



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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(Pseudo)Trillium rivale and Erythronium revolutum



My style of gardening is about watching nature, following nature, playing with nature. I am constantly interacting with plants, encouraging them to grow or cutting them back if they grow too much accepting that when a plant dies it offers another opportunity. I seek to have plants grow in every habitat of the garden.

I will start with a brief update of the front driveway planting which has moved on from the early Anemone, Crocus, Narcissus, etc flowering through the gravel which has all but disappeared under the emerging growth.



The ever expanding colony of **Fritillaria meleagris**, which started near the front and right, helped by me scattering seeds, is spreading with seedlings of varying ages now growing along the length of the gravel getting closer to my goal of a continuous strip of these flowers all the way along the drive.



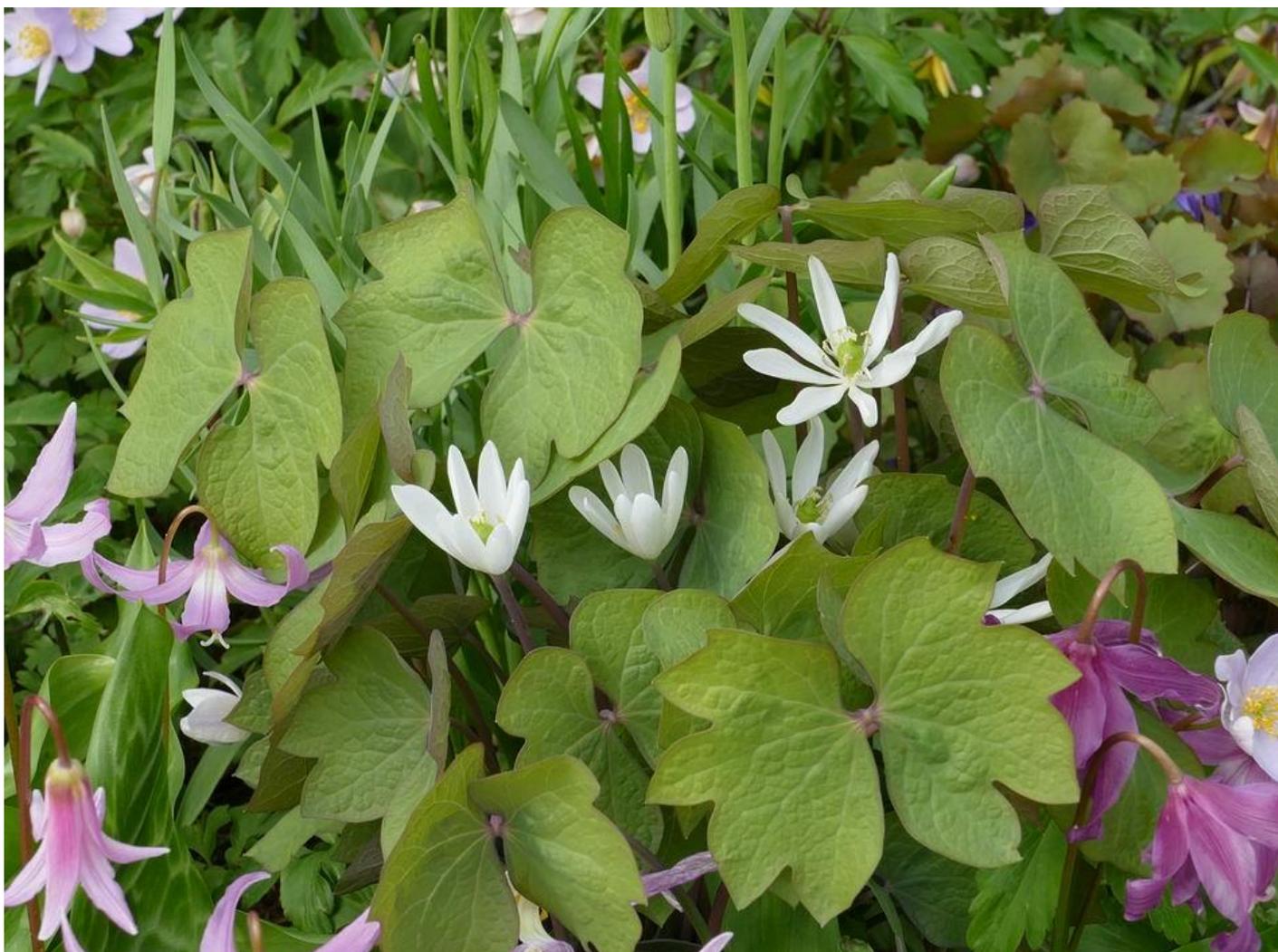
The wave of **Erythronium revolutum** flowers is more established covering most of the length of the gravel and already the next dominant phase of growth, *Phyteuma spicatum*, is emerging for its spiky white flowers to take their turn in the driveway in a few weeks' time.



