



BULB LOG 9.....4th March 2015





Narcissus cantabricus petunioides

The cover and the above picture both show the very beautiful wide faced form of *Narcissus cantabricus*, the pollen falling on to the corona shows it is fully fertile and I have pollinated both the plant itself as well as crossing it onto a number of the other hoop *Narcissus* in the hope of spreading its attractive features.



The three flowers in the foreground are a ***Narcissus romieuxii* seedling** and show just how white *Narcissus cantabricus*, which is seen in the background, is.



Furthest away is a pot of *Narcissus romieuxii* JCA805 the darker yellow ones in the middle distance are all flowers of *Narcissus bulbocodium*. I lost the label on the pale form, front right, when I removed all the pots and rebuilt the staging so can only speculate on what it might be.



I have a suspicion that it could be a seedling from *Narcissus bulbocodium pallidus* any thoughts or suggestions are as always very welcome.



A good form of *Narcissus bulbocodium* ex Morocco that I got from Brian Duncan.



Narcissus 'Craigton Clumper'



Named for and raised by the late Don Stead, **Narcissus 'Don Stead'** is one of the finest and most distinctive of the hybrids that I know.



This is another hybrid bred by the late Don Stead, it has a relatively short stem and good deep colour.



One thing I like to see is mixtures of colours, I am not into single colour themed gardens I much prefer the lovely variation in colours on any scale as seen with these **Ipheion**.



For a number of years I have been trying to find forms of **Iris reticulata** that will flower reliably and increase in our garden - these are some of the successes, many having flowered for five years in a row in this warm dry south facing bed. I split them every two or three years when a clump forms as I like the individual flowers to be able to open without touching their neighbour.



Iris reticulata and Iris histrio



Iris reticulata and Iris 'Sheila Ann Germaney' a sister seedling to Iris 'Katharine Hodgkin'.



Flowers of many bulbs are starting to appear in one of the sand beds. There are times of the year when I have to rely on the bulb houses to get pictures to share with you and other times when the flowering is all in the garden but at this time, and through the spring, flowers are plentiful in both environments.



Even in the shade **Galanthus** and **Eranthis** flowers appear: look carefully and you will see Erythronium buds also appearing.



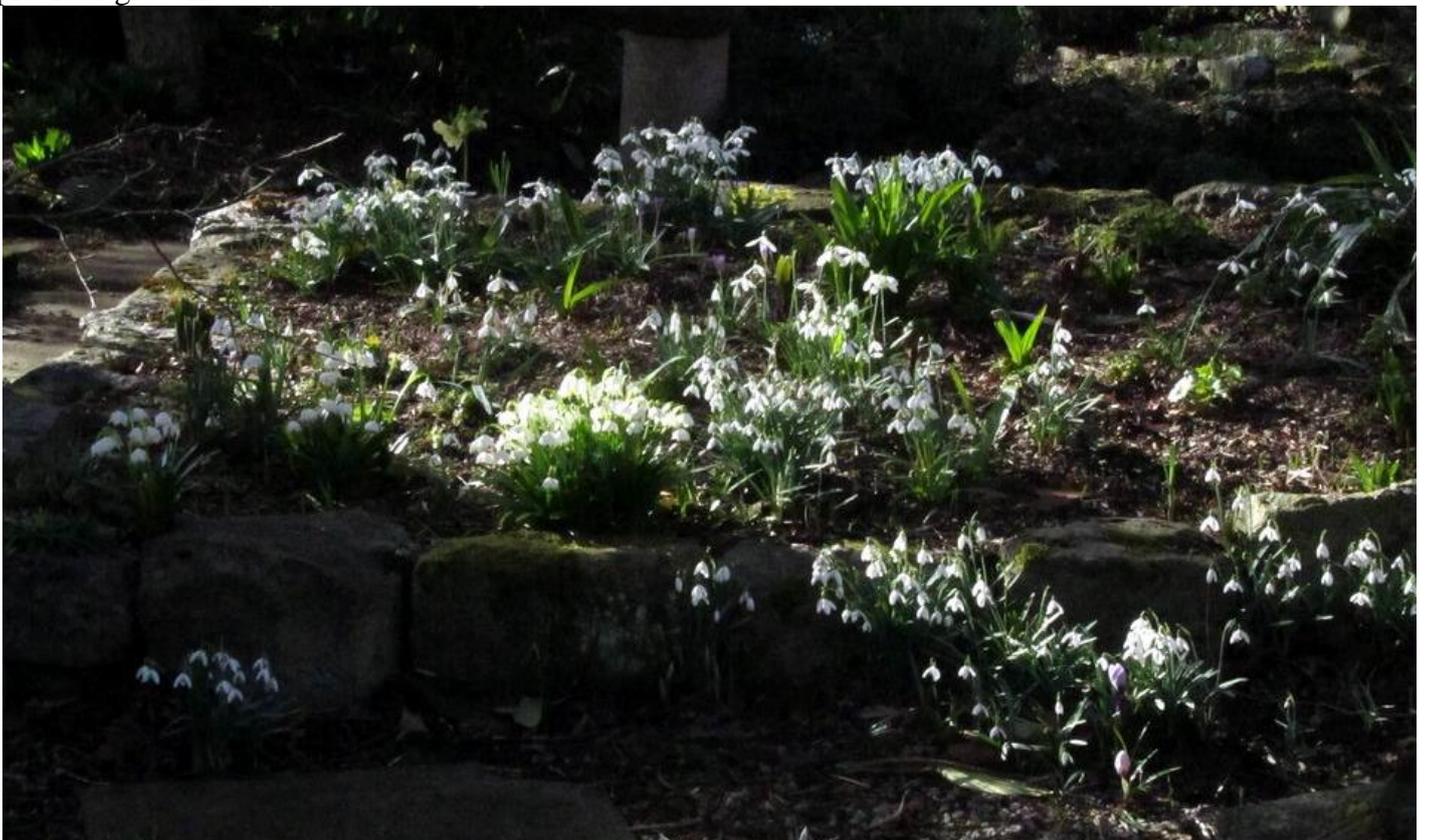
The most advanced of the Western North American Erythronium species are showing buds.



