



BULB LOG 13.....28<sup>th</sup> March 2018



*Erythronium caucasicum*



At last we have had enough warmth in a day to open the flowers of **Erythronium caucasicum**. I feared that some of them may wither before they got to open, something that has happened in previous years.



### **Erythronium caucasicum**

In the warmth when all the flowers were open I walked around the garden transferring pollen between the various forms that we have in the hope of getting seed to set.



**Erythronium caucasicum**



The earliest forms of **Erythronium dens canis** are also in flower with many more shoots appearing all around the garden. The second Inverewe Erythronium Festival will be held in a few weeks from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> April and I will be giving talks and leading walks on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April click the link for full details [Erythronium Festival](#).



**Narcissus cyclamineus**



Narcissus cyclamineus is another bulb that likes the cooler, moister growing conditions of our garden and we now have it growing in a wide range of habitats including the humus beds, the rock garden bed and the raised slab beds, as seen on the left. The variation in the stature of the plant is partly genetic but environmental factors also have an effect where in general those growing in the humus beds are larger and more

vigorous than those growing in the grittier soils in the rock garden and slab beds.



A hybrid of *Iris winogradowii* has joined the *Cyclamen coum* and *Galanthus* 'Elizabeth Harrison' flowers in this sand bed. *Iris winogradowii* itself flowers a wee bit later.



Crocus flowers in the cobble covered sand bed give me a timely reminder that I will need to feed them with some potassium to encourage a good bud production which will provide next year's flowers.



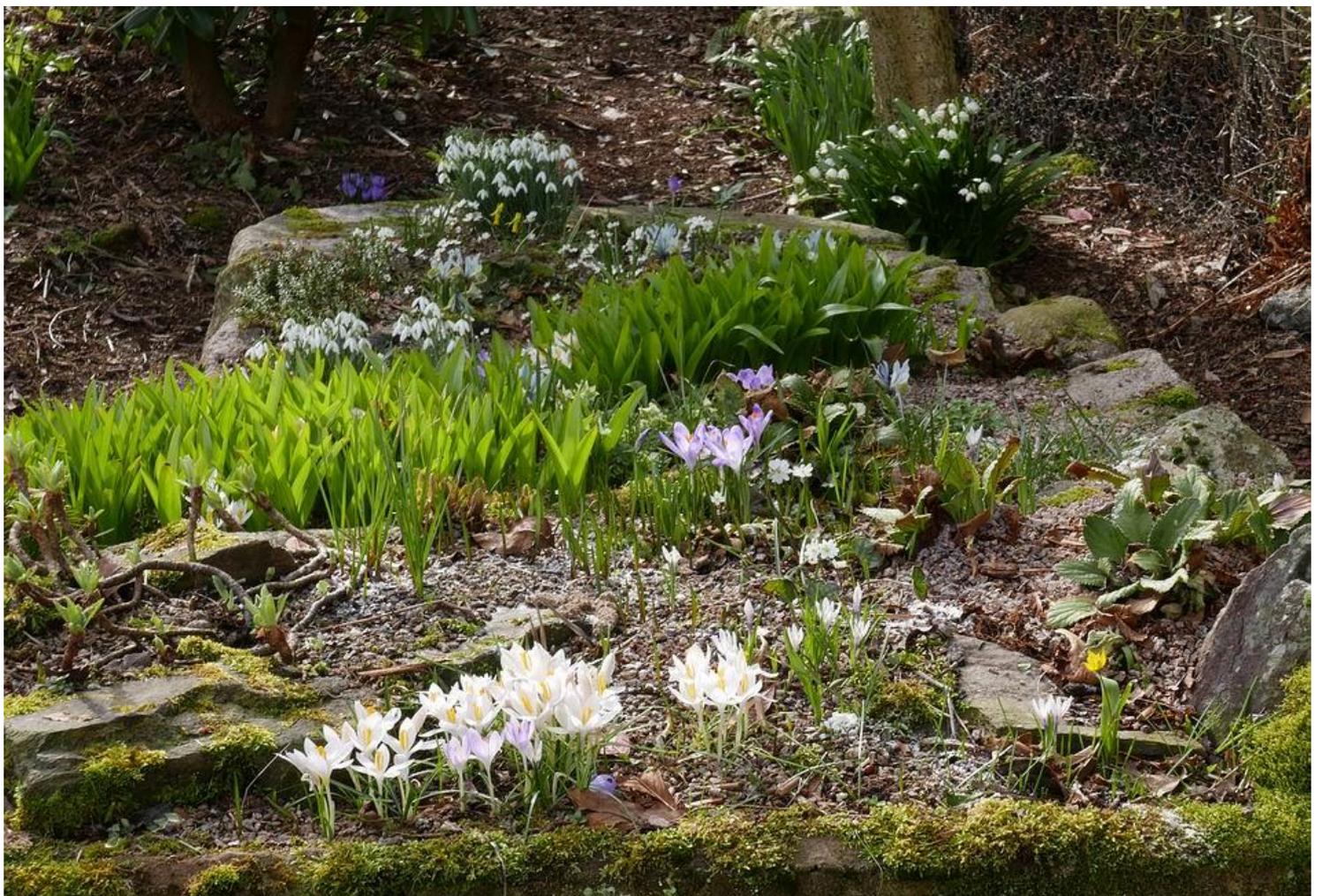
I have scattered a dusting of the white powdered form of potassium, sold as Sulphate of Potash in the UK, across the bed and cobbles which will be dissolved and washed in by the rain.



