



BULB LOG 18.....4<sup>th</sup> May 2016





Yellow Erythronium grandiflorum and the pure white of Erythronium elegans, growing in the rock garden, are featured on this week's cover picture. Despite all the extremes that our weather is delivering the flowering of the Erythroniums is at a peak just now. In one of the sand plunge beds a basket of Erythronium hendersonii opens its flowers responding to one of the sunny periods.



View across the rock garden bed to one of the sand plunges.



### ***Erythronium revolutum* hybrids**

These are two of the *Erythronium revolutum* hybrids that I lifted for assessment a few years ago. I grew them in pots for a year then transferred them into plunge baskets last summer to allow them more space to increase. They both have well-marked leaves and interesting markings in the flowers so the main thing I am trialling them for is to see how quickly they will increase.



## **Erythronium 'Joanna'**

One of the plants that has suffered a bit in the bad weather is Erythronium 'Joanna'. The flowers of this group, growing in a plunge basket, have become spotted with some withering at the tips while others planted out under the cover of Rhododendrons are fine. I also notice similar damage on flowers of Erythronium tuloumense, one of the parents of E. 'Joanna'.



## **Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl'**

There is no doubt that the flowers of some species are more resistant to the cold wet conditions and that resilience is passed on to hybrids. Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl' has E. revolutum as a parent: its flowers are undamaged.



**Erythronium 'Craigton Cream' with *Erythronium tuolumnense* and 'Craigton Cover Girl' behind.**



**Basket of *Erythronium revolutum* seedlings.**



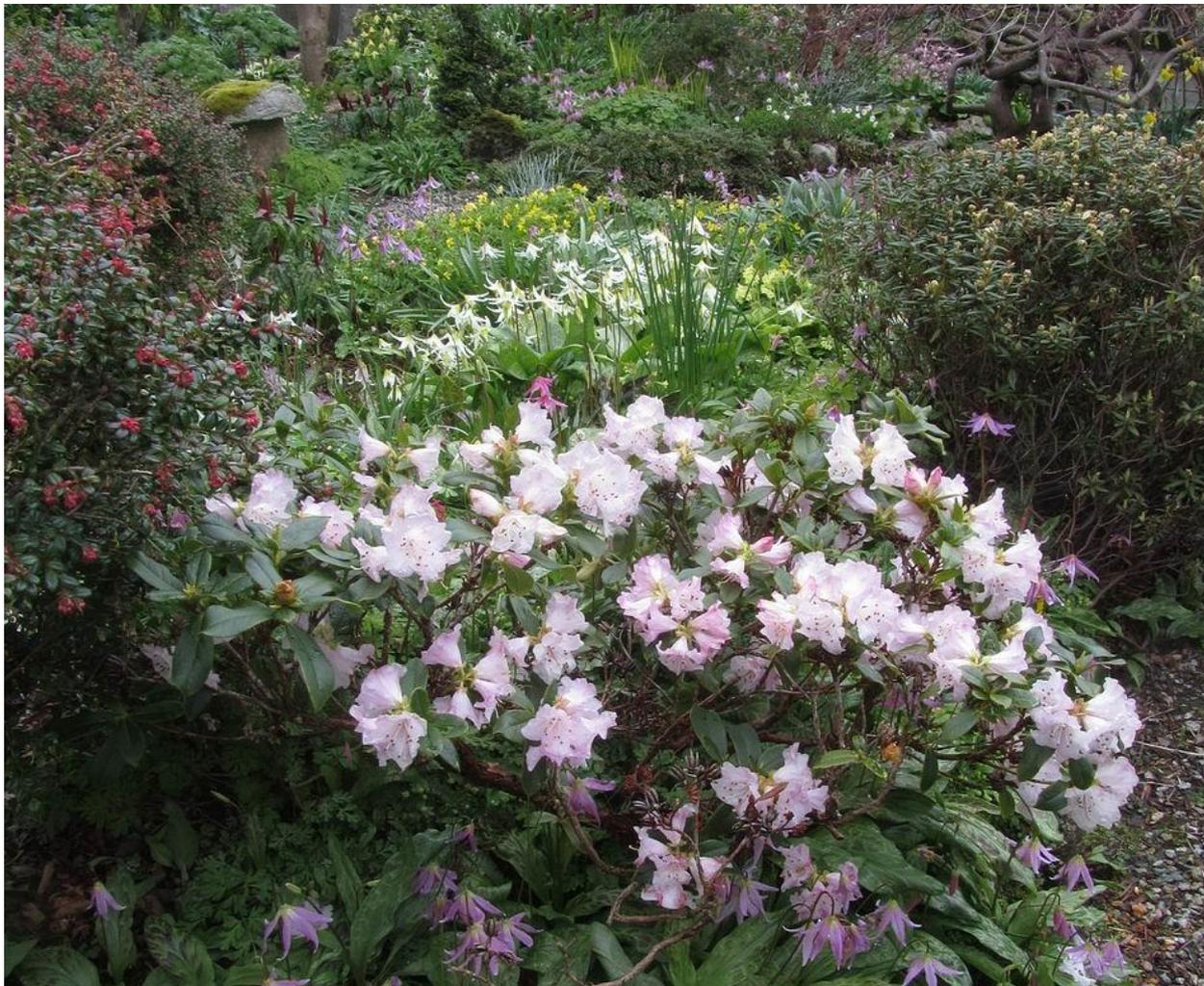
View across the plunge and rock garden beds – join me for a look in this [Bulb Log Video Diary supplement](#).



