



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

ISSN 2514-6114

Pictures and text © Ian Young

BULB LOG 16.....17th April 2019





Trillium rivale

This week I am featuring another of my all-time favourite plants Trillium rivale or if you want to be up to date with Phylogenetic analyses and biogeography of Trilliaceae by Susan B. Farmer published in 2006 - **Pseudotrillium rivale** - where it is proposed to be the only member of a monotypic genus. Ever since I started growing this plant from seed I recorded differences between it and the other Trilliums starting with the form of the seed leaf which is broad like a miniature mature leaf rather than the typical

narrow strap shaped trillium seed leaf, also the DNA in this study indicates that it has its own place within the Trilliaceae family tree.



Pseudotrillium rivale

Fortunately this charming plant seems very at home growing in our garden and as the majority of our plants are raised through successive generations of seed from our own garden they have become further adapted to our growing conditions.



Pseudotrillium rivale comes in a range of colours from all white, through shades of pink to those dramatically spotted with dark purple.



Pseudotrillium rivale



Pseudotrillium rivale



Pseudotrillium rivale, *Trillium hibbersonii* and *Erythronium sibiricum*.



Pseudotrillium rivale



This, the very first form of **Pseudotrillium rivale** we ever grew, came from the late Harold Esslemont and while the rhizomes have increased well forming clumps, it has never set seed, unlike all the other forms we grow.



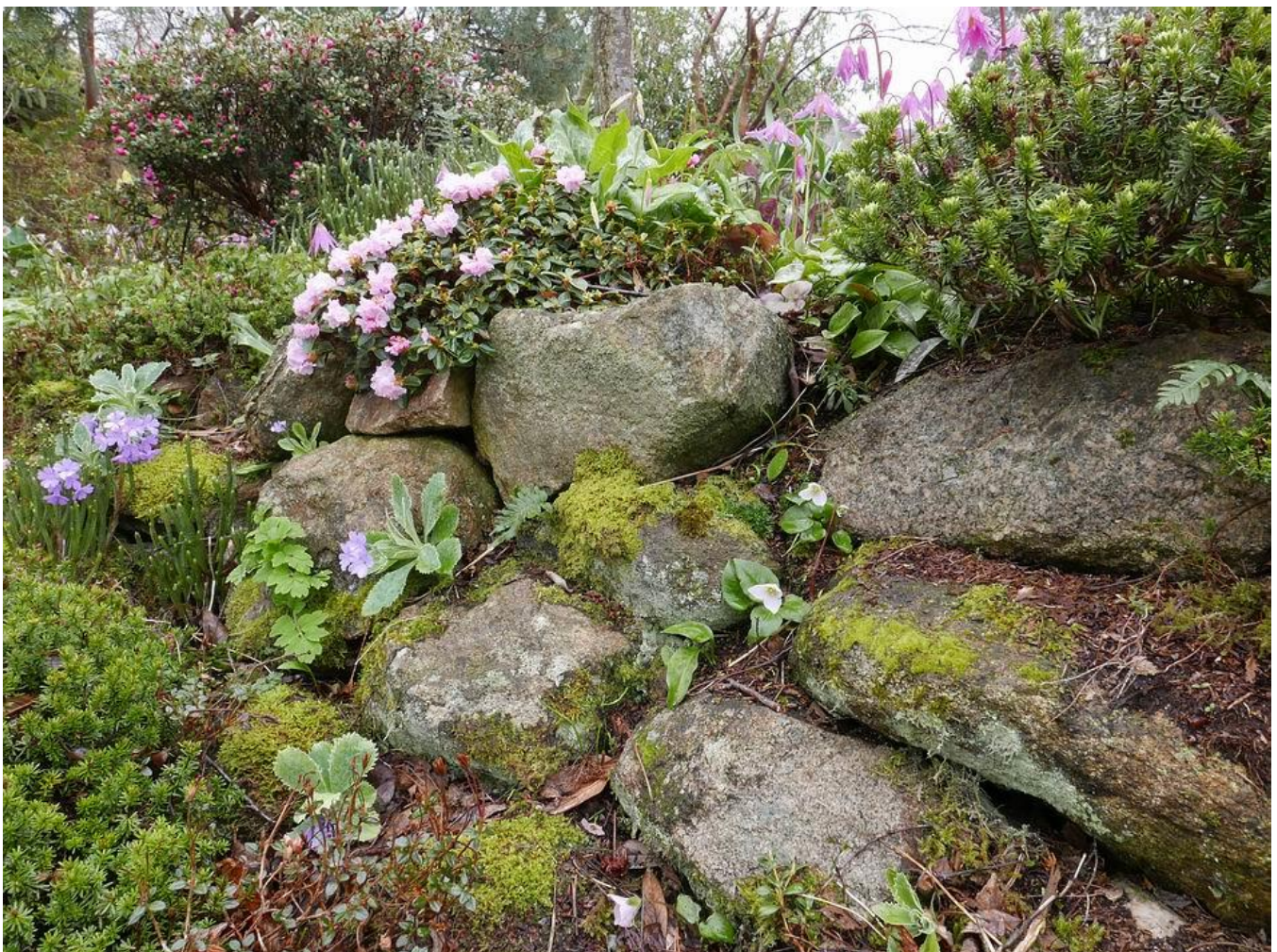
As well as allowing **Pseudotrillium rivale** to seed around the garden I continue to sow baskets of seed such as this tucked into one of the frames.