**Galanthus and Leucojum** flowers continue to provide a mass display across the garden.



The early spring bulbs also add colour to the **Rock garden bed** as the *Meconopsis* are making growth. Keen-eyed readers will notice that I have also scattered some potassium around the flowering bulbs in this bed.



Colchicum leaves glow bright green in the light as *Crocus*, *Galanthus*, *Iris* and *Hepatica* flowers make their display.



A group of **Crocus heuffelianus** sit below the rocks that form the edge of the bed with **Galanthus nivalis**, **Hepatica pyrenaica**, **Iris** and **Crocus** intermixing above.



Good companions growing happily in the gravelly soil of the sock garden bed.



I have known this small crocus as *Crocus vernus siculus*, the name I got it as, but after some more research I find that it is most likely ***Crocus siculus***. Also shown above is the very easy and decorative ***Scilla mischtschenkoana***.



***Crocus heuffelianus*** is among the best crocus in our garden where it increases both vegetatively and by seeding.



***Crocus sublimis* 'Tricolor'**



One of a number of groups of *Crocus sublimis* 'Tricolor' retains its attraction despite being battered by the recent ice, snow and gales. It certainly lives up to its cultivar name with the very distinct yellow/white/violet zone.



Most of this group of **Crocus sublimis** seedlings have the typical yellow throat turning violet but on closer inspection I see two of the seedlings share a degree of the white zone exhibited in 'Tricolor'.



**Crocus sublimis** seedlings



*Galanthus nivalis* growing with some of the large Dutch Crocus cultivars which are remnants from some of our original plantings. They are very good general garden plants and I like to keep them in a group to which end I am gathering them around the base of this Acer.



Also in the early stages of the garden we planted a lot of the 'botanical' crocus such *Crocus chrysanthus* 'Blue Pearl' and *Crocus chrysanthus* 'Goldilocks' which have resulted in a range of seedlings we now have growing in the gravel. This group is growing through *Celmisia walkerii*.



Also as a result of seeding from plants of the 'botanical' Crocus chrysanthus type seedling may have come from a near by surviving clump of Crocus chrysanthus 'Cream Beauty' (see below).



**Crocus chrysanthus 'Cream Beauty'**



These are most likely to be seeded from *Crocus chrysanthus* 'Goldilocks'.



A range of seedlings including *Crocus chrysanthus* and *Crocus tommasinianus*



The flowering of **Crocus tommasinianus** heralds the awakening of another season in the front driveway planting.



As they seed around we see a wide variation of colours of **Crocus tommasinianus**.



**Crocus tommasinianus**



A pure white form of **Crocus tommasinianus** grabs the sunshine to stand out against the shaded background.

Another form we have is almost white except it has a slight violet speckling which is most noticeable when the flower first opens then it fades.

These flowers have been out all the way through the recent winter weather but despite the damage they still manage to open in the sunshine as an attraction to any passing pollinators.





A dark form of **Crocus tommasinianus** jumps out of the shade in the spotlight of sunshine.



**Crocus sieberi** and **Crocus atticus** growing in one of the bulb house sand beds.



This fine display is of a selection I made from seedlings of *Crocus vernus albiflorus* – now it has been suggested by Peruzzi et al. 2013 that what we previously described as *Crocus albiflorus*, such as this plant, should be *Crocus vernus* and what we used to know as *Crocus vernus* is classified under *Crocus neapolitanus*.



***Crocus vernus***



I was urged to take a picture of the new bed by the pond because of the dark stripes caused by the shadow of a tree but as you can see below the first flowers have made an appearance and I am looking forward to being reminded of all the other fine bulbs I planted there as they emerge.



**Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'**



I will round off this week with a mass of **Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'**.....