Moving to the back garden you are greeted by an array of growth and colour.



Continuing with the communities theme from last week, where we combine groups of plants of similar size and vigour, here is an international group of some smaller plants including Anemone, Erythronium and Jeffersonia.



Native to Eastern North America **Jeffersonia diphylla**.



Jeffersonia dubia from North East Asia





(Pseudo)Trillium rivale: I use the brackets because we have always known this plant as Trillium rivale however in 2002 [Phylogenetic Analyses of Trilliaceae based on Morphological and Molecular Data](#) reclassified it as a separate monotypic genus. I still think most gardeners know it under the original name.



Some years ago, inspired by a habitat I had visited in Oregon, I started to plant (Pseudo)Trillium rivale, crevice style, in the gaps between the rocks of this wall. At this time of year I carefully placed tiny single leaved seedlings in full growth as well as seeds directly into the gaps and year by year the plants have established, flowered and in turn shed their own seed.



This is slow gardening where the journey towards my vision takes years to achieve and because I do not know how the plants will thrive long term, there is no destination which makes it all the more exciting.



(Pseudo)Trillium rivale

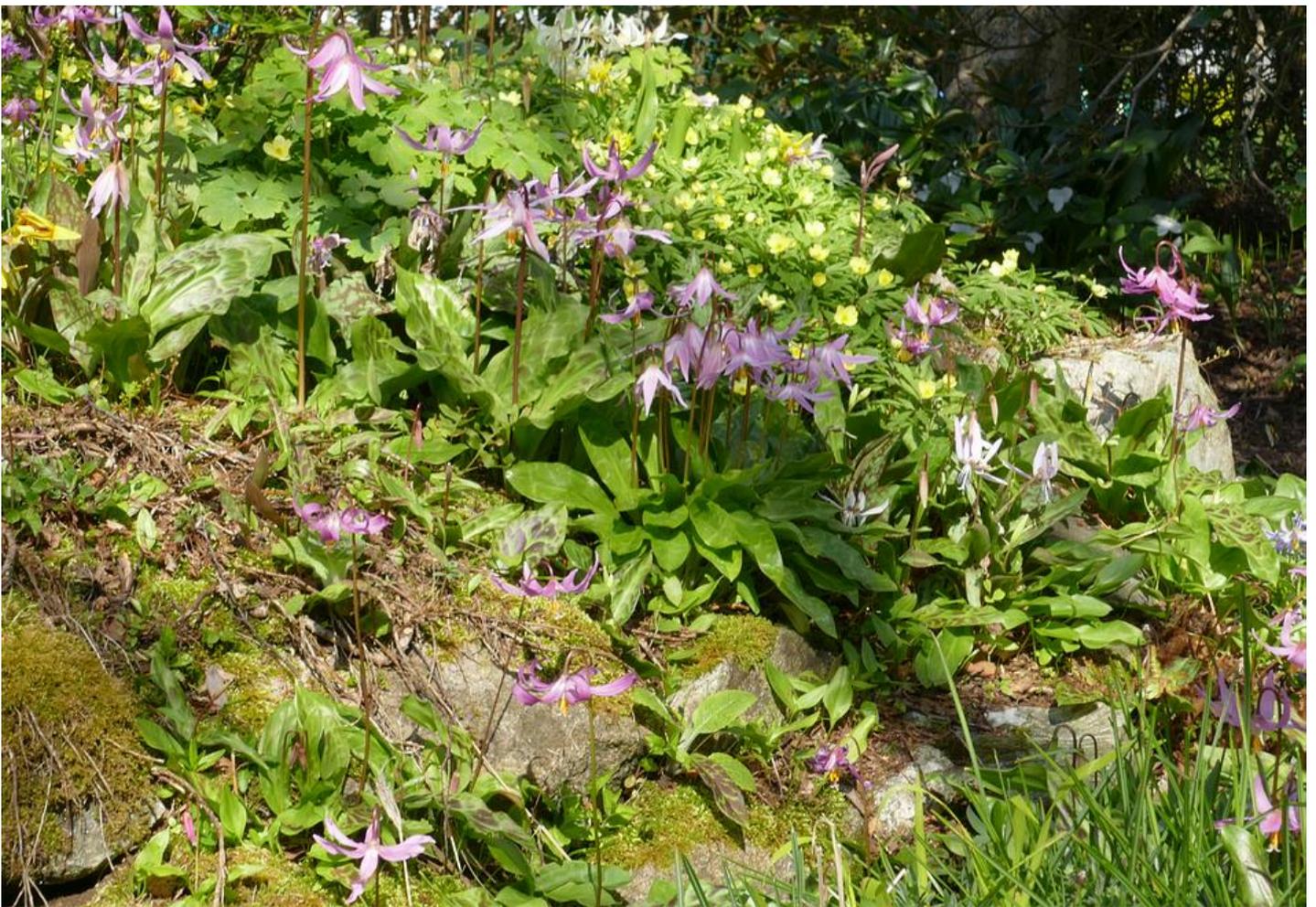


(Pseudo)Trillium rivale and Trillium kurabayashi.

The group shown above are growing further along the raised bed with more plants seeding down the wall face.

Trillium and Erythronium are not usually recommended as crevice plants but nature showed me the way when Erythronium seedlings first started appearing in the gaps of the vertical and sloping walls around the garden. Since then I have assisted by scattering seeds.





