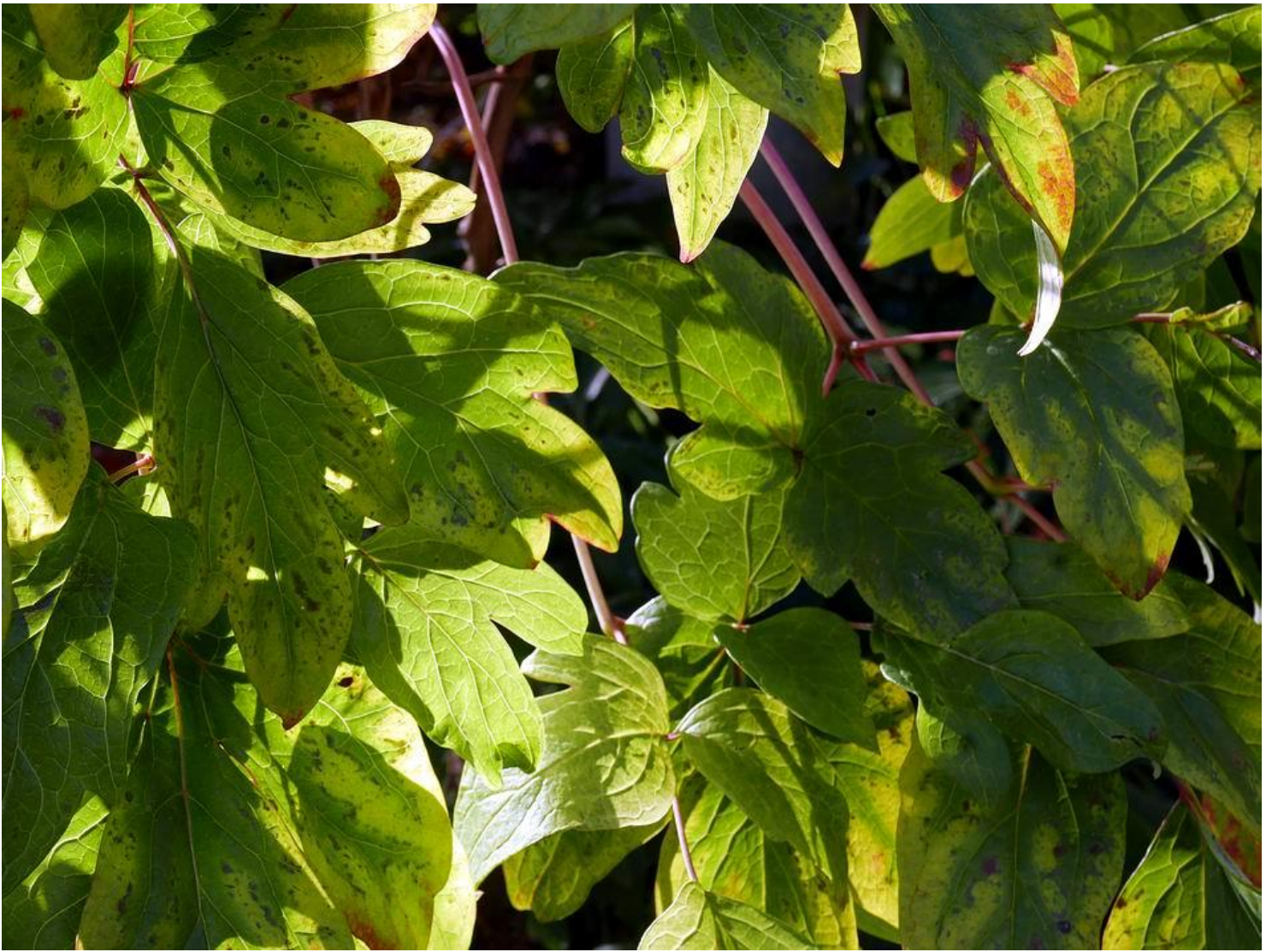
The parent(below) is an attractive silver leaved form a feature that has been passed on to the seedlings.



Silver leaved forms of **Cyclamen hederifolium** contrasting beautifully with the autumn leaf fall.



Ever more leaves come down in the autumn leaf fall where we can enjoy the colours before clearing them up.

