



BULB LOG 14.....3rd April 2019



Erythronium hendersonii



Erythronium hendersonii

In our garden *Erythronium hendersonii* is always among the first of the North American *Erythronium* species to flower each year and it also happens to have one of the most attractive flower colours; with the flowers dark purple centre contrasting beautifully against the pink/violet petals. To further add to the colourful display different clones can have pollen colours from yellow through brown to shades of purple. Although there will be some exceptions in my experience this species does not increase at any speed by secondary growths forming on the bulb leaving seed as the main way of increase however I have seen a number

of hybrids that share much of the colour and beauty of the species which do form clumps making them excellent garden plants.



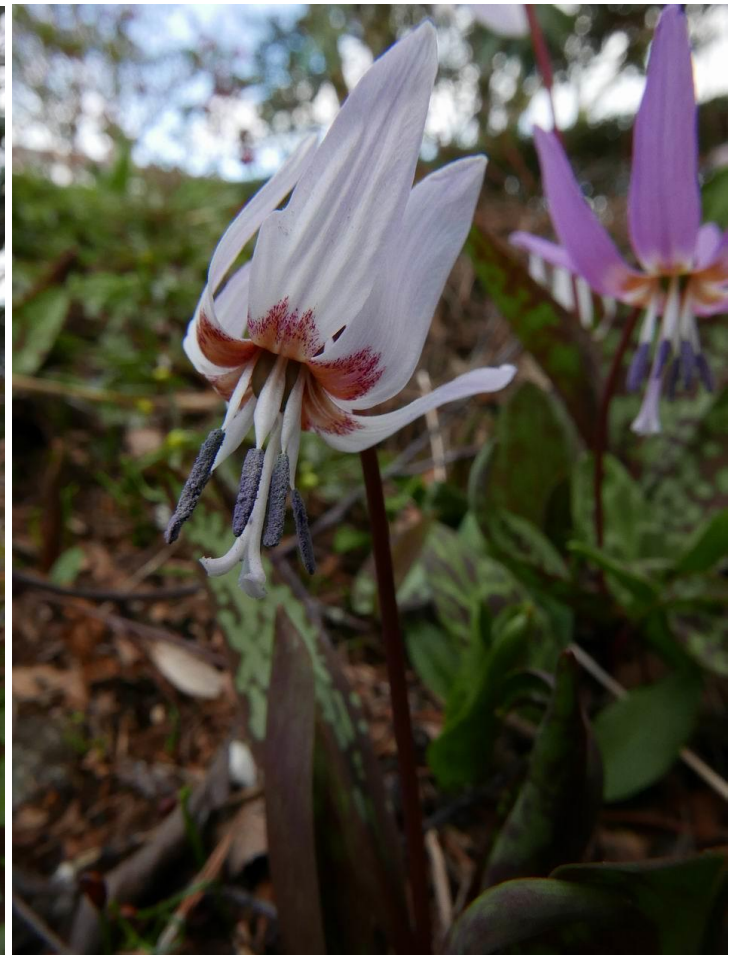
Erythronium hendersonii



Erythronium 'Eirene'

Erythronium 'Eirene' and 'Susannah', its sister seedling, are both Erythronium tuolumnense hybrids, raised by the late John Walker, which in my view are the finest of the larger yellow hybrids there are the former being slightly paler yellow than the later. They have both inherited the clump forming nature of Erythronium tuolumnense making them very suitable for gardens.





These two different white clones of **Erythronium dens-canis** are some of the many seedlings that have self-sown around the group of typically pink Erythronium dens-canis in the foreground of the picture below, illustrating the variation you will get in seed raised plants.



Erythronium revolutum, Erythronium dens-canis and Trillium rivale enjoying the sunshine.



This wider view of the bed shows the *Erythronium* seedlings cascading down the face of the wall.



