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Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 13.....27th March 2019



Hepatica nobilis and *Corydalis solida*



It was only a few weeks ago when I was weeding this narrow bed that I wondered if there were any plants left as there were no obvious signs of any life beyond the moss and liverwort growing on the broken concrete landscape however my concerns were ill founded as it is now bursting with colour. The *Hepatica nobilis* were the first to show flowers, quickly followed by the *Corydalis solida* which is at this moment providing the dominant colour.



The hepatica tend to flower before their leaves which will start to grow in a few weeks' time and by the time those leaves are fully formed the corydalis will be retreating back underground making them perfect companions.



Corydalis solida comes in a wide range of colours from muddy purple through royal purple through stunning reds and pinks to pure white forms, which are not so common and have a tendency to be less vigorous.



Here the creamy white is provided by **Corydalis malkensis** which is intermixed with self-seeding **Corydalis solida** in various colour forms; a scene that is repeated, as shown in the pictures below, across a number of the beds.



Garden views





Scilla rosenii



Crocus heuffelianus



Erythronium hybrid



**Saxifraga
x apiculata
'Gregor
Mendel'**
growing in a
trough.



A selection of the bulbs currently flowering in this bulb house sand bed includes Narcissus, Muscari, Techophilea and Ipheion.

Narcissus 'Fat Rascal'

Narcissus 'Fat Rascal', a *Narcissus obesus* x *triandrus* cross, is one of Anne Wright's many excellent hybrids. Her [Dryad Nursery](#) is an excellent source for anyone wanting to acquire the more specialist Narcissus bulbs as well as a range of other choice plants.





The yellow flowers of *Narcissus obesus* with a pure white *Narcissus cantabricus*.



A pale yellow form of *Narcissus bulbocodium*.



Narcissus bulbocodium is a variable species the picture above with two forms growing in one of the slab beds shows some of the variation in the shape of the corona.



The yellow ***Ipheion sellowiana*** which has gone under a number of names but is most commonly seen as *Ipheion sellowiana*: here it is seen alongside a form of *Ipheion uniflorum*.

There have been a number of revisions and it is difficult to keep up with the current names, I think all the *Ipheion* are now considered to be *Tristagma*, but here I am using the names I have known for years and are still the most commonly used.



Ipheion (Tristagma) 'Alberto Castillo' is a wonderful garden plant forming good size patches of starry white flowers – here it is growing in a narrow bed at the base of a south facing wall along with **Tulipa turkestanica** see picture below.



Tulipa turkestanica and Ipheion (Tristagma) 'Alberto Castillo'



There is no way you would find these unlikely bed fellows together in the wild as they come from different continents: one from Central Asia the other from South America but having such plant combinations is part of the fun of gardening.



Another unlikely pairing is a yellow bicoloured trumpet daffodil from Europe along with a North American Trillium.