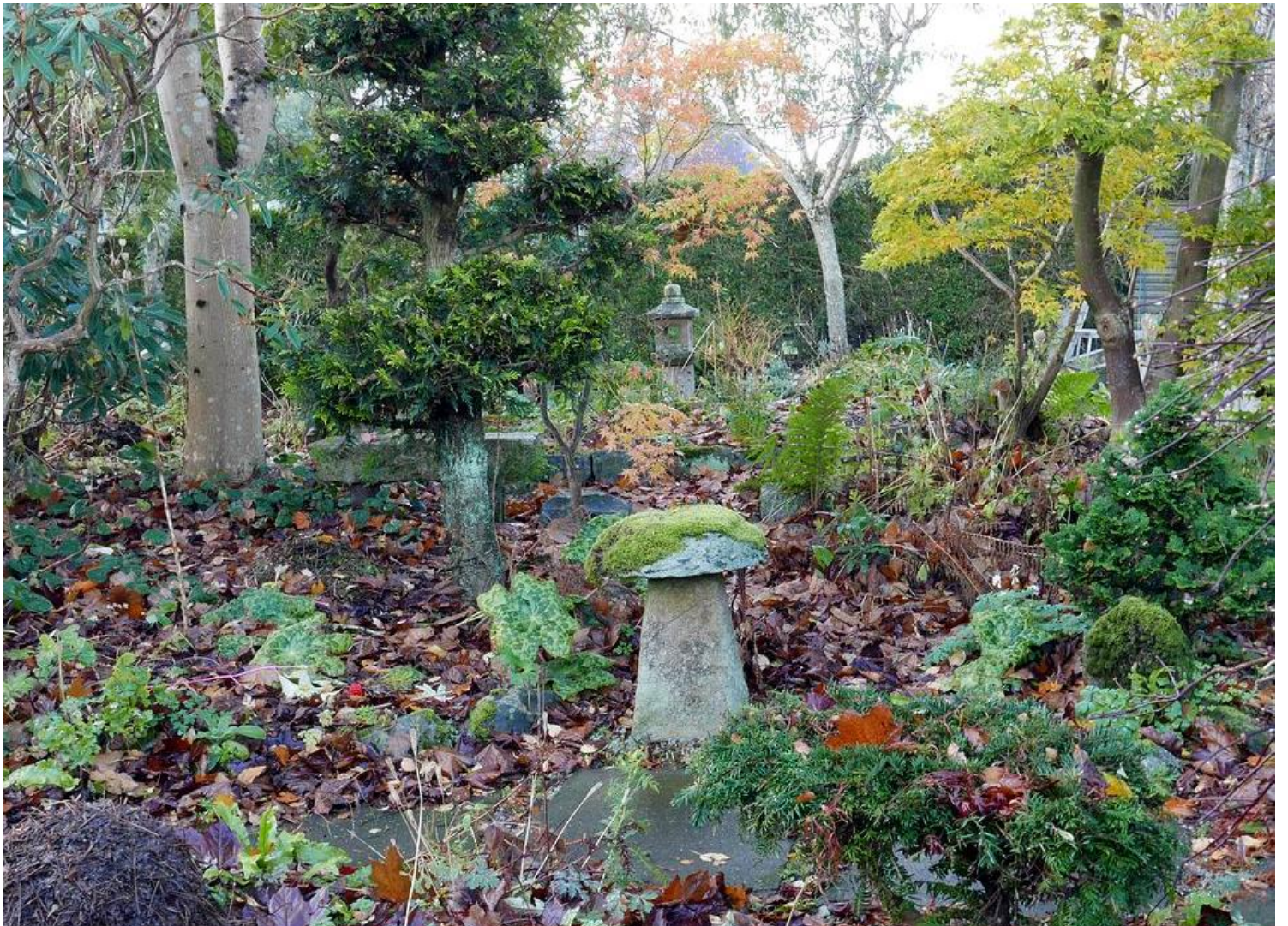


Some leaves are more attractive before they fall such on these tree Paeonia leaves; shown here with the back light making them stand out like a stained glass window. Below these acer leaves are just starting to turn colour.



I am met by colour as I step out of the back door even on a grey day such as this.

It is sometimes difficult to think of what to write each week but when I remind myself that this is the Bulb Log Garden Diary I go to the garden for that inspiration – so here is what the garden looks like this week.



The die back of the ground level herbaceous growth has accelerated since we have been having frosts and our attention is drawn to the woody and evergreen structural plants.



Because we are used to seeing the dense plantings that cover the ground for much of the year the garden looks very empty to us as we head into winter however I soon find plenty of interest when I take a walk.



There is even some autumn colour showing in the raised slab beds.

