



BULB LOG 19 ..... 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021



*Trillium grandiflorum* 'Gothenburg Pink'



A few years ago after delivering a lecture at Gothenburg Garden I was gifted a pot of three seedlings from their *Trillium grandiflorum* Gothenburg Pink strain – my normal practice would be to plant them in different areas of the garden to spread any risk but to increase the opportunity of them cross pollinating I planted them close together and all three can be seen flowering in the picture above. One of the features that distinguishes this strain from other pink



forms is that the seedlings all inherit the pink colouration to differing degrees and indeed all three seedlings have a good pink coloured flower. The main difference between them is in the colour of their leaves with the one on the front cover having very dark leaves and perhaps even more promising is that it now has three flowering shoots while the others still only have one.

Many white trilliums take on a pink to deep purple colour as the flowers age, such as on this *Trillium hibbersonii* which has been flowering for over a month.

***Trillium hibbersonii***



This is one of my favourite **Trillium chloropetalum** hybrids. I love the subtle colour and transparency of the petals.



**Rhododendron yakushimanum x recurvoides**

Disappointingly we lost so many of the early flowers to frosts but now we are seeing another wave of colour from the Rhododendrons.

The flower buds of **Rhododendron yakushimanum x tsariense** that were most advanced have been destroyed by the recent frosts these are the brown ones seen in the pictures right and below but around half were still tightly closed so were undamaged and are now displaying in the cool sunshine.



**Rhododendron yakushimanum x tsariense** showing the brown frosted buds as well as beautiful flowers - the frosting does not harm the new growth which comes from separate buds that surround the flower bud and will come into growth after the flowering.



**Rhododendron faberi KR 193** the seed of which was collected by Keith Rushforth on the sacred Mount Omei and through the outreach of Zoom we met up with Keith when we were attending a recent online talk.



One more of Keith Rushforth's collections from the same trip resulted in **Rhododendron pingianum KR 150**.



**View with Rhododendron**



**Rhododendron primuliflorum**



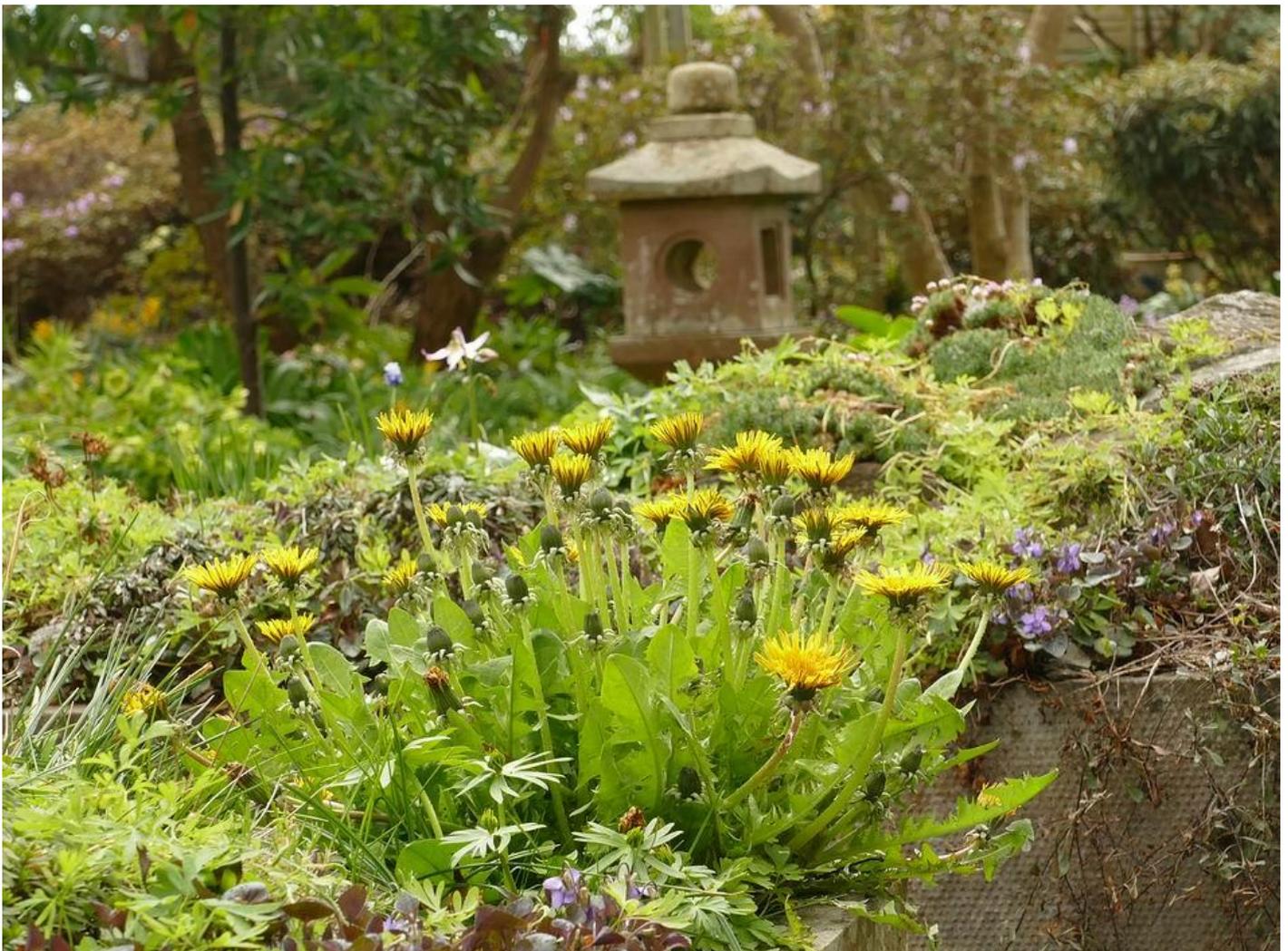
A haze of colour on the trees indicates that the leaves are starting to emerge and we will soon have a canopy.