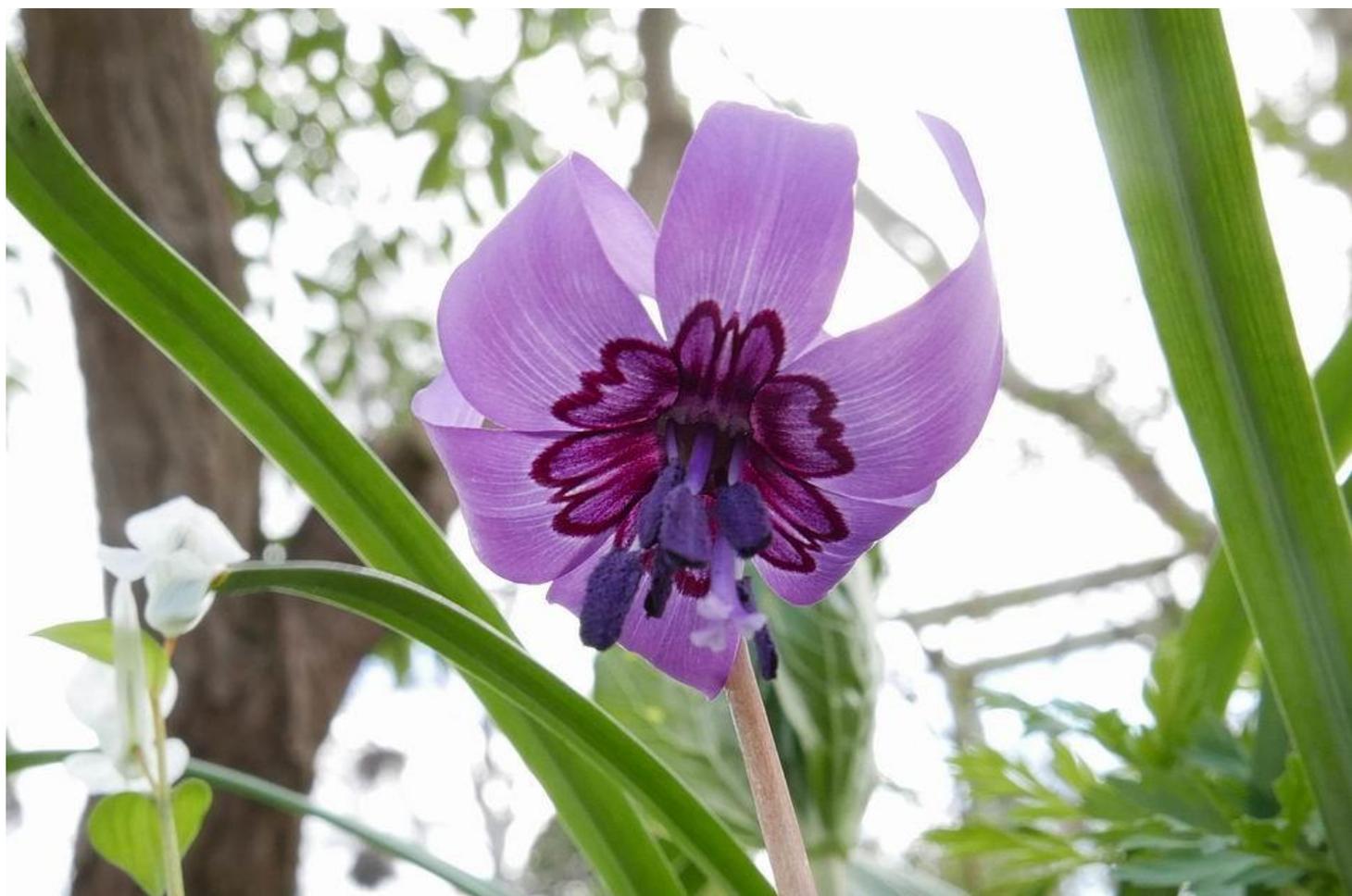
Also bringing yellow to the garden is the early flowering **Erythronium tuolumnense**.



Erythronium tuolumnense



Rising through the ever expanding green carpet I spotted an **Erythronium japonicum** in flower.



Erythronium japonicum



A white form of **Erythronium dens-canis**.



Erythronium dens-canis.

Having grown most of our erythronium from seed we have a wide range of forms including this almost white form with an attractively coloured central zone.



Erythronium dens-canis



Erythronium dens-canis



Erythronium dens-canis



Originally planted beside the *Celmisia* the seedlings from this *Erythronium revolutum* now flow out from the bed and are colonising the gravel side of the path.

**Erythronium
revolutum**

As well as their visual variation, the flowering period of seedlings will also vary; this is among the first *Erythronium revolutum* into flower well ahead of others.



The pink colour above my head provided by **Rhododendron uvariifolium** and **Rhododendron elegantulum** flowers reflect the waves of pink of pink of the corydalis and hellebores at ground level.



Rhododendron uvariifolium



Rhododendron elegantulum

That's all I have time for this week but there will be lots more colour to come.....