Primula marginata

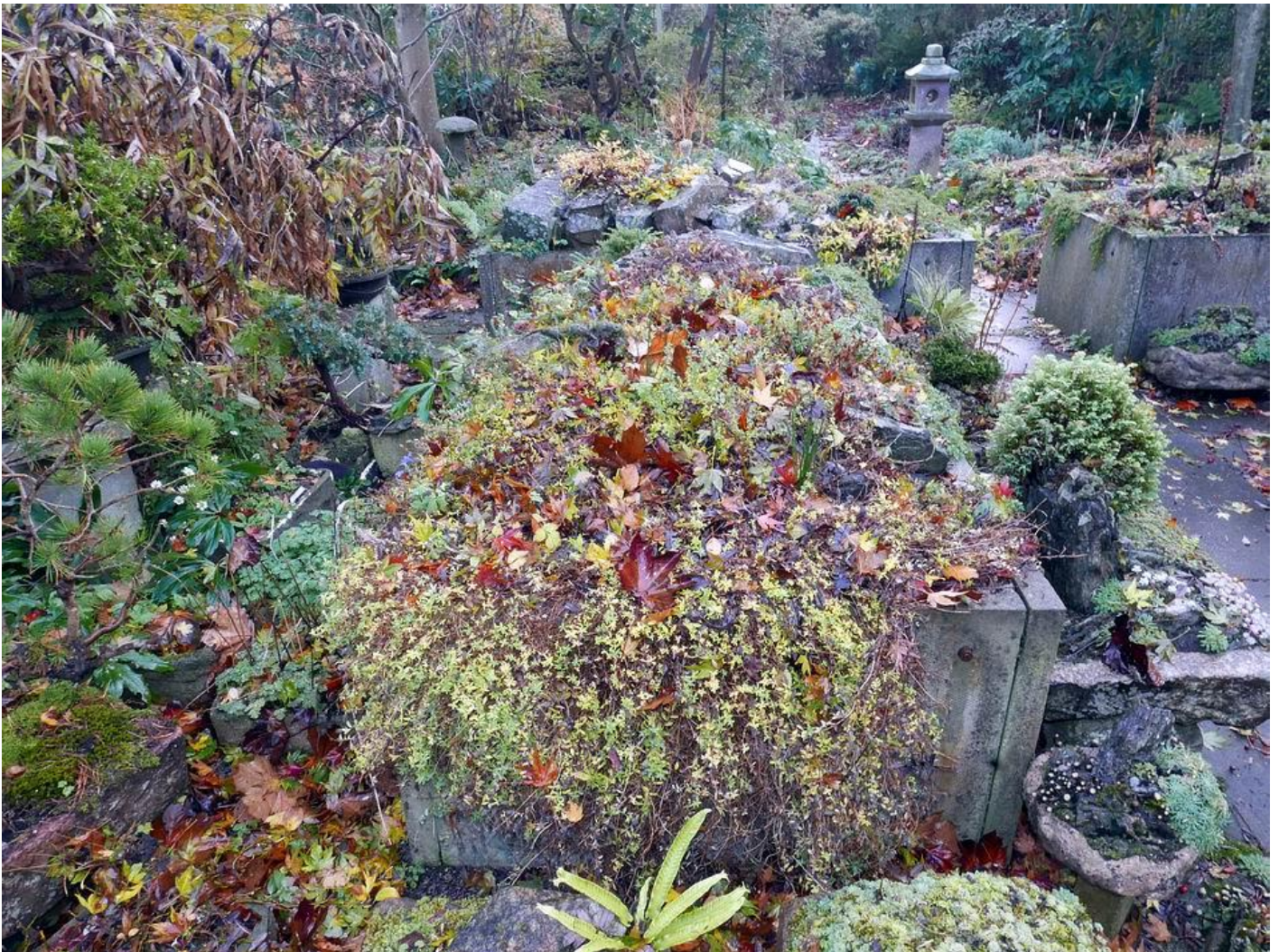
You can see more of the stems as the leaves fall from the *Primula marginata* – a cluster of leaves will remain clasping the bud at the tip and further buds may be visible along the length of the stems. Because of these buds all the way along the stems you can cut the plant right back making it more compact and using the cut ends as cuttings which will root over the winter.



The leaves of these three dwarf *Salix* also turn yellow before they are shed.



