



BULB LOG 23.....8th June 2016





Between my travelling and having dear friends to stay ,time is short this week so the Bulb Log is mostly a pictorial survey of some of the troughs and slab beds as they start to get some colour after the long wet winter.



Many saxifrages that have grown well through our colder winters, even to the extent of being totally enclosed in ice, have suffered varying degrees of die back from our excessively wet winter. Despite excellent drainage many rosettes rotted while in some extreme cases the roots also rotted away. The survivors are now making new growth and I hope for a good recovery.



This is our mini-hosta trough which was one of a number of matching planters we bought at a closing down sale some 35 years ago. In the early spring I lifted and split the plants to space them out better.



A grouping of troughs around the North West slab bed shows how each one is planted differently. I love trying out new ways of growing plants and view every trough as an experiment in creating a mini habitat.



Having noticed how plants like to root into moss, I wondered if they would do the same with a mossy-saxifrage so I am trying to see if the runners of *Androsace studiosorum* will root into this mossy saxifrage.



Some troughs have almost planted themselves - *Antennaria dioica* is the only one I planted, all the *Dactylorhiza*, ferns and grasses have seeded into the environment forming a very natural-looking habitat.



A few weeks back I showed picture of me cutting back parts of this compact-growing *Primula marginata* – now you can see above that new growths are forming on the cut off stems also all the cuttings that I made from the material I removed have now rooted into the box of sharp sand that I simply kept moist, shaded with an occasional mist from a hand sprayer. These cuttings are now ready to be planted out or potted on.





This trough is more of a propagation unit than a display - where I placed some of the cuttings that I took this time last year, rooted in the mist unit then planted out in autumn. They are all growing so well that I have been taking cuttings from these young plants and these have also now formed roots and are ready to be potted on from the mist unit.



Salix reticulata



Salix retusa (I think)



Salix ?



Another view over two of the slab beds with troughs grouped around them, you can see our plant of *Saxifaga longifolia* flowering on the top of the nearest raised bed.



Saxifaga longifolia



This silver saxifrage likes climbing out of the trough and down the side.



The smaller orchids are *Dactylorhiza purpurella* the taller ones are seedlings that have obviously hybridised.



More troughs surround the North Eastern slab bed – the two in the foreground are cut from granite.





Another view – note the trough in the foreground with the saxifrage flowers.



This trough was planted with a single form of *Saxifraga* and over the years other plants have tried to move in – most I considered to be weeds and have removed but careful observation will show some very welcome self-seeders.