It is not just in mass planting that Erythroniums impress: here **Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl'** grows through the foliage of **Corydalis 'Craigton Blue'**.



A group of self-sown **Erythronium revolutum** and some late flowering *Corydalis solida* grow at the edge of the path below *Rhododendron ciliatum*.



Rhododendrons are among the many trees and shrubs that provide the structure in the garden and many of them are also flowering just now.

**Rhododendron ciliatum**



Amazingly the rather frost tender and scented flowers of **Rhododendron ciliatum** have not been damaged by our weather.



**Rhododendron lepidotum hybrid**

Although it can grow to over a metre in height, forming a straggly shrub, this small leaved Rhododendron never fails to impress when it covers itself in flowers like this every year. When it outgrows its spot in this raised bed it does respond well to being trimmed back immediately after flowering to keep it compact.



**Rhododendron dendrocharis**



**Rhododendron dendrocharis**



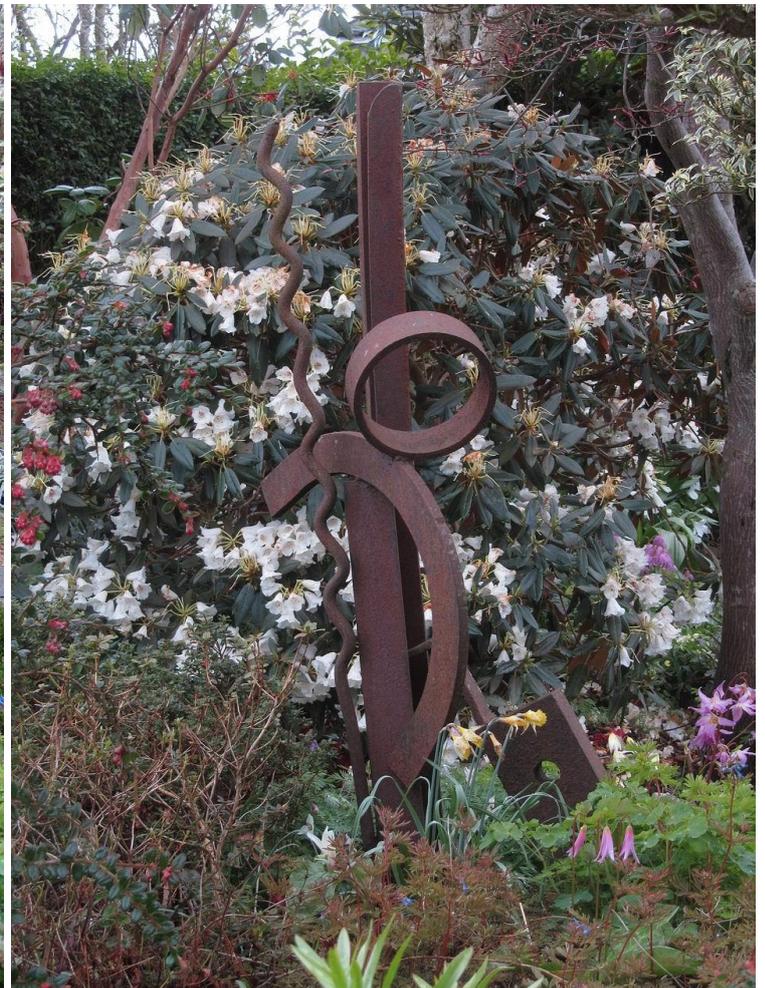
**Rhododendron tsariense x yakushimanum**



**Rhododendron tsariense x yakushimanum**



To the left, behind the seat, is another plant of the same **Rhododendron lepidotum hybrid** with a large pink form of **Rhododendron yunnanense** that we raised from seed.



One of my welded steel sculptures, from the early 1980's, also provides a feature in the garden.



Look at this seed-raised flower of **Trillium erectum** and you will see it has attracted some flies to help out with the pollination.