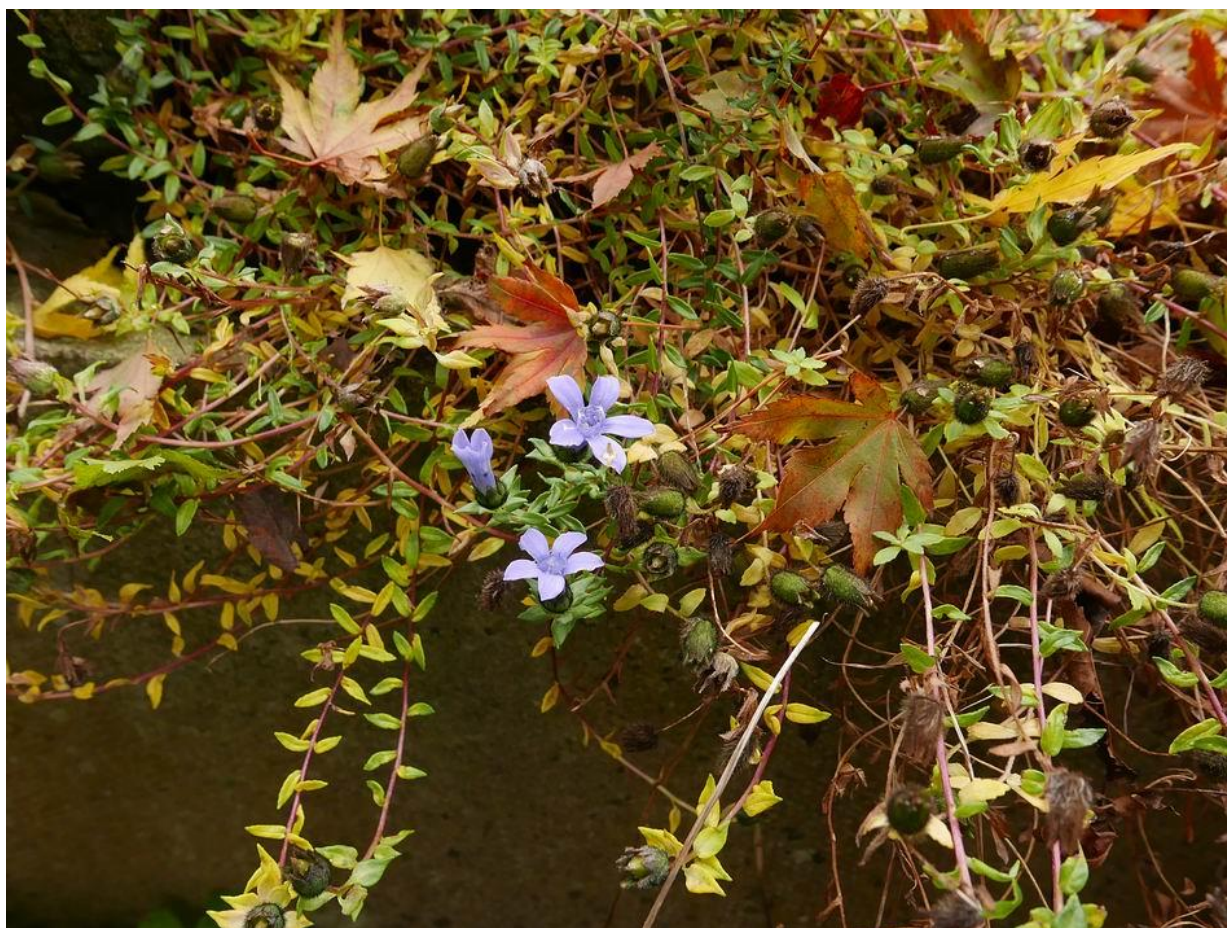
The plants in this slab bed do not adopt the same attractive colours as they retreat into their winter state.



The growth and flowering of the large sprawling plant of *Cyananthus lobatus* has been stopped by the frosts and it is now turning into a wet blanket that can provide a suitable place for slugs to hide so it is time to remove it.



Now I have removed all this year's growth you can see that the *Cyananthus* stems rises from a relatively small area at the centre of the edge and with it gone the new leaf growth of *Narcissus bulbocodium* can now get some air.



Cyananthus microphyllus

There are a number of plants of *Cyananthus microphyllus* across the centre of this bed which are not yet in full retreat and still have a few flowers so I will not remove them for a few weeks yet.

Petrophytum hendersonii

Petrophytum hendersonii is evergreen, retaining its leaves through the winter. This is a large old plant some 70cms across and like the Primula marginata has buds all the way along the length of the stems so it can also be cut back to reduce the size and rejuvenate it.



The now brown **Dactylorhiza** stems have shed all their seed and can be removed however I am considering splitting some of these plants so will leave the stems for now to help me locate the tubers below.



Fat Trillium buds are already poking through the ground looking for signs of spring –some of these will get an additional cover when I spread the mulch.



I love the colour and effect of the pine needle mulch I spread on the new bed by the pond especially now with the red highlights provided by the acer and sorbus leaves that have fallen.



New green *Corydalis mucronopetala* leaves stand out against the pine needle mulch and autumn leaves.



Acer leaves



Larix

I will leave you this week with this bonsai Larix in full autumn colour and this link to a new [Bulb Log Video Supplement](#) showing the garden and bulb houses in full autumn mode.....