This area of the wall is now well populated by generations of *Erythronium* seedlings at every age from those just germinating to mature flowering plants.

Further along this area was completely covered by the low spreading branches of a well established *Salix fruticulosa* (syn. *S. hylematica*). In recent years due to the drier weather much of the growth has died back, however parts of the plant have layered themselves in moister more shaded areas opening up the opportunity for more plants, including *Erythronium*, to grow in the gaps between the rocks.





This group of **Erythronium revolutum** seedlings placed themselves in this gap sowing the idea in my head to spread more seeds into the crevices further along to the right.



(Pseudo)Trillium rivale is one of my favourites and we are fortunate that it likes our growing conditions allowing us to have it in several locations across the garden –you may also spot **Trillium hibbersonii** bottom left.



(Pseudo)Trillium rivale



(Pseudo)Trillium rivale



Trillium ovatum



Trillium grandiflorum

We raised most of the Trilliums we grow from seed with much of it now being from second and third generations all from our own garden so there is a wide variation.



Trillium grandiflorum 'Gothenburg Pink'



There is much confusion in the names applied to Trilliums in gardens especially plants raised from seed of garden origin where variation and hybridisation occur readily and this is especially so among the *Trillium erectum* group.



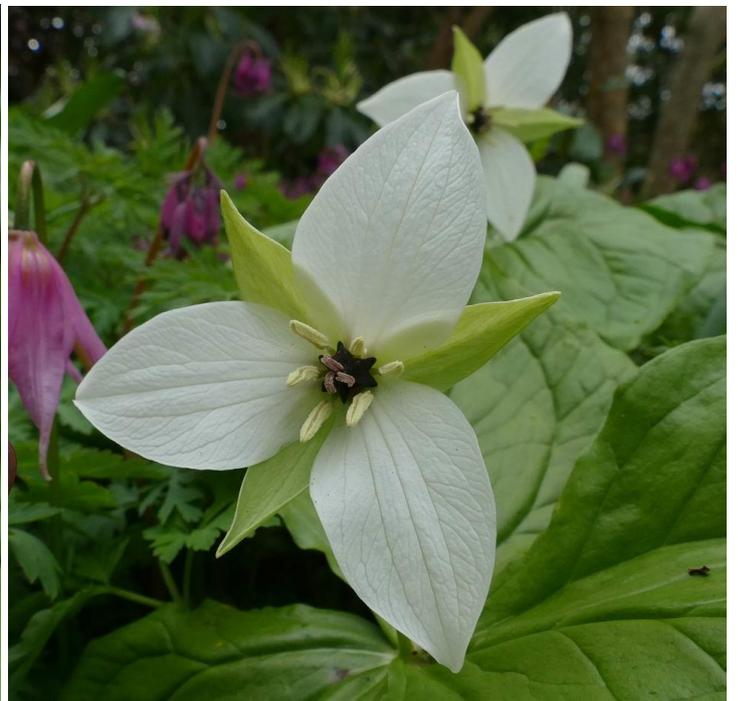
Trillium erectum



The more I look at the Trilliums in our garden the more confused I become especially this Erectum group.



