**Bright Spots**

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

April 20, 2016

 Did you know…

*Yucca torreyi* is now in full bloom at the edge of the Margaret Streb Conifer Garden near the Sydnor Lake path. Two weeks ago the bud was just emerging from the center the plant. At that time it could have been mistaken for a gigantic cream colored pine cone with purple edged tips. Now the flower stalk has risen dramatically above the lance shaped leaves and the large cluster of waxy bell-shaped flowers with purple tinged edges has opened. The current low humidity and cool nights (so unusual for Richmond) are providing an environment much closer to that of its native range -- southwest Texas / southeast New Mexico.

The species name honors John Torrey, a botanist who designated it as a new variety in 1859. Botanical descriptions suggest that this plant can commonly reach 3’-10’ in height, and a photo in *The Wildflowers of the United States* confirms these reports. Native Americans used many parts of the Yucca species. The leaves were made into fibers to be formed into ropes, baskets and mats. The fruit was used for food and medicinal purposes. It will be interesting to see if the garden’s Yucca develops any fruit. This genus is pollinated by Tegeticula spp. a nocturnal moth whose native range is the southwest U.S. The National Wildlife Federation website states that the moth’s range has extended north and east with the yucca plant. A full description of this fascinating plant/pollinator interdependency can be found in the book by Hutchins listed below.

Sources: *Palms won't grow here and other myths: warm-climate plants for cooler areas*, Francko, David A., pp. 240-246 [SB 473 .F815 2003]; [*Strange plants and their ways*](http://lgbglibs.lewisginter.org/Presto/content/Detail.aspx?q=KHl1Y2NhKQ==&ctID=YzQxMDhjOWMtMmUzYS00ZTU0LTlhMzQtNTUyOTE2YTg4YjFh&rID=MTM=&qcf=YzQxMDhjOWMtMmUzYS00ZTU0LTlhMzQtNTUyOTE2YTg4YjFh&ph=VHJ1ZQ==&bckToL=VHJ1ZQ==&), Hutchins, Ross E., pp. 27-31 [QK 50 .H8 1958]; *Wildflowers of the United States*, Rickett, v.4, pt.1, pp.48-49; *http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=YUTO*