**Slab beds and troughs.**



The alpine plants are now coming into leaf and growth on the slab beds and these will take over from the mostly yellow early bulbous plants which have been providing the early interest.



**Taraxacum officinalis** – As if I needed another reason to grow my beautiful pet Dandelion, I have found one when I watched some Goldfinches pulling apart the faded flowers to eat the seeds.



*Taraxicum officinalis* – I used to remove the flowers as soon as they shut but now I will leave them to allow the birds to feed but will remove them before they get anywhere near the stage of shedding the seed.



Yellow is also the dominant colour in the bulb house sand beds as the last of the Narcissus are flowering.



I am pretty sure that **Narcissus x cazorlanus** is not the current name for this beautiful naturally occurring hybrid between *Narcissus bulbocodium* and *Narcissus triandrus*.



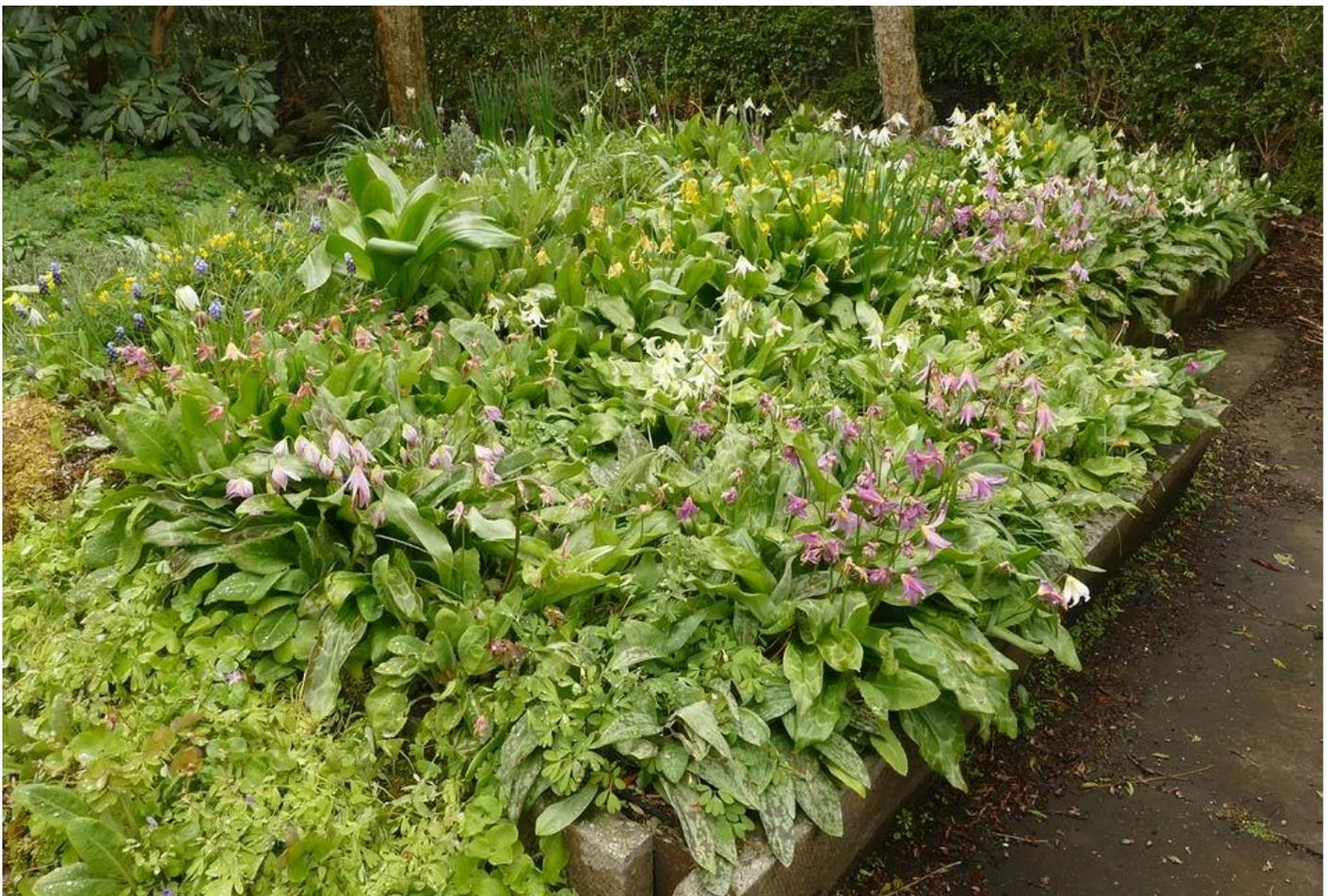
Strong growing bulbs of **Narcissus x cazorlanus** will have two flowers per stem while smaller bulbs have just one.