Dactylorhiza purpurella



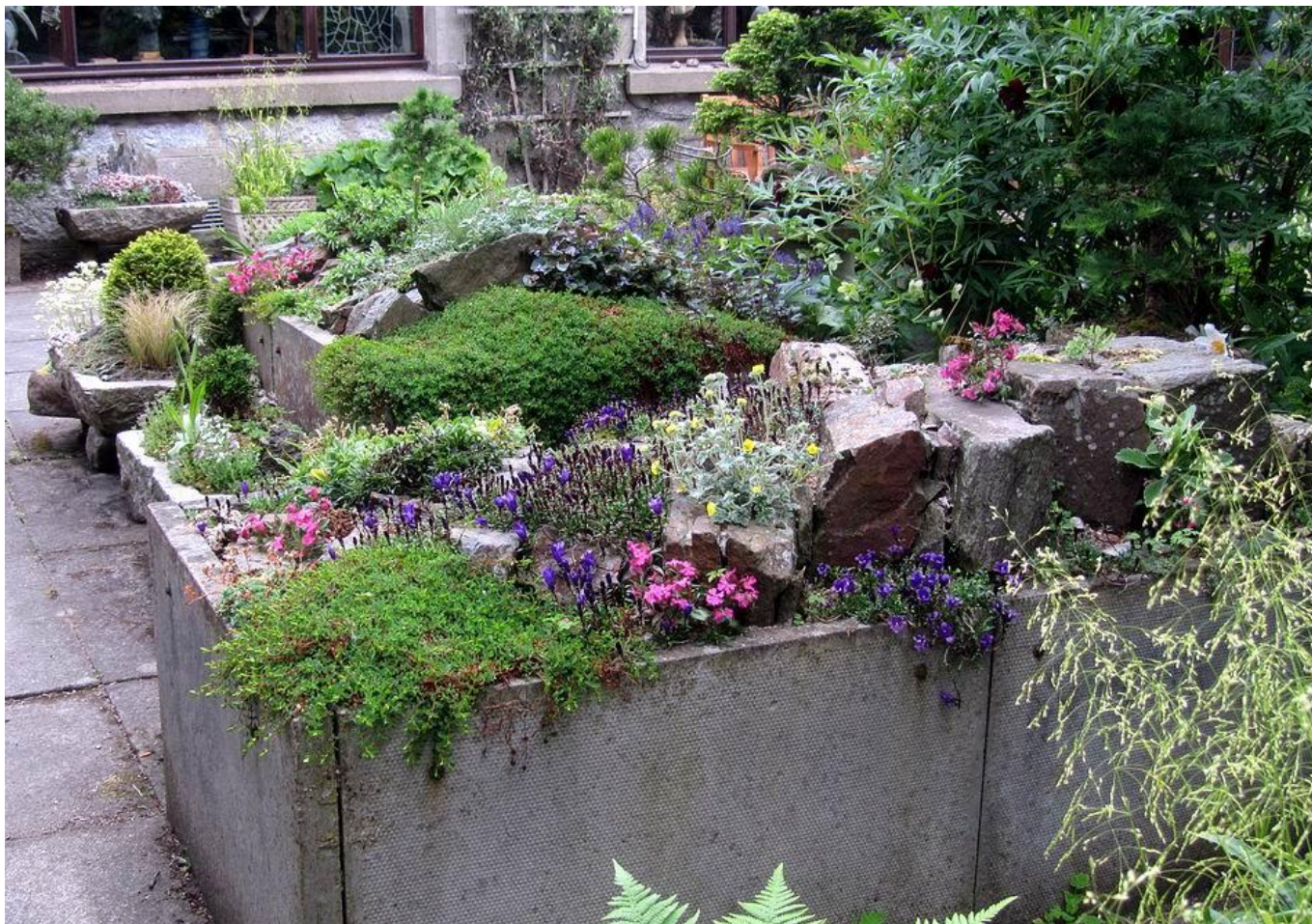
Troughs



I made this trough last year and have planted it up over the autumn and spring with **Armeria maritima** cuttings collected from the seaside and **Geranium sessiliflorum Bronze** raised from New Zealand seed sown in 2014.



Another view shows the high landscaping made from a mixture of limestone and broken concrete – the planting medium is sharp sand.



At last the plants in this slab bed are starting to show some colour.

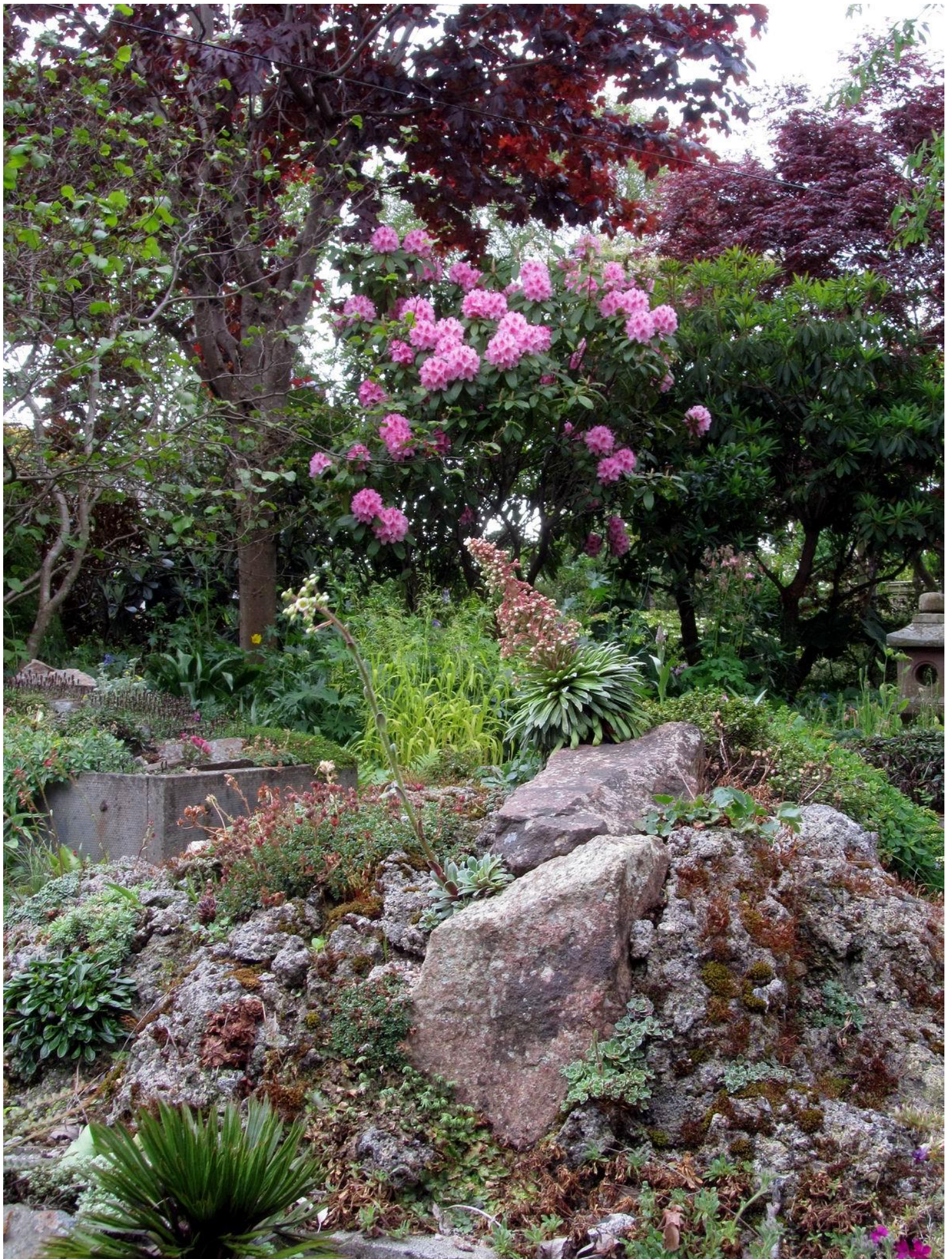


All raised from seed - *Edrianthus serpyllifolius*, *Potentilla pulvinaris* and *Silene caroliniana* 'Red Wherry'.



***Silene caroliniana* 'Red Wherry'** in the sun above and in shade below – we received seeds of this from a friend in Ireland a couple of years ago, this spring the seedlings were big enough to be planted out in situ so we now have a number of plants adding their splash of pink.





One more view as I leave you for this week.....