



BULB LOG 41.....9th October 2019



New Bed by the Pond



1985

The New Bed Beside the Pond

I frequently refer to and show many of the plants growing in the ‘new bed by the pond’ so here I have gathered some images looking back at its development to date. Looking back to just after we bought the second house and garden in 1985 you can see the original planned layout of this area was to accommodate a large wooden sculpture made by a friend, Arthur Watson – note on the left edge, we had not removed all of the hedge at the time of taking this picture.



Through the years the sculpture gradually rotted away and we adopted the area as a place to keep some of the many polystyrene boxes that we used for growing some of the bulbs – here they were mostly Erythronium.

Enjoy the following photo essay showing the building process and some of the plants that are now growing there.



There were a few cement and stone troughs placed around the outer edge with the polystyrene boxes in the centre - in this one I created a crevice style landscape and planted it up with *Ramonda myconi* and *R. nathaliae*.



Ramonda nathaliae with the boxes of *erythronium* behind.



The cement troughs in the foreground remain in that position forming one side of the new bed.



Growing the Erythroniums in these boxes made it easy for me to tip them out and re-plant them every year, which maximised the rate of increase.



In recent years to reduce my work load I have been greatly cutting back on the number of bulbs growing in pots and boxes and so this area became available for another stage in the development of the garden. I decided on a raised bed but I did not want to bring in any more stones or materials so I set the interesting experiment that I had to use only the materials that were already in the garden. I gradually gathered stones of all types, including broken concrete paving slabs, which I found within the garden together in the location.



Most of the concrete and stone troughs stayed in place forming some of the edges of the raised bed.



I gradually emptied all the polystyrene boxes within the area and replanted all the Erythronium bulbs into other areas where I have been cutting back some of the shrubs to reclaim the ground level planting opportunities.

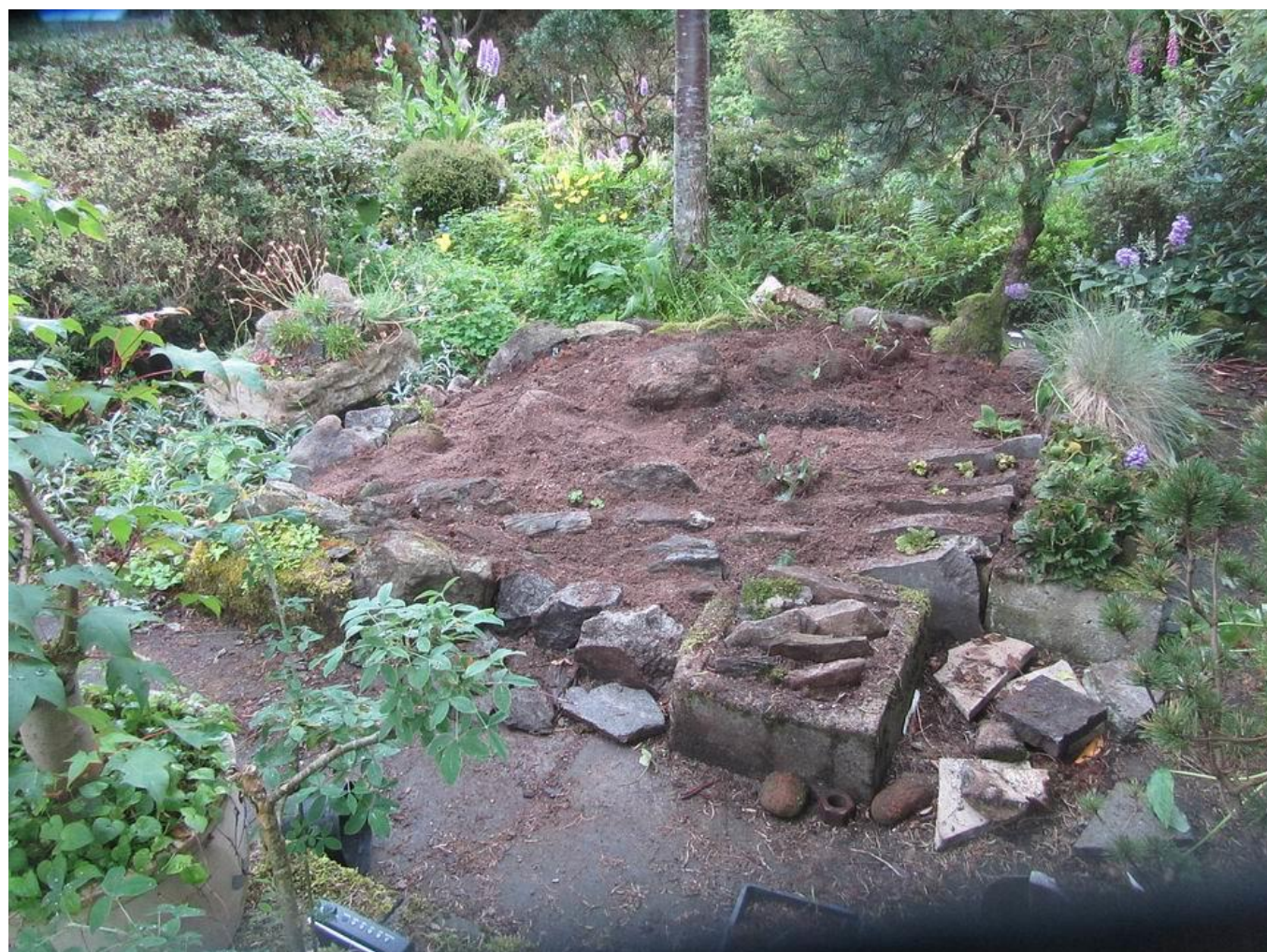
I enjoyed the challenge of trying to create a harmonious design using such disparate materials – rounded rocks, sharp fractured rocks, concrete, etc.

