**Bright Spots**

Self-Guided Plant Tour

**(ROUTE DIRECTIONS ARE ALWAYS NOTED IN ALL CAPS)**

December 9, 2015

 Did you know…?

 The effort to protect tender plants in inhospitable climates goes back to antiquity. Remnants of greenhouses have been identified in Pompeii, where the “glass” used was probably translucent stone.

 “Orangeries” were first developed in the 15thC to protect these and other tender citrus plants. The first orangeries were wooden buildings with shutters, but by the 17thC they became quite ornate masonry structures with windows on the south-facing wall.

 The construction of the freestanding greenhouse or conservatory, with all the windows and the roof of glass became possible in the 19th century, with technical advances in glassmaking and framing. Joseph Paxton, head gardener for the Duke of Devonshire, designed a conservatory at Chatsworth that was the largest in the world at the time. It rose 67’ high, spanning a width of 123’ and 277’ in length, covering an acre of ground. Paxton referred to it as the “great stove” and it was here that he succeeded in growing the first banana to fruit in England -- *Musa cavendishii* in May of 1836.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden’s conservatory has *Musa acuminata* ‘Sumatrana’ fruiting right now in the East (orchid) wing. Be sure to look for it while you are admiring all the holiday decorations.

Sources from the LGBG library: Glasshouses and Wintergardens of the Nineteenth Century, S. Koppelkamm, 1981 [NA 8360.K66]; A Century of Gardeners, B. Massgingham, 1982. [SB61.M37]; The Busiest Man in England, K. Colquhoun, 2006. [DA 565.P18 C65]

