

A Group of Pocoliform Snowdrops —Discovered Near Allentown

by Gerald Simcoe

Every time I see a group of snowdrops, I stop and have a closer look. Usually they are of the same ilk with little variation. Having gone on walks rustling through naturalized stands with Alan Street, Hitch Lyman, and David Culp, I learned what to look for in variation at first from a distance, and then up close.

In late winter of 2013, I happened upon a colony of snowdrops with seemingly varying sizes and intensities of white. In a most subtly exciting way, I discovered that some of these flowers consisted of six equal segments, rather than the usual three longer outer plus three shorter inner segments. It was a true pocoliform snowdrop and there were more than one!

This made me very curious. Upon closer examination, there were two similar clumps of pocoliforms in the vicinity, the shorter one 4" tall, the other 5", each sporting five inflorescences per clump. They looked and

behaved like a typical *Galanthus nivalis*, exhibiting the floriferousness and clumping strength of the species.

Scattered throughout the stand were singular taller pocoliforms, one with nine segments of equal length—sporting green tips—a sign of variation and fertility!

The tall, green-tipped ones were not in one clump but scattered throughout, which leads me to think of it being a *Galanthus plicatus* hybrid, as that species prefers to grow here and there, as opposed to in larger clumps. Also, the foliar venation appeared



photo courtesy of Gerald Simcoe

Green-tipped, Pocoliform Group



photo courtesy of Gerald Simcoe

Galanthus 'Little Carol'

to be explicative, another characteristic of the species. A charming characteristic of the entire group of these is the spathe curling round, making an elegant boutonniere suggestion.

Names for these will be after the artist's mother 'Carol Simcoe' and 'Little Carol', respectively. The tall green-spotted pocoliform reminds one of the elegant 17th century neckwear called 'Jabot'. They will



photo courtesy of Gerald Simcoe

Galanthus 'Carol Simcoe'

have to endure the test of time and be grown out in gardens, but they seem to have existed for quite some time, having originated in this spot.

Alan Street calls these first naturally occurring pocoliforms of galanthus in the new world, of which he added the one with green tips is "doubly bubbly"!



photo courtesy of Gerald Simcoe

Galanthus 'Jabot'