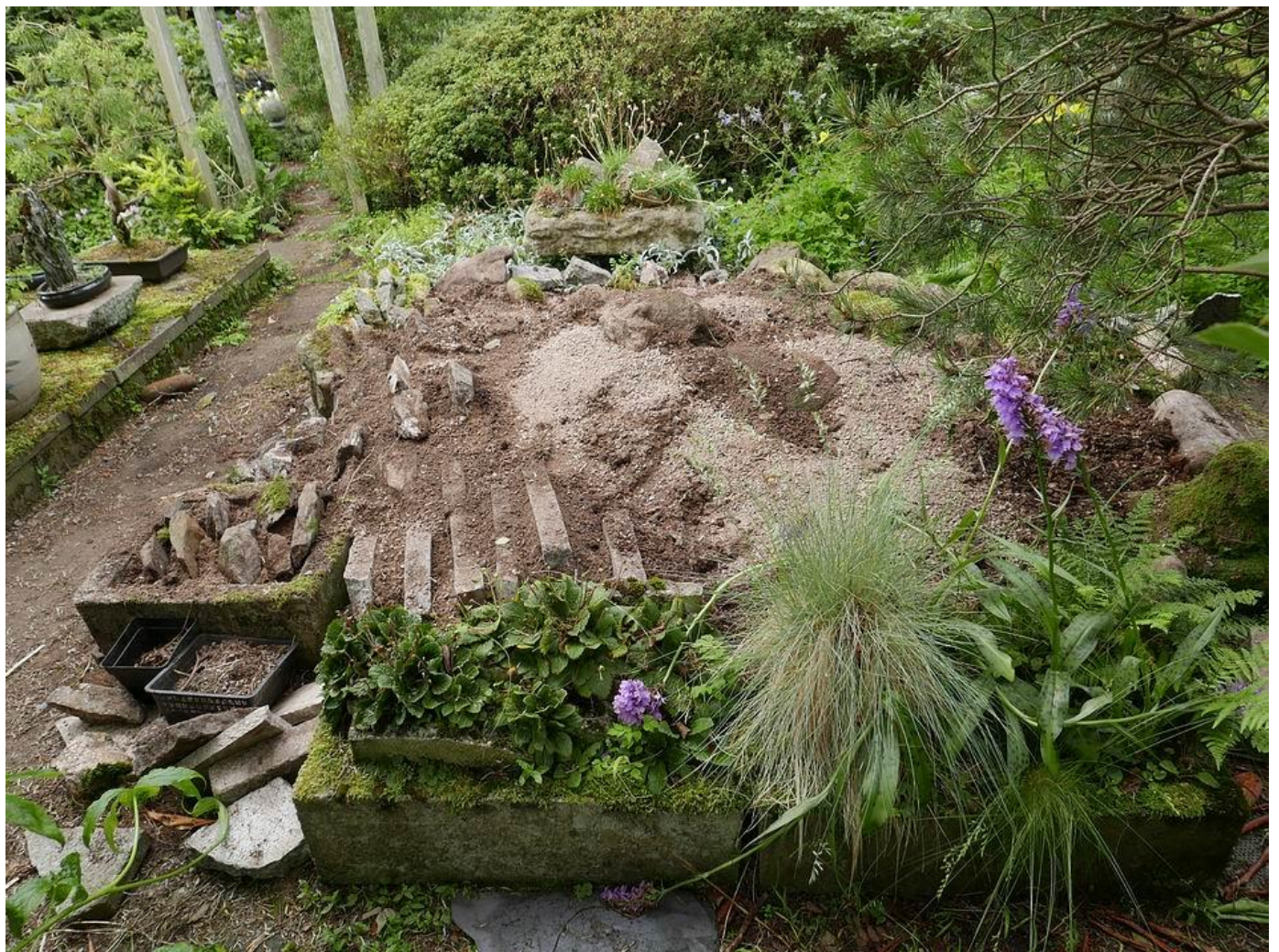
The infill consisted of the soils from the boxes, compost from the compost heap, leafmould, sharp sand and 6m grit all of which I had in the garden.

