



SRGC

---- Bulb Log Diary ----

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BULB LOG 12.....19/th March 2014



Crocus scardicus



Erythronium caucasicum



I have devoted the opening page to perhaps my favourite Crocus, growing in a sand bed, although it is difficult to choose one from such a variable and beautiful genus. I love the colour contrast between the violet blue and orange yellow of **Crocus scardicus** flowers - unfortunately it is also one of the more difficult to maintain in cultivation. We have grown a single clone for around 30 years which has never set seed for us. Last year a kind friend sent me a corm so now I have more than one clone I hope to get some seed. I believe that it is only when we start getting seed from the bulbs in our garden that we have really established them. *Crocus scardicus* likes a warm spring for flowering then a cool moist summer.

We have very few flowering sized plants of *Erythronium caucasicum* which is another plant we have grown for years but not yet managed to get our own seed from. This year for the first time we had three separate plants flowering and I carefully cross pollinated them hoping for seed but sadly something has completely removed the flowers on two of those plants leaving all my hopes for seed pinned on this one.

Erythronium caucasicum



Erythronium dens-canis

Sunday turned out to be a beautiful warm sunny day with the temperatures in the garden reaching 15C – this has triggered an explosion of activity in all plants with flowers opening everywhere. Among those opening are



Tulipa turkestanica

Erythronium dens-canis whose flowers were hardly visible just a few days ago. Tulips are the closest family relative of Erythroniums and it is not difficult to see they share a common ancestor. One branch of the family, Tulips, colonising a hot dryish habitat allowing them to hold their flowers upright while Erythroniums evolved to hold their flowers downwards to protect their reproductive parts from the wetter regions they populate.



Tulipa biflorus

Tulipa biflorus are also attracted into flower by the warm sunshine but unfortunately the heat has also attracted what is not a bee but, I think, a Narcissus Fly – a worrying pest to have in the garden.



Trillium ovatum* forma *maculosum

A few logs back I showed this beautiful form of *Trillium ovatum* with marked leaves but incorrectly named it as ‘*maculatum*’ the correct name that was applied by the Cases is ‘*maculosum*’ – the original log has been corrected. I thought it worth showing another picture with the anthocyanins developing as the flower ages giving older flowers a lovely pink colour.



Galanthus

Now one for all the snowdrop spotters out there!! While admiring the flowers I noticed this oddity with four petals both inner and outer petals have an extra one. It is a lone flower in a clump that has this feature so I do strongly suspect that it is just an aberration and will not recur next year – but if it does –~~~~~~~~~ ©
It is not unusual for flowers to produce extra floral parts, I often find Trillium flowers, which as the name suggests should have all parts in groups of three, with four petals.



It is a robust snow drop with quite large flowers as my hand indicates.



Leucojum vernum

As founding member of the 'Leucojocks', who are to Leucojums what the 'Galanthophiles' are to Galanthus, I am compelled to show you a few of the variations we have in our garden. Unlike Galanthus where there are hybrids to add to the variation Snowflakes are all forms of a single species, *Leucojum vernum*. The clump above has flowers with yellow ovaries and green markings while the flowers below have green ovaries and yellow markings.



Look again and you will observe that the left hand flower has yellow markings while the right hand one has green tips both these flowers are on a single scape but look again at the right hand flower and you will see that some tips are green and others yellow. The colour of the tips is variable from season to season and as you can see it can vary even on the same flower.



Here again the same clone with different coloured tips. We have a relatively small population/ gene pool, showing variations but recently there have been some fantastic pictures showing variations in wild populations posted to the forum by [Cephalotus](#) and [Oakwood](#) who also shows some fantastic snowdrops – well worth clicking to browse.



The first flowering on a pot of **Fritillaria chitralensis** seedlings grown from our own seed.



Fritillaria stenantha* and *Fritillaria chitralensis

The change from cold damp conditions to nice warm weather meant I was able to water the bulbs without having to worry about wet rot and that along with the warmth has brought out a mass of *Fritillaria* flowers.



***Fritillaria stenantha* - about to straighten up**



Fritillaria carica



Fritillaria pinardii



I have a number of forms of *Fritillaria sewerzowii*, which some would place in a separate genus of *Korolkowii*, many, like these, are raised from seed. This pot of seedlings came from a bulb I originally had from Janis Ruksans and as always my main aim was to get seed from it – they have larger flowers than any other forms I have seen.



Fritillaria sewerzowii



Another form of **Fritillaria sewerzowii** increases well by division of the bulb and I have tried to establish it in the open garden a number of times without any long term success – I will keep trying.



Fritillaria sp. nova

A very kind friend sent me seed of this plant from Iran and now it flowers for the first time. The two flowering seedlings have slightly differing colours and are similar to *Fritillaria poluninii* but this one has dark differently shaped nectaries- it is thought to be a new species. It has been shown a number of times in the [Fritillaria pages](#) of the forum.



A number of years ago I was sent a form of *Narcissus hedraeanthus* that was not typical - it looked more like a *bulbocodium/romieuxii* type to me – however I crossed it with *Narcissus bulbocodium* and have these seedlings. The difference in height is better seen in the picture below.



Narcissus bulbocodium* x *hedraeanthus

Seedling variation can be in height difference as shown in both these pots – the two seedlings of *Narcissus asturiensis* came from the same seed capsule.

Narcissus asturiensis



Narcissus x confusus behind and Narcissus 'Small Talk' opposite cross foreground

It is not surprising that we get hybrids with so many different species and forms growing in a small glass house.



Narcissus 'Dinah Rose' ex J&J Archibald

I do not know if this is a form or a hybrid of *Narcissus triandrus* - it is a beautiful plant but has not yet given us any seed.



Narcissus bulbocodium pallidus

I do not like lifting pots out of the sand plunge in case I damage their roots so I had to photograph this one through the glass as the flowers were all facing out towards the light.



Narcissus cantabricus clusii and Narcissus cantabricus petunioides

It is always nice to get new clones and these two forms of *Narcissus cantabricus* which came from a kind friend in a far off country will add to our gene pool. The *petunioides* form differs from any of ours in that it has some nice lobbing of the corona. Both have been cross pollinated with our own versions and I hope, with the warm conditions, we will get a successful seed set.....