Trillium flexipes



Trillium simile

I have added some names but not with a lot of confidence but one thing I am sure about, is that I love them all. Should you want to read about these wonderful garden plants there are two books that I refer to: Trilliums by Fredrick Case and Trilliums in Woodland and Garden, American Treasures by Don L. Jacobs, they are full of information with some contradictions and both are available on the second hand market.

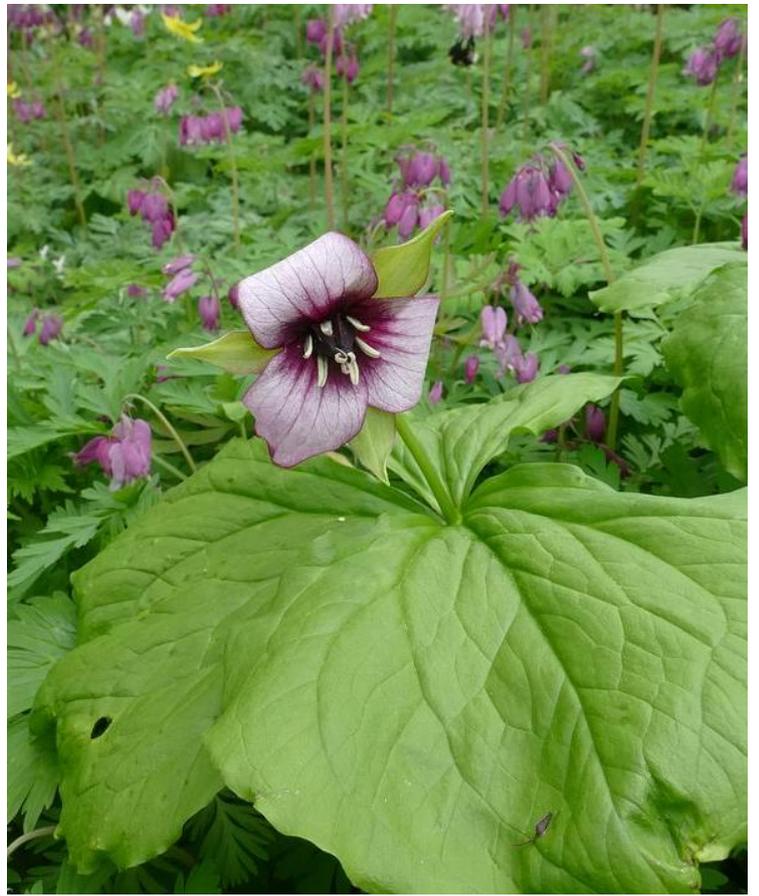


Trillium



If you want to read more on the trilliums in our garden check back to [Bulb Log 2020](#).





Trillium sulcatum along with a hybrid crossed with *Trillium erectum*.



More important to me than the names are the way these plants work in with our style of gardening. Their leaves and flowers appear on the top of a stem making them perfectly suited to growing through the carpet of foliage.