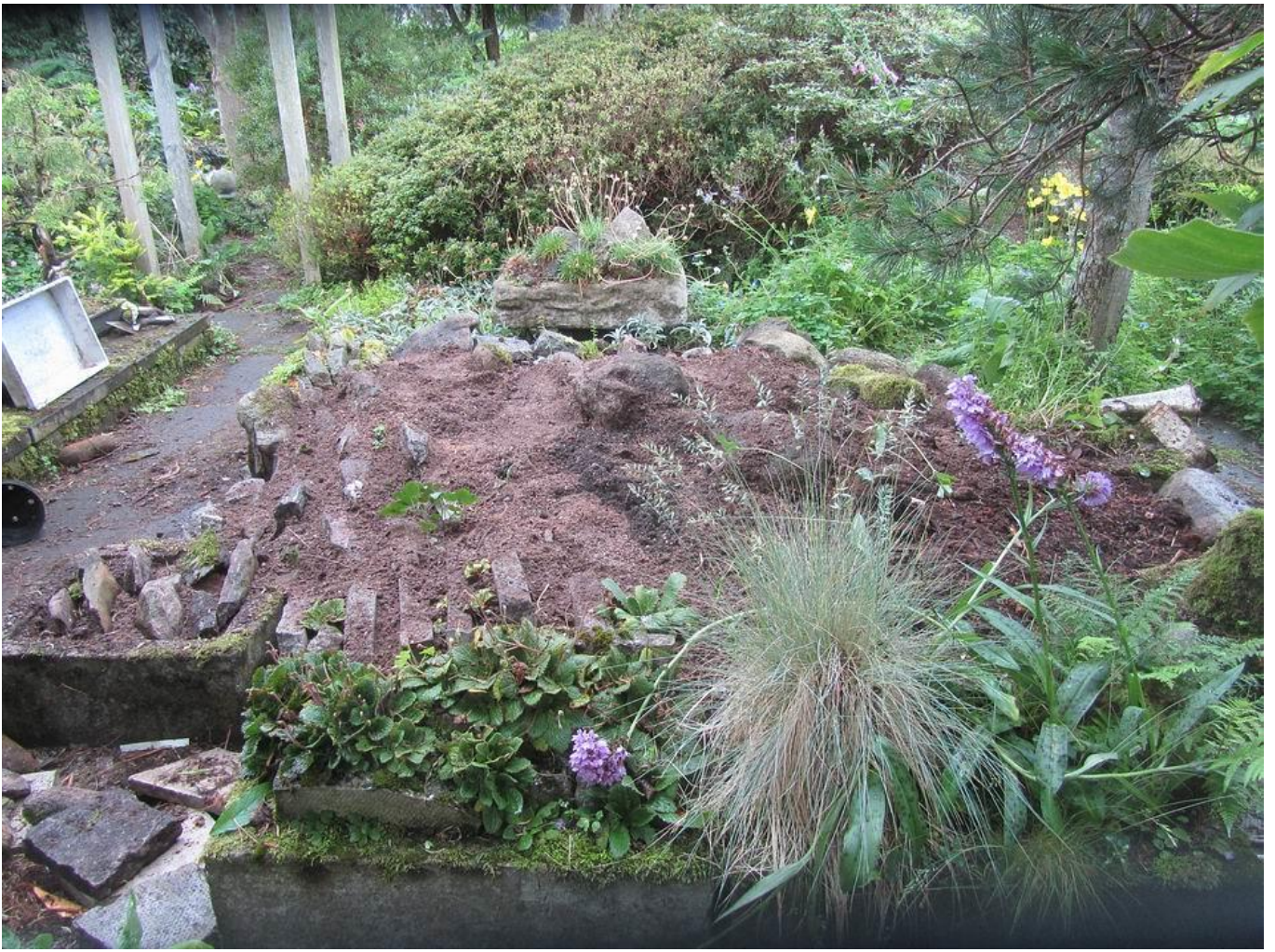




Gradually the form and layout emerged and I was getting near the stage of planting.







I had one problem corner between two troughs where I had not found a satisfactory solution.



After a few tries I used some smaller stones to create a satisfactory solution that I think also looks good.



With the construction work behind me I can now concentrate on the planting which links nicely into my desire to cut back on the number of bulbs we grow in pots because I was going to release many of those special plants from pots and plant them here in this new bed.



