

Bright Spots



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

A SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR

November 15, 2017

Did you know...?

The stately Darlington Oak, *Quercus hemisphaerica*, stands guard just to the east of Bloemendaal House. It was planted in April of 1987 in observance of Arbor Day. This species of oak is relatively fast growing, which helps to explain its large size and magnificent canopy after only 30 years in the garden. (The height at planting was reported to be 20', requiring a commercial tree spade; the photo shows a gangly adolescent tree.) It is a semi-evergreen, that is new leaves push off the old in the Spring. Some sources describe it as "tardily deciduous."

Certainly anyone observing it can agree that the scientific name is particularly appropriate. *Quercus* derives from the Celtic *quer* for beautiful and *cuez* for tree. The species name from the Greek, *hemi* (half) and *sphaer* (a ball) refers to the shape of the canopy. William Bartram (son of John and a famed plant explorer in his own right) is credited with first describing *Q. hemisphaerica* on his travels through Georgia.

Darlington oaks are shorter lived than many in the genus, maturing at around 50 years and living between 70 to 90 years. Normal height range is 60' to 65'. These native trees are a good food source for wildlife as well, producing abundant crops of acorns.

This season the garden's Darlington Oak will take on a new identity. It is being transformed into the self-sacrificing apple tree from Shel Silverstein's celebrated children's book *The Giving Tree*. Come admire it in both its natural and dramatic roles during the approaching holidays.

Sources: <http://www.augustaga.gov/1644/Darlington-Oak>;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_hemisphaerica; <http://www.treesofnorthamerica.net/show/tree/Darlington-Oak/152>; *The Henrico County Line*, April 16, 1987; *Flora of Virginia*, p.616.

***Notable Plants:** Several times each month, Garden Volunteers record the most dramatic seasonal displays and highlight exceptional plants in the garden and Conservatory.

+Denotes Virginia Native Plant

Plant Material	Location
CENTRAL GARDEN and CONSERVATORY LOOP	
OUTSIDE THE GATES TURN LEFT	
TURN RIGHT TO ENTER	
GEORGE BRAGDON DAFFODIL GARDEN	
Bluestar, <i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i> , thread like foliage, green turning to gold	Throughout
Winterberry, <i>Ilex</i> 'Winter's Gold', tall shrub with abundant gold berries	Left of arch

RETURN TO THE BRICK PATH, TURN RIGHT TO	
EAST and WEST TRIANGLE BEDS	
<i>Fall plantings</i>	
FOUNTAIN GARDEN	
Upper Level	
*Muhly Grass, <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> 'White Cloud' , fine wiry grass clump with fog of white/lime green seed heads	East and west side
CONTINUE UP THE STEPS TO THE CONSERVATORY	
Ornamental grass, <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> 'Blonde Ambition', spikes of bristly pale seed heads floating above clumps of blue-green foliage	Grass beds outside the Conservatory
Ravenna Grass, <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> , very tall, erect, clump-forming grass	Outside corners, rear of bed
Conservatory Ponds	
Egyptian Papyrus, <i>Cyperus papyrus</i> , tall straight stems with globe of green "threads" on top	Throughout
CONSERVATORY	
Palm House	
Queen Sago Palm, <i>Cycas circinalis</i> , cone-bearing evergreen, stiff leaves with stiff narrow leaflets and strongly recurved margins. Notice the emerging velvety new leaves. This plant is not actually a palm tree.	Central spiral planter, right side
Bromeliad, <i>Aechmea</i> 'Loie's Pride', tall spikes of bright orange bracts above long glossy strappy foliage	Throughout
Bird of Paradise, <i>Strelitzia reginae</i> , vivid orange and bright purple crane-shaped flower, large dark green fan-shaped leaves	Both sides of entrance
Bromeliad, <i>Portea</i> 'Jungles', large rosette of stiff leaves, tall coral flower spikes with purple tips	Left corner
East Wing	
Enjoy the abundance of Orchids	
Corsage Orchid, <i>Laeliocattleya</i> 'Molly Tyler x Redskin', large cattleya hybrid, deep reddish purple flowers lip is darker color with gold veins	Right side, pots behind ledge
Lei Orchid, <i>Dendrobium</i> Hybrid, purple tipped 5 petal flower with white centers	Right side, multiple pots behind ledge
Dancing Lady, <i>Oncidium</i> Orchid 'Sweet Sugar', bright yellow lip resembling a skirt with orange and brown marked sepals and petals	Right side, multiple post
Lei Orchid, <i>Dendrobium</i> Jaq-Hawaii 'Uniwai Pearl', five petal pure white flowers	Left side, multiple pots by grotto
Dancing Lady, <i>Oncidium</i> Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy', dark reddish purple flowers, very fragrant with a chocolate scent	Right side, multiple pots
West Wing	
Ellemeet's Agave, <i>Agave ellemeetiana</i> , huge specimen with gracefully curving leaves, from the cloud forests of Mexico near Oaxaca	Left of entrance
Passion Flower, <i>Passiflora vitifolia</i> , multiple vines covered with brilliant red flowers	Left side, over trellis
<i>Oxalis triangularis</i> 'Mijke', vibrant burgundy/purple leaf plant with pink flowers	Throughout
Dwarf Cavendish Banana, <i>Musa acuminata</i> 'Dwarf Cavendish', look for bunch of bananas in center of the plant	Right side behind cottage