**\*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**Throughout the garden be on the lookout for daffodils, tulips, and other spring blooms. | **Location** |
| ***Fountain Terrace*** |  |
| Viola, *Viola cornuta* ‘Black Jump Up’, purple to black pansy faces | In pots |
| Viola, *Viola cornuta* Sorbet XP ‘Yellow’, yellow flowers | Around fountain |
| Viola, *Viola cornuta* ‘Black Jump Up’, purple to black pansy faces | In Pots |
| +Shooting Star, *Primula meadia*, low plant with small white flowers on slender stalks | Right side at corner |
| Florida Azalea, *Rhododendron austrinum*, soft orange bloom, tall shrub | Left front corner bed |
| **OUTSIDE THE GATES TURN LEFT**  |  |
| Swamp Jasmine, [*Gelsemium rankinii*](https://www.bing.com/search?q=gelsemium+rankinii&FORM=AWRE), vining plant with bright yellow trumpet flowers | Left on fence to Fountain Terrace |
| **AND THEN RIGHT TO ENTER*****GEORGE BRAGDON DAFFODIL GARDEN*** |  |
| Exbury Azalea*, Rhododendron* ‘My Mary’ orange flame buds opening to dark yellow | Right side of path |
| **CONTINUE THROUGH STONE ARCH INTO*****Four Seasons Garden*** |  |
| **\*Lady Banks Rose, *Rosa banksiae*** , aggressive climbing rose with pale yellow flower clusters | Growing over the wall |
| **RETURN TO CENTRAL PATH, WALK TO THE ARBOR** |  |
| Spanish Bluebells, *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, blue hyacinth-like stalks with buds opening to bell-shaped flowers | Far right corner bed under the Fringe Tree |
| Bleeding Heart, *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* ‘Gold Heart’, Rose colored flowers with bright yellow foliage | Far right corner under Fringe Tree |
| **GO THROUGH THE ARBOR INTO** |  |
| ***Healing Garden*** |  |
| + Hercules-Club Tree, *Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*, small tree with mottled bark and protruding thorns on the trunk and branches. Leafing out | Right side of the entrance |
| + Black Haw, *Viburnum prunifolium*, small multi-trunked tree; upright clusters of fragrant white flowers with yellow anthers | Left side behind bench |
| **TURN LEFT TOWARD EDUCATION CENTER THEN RIGHT ALONG TRIANGLE BEDS*****FOUNTAIN GARDEN******UPPER LEVEL*** |  |
| ***EAST and WEST TRIANGLE BEDS*** |  |
| Creeping phlox, *Phlox subulata* ‘Emerald Cushion Blue’, low, violet star shaped flower on mounded plant | Right side of path  |
| Eastern Red Bud, *Cercis canadensis* ‘The Rising Sun’,tree with heart shape leaves emerging yellow, turn to peach and green | Right side of path |
|  Plantings of violas form a spiral pattern. Spring bulbs fill in the spaces. |  |
| ***Conservatory, Palm House*** |  |
| Earth Star, *Cryptanthus* ‘Elaine’, low growing plant with spreading rosette of green leaves with ivory/pink margins | Spiral bed, left of center |
| *Cordyline fruticosa* ‘Mocha Latte’,variegated leaves from a rosette center | Spiral bed behind Earth Star |
| *Lily* ‘Purple Prince’, Tall stalks with profuse plum colored blooms | Spiral bed behind Earth Star. |
| \*Sago Palm, *Cycas revoluta,* lush stems radiating from center (This 32 year old plant was started from seed by a garden volunteer and recently donated to LGBG.) | Spiral bed, second level, left of center |
| Bromeliad, *Portea ‘*Jungles’, large rosette of stiff leaves, tall orange flower stalks | Throughout |
|  |  |
| Skyduster Palm, *Washingtonia robusta*, large fan-shaped leaves | Bed to left of entrance |
| Princess Palm, *Dictyosperma album*, smaller palm with new fronds emerging from the top | Back right side next to Australian Fan Palm |
| ***Conservatory, East Wing*****Take time to appreciate the ever-changing orchid display, this week the yellows and oranges dominate.** |  |
| Showy Melastoma, *Medinilla magnifica,* pink panicles of grape like flowers | Right side as you enter the wing |
| *Philodendron* ‘Prince of Orange’, deep orange-tinted leaves on new growth | Front of right bed |
| *Musa* ‘Black Thai’, tall multi-trunk banana tree with black trunk | Right side, center of wing |
| 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 | Left bed, after screw pine  |
| Elephant’s Ear, *Alocasia ‘*Stingray’, large fronds unfurl into noticeable stingray shape including the barb | Left side before grotto |
| Areca Palm, *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens,* very tall, erect bamboo-like palm with noticeable rings on stems | Right side |
| **\*Peace Lily, *Spathiphyllum***, thrives in wet environment and tolerates low light, white flowers shaped like leaves | On the grotto wall in niches |
| White Bird of Paradise, *Strelitzia nicolai***,** large banana-like leaves are arranged like a fan; large, crane-shaped, abundant creamy white flowers | Left side beyond grotto, corner bed |
| *\*Bougainvillea* x ‘Monka’, Oo-la-la®, stunning magenta-red flower bracts on climbing branches | Far left corner climbing high on glass  |
| ***Conservatory, North Wing*****Butterflies Live! Arriving April 15** |  |
| ***Conservatory, West Wing*****Enjoy an array of Spring flowering bulbs** |  |
