

Bright Spots

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(ROUTE DIRECTIONS ARE ALWAYS NOTED IN ALL CAPS)



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

February 3, 2016

Did you know...?

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to walk 10,000 steps a day you should consider doing it here. A walking circuit map is available at the admissions desk if you don't have an electronic gadget recording your steps. The garden is planted for winter interest so while you walk you can discover amazing bark colors and textures and admire the variety of greens that pop when there are not a million bulbs in bloom. While you are breathing deeply (fresh air!) you may catch a whiff of fragrance from one of the winter bloomers trying to attract pollinators. If you have never thought about planning for winter interest in your own garden, you might spot some plants you'd like to consider. Some special examples are highlighted in the list below, but there are many others just waiting to be noticed. I'm particularly fond of the bold statement made by the swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) at the edge of the Lotus Bridge. While you are on the bridge be sure to look west over Sydnor Lake to the large American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Its stark, pale trunk and branches provide dramatic effect as it towers over the Margaret Streb Conifer Garden. Both of these would be far out of scale for a small garden, but the lovely variegated boxwood *Buxus sempervirens* 'Aureovariegata' around the Fountain Terrace might be just right.

***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
<i>Fountain Terrace</i>	
Variegated Boxwood, <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> 'Aureovariegata', variegated, pyramid-shaped evergreen, leaves edged in yellow	Throughout, 16 matched specimens
Winter Daphne, <i>Daphne odora</i> , small shrub with evergreen leaves; small pink tubular flowers	Right corner on Garden Shop side
<i>Helleborus x ericsmithii</i> 'Silvermoon', clusters of creamy white flowers beginning to open above foliage of elongated silvery-green leaves	Left corner bed by glass door, Garden Shop side
Viola, <i>Viola cornuta</i> 'Black Jump Up', purple to black pansy faces	In pots
Viola, <i>Viola cornuta</i> Sorbet XP 'Yellow', yellow flowers	Around fountain
Viola, <i>Viola cornuta</i> 'Black Jump Up', purple to black pansy faces	In Pots

Christmas Rose, <i>Helleborus niger</i> 'Josef Lemper', blossoms have matured to green, above large, deep-green leaves	Right side by Café Door
STRAIGHT AHEAD INTO Four Seasons Garden	
Christmas Rose, <i>Helleborus niger</i> 'Nell Lewis Strain', low clumps of white blossoms turning pink, opening above foliage	Far right, corner bed
RETURN TO CENTRAL PATH, WALK THROUGH THE ARBOR	
Healing Garden	
+ Hercules-Club Tree, <i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i> , small tree with mottled bark and protruding thorns on the trunk and branches	Right side of the entrance
TURN LEFT TOWARD EDUCATION CENTER THEN RIGHT ALONG TRIANGLE BEDS FOUNTAIN GARDEN UPPER LEVEL	
EAST and WEST TRIANGLE BEDS	
Plantings of violas form a spiral pattern. Later, spring bulbs will emerge to fill in the spaces.	
Conservatory, Palm House	
Earth Star, <i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Black Mystic', low-growing plant with spreading rosette of dark gray leaves marked with white jagged stripes	Spiral bed, front and center
Earth Star, <i>Cryptanthus</i> 'Elaine', low growing plant with spreading rosette of green leaves with ivory/pink margins	Spiral bed, left of center
Snowbush, <i>Breynia nivosa</i> , tropical shrub; lower leaves are green, but upper leaves are liberally mottled with white, resembling white flowers	Bed to right of entrance
Skyduster Palm, <i>Washingtonia robusta</i> , large fan-shaped leaves	Bed to left of entrance
Bromeliad, <i>Portea</i> 'Jungles', large rosette of stiff leaves, tall orange flower stalks, cream ovaries tipped in pink provide long-lasting interest even after the small flowers fade	Four large hanging baskets and far left bed
Australian Fan Palm, <i>Licuala ramsayi</i> , glossy fan-shaped pleated leaves	Back beds, both corners
Conservatory, East Wing Take time to appreciate the ever-changing orchid display	
* Powder Puff Tree, <i>Calliandra haematocephala</i> , flowers are covered with hundreds of delicate, bright red stamens, native of Bolivia	Right side near front entrance
<i>Philodendron</i> 'Prince of Orange', deep orange-tinted leaves on new growth	Front of right bed
Screw Pine, <i>Pandanus utilis</i> , 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, <i>Musa acuminata</i> 'Sumatrana', tall plant with reddish leaves; Don't miss the banana cluster!	Left bed, after screw pine
* Chalcas, <i>Murraya paniculata</i> 'Lakeview' , Tall evergreen tree with white scented flower clusters and small orange to red fruit	Right side, before the grotto
* White Bird of Paradise, <i>Strelitzia nicolai</i> , large banana-like leaves are arranged like a fan; large, crane-shaped, abundant creamy white flowers	Left side beyond grotto, corner bed
Conservatory, West Wing	