Erythronium dens-canis



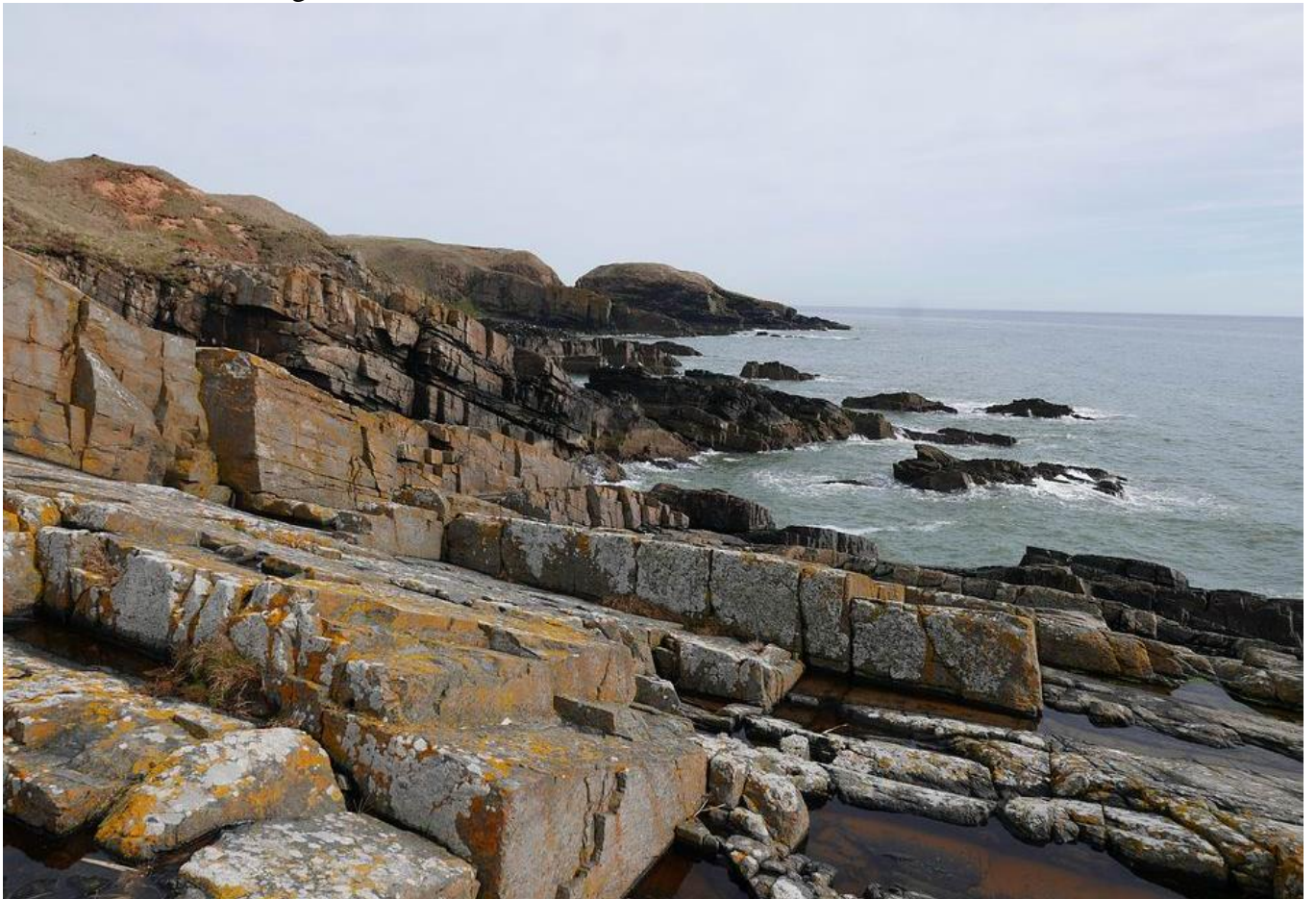
These ***Erythronium revolutum*** seeded themselves alongside a path in front of a bed raised up by rectangular granite blocks that you may well think look very contrived and un-natural, as they are!



Just take a look at this rock formation and you will see a similarity to my edging. Rock layouts in nature vary from regular forms to total chaos so we should not be afraid about organising the rocks in our gardens to our own satisfaction. I took the following images on a trip to [Collieston](#), a small village 15 miles north of Aberdeen.



I have always been interested in rock formation and geology and if you are building a rock garden of any scale you can learn a lot from observing nature.





Cochlearia danica

As well as the geology my excursion was to view the local flora and fauna such as the early flowering wild flowers.



Tussilago farfara



This **Ficaria verna** (*Ranunculus ficaria*) had attractive bronze coloured reverse to the petals.



To the North of Aberdeen there are over fifteen miles of beaches and dunes until the cliffs start at **Collieston**.



These dunes are part of a rare valuable habitat which are protected around the River Ythan Estuary and north for three miles to Collieston by the [Forvie National Nature Reserve](#).



As well as a breeding colonies of sandwich, arctic, common and little terns the **Ythan Estuary** has a very large breeding colony of grey and common seals and we saw thousands of adults and pups, born last November, lying on the beach while others were fishing in the water- the majority of these are Grey Seals.



In the garden early alpines such as the saxifrages are coming into flower, these are in one of the slab beds.



We grow a number of forms of **Primula marginata**, this one has small deeply toothed leaves.

Of a similar size but with shallower indentations to the leaves is a form named **Primula marginata** 'Napoleon'. Both of these forms have leaves that are to the smaller end of the species.



On the raised wall we grow a number of other forms of **Primula marginata**.



Primula marginata



This form has a frilly flower plus if you look in the centre you can see the cluster of pollen bearing anthers making this is a thrum while the one below is a pin with the stigma showing to the front - to get seed you are best to cross between a pin and a thrum.



Primula marginata – pin eyed.



Primula marginata



Fritillaria imperialis



The seasonal growth in the rock garden bed and the *Erythronium* plunges is gathering pace.



More growth is appearing every day in the new bed beside the pond with the first shoots of *Erythronium sibiricum* just appearing.



