

## Bright Spots

(ROUTE DIRECTIONS ARE ALWAYS NOTED IN ALL CAPS)



# Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

June 20, 2018

### Did you know...?

The June 6<sup>th</sup> Bright Spots highlighted a stand of *Pontederia cordata* (Pickerel Weed) found in West Island Garden, but there is another attractive water plant to be found there: *Thalia dealbata* (Water Canna). Both are to the right of the boardwalk in different locations, and from a distance they can look very alike, sowing some confusion amongst our avid readers.

Fortunately, at the moment *T. dealbata* can also be found right next to *P. cordata* in the Conservatory Pond just to the right of the entrance doors. The *Thalia* here is a single plant, taller and thinner than its cluster of *Pontederia* companions, and this accidental juxtaposition allows for a close inspection of both. We can play the game “Which of these is not like the others?” The closeup location allows us to really see the difference.

The Pickerel Weed has a more lavender bloom, shaped like a bottle brush, and its stem is shorter. The leaves are more bright green and spade-like than *Thalia*’s blue-green lance form. *Thalia*’s bloom is a darker purple, but each bud is overlaid with a white papery covering. Pickerel Weed is indeed a shorter plant, topping at 2’-4’, whereas Water Canna will grow to 8’-10’ when mature. The difference in leaf shape and color becomes more pronounced as *Thalia* matures.

The USDA profile for *Thalia* lists “powdery alligator flag” as a synonym, so both these attractive plants have unfortunate common names. Water Canna is listed as a tropical but it was planted in West Island in 1994. Pickerel Weed is hardy to Zone 3.

Sources: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a646>;  
<http://www.cooltropicalplants.com/Thalia-dealbata.html>; <https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=THDE>;  
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a428>

**\*Notable Plants:** Several times a 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
<b>CENTRAL GARDEN AND CONSERVATORY LOOP</b>	
<b>NORTH TERRACE</b> THE BEDS AND CONTAINERS IN THIS AREA ARE PLANTED WITH SUMMER ANNUALS AND TROPICAL PLANTS	
Crape Myrtle, <i>Lagerstroemia fauriei</i> ‘Townhouse’, white blooms on tall single trunk	Matched specimens in each corner bed
<b>TURN RIGHT TO ENTER</b> <b>GEORGE BRAGDON DAFFODIL GARDEN</b>	

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Purple Coneflower, <i>Echinacea</i> sp., large daisy like flowers in shades of pink and red-orange, spiky orange centers	Throughout
Oakleaf Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Sikes Dwarf', showy white flowers	Corner bed
<b>RETURN TO CENTRAL PATH</b>	
*Daylily, <i>Hemerocallis</i> 'Ruby Slipper', large ruby velvet petals with gold throat	Right of path
<b>EAST and WEST TRIANGLE BEDS</b>	
<b>THESE BEDS ARE PLANTED IN SUMMER ANNUAL AND TROPICAL PLANTS</b>	
<b>CONTINUE UP THE STEPS</b>	
Ornamental Onion, <i>Allium</i> 'Globemaster', striking seed heads on spikes above elongated foliage in a distinctive rosette pattern	Grass beds outside Conservatory
<b>Conservatory Ponds</b>	
<b>A VARIETY OF AQUATIC PLANTS INCLUDING PICKEREL WEED, PAPYRUS AND HARDY WATER LILIES</b>	
<b>Conservatory, Palm House</b>	
Silver Vase, <i>Aechmea fasciata</i> , silver grey arching, lance shaped leaves, lemon yellow flowers emerging from central stalk	Pots, both sides of entrance doors
*Sago Palm, <i>Cycas revoluta</i> , lush stems radiating from center (This 32 year old plant was started from seed by a garden volunteer and donated to LGBG.)	Spiral bed, second level, left of center
<b>Conservatory, East Wing</b>	
<b>TAKE TIME TO APPRECIATE THE EVER-CHANGING ORCHID DISPLAY</b>	
Spiral Ginger, <i>Costus comosus</i> , glossy green leaves with spirally arranged velvety undersides, large showy flowers	Left side near doors
<i>Bougainvillea</i> x 'Monka', Oo-la-la <sup>R</sup> , deep rose flower bracts on climbing branches	Far left corner
Stag Horn Fern, <i>Platycerium</i> sp., grey-green fronds which resemble antler, note the tips of some fronds are covered with brown spores	Overhead hanging baskets
<b>Conservatory, North Wing</b>	
<b>BUTTERFLIES, LIVE EXHIBIT</b>	
<b>Conservatory, West Wing</b>	
<b>ENJOY A DISPLAY OF SEASONAL PLANTS AND FERNS</b>	
Calamondin Orange, x <i>Citrofortunella microcarpa</i> , small shrub with green oval leaves and small orange fruit	Right side near door
* <i>Agapanthus</i> sp., 3' tall stalk above strappy foliage, topped with globe shaped clusters of lavender flowers	Throughout
Oxalis, <i>Oxalis triangularis</i> 'Mijke', low growing plant with purple triangular leaves and pale pink flowers	Both sides before the cottage
*Century Plant, <i>Agave americana</i> 'Blue', dagger shaped grey-green leaves emerging from a central base	Right side after cottage
<b>FROM CONSERVATORY, PROCEED TO ANGLED PATH ON THE LEFT</b>	
<b>AT THE INTERSECTION, TURN RIGHT TOWARD THE EDUCATION CENTER, THEN LEFT TO ENTER</b>	
<b>MEDICINAL GARDEN</b>	
Chaste Tree, <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> 'Shoal Creek', tall shrub with violet cone-shaped flower clusters	Front corner bed
<b>MEDITATION GARDEN</b>	
Silver Ponyfoot, <i>Dicondera argentea</i> 'Silver Falls', prostrate creeping plants with silvery foliage	Throughout
*+Wild Senna, <i>Senna marilandica</i> , shrubby perennial with feathery fern-like foliage, yellow flower clusters and bean-like seed pods	Right front