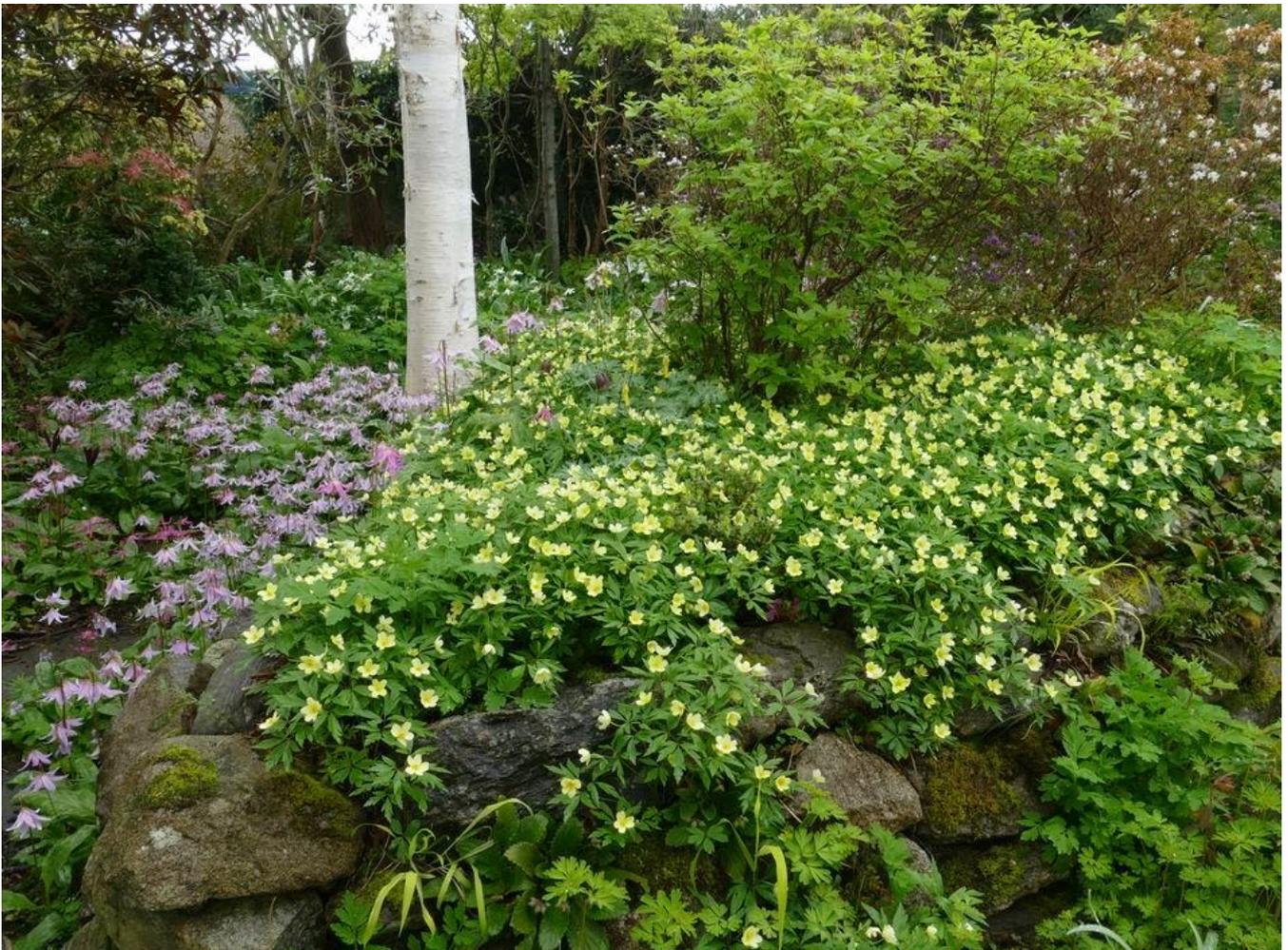
Looking down, as well as seeing flowers, I like the ground to be covered with a wide variation of foliage.



I am often asked what to plant that will grow/flower after the Erythronium well there are clues in this picture where you can see **Lathyrus vernus** and **Lilium martagon** to name but two from a long sequence of plants.



Although we had some good rain yesterday the mostly dry weather has caused the Erythronium flowers to go over quickly but there are still plenty around, to enjoy for a few more weeks, in the cooler parts of the garden.





Rhododendron dendrocharis and **Anemone nemorosa** growing on top of the same raised wall bed as the (Pseudo)Trillium rivale I showed some pages back.



Anemone nemorosa cultivars.





The view looking across the raised wall towards the 'dwarf Rhododendron', bed.



Dwarf is a relative term in gardening and forty years ago these were tiny rhododendrons, each forming a mound of small foliage which were covered in flowers every year - many got lifted placed in a pot and taken to a plant show returning back to this bed a few days later. We would have a job to do that to this magnificent Rhododendron 'Merganser' now.....