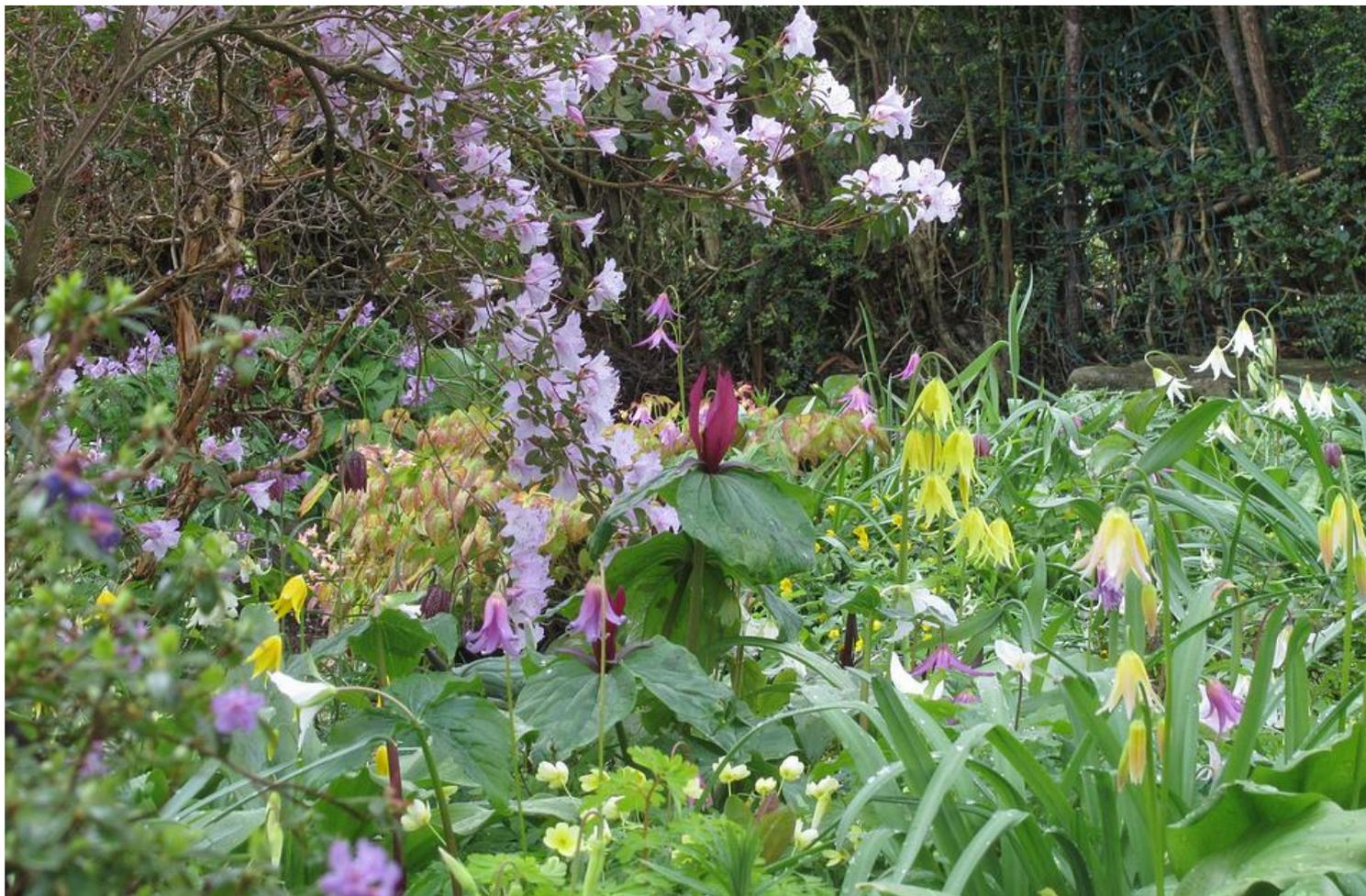
As with all seed-raised plants you will get variation in the flowers and planting out a group of seedlings together will greatly increase the chance of cross pollination resulting in a more reliable seed set.



I have stopped worrying about the names of the Western Sessile Trilliums, especially when like these they have been raised from garden collected seed, as I find it impossible to key them out to *Trillium kurubayashii* or *T. chloropetalum* as they have hybridised.



This lovely pink **Western Sessile Trillium** is my favourite form and again it is planted in a seed raised group.



Here you can see how the large pink flowers attracts your eye under Rhododendron 'Phalarope' with Erythronium 'Susanna' and 'Joanna' to the right – I feature this planting in another [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).



Molly and Megan wanted to be in the picture this week - shown here inspecting Cassiope, Erythronium, Celmisia and Rhododendron.



I have always believed that gardening is about establishing then controlling a range of habitats and among my recent experiments is this rock in the pond. For years it was featured just as a rock then I left the moss to grow and realised this is the perfect habitat for *Pinguicola grandiflora* which flowered after I planted it last year I am very pleased to see it has survived and is increasing.



***Pinguicola grandiflora***



I have to return to the Erythroniums for this week's parting picture.....  
Before I finish here is one last link to a [Bulb Log Video Dairy](#) looking from our swing seat at the new leaves emerging on the trees the troughs, raised beds and bonsai.