Eranthis pinnatifida



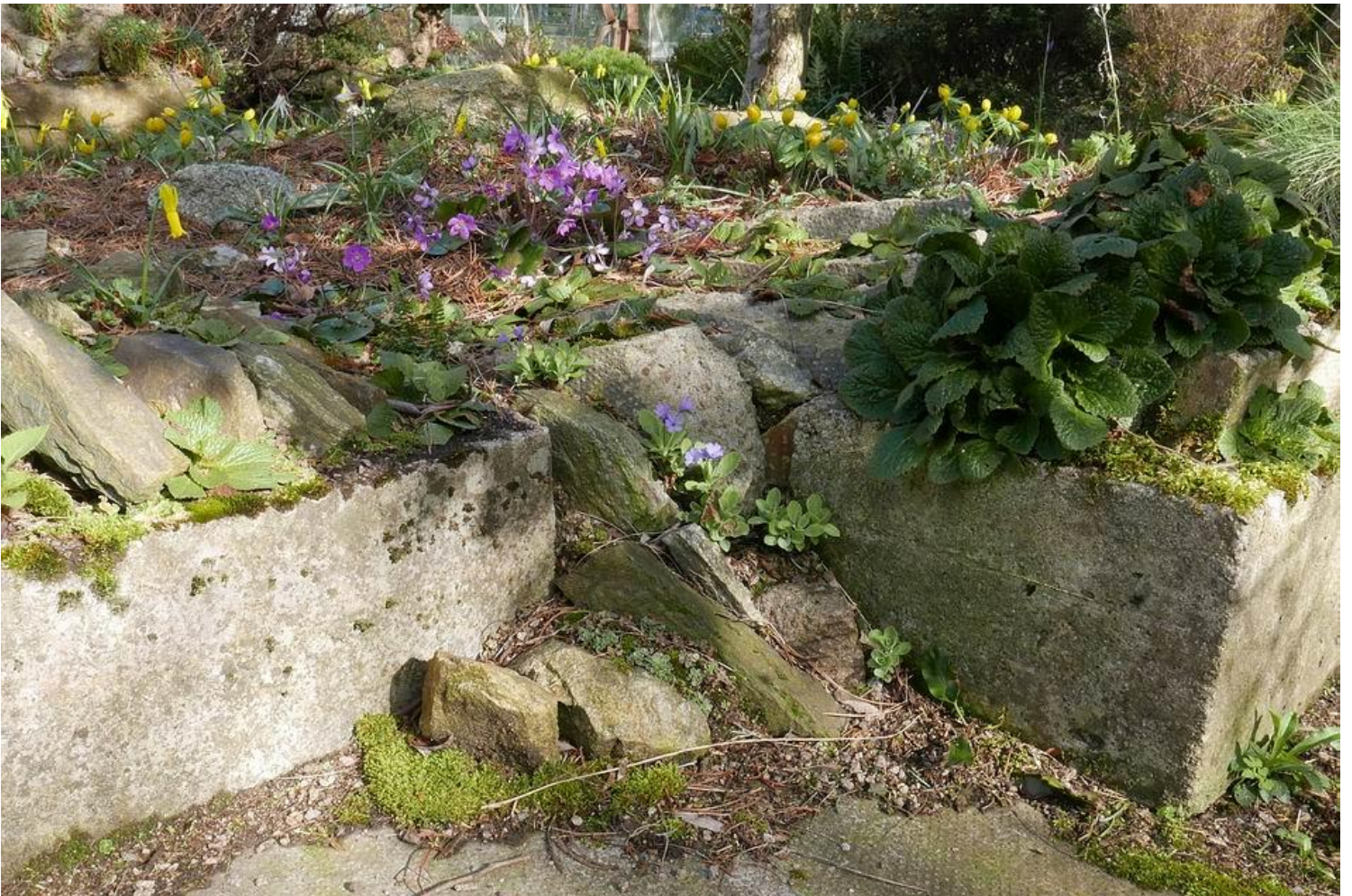
Hepatica and Eranthis



The bed in early March



Eranthis, Iris and Erythronium caucasicum





Narcissus cyclamineus joins in the early spring display.



(Pseudotrillium)Trillium rivale



***Erythronium* aff. *grandiflora* ex Mount Prevost, Vancouver Island**



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

**Trillium
hibbersonii,
Trillium
rivale**



Erythronium sibiricum



Dicentra cucullaria comes into flower.



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



Corydalis fumarifolia



Ramonda nathaliae



Ramonda nathaliae



A few years on from being built the bed is starting to fill up with plants.



Ramonda myconi



Corydalis mucronipetala



Cypripedium



Crocus nudiflorus and Crocus vallicola



Crocus banaticus



The journey of this area of the garden continues for now I will leave you with the most recent pictures taken after I refreshed the mulch of pine needles.....