<b>FOUR SEASONS GARDEN</b>	
* <b>Elderberry, <i>Sambucus racemosa</i> 'Lemony Lace'</b> , feathery lime green foliage on a small tree	Left rear bed
* <b>Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Haas Halo'</b> , very large white lacecap flower, a pollinator favorite	Left rear bed
CONTINUE TO VISITOR CENTER OR TURN LEFT TO ADD	
<b>ASIAN VALLEY</b> A VARIETY OF FOLIAGE COLORS AND TEXTURES CHARACTERISTIC OF AN ASIAN GARDEN	
* <b>Chinese Evergreen Dogwood, <i>Cornus angustata</i> 'Empress of China'™</b> , small tree with white flowers	Right of path
AT THE INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT WALKING ALONG LAKE	
* <b>Stokes' Aster, <i>Stokesia laevis</i></b> , delicate lavender-blue fringed flowers, stout upright stems	Left of path
Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea serrata</i> 'Blue Billow', broad shrub, low flat clusters of pale blue lace cap blossoms	Left of path before shoji screens
AT THE SHOJI SCREENS, TURN RIGHT	
TURN LEFT BEFORE TEA HOUSE, GO DOWN THE CURVING PATH	
AT THE INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT THEN RIGHT ONTO BOARDWALK TO ENTER	
<b>WEST ISLAND GARDEN</b> A WETLAND ECOSYSTEM	
Look for the dramatic and colorful <i>Sarracenia</i> (pitcher plant). Pitchers, actually specialized leaf structures, are emerging.	Throughout
+Milkwort, <i>Polygala lutea</i> , compase, head like clusters of brilliant orange flowers on short stems	Center bed
* <b>+Swamp Pink, <i>Calopogon pallidus</i></b> , pink lavender orchid flowers, tall stems	Center bed
Butterfly Weed, <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> , clustered orange flowers, 2017 Perennial of the Year	Left of path
* <b>Pickereel Weed, <i>Pontedericia cordata</i></b> , aquatic perennial with glossy narrow arrowhead shaped leaves, tiny tubular purple flower spikes on tall stalks	In pond, right of boardwalk
AT THE END OF THE BOARDWALK, LOOK RIGHT	
* <b>Oakleaf Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Sikes Dwarf'</b> , oak-shaped leaves, clusters of white flowers coming into bloom	Left of path
AT INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT TO ENTER Joan Van Arnam Memorial Azalea Walk	
Soapwort, <i>Saponaria officinalis</i> 'Rosea Plena', flowers in varying shades of pink on tall stalks	Both sides of path
AT INTERSECTION, TURN RIGHT TO ENTER <b>FLAGLER PERENNIAL GARDEN LOOP</b>	
Hostas and Ferns are emerging in a lush variety of textures and colors	
* <b>Coral Bells, <i>Heuchera x villosa</i> 'Frosted Violet'</b> , velvety purple leaves with darker veins, dainty pearl-like flowers on wiry stems	Right of path
* <b>Japanese Forest Grass, <i>Hakonechloa macra</i> 'All Gold'</b> , neon yellow-green arching foliage	Left of path
* <b>Cup Plant, <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i></b> , very tall stems with leaves that clasp the square stems to form cups that catch rainwater, topped by bright yellow, daisy-like flowers with striped stamens	Right of path
AT INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT AND LEFT DOWN THE STEPS ENTERING <b>Woodland Walk</b>	
AT INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT INTO	