| *Begonia* ‘Bashful Bandit’, large glossy green leaves with red undersides, variegated blooms emerging  | Both sides of entrance door |
| **\*Calamondin, x *Citrofortunella microcarpa***, bushy evergreen shrub with fragrant leaves and abundant small orange fruit | Container, right of entrance |
| **\*Passion Flower, *Passiflora vitifolia***, vigorous vine displays large crimson flowers in great abundance, rich green, deeply lobed evergreen leaves | Left side, climbing the arbor |
| Enjoy a display of spring bulbs including crocus, hyacinth, tulips, and daffodils | Both sides |
| Pink Eureka Lemon, *Citrus* x *limon* ‘Eureka Pink Variegated’, fragrant white blooms, look carefully for emerging lemons (also variegated) | Container right of path |
| Century Plant, *Agave americana* ‘Blue’, huge blue-green arching leaves with spines at the tips and margins | Right side, beyond the cottage |
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| *Pinguicula gigantea*, carnivorous plant with yellow-green rosette of leaves and cream flower with purple edges | Right side in plant stands |
| Crown of Thorns, *Euphorbia milii* ‘Mini Spring Song’, small plant with thorny branches and creamy yellow flowers | Left side |
| Red-headed Irishman, *Mammillara spinosissima*, vivid magenta flowers encircle the columns of bright orange | Right side past agave |
| Climbing Onion, *Bowiea volubilis*, twining green stems covered with small greenish white flowers | Left side on trellis |
| Common Olive, *Olea europaea*, silvery green elongated leaves on a curving gnarly trunk | Left side, behind tulips |
| **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*** |  |
| **Take Note: A variety of foliage colors and textures of maples** |  |
| Sawara Cypress, *Chamaecyparis pisifera* ‘Filifera Aurea’, mounded shrub of threadleaf golden foliage | Straight ahead at the bottom of the path |
| **AT INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT, WALKING ALONG THE LAKE** |  |
| Karen’s Azalea, *Rhododendron* ‘Karen’ small shrub with abundant lilac-purple blooms | Left side on hillside |
| Peony, *Paeonia lactiflora* ‘Bu-Te’, large single white flower with yellow center | Left past gravel path |
| **Watch for more peonies opening all the time.** |  |
| Deutzia, *Deutzia crenata* ‘Nikko’, pearly buds opening to spikes of white flowers with narrow petals, low compact shrub | Right side near the bottom of the path |
| **AT THE SHOJI SCREENS, TURN RIGHT**  |  |
| **TURN LEFT BEFORE TEA HOUSE, GO DOWN THE CURVING PATH** |  |
| *Viburnum sargentii*, small tree with white flat flowers; white bracts surround tiny flowers in center | On right at the corner as you start down the curving path |
| *Rhododendron* ‘Koromo Shikibu’ , large shrub with spider-type lavender flowers | Right as the path curves down |
| **AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PATH, TURN RIGHT WALKING ALONG LAKESIDE** |  |
| Three cornered Leek, *Alium triquetrum*, strap-like leaves, three sided stalks ending in clusters of tiny bell shaped flowers  | Right side just before waterfall |
| *Rhododendron kiusianum* ‘Iwato Kagami’, white flower tinged with light pink | Right side by corner of Tea House – behind the triangle |
| Azalea, *Rhododendron* ‘Red Slippers’, abundant single pink-red flowers | Left by the Bridge to West Island Garden |
| Azalea, *Rhododendron* ‘Easter Parade’ buds opening to pink flower marbled with white | Left side past West Island Garden |
| **\*Tree Peony*, Peony suffruticosa* ‘Iwata Kagami’,** double pink flowers | Left side |
| **\*Azalea, *Rhododendron* ‘Louise Morrow’** single white flowers | Left side |
| Tree Peony*, Peony suffruticosa* ‘Shima Daijin’ double flower with frilled purplish red petals | Left side |
| **AT THE BRICK WALK, TURN RIGHT INTO** ***Flagler Perennial Garden*** |  |
| Lilac, *Syringa meyeri* ‘Palibin,’ purple buds opening to conical lavender flowers | Look left by lamp post before making turn |
| *Cornus florida* ‘Rubrum Pink’, flowers have deep pink edges with white centers | Right before arch |
| **GO THROUGH THE ARCH. CONTINUE AHEAD ON THE PATH** |  |
| American Wisteria, *Wisteria frutescens* ‘Amethyst Falls’, vining plant with tight buds opening to blue flowers | Left side over the arch |
| Notice the variety of spring blooms in pots | On pavilion stage and to left of pavilion |
| Peony, *Paeonia lactiflora* ‘Fuji-No-Mine’, large double white flowers | Right side behind pavilion |
| *Amsonia tabernaemontana* var. *tabernaemontana* buds opening to blue flowers | Right behind pavilion |
| Staunton Vine, *Stauntonia hexaphylla*, vine with clusters of tiny pink centered white flowers | Look up – vining over arch |
| **GO THROUGH SECOND ARCH, BEAR LEFT AT INTERSECTION WITH** **WOODLAND WALK** |  |
| ***\*Viburnum utile ‘*Eskimo,’** fragrant lime-green buds opening to white snowball flowers | Behind Woodland Walk sign |
| Azalea, *Rhododendron* ‘Red Slippers’, single red flower | Left on the hillside  |
| *Hosta* ‘Orange Marmalade’, striking chartreuse leaves with green edges | Left side |