Enjoy an array of Spring flowering bulbs	
Calamondin, x <i>Citrofortunella microcarpa</i> , bushy evergreen shrub with fragrant leaves and abundant small orange fruit	Container, right of entrance
Passion Flower, <i>Passiflora vitifolia</i> , vigorous vine displays large crimson flowers in great abundance, rich green, deeply lobed evergreen leaves	Left side, climbing the arbor
Century Plant, <i>Agave americana</i> 'Blue', huge blue-green arching leaves with spines at the tip and margins	Right side, beyond the cottage
Glass Cactus, <i>Cleistocactus hyalacanthus</i> , elongated barrels up to three feet, miniature cream colored thorns, emerging red flowers	Left of Agave
Pink Eureka Lemon, <i>Citrus x limon</i> 'Eureka Pink Variegated', fragrant white blooms, look carefully for emerging lemons (also variegated)	Container right of path
Drunkards Dream, <i>Hatiora salicornioides</i> , dark green cylindrical foliage, small yellow flowers along stem	Right side
Ladyfinger Cactus, <i>Mammillaria elongata</i> , low growing globes covered with tiny spines, red flowers	Right side, rear of bed under windows
Dragon Bones, <i>Euphorbia lactea</i> , 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	
<i>Asian Valley</i>	
Take Note: A variety of foliage colors and textures characteristic of an Asian garden	
Lily of China, <i>Rohdea japonica</i> , dark green elongated leaves, red berries somewhat hidden at base of plant	Left of path
<i>Camellia japonica</i> 'April Remembered', semi-double shell pink flowers	Right of path, top of hill
<i>Camellia japonica</i> 'Spring Promise', semi-double shell pink flowers, large evergreen leaves	Right, top of bank near café terrace
Lenten Rose, <i>Helleborus orientalis</i> , clumps of dusky purple flowers with large leaves	Left side on hillside
Sawara Cypress, <i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i> 'Filifera Aurea', mounded shrub of threadleaf golden foliage	Straight ahead at the bottom of the path
TURN LEFT ONTO COMPOSITE PATH ALONG LAKE EDGE	
Liberty Holly, <i>Ilex x Liberty</i> TM , medium size tree with prominent clusters of red berries, deep green leaves	Right side across pond
Variegated Himalayan Pine, <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> 'Zebrina', elegant, long, drooping, blue needles, banded with creamy yellow	Left on hillside across from lake
CONTINUE BEYOND THE GRAVEL PATH	
<i>Camellia</i> 'Cv.', white flowers	Right of path at intersection with gravel path
<i>Camellia japonica</i> 'Isaribi', lustrous green leaves with rose pink flowers	Left side just beyond bench
Norway Spruce, <i>Picea abies</i> var. <i>pendula</i> , tall dark evergreen; it appears ready to walk and talk with you	Right side, opposite bench

<i>Camellia</i> 'Crimson Candles', red buds open to single, small rose pink flowers	Left side behind rocks
Chinese Wingnut Tree, <i>Pterocarya stenoptera</i> var. <i>brevialata</i> , take note of the interesting root structure and branching habit of this tree	Right at the corner
AT THE SHOJI SCREENS, TURN AND LOOK BACK	
Chinese Juniper, <i>Juniperus chinenses</i> 'Torulosa', stand of evergreens undulating down the berm	Now to right on berm
TURN LEFT AT SHOJI SCREEN – THEN RIGHT ONTO MAIN PATH DOWN TO TRIANGLE BED	
Paperbush, <i>Edgeworthia tomentosa</i> 'Nanjing Gold', (formerly <i>E. chrysantha</i>) white buds open to yellow flowers on low shrub, very fragrant	Multiple specimens in triangle bed
(On pleasant days, turn right and cross the bridge. Turn into Flagler Perennial Garden, looking for interesting tree shapes and barks, evergreens of various textures and shades, berries, and early blooming flowers such as Winter Heath, Snow Drops, and Hellebores. Continue around the lake for more early bloomers, conifers, and berries.) OTHERWISE TURN LEFT AT THE CIRCLE BEFORE THE LOTUS BRIDGE FOLLOWING THE ROAD AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ROSE GARDEN	
<i>Ilex</i> 'Sparkleberry', deciduous shrub with dense clusters of vivid red berries	Numerous specimens left of path
Pussy Willow, <i>Salix chaenomeloides</i> , silvery catkins along stems of 6 foot shrub	Left side in front of lake
TURN LEFT TO FOLLOW THE PATH ACROSS THE TOP OF THE ROSE GARDEN, TURN RIGHT TO GO UP THE MAIN PATH	
Eulalia, <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Morning Light', 6 foot grass with bronze seedheads	Left of path next to Moon Gate
Viola, <i>Viola cornuta</i> Sorbet XP 'White'	Both sides
Viola, <i>Viola cornuta</i> Sorbet XP 'Yellow'	Both sides
Viola, <i>Viola cornuta</i> Sorbet™ 'Banana Cream'	Both sides
* 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 to almost salmon	Left side before 'Winter Gold'
* Blood-twig dogwood, <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> , vivid red twigs on multi-stemmed shrub	Left side before 'Winter Gold'
Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter Gold', tall shrub with golden berries	Left side
TURN RIGHT ON BRICK PATH TO RETURN TO VISITORS CENTER	