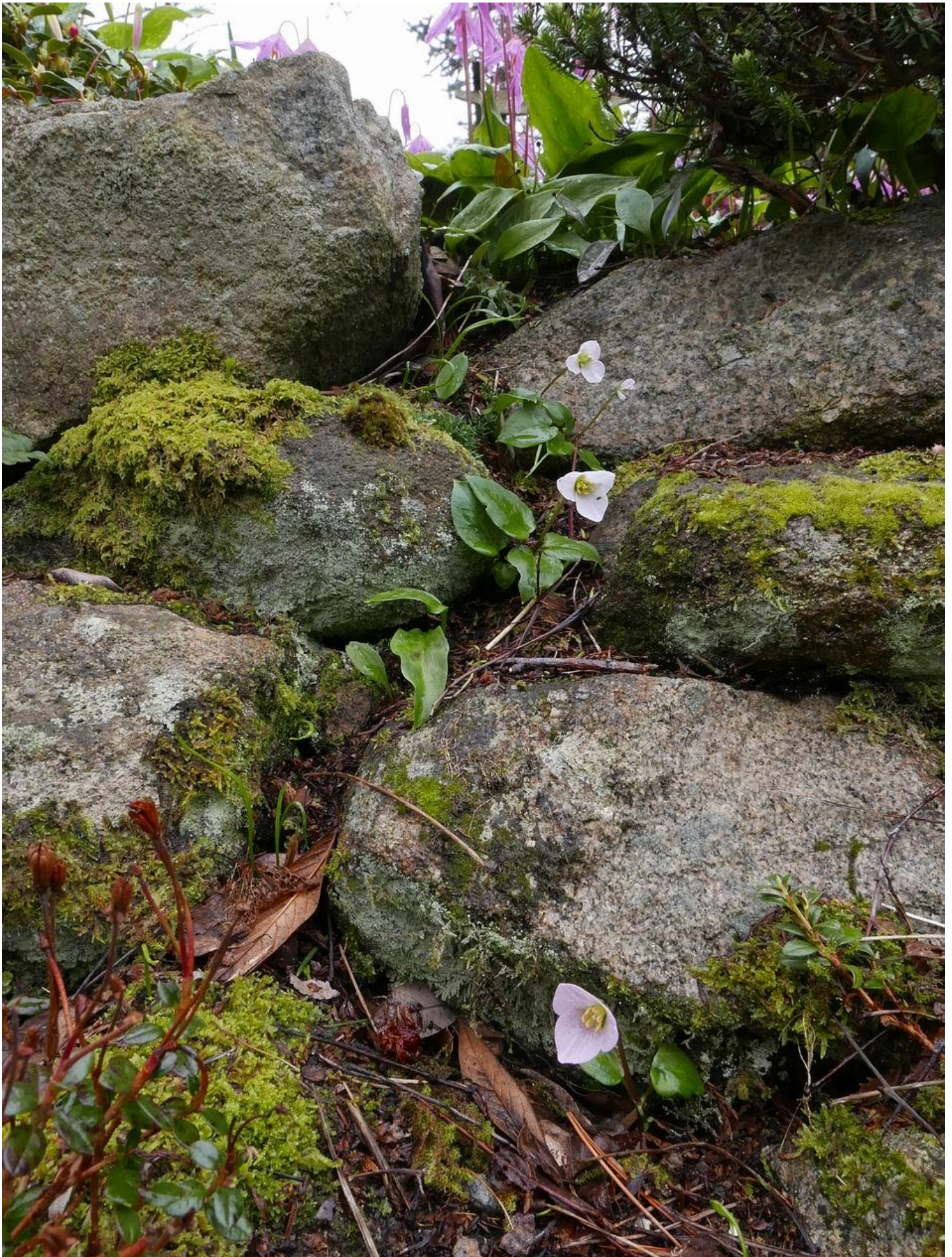
The best way to ensure a good seed set is to do as I did here: plant out a pot of mixed seedlings which facilitates cross pollination and as seen from the many surrounding self-sown seedlings is a very fertile clump.