<b>Dot's Garden</b>	
*Oakleaf Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Snowflake', showy white double flowers on tall shrubs	Throughout
*Voodoo Lily, <i>Sauromatum veriosum</i> , U shaped cluster of lance shaped leaves, distinctive leopard spotted stems	Left of path
<i>Arachniodes simplicior variegata</i> , fern with coarse, dark green fronds accented with bright lime centers	Left of path
<b>AT THE END OF THE PATH, TURN RIGHT TO ENTER White Garden</b>	
*Oakleaf Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Snowflake', very large white blooms above blue-green foliage	End of mulch path
<b>RETRACING YOUR STEPS, LOOK RIGHT</b>	
<b>GRACE ARENTS GARDEN</b> ENJOY THE VIEW OF HISTORIC BLOEMENDAAL HOUSE AND THE VICTORIAN STYLE GARDEN	
*Japanese Rose, <i>Rosa rugosa</i> , green fruit called 'hips' that mature to orange-red follow red single blooms	Right side of pergola
<i>Caladium</i> 'June Bride', large heart-shaped green leaves with distinct white veining	Throughout
<b>WALK TOWARDS CHILDREN'S GARDEN, TO ENTER Lake Walk</b>	
Rose Champion, <i>Lychnis coronaria</i> , fuchsia blossoms, gray-green fuzzy foliage	Left of path at stone wall
<b>MARGARET STREB CONIFER GARDEN</b>	
<b>BEAR RIGHT ONTO STAMPED CONCRETE WALK TOWARD RUSTIC GAZEBO</b>	
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Annabelle', mounded shrub covered in white globes	Left of path
Bigleaf Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> 'Nikko Blue', swath of mounding shrubs with large serrate leaves and large clusters of blue mophead flowers	Left of path
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> 'White Lace', very tall vases-shaped shrub with white lacy flowers on drooping stems	Left of path
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Alice', shrub with creamy flower clusters aging to dusty rose	Left of path at curve
<b>BEAR LEFT ONTO STAMPED CONCRETE WALK, THEN LEFT AGAIN ONTO AGGREGATE PATH</b>	
<b>VIENNA COBB ANDERSON MEADOW</b> A VARIETY OF HUES AND TEXTURES IN EMERGING PLANTS PROVIDE FOOD AND SHELTER FOR BIRDS AND POLLINATORS IN THE GARDEN	
<b>PAST THE BOTTOM OF THE ROSE GARDEN, TURN RIGHT TO GO UP THE MAIN PATH</b>	
<b>TURN RIGHT TO ENTER LOUISE COCHRANE ROSE GARDEN</b> DIRECTIONS ARE FROM THE CENTER OF THE LABYRINTH, FACING THE LAKE	
Rosa, 'Radyod', Knockout Rose <sup>®</sup> , low shrub with deep blue-green leaves and pale pink single blooms	Right top bed, adjacent to patio
Rosa, 'Heritage', Shrub Rose (David Austin), low, bushy shrub with delicate, clear pink cup shaped blooms, fragrant	Right top bed next to 'Radyod'
<b>EXIT THE ROSE GARDEN, TURN RIGHT ON THE AGGREGATE PATH THE VISITOR CENTER IS STRAIGHT AHEAD ON THE RIGHT</b>	