Crown of Thorns, <i>Euphorbia milii</i> , succulent plant, dark green leaves grow along thick, thorny stems; red-orange flowers	Far end, past cottage, left side
OUTSIDE WEST WING	
PROCEED AHEAD TO VISIT KROGER COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN AND OUR DEMONSTRATION APIARY	
RETRACE STEPS	
FROM CONSERVATORY PROCEED DOWN STEPS TO	
FOUNTAIN GARDEN	
<i>These beds display new Fall plantings</i>	
AT INTERSECTION TURN RIGHT TOWARD EDUCATION CENTER, THEN LEFT TO ENTER	
MEDITATION GARDEN	
RIGHT OF PATH	
MEDICINAL GARDEN	
LEFT OF PATH	
WALK STRAIGHT INTO	
FOUR SEASONS GARDEN	
Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter Red', tall shrub with lance-shaped leaves and dark red berries	Right rear bed
Reed Grass, <i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster', ornamental grass with erect clumps of narrow, flattened, green leaves, tall feather plumes	Throughout
Red Twiggged Dogwood, <i>Cornus alba</i> 'Elegantissima', small shrub with blood red stems	Right front bed
RETURN TO THE VISITOR CENTER OR ADD	
ASIAN VALLEY LOOP	
TAKE NOTE OF THE VARIETY OF FOLIAGE COLORS AND TEXTURES CHARACTERISTIC OF AN ASIAN GARDEN	
<i>Camellia japonica</i> 'Winter's Snowman', fragrant white semi-double flowers, yellow stamens, dark evergreen foliage	Right of path at the back of berm
AT THE INTERSECTION, TURN RIGHT ONTO THE GRAVEL PATH LOOP	
<i>Camellia</i> 'Hot Flash', semi-double rose red flowers, deep evergreen glossy leaves	Right side of loop pathway
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i> 'Pink Snow', semi-double, fragrant, light pink large flowers, large shrub with glossy deep green foliage	Right side of loop pathway
LEAVING THE GRAVEL PATH, WALK ALONG THE LAKE	
<i>Camellia</i> 'Winter's Beauty', shell pink semi-double flowers on shrub with deep green foliage	Left of path across from the pond
<i>Camellia japonica</i> 'Winter's Snowman', fragrant white semi-double flowers, yellow stamens, dark evergreen foliage	Left of path
AT THE INTERSECTION TURN RIGHT	
THEN TURN LEFT DOWN THE WINDING PATH	
WEST ISLAND GARDEN	
A WETLAND ECOSYSTEM	
Swamp Cypress, <i>Taxodium distichum</i> , tall deciduous conifer with striking bronze foliage	Throughout
Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter Red', tall shrub with orange-red berries	Throughout
AT THE END OF THE BOARDWALK, TURN LEFT THEN	
TURN LEFT ON THE BRICK PATH TO ENTER	

Joan Van Arnam Memorial Walk	
AT THE INTERSECTION, BEAR RIGHT TO ENTER	
FLAGER PERENNIAL GARDEN LOOP	
BEAR RIGHT ONTO BRICK PATH	
Winter Hardy Ferns create a wonderful variety of textures and colors.	Throughout
* Fountain Grass, <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 'National Arboretum', deep purple and green plumes with lance-like leaves	Throughout
TURN LEFT AT THE WOODLAND WALK SIGN, TURN LEFT DOWN THE STAIRS	
Scaly Wood Fern, <i>Dryopteris polylepis</i> , three large stands of tall erect ferns	Right of path
CONTINUE ON PATH	
False Holly, <i>Osmanthus heterophyllus</i> , cluster of tall shrubs with dark, stiff, glossy leaves and clusters of fragrant white flowers along the woody stems	Left of path at intersection
AT THE END OF THE PATH, TURN LEFT	
<i>Camellia</i> 'Winter's Snowman', fragrant white semi-double flowers, yellow stamens, dark evergreen foliage	Left of path across from gazebo
WALK PAST THE BRICK CIRCLE TO ENTER THE CHERRY TREE WALK	
Switchgrass, <i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Northwind', olive green to blue-green grass topped by beige plumes	Left of path before tree house
BEAR LEFT INTO LUCY PAYNE MINOR GARDEN	
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i> 'Setsugekka', tall broad-leafed evergreen shrub with large white single flowers, petals curled, many yellow stamens in the centers	Right of path, near Rustic Gazebo
CONTINUE ON AGGREGATE WALK AROUND TO THE LEFT	
VIENNA COBB ANDERSON MEADOW AND CONSTRUCTED WETLAND	
Spend a minute taking in the variety of color and texture in our densely planted meadow. Birds and pollinators appreciate the abundance of food and shelter that the plants provide	
Holly, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter's Gold', tall deciduous shrub with golden berries	Left of path along the lake
Japanese Winterberry, <i>Ilex serrata</i> 'Sparkleberry', tall deciduous shrubs developed at the National Arboretum with striking display of brilliant red berries	Left of path along lake
Holly, <i>Ilex x</i> 'Hoogendorn', tall deciduous shrub with leathery oval leaves, heavily loaded with red berries	Left of path along lake
LOUISE COCHRANE ROSE GARDEN Enjoy the last Fall flush of blooms	
EXIT THE ROSE GARDEN, TURN RIGHT ON THE AGGREGATE PATH	
MAIN GARDEN PATH Fall plantings	
Japanese Maple, <i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Sangu-Kaku', multi-stemmed tree with v-shaped habit, distinctive coral-red winter bark, color intensifies in cold weather	Left of path at the top of the hill
Bloodtwig Dogwood, <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> , vivid red twigs on multi-stemmed shrub, color is brightest on new growth	Left of path deep in the bed
THE VISITOR CENTER IS STRAIGHT AHEAD ON THE LEFT	