For several years, inspired by a habitat I visited in south Oregon, I have been encouraging *Pseudotrillium rivale* to grow between the rocks of the raised wall especially below the pine.



Primula marginata and ***Pseudotrillium rivale*** are among a number of plants growing on the face of the wall.



Pseudotrillium rivale and Erythronium seedlings growing on the wall.



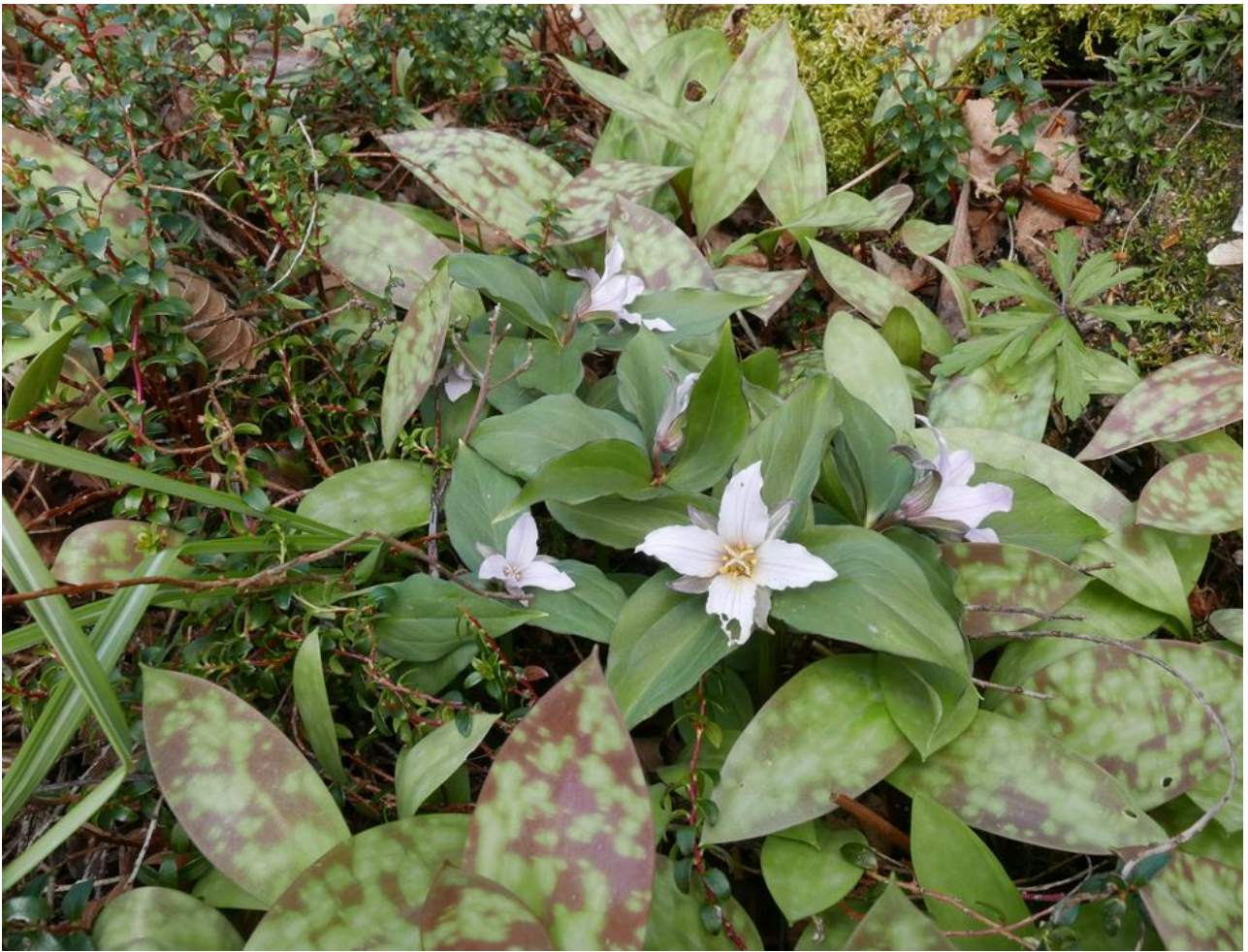
Pseudotrillium rivale with nicely marked leaves with a cluster of last years seed germinating in the pine duff.