| Spanish Bluebells, *Hyacinthoides hispanica* ‘Excelsior’, blue hyacinth like stalks with buds opening to bell-shaped flowers | Both sides of path |
| Florida Azalea, *Rhododendron* x Confederate series ‘Jeb Stewart’, buds opening to orange flowers | Left of path |
| Solomon’s Seal, *Polygonatum odoratum* ‘Variegatum’, variegated white and green leaves with arching stems of white bell shaped flowers | Left side before bench |
| Japanese Cobra Lily, *Arisaema ringens*, green leaves with striped “cobra head”, dark purple underneath | Right side |
| ***\*Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosa* ‘Shasta’**, small tree with abundant white flowers  | Right side by stream |
| **\*Florida Flame Azalea, *Rhododendron austrinum* ‘Escatawpa’,** yellow-orange spidery flowers | Left, around “Slow Dance” sculpture |
| Hawthorn, *Crataegus viridis* ‘Winter King’, Small tree with clusters of two inch diameter white flowers | Left, around “Slow Dance” sculpture |
| Glen Dale hybrid Azalea, *Rhododendron* ‘Glacier’, large white flowers with greenish throat on large shrubs with dark green glossy foliage | Left around “Slow Dance” sculpture |
| Watch for emerging hostas of unusual varieties | Right side by stream |
| + Golden Ragwort, *Packera aurea*, yellow daisy-like flowers with pompom centers | Right side of path |
| **+** Celandine Poppy, *Stylophorum diphyllum*, small clusters of glossy yellow flowers above blue-green lobed foliage | Left side near top of the path |
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| +Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, cornflower blue bell-shaped flowers. | Top of the path on left near Monet Bridge |
| Azalea, *Rhododendron ‘*Purple Pride’, compact evergreen shrub; reddish purple flowers with a reddish blotch | Top of the path |
| **CROSS THE MONET BRIDGE; TURN RIGHT TOWARD BLOEMENDAAL HOUSE** |  |
| Fringe Tree *Chionanthus retusus*, clusters of fragrant white fringe-like flowers on small multi-trunked tree | Left side at circle as you turn right |
| **CONTINUE TO** ***Grace Arents Garden*****WALK THROUGH THE GAZEBO** |  |
| **\*Lady Banks Rose, *Rosa banksiae*** ,aggressive climbing rose with pale yellow flower clusters | Over gazebo; also on trellis at the house |
| Enjoy a colorful display of spring flowers including fragrant hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, violas, and peonies |  |
| **WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD TO HOUSE PORCH, CONTINUE LEFT ALONG PORCH VIEWING A MASSIVE DISPLAY OF VIBRANT AZALEAS BY THE STEPS. CONTINUE TO THE END OF THE PORCH AND LOOK LEFT FOR MORE ALONG THE WILDSIDE WALK BESDIE LAKESIDE LAKE.**  |  |
| **\*REVERSE DIRECTION, RETURING TO THE LARGE CIRCLE AT THE END OF THE LOTUS BRIDGE. WALK TOWARDS CHILDREN’S GARDEN, TO ENTER*****Cherry Tree Walk*** |  |
| Windflower*, Anemone sylvestris*, white single flowers above palmate leaves | Left side, under treehouse |
| **\*Dogwood, *Cornus florida***, small tree loaded with blooms, perfect shape. True flowers are at the center surrounded by white bracts | Left side just beyond treehouse and large pine |
| Barberry, *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Orange Rocket’**,** small upright shrub with bright scarlet-orange leaves  | Right side along fence |
| **BEAR LEFT INTO*****LUCY PAYNE MINOR GARDEN*** |  |
| Bollywood Azalea*, Rhododendron* ‘Farrow’, neon red-pink flowers | Left side |
| Lilac, *Syringa* x ‘SMSXPM Scent and Sensibility Pink’ pinky purple flowers | Left side |
| *Rhododendron* ‘Rivermist’ delicate light pink flowers | Right side at back |
| **AFTER RUSTIC GAZEBO, BEAR LEFT ONTO STAMPED CONCRETE WALK,**  |  |
| *Viburnum x juddii*, shrub with striking coral buds opening to pale pink flowers, fragrant | Right as you exit to aggregate path |
| **TURN LEFT ONTO AGGREGATE PATH WALKING PAST** ***MARGARET STREB CONIFER GARDEN*** **TO THE LEFT** |  |
| Red-Hot Poker*, Kniphofia triangularis,* spikes with cone-shaped orange and cream flowers | Left side |
| *\*****Yucca torreyi****,* lance-like leaves radiating from a center stem, large two- foot long flower head with creamy white flowers | Left on far end of the Margaret Streb Garden |
| **BEAR LEFT FOLLOWING THE PATH ALONG THE LAKE**  |  |
| Hybrid Azalea, *Rhododendron* x ‘George Lindley Tabor’, variegated pink and white flowers | Right side behind wall, multiple plants |
| **AT LOTUS BRIDGE, TURN RIGHT UP THE MAIN PATH** |  |
| 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 |
| Azalea, *Rhododendron* ‘Dorothy’, true pink flowers | Left side |
| Double-flowered Daffodil, *Narcissus* ‘Rip Van Winkle’, frilly yellow flower resembling a dandelion | Left side |
| Miniature Daffodil, *Narcissus fernandesii*, tiny yellow trumpet flowers | Left side |
| *Viburnum plicata,* small tree with abundant white flowers | Right of path opposite daffodils |
| **\*Pearlbush, *Exochorda serratifolia***, pearl-size white buds opening to an abundance of white flower clusters | Left of Main Path next to gravel path |
| **AT TOP OF MAIN PATH, TURN RIGHT ON BRICK PATH TO RETURN TO VISITORS CENTER** |  |