**\*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**

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| **Plant Material** | **Location** |
| ***Fountain Terrace*** |  |
| Ornamental Kale, *Brassica oleracea ‘*Redbor’, low, dark purple red, wavy edged leaves with silver tones  | Around fountain |
| Red Cabbage, *Brassica oleracea* ‘Super Red 80’, red leaves with gray tints, developing head in center | Around fountain |
| Viola, *Viola cornuta* Sorbet XP ‘Yellow’, yellow flowers | Around fountain |
| Swiss Chard, *Beta vulgaris* ‘Bright Yellow’, edible leafy greens with bright yellow stems | In Pots |
| Viola, *Viola cornuta* ‘Black Jump Up’, purple to black pansy faces | In Pots |
| **THROUGH THE GATES** |  |
|  **TURN LEFT, THEN RIGHT INTO*****George Bragdon Memorial Daffodil Garden*** |  |
| Holly, *Ilex x* ‘Virginia’, tree with glossy leaves and brilliant red berries | Right side by the wall |
| **TURN RIGHT THROUGH STONE ARCH INTO*****Four Seasons Garden*** |  |
| **\*+Purple Muhlygrass, *Muhlenbergia capillaris***, wiry grass with a fog of purple seed heads fading to tan | Both front beds |
| Winterberry**,** *Ilex verticillata* ‘Winter Red’, deciduous shrub, brilliant red berries  | Near left side, back of bed |
| **RETURN TO CENTRAL PATH, WALK THROUGH THE ARBOR** |  |
| ***Meditation Garden*** |  |
| Viola, *Viola cornuta* Sorbet XP ‘Beaconsfield’, mounding plant, purple flowers | Throughout |
|  **\*Ornamental Kale, *Brassica oleracea* ‘Peacock White’** *,* lacey leaves, white towards the center of the plant | Central Beds |
| Ornamental Kale, *Brassica oleracea* ‘Redbor’, low, dark purple red, wavy edged leaves with silver tones | Central Beds |
| **TURN LEFT TOWARD EDUCATION CENTER THEN RIGHT ALONG TRIANGLE BEDS*****FOUNTAIN GARDEN******UPPER LEVEL*** |  |
| **\*Muhlygrass, *Muhlenbergia capillaris ‘*White Cloud’**, wiry grass with a fog of ivory/lime green seed heads | Throughout |
| ***EAST and WEST TRIANGLE BEDS*** |  |
|  Plantings of violas form a spiral pattern. Spaces are filled with “flowers” made from recycled bottles as part of our GardenFest décor. Later, spring bulbs will emerge to fill in the spaces. |  |
| **BEAR RIGHT TO CONSERVATORY STAIRS*****Ornamental Grass Garden*** |  |
| +Prairie Dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis,* flower panicles rise above slender foliage | Both sides |
| +Purple Muhlygrass, *Muhlenbergia capillaris***,** wiry grass developing a fog of purple seed heads, colors now fading | Both sides |
| Switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum* ‘Northwind’, olive green to blue green grass topped by beige plume | Both sides |
| Plume Grass, *Saccharum ravennae*, tall silvery plumes above green foliage | Both sides at far back |
| ***Conservatory, Palm House*** |  |
| Earth Star, *Cryptanthus* ‘Black Mystic’,low-growing plant with spreading rosette of dark gray leaves marked with white jagged stripes | Spiral bed, front and center |
| Earth Star, *Cryptanthus* ‘Elaine’, low growing plant with spreading rosette of green leaves with ivory/pink margins | Spiral bed, left of center |
| Bird of Paradise, *Strelitzia reginae*, vivid orange and bright purple crane shaped flower, large dark green fan shaped leaves | Bed to left of entrance |
| Dried Gourds and inverted *Tillandsias* (airplants) are combined to resemble jellyfish | Look up |
| Skyduster Palm, *Washingtonia robusta*, large fan-shaped leaves | Bed to left of entrance |
| Bromeliad, *Portea* ‘Jungles’,large rosette of stiff leaves*,* tall orange flower stalks | Container by door to West Wing, far left bed |
| Australian Fan Palm, *Licuala ramsayi,* glossy fan-shaped pleated leaves | Back beds, both corners |
| **Conservatory, East Wing****Take time to appreciate the ever-changing orchid display, especially the grotto wall show in yellows and oranges** |  |
| Powder Puff Tree, *Calliandra haematocephala,* flowers are covered with hundreds of delicate, bright red stamens, native of Bolivia | Right side near front entrance |
| *Philodendron* ‘Prince of Orange’, deep orange-tinted leaves on new growth | Front of right bed |
| Screw Pine, *Pandanus utilis*, tall plant with trunk twisting like a screw, long strap-shaped leaves, roots angle out like props  | Left bed, just inside after door |
| Bloodleaf Banana, *Musa acuminata* ‘Sumatrana’, tall plant with reddish leaves; **Don’t miss the banana cluster!** | Left bed, after screw pine  |
| Bird’s Nest Fern, *Asplenium nidus* ‘Old World Tropical’, fronds arranged in clumps resembling a bird’s nest; new fronds unfurling from center of plant | Right side across from grotto |
| Pink Wild Pear, *Dombeya burgessiae* ‘Seminole’, branching shrub with clusters of pink flowers | Left bed front |
| *Bougainvillea* x ‘ Monka’, Oo-la-la®, magenta-red flower bracts on climbing branches | Far left corner and overhead |
| **Conservatory, West Wing** |  |
| Passion Flower, *Passiflora vitifolia*, vigorous vine displays large crimson flowers in great abundance, rich green, deeply lobed evergreen leaves | Left side, climbing the arbor |
| *Begonia* ‘Bashful Bandit’, large glossy dark green palmate leaves with burgundy undersides | Throughout |
| Bromeliad, *Aechmea* ‘Little Harv’, arching silver foliage, tall spikes of yellow and orange blooms with salmon pink bracts below each | Throughout  |
| Crown of Thorns, *Euphorbia milii* ‘Des Moulins’, low, twisted branching with miniature crimson flowers | Left side in pot |
| Glass Cactus, *Cleistocactus hyalacanthus*, elongated barrels up to three feet, miniature cream colored thorns  | Left of cottage |