The edge of the pond beyond which is the new bed and on the right of the path is the area where we have encouraged the *Erythronium* and *Trillium* to naturalise by seeding.



Erythronium revolutum



The area beyond the *Erythronium* is where I have been cutting back the shrubs to re-open the ground for more planting, which I have started and will slowly add to.



I am not a fan of instant gardening for me gardening is a journey to be enjoyed not a destination to arrive at. In fact there is never an end product in gardening as the plants continue to grow changing the environment as they do until such time as the gardener decides it is time to cut them back or remove them. When we first start gardening

we carefully nurture the plants to encourage them to grow then there reaches a stage of maturity when we then have to start cutting the very same plants back to stop them taking over too much space.



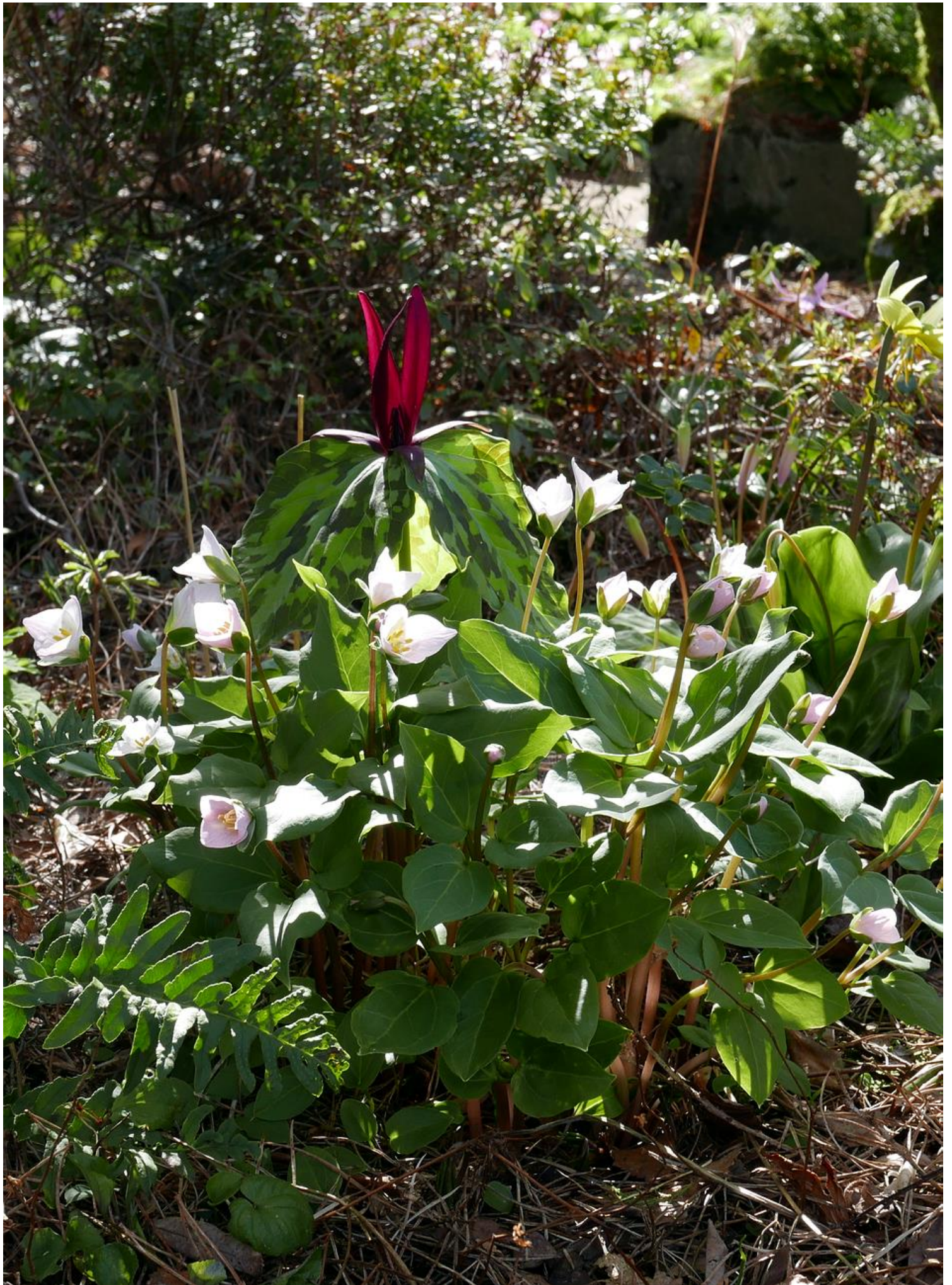
Erythronium tuloumense



This is the first area I planted after cutting back the shrubs and it is now looking quite well covered with growth I will continue planting and sowing seed until I achieve a similar effect across the whole area.



Two different colour forms of *Erythronium revolutum* which were both established from self-sown seed.



I will round off this week with **Trillium kurabayashii** and **Trillium rivale** plus a link to my latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).