Still it is the snowdrops that provide the big flower display in the garden and it is a joy to see their flowers open in the sunshine. One feature not so often discussed is the beautiful scent that many snowdrops have – when I see a flower new to me one of the first things I do is see if I can detect a scent. Some drops have such a scent that you do not have to bend down as they can, providing reasonably still, mild conditions, fill the surrounding air with perfume.



Eranthis hyemalis and **Galanthus** growing in a bed enriched by years of adding humus in the form of shredded and composted hedge trimmings and leaf mould - plus simply not being too particular about 'tidying' up the debris of previous growth.



It is all about light and how that changes the scene in the garden by the second - as the sun moves and clouds pass by areas are in highlight then shade, the flickering light as the wind blows shrubs all add to the pleasure of a garden.



This is the same bed as shown above seen from a different angle and in very different light – this time it is a flat light from a cloudy sky so there are no shadows and no intense highlights the complete opposite of the scene shown above and only five minutes later.



Galanthus plicatus hybrids for the 'dropoholics.



I have always thought it strange that one of the ultimate longings of the 'dropfiends is a snowdrop where the inner and outer petals are of equal size each with a green marking on the outside – here you have it all this time you have been looking at the wrong genus – **Leucojum vernum** is what you desire ☺



We have many Leucojum self-seeding around some of the beds and they also display variation if you look carefully enough – plenty to keep this Leucojock happy. The mulch on this bed is recently shredded winter tree prunings. It is often said that this type of mulch will rob nitrogen from the soil but I have not found this to be the case. Spread on the surface in the winter it

causes no problems at all with no evidence that the plants are suffering a shortage of nitrogen. I would not advocate digging it onto the ground without composting nor would I spread it if there was soft young plant growth appearing



This polystyrene box is planted with *Sanguinaria Canadensis* which I split and replant every two or three years. Some years back a single small *Galanthus* bulb got its way in and when I replant the trough I split and spread it around just as I do with the *Sanguinaria* – now it has multiplied to give a lovely display. In a few weeks the *Sanguinaria* flowers will take over and the two plants seem perfectly happy to cohabit in this trough – which you may have noticed needs a wee touch-up of the paint work.



Galanthus nivalis in the trough above.



Galanthus and Eranthis hyemalis

The final image for this week shows two of the early flowering stars which should have a place in every garden....