Pseudotrillium rivale and **Trillium hibbersonii**



We also grow **Trillium hibbersonii** in a number of habitats around the garden. Although I have always thought it distinct, some lump this as a form of *Trillium ovatum* but the same paper that I mentioned above suggests this as a good species.



Trillium hibbersonii



You may have noticed that this **Trillium hibbersonii** has extra floral parts, an extra petal, extra stigma branch, and extra stamens- I find this a very frequent trait displayed on a good proportion of the flowers in our garden every year. While they are genetically inclined to this mutation it is not fixed, the flowers above and below are a single clone emerging from a single branched rhizome.



Trillium hibbersonii



These are the first flowers on a **Trillium ovatum** raised from wild collected seed and newly planted out from the seed pot.



Here are the **Trillium ovatum** seedlings, sown in 2014, before I planted them out still growing in the original pot - they have not been pricked out or potted on. I prefer not to prick out Trillium until they are big enough to flower unless I have sown them very densely in which case I will move them on when they are around two or three years old and while they are in leaf growth.



Trillium ovatum

Our compost is open, making it very easy to separate the individual seedlings, many now in flower, without damaging their roots.



Trillium ovatum

All these plants of varying sizes and maturity are from the same seed sowing in 2014.



Codonopsis obtusa

While I was checking the seed frames I spotted this pot of *Codonopsis obtusa*, sown February 2016, just coming back into growth and looking rather crowded so I also took the time to plant them out into the areas at the top of the garden where I cut back and removed shrubs to re-open the ground level planting.

I would count myself among those who are confused with the identification of *Trillium kurabayashii* (below) which in cultivation is often confused with *Trillium chloropetalum* and *Trillium angustipetalum*: it seems to me that in cultivation these names have all been applied to the same plants.



The latest research suggests ***Trillium kurabayashii*** is now considered by the Jepson Manual to be a synonym for ***Trillium angustipetalum***.



Whatever name you know this plant as, with large dark purple flowers and variable dark patterns on the leaves, it makes an excellent garden subject which increases both by splitting of the rhizome and by seed.





It is a fact that once brought together in a garden many trilliums will hybridise like this **Trillium erectum hybrid**.



Trillium erectum hybrid



Trillium albidum can have plain green leaves or leaves with varying degrees of dark markings as seen below.



Trillium albidum



**Rhododendron
yakushimanum
x recurvoides**

Next week I am going to Inverewe for the Erythronium Festival where I will be seeing lots of Rhododendrons, some very large, so here are two flowering in our garden: first a Peter Cox hybrid Rhododendron yakushimanum x recurvoides.



Rhododendron yakushimanum x recurvoides



Rhododendron cephalanthum



Finally for this week to show that there are also disappointments in the garden here is the same **Rhododendron cephalanthum** the next day after a hard night frost.....

Click this link to view the latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).