| Dragon Bones, *Euphorbia lactea,* also called “Candelabra Plant”, light green spikes with horizontal leaves off spikes | Far left side against rear wall |
| **FROM CONSERVATORY, PROCEED TO ANGLED PATH ON THE LEFT TOWARD THE VISITOR CENTER** |  |
| **CONTINUE TO VISITOR CENTER AND TURN LEFT ON THE AGGREGATE WALK*****Asian Valley*** |  |
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| **Take Note: A variety of foliage colors and textures** **characteristic of an Asian garden** |  |
| ***\*Camellia japonica* ‘Spring Promise’**, semi-double shell pink flowers, large evergreen leaves | Right, top of bank near café terrace |
| *Camellia* ‘Winter’s Snowman’, anemone form, white flowers, yellow stamens, dark green foliage | Right, top of bank near café terrace |
| *Camellia* ‘Winter’s Star’, evergreen shrub, single, pale pink bloom, yellow stamens | Right, top of bank near café terrace |
| **TURN RIGHT AT BOTTOM OF AGGREGATE PATH, BEAR RIGHT AROUND LOOP** |  |
| *Camellia* ‘Hot Flash’, semi-double rose-red flowers, deep green, glossy foliage | Right side of loop path |
| *Camellia hiemalis* ‘Pink Snow’, semi-double, fragrant, light pink large flowers, large shrub with glossy deep green foliage | Right side of loop path |
| **RETURN TO COMPOSITE PATH ALONG LAKE EDGE** |  |
| ***\*Camellia* ‘Winter’s Beauty’**, compact, upright, double, frilly, peony-form flowers, shell pink with very light pink centers | Left on slope before Himalayan Pine |
| Liberty Holly, *Ilex* x Liberty™, medium size tree with prominent clusters of red berries, deep green leaves | Right side across pond |
| **CONTINUE PAST THE GRAVEL PATH** |  |
| *Camellia ‘* Winter’s Joy’, tall evergreen, glossy dark green foliage, semi- double bright pink flowers | Left of path at intersection with gravel path |
| ***\*Camellia* ‘ Winter’s Fire’**,evergreen shrub, semi-double, flower is a mix of pink and coral with white splotch*es* | Left of path behind bench |
| **AT THE SHOJI SCREENS, TURN AND LOOK BACK** |  |
| Chinese Juniper, *Juniperus chinenses* ‘Torulosa’, stand of evergreens undulating down the berm | Now to right on berm |
| **LOOK AHEAD AGAIN;TURN RIGHT TOWARD THE TEA HOUSE** |  |
| Wingnut Tree, *Pterocarya stenoptera* var. *brevialata*, take note of the interesting root structure and branching habit of this tree | At the corner |
| **TURN LEFT DOWN THE WINDING PATH BEFORE THE TEA HOUSE** |  |
| **TURN LEFT ONTO GRAY BRICK PATH, AND THEN RIGHT ONTO THE BOARDWALK, AT THE END OF THE SECOND BRIDGE, LOOK RIGHT TO SEE:** |  |
| Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* ‘Winter Red ®’, deciduous shrub, brilliant red berries along stems | Right of boardwalk |
| **\*Oregon Grape, *Mahonia* ‘Arthur Menzies’,** evergreen shrub with spiked leaves, tall stems, sprays of yellow flower buds on top | Right, top of berm |
| **TURN RIGHT; AT THE CIRCLE TURN RIGHT AGAIN**  |  |
| ***\*Camellia*** ‘Winter’s Snowman’, anemone form, white flowers, yellow stamens, dark green foliage | Bed on right |
| **TURN LEFT, WALK THROUGH GAZEBO TOWARDS BLOEMENDAAL HOUSE,** ***Grace Arents Garden*** |  |
| Panola, *Viola x wittrockiana* Citrus Mixture XP | Throughout |
| Panola, *Viola x wittrockiana* Silhouette Mixture | Throughout |
| Panola, *Viola x wittrockiana* Pink Shades | Throughout |
| **RETRACE STEPS TO THE CIRCLE****PROCEED AHEAD TO** ***Lake Walk*****PAUSE PAST THE TREE HOUSE TO VIEW REFLECTIONS IN THE LAKE** |  |
| *Heuchera*  ‘Citronelle’, bright chartreuse leaves on compact, low plant | Left of path beyond Tree House |
| Japanese Barberry, *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Orange Rocket’, small shrub with scarlet orange foliage turning to red for fall | Right of path along fence |
|  |  |
| Meadow Sage, *Salvia x sylvestris* ‘Blauhugel’, compact mound with spikes of blue purple flowers | Left along lake and throughout |
| Pineapple Sage, *Salvia elegans*, tall shrubby plant with lipstick red tubular flowers along the stems – enjoy now till frost | Left of path |
| **FOLLOW PATH AS IT CURVES LEFT AROUND THE LAKE**  |  |
| *Camellia sasanqua ‘*Polar Ice’, white medium sized anemone to peony form flowers, upright habit, glossy dark leaves | Right of path by the Rustic Gazebo |
| *Camellia ‘*Snow Flurry’, tall evergreen, upright habit; white medium-sized anemone to peony form flowers, ruffled petals | Left of path |
| **EXIT CONIFER GARDEN, TURNING LEFT ONTO AGGREGATE PATH****CONTINUE FOLLOWING AGGREGATE PATH AS IT CURVES ALONG THE LAKE EDGE** |  |
| *Ilex* ‘Sparkleberry’, deciduous shrub with dense clusters of vivid red berries | Numerous specimens left of path |
| Winterberry*, Ilex verticillata* ‘Winter Gold’, tall shrub with abundant golden berries | Beside lake at intersection with Main Path  |
|  **AT THE LOTUS BRIDGE;** **TURN RIGHT UP THE*****Main Path*** |  |
| Wintercreeper, *Euonymus fortunei* ‘Moonshadow’, variegated green and gold foliage | Left side, bottom of the Main Path |
| Eulalia, *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Morning Light’, 6 foot grass with bronze seedheads | Left of path next to Moon Gate |
| Viola, V*iola cornuta* Sorbet XP ‘White’ | Both sides |
| Viola, *Viola cornuta* Sorbet XP ‘Yellow’ | Both sides |
| Viola, *Viola cornuta* Sorbet™ ‘Banana Cream’ | Both sides |
| Oregon Grape, *Mahonia x media* ‘Underway’, tall evergreen shrub with spiny leaves in pairs along stem, large sprays of yellow flowers on top | Left of path |
| Blood-twig dogwood, *Cornus sanguinea,* vivid red twigs on multi-stemmed shrub | Left side before ‘Winter Gold’ |
| Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* ‘Winter Gold’, tall shrub with abundant golden berries | Left side |
| **TURN RIGHT ON BRICK PATH TO RETURN TO VISITORS CENTER** |  |