Most of the growth in the bulb house sand beds will start to turn yellow now as the bulbs retreat into their summer rest but this is not the end of the flowering completely as I have been trying to extend the flowering using among others *Allium* and *Ornithogalum*.



Outside a basket of ***Fritillaria pyrenaica*** seedlings are flowering and will be released into the garden.



There have been plenty of flowers on the Erythronium again this year but sadly the weather has not been kind to them. The long periods of cold followed by very wet has resulted in many of their flowers not opening fully, neither have they lasted as long as they would in better weather, so we have missed out on the mass flowering spectacle that we are used to



Despite the weather there have been plenty of individual erythronium highlights such as these **Erythronium 'Craigton Cream'** that must have sneaked into this dwarf willow trough when I re-used some old potting compost. My habit of re-using the potting and seed compost in the troughs has meant that we don't have many troughs that are without some type of welcome bulbous interloper that slipped in as small bulbils that I missed.



This group of dwarf willows, including *Salix nakamura* var. *yezoalpina*, are growing in the rocky crevice landscape in one of the slab beds.



***Salix nakamura* var. *yezoalpina***



**Salix hylematica**

Many of the willows are especially showy when their catkins are flowering such as Salix hylematica.



Salix hylematica has been growing in this bed since it was first built, to the extent that it completely covered this south facing wall until, for some reason, it started to die back - leaving only a few healthy areas, mostly where the stems had layered forming a new root system. Perhaps the plant had just reached old age and where the trailing stems had rooted it got a new lease of life but this loss provides me with a new opportunity to plant up the crevices between the stones. This is gardening on a micro scale where I am carefully planting small cuttings and seedlings in the gaps exposed when the willow died back.



To get some seedlings I simply go to the other side of the path where there is a self-seeding colony of a particularly nice small dark form of *Erythronium revolutum* growing. Some of the seedlings are growing in the soil formed by the breakdown of organic detritus that covered the edges of the slab and I have simply lifted a few of them.



These are the ***Erythronium revolutum*** seedlings that I lifted from the path and have now planted in the wall.



I also wanted to plant some **(Pseudo)Trillium rivale** in the gaps so went to this colony on the top of another wall where there are plenty of seedlings surrounding the main group where I can lift a few to transplant.



**(Pseudo)Trillium rivale** seedlings.



The wall I was planting into can be seen in the middle distance as I look over another raised wall where the flowers of *Rhododendron dendrocharis* that were not damaged by the frosts are open.



Forms of *Anemone nemorosa* that form an attractive ground cover are at their best as the following images show.



**Anemone nemorosa**





A range of Anemone form decorative and functional carpets in many of our beds holding in moisture and keeping down weeds while allowing other plants such as the taller **Erythronium 'Minnehaha'** to grow happily.



With the many of the *Erythronium sibiricum* complex flowers now starting to go over, at least one form, seen in the foreground, is just coming into flower now. Raising plants from seed can lead to many variations - these are mostly visual but there are many other advantages such as extending the flowering period of a plant.



A later flowering seedling raised from the **Erythronium sibiricum** complex.



We have had hundreds of **Erythronium americanum** flower buds waiting for enough warmth to open but sadly this year because of the cold most of their flowers will wither without ever opening; these few are making an effort.



***Erythronium americanum***

I can only hope that next year we will enjoy a warmer spring so these wee beauties can put on their full display.....