

Bright Spots

(ROUTE DIRECTIONS ARE ALWAYS NOTED IN ALL CAPS)



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

March 28, 2018

Did you know...?

As the days warm the vibrant color combinations of Spring are emerging throughout the garden but tucked quietly away in one of the newest garden beds is a tiny bright spot: *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* 'Alba'. Several plants of this pure white cultivar of "bleeding heart" can be found in an area of Flagler garden directly across the drive from Bloemendaal House. The genus name was *Dicentra* (from the Greek meaning "two" "spur") until 2011; the species translates as "spectacular." The inspiration for the common name is readily apparent from the heart-shaped flowers.

Lamprocapnos are herbaceous perennials native to the Far East. Known in Europe as early as 1816, Robert Fortune is credited with successfully introducing them from Japan in the 1840's.

The garden's plants are young, only installed last year. They will eventually mature to clumps 3' high by 2.5' wide. They are shade loving plants that prefer cool weather and moist well drained soil. Moody (see below) is adamant about this, stating "Keep thoroughly moist and out of direct sunlight, otherwise death is inevitable." In fact, the foliage does go dormant fairly early in the Richmond area. Missouri Botanical suggests the practical expedient of planting bleeding heart among companion shade perennials (hosta, ferns) to fill in as the *Lamprocapnos* greenery starts to die back.

Sources: *100 Plants for Shady Gardens*, M. Moody, p. 24, [SB434.7.O64 1994];
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c480>;
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/details?plantid=652>
<https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/species/lamprocapnos/spectabilis/>;
<https://www.ballyrobertgardens.com/products/lamprocapnos-spectabilis-alba>

***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
THROUGHOUT THE GARDEN BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR EMERGING CROCUSES AND OTHER SPRING BLOOMS	
FOUNTAIN TERRACE	
Winter Daphne, <i>Daphne odora</i> , small shrub with evergreen leaves; small pink tubular fragrant flowers	Left front bed Garden Shop side
Blood Root, <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> , spring ephemeral with white daisy like flowers, yellow centers on short stems above palmate leaves	Front beds, both sides
*Helleborus x ericsmithii 'Silvermoon' , clusters of creamy white flowers fading to green above foliage of elongated silvery-green leaves	Left front bed Garden Shop side

OUTSIDE THE GATES, TURN LEFT AND THEN RIGHT TO ENTER GEORGE BRAGDON DAFFODIL GARDEN POTS CONTAIN A MIX OF RHODODENDRONS AND OTHER SPRING BLOOMERS	
Tazetta Daffodil, <i>Narcissus</i> 'Cragford' 8W-0, small, creamy white flower with orange center, FRAGRANT	Throughout
<i>Helleborus</i> 'Ivory Prince' (PBR), pale green flowers with deep rose striping	Both sides of archway
* <i>Narcissus jonquilla henriquesii</i> , tiny yellow flowers over thread leaf foliage	Right of outer path
RETURN TO CENTRAL PATH, WALK TO THE ARBOR	
Flowering Cherry, <i>Prunus</i> x 'Snofozam' Snow Fountains®, cascading cherry blossoms	Over the arbor, both sides
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, EMERGING SPRING BULBS FILL IN THE SPACES	
<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Arctic Fire', multi-stemmed shrub with upright bright red stems	Pots on both sides of the steps
Conservatory, Palm House	
* 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 recently donated to LGBG.)	Spiral bed, second level, left of center
Beefsteak Begonia, <i>Begonia xerytherophylla</i> , leathery green leaves with burgundy undersides, delicate pink flower clusters on tall stalks	Spiral bed, front center
<i>Cordyline fruticosa</i> 'Brian's Diamond', long dagger shaped leaves, new foliage is a mix of pink and cream stripes, older leaves have a range of green shades	Right rear corner bed
<i>Calathea bicajoux</i> , low growing plants, green leaves edged in white and pink	Left rear corner bed
Conservatory, East Wing TAKE TIME TO APPRECIATE THE EVER-CHANGING ORCHID DISPLAY	
<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i> , large multi-stemmed orchid with stiff blue green leaves and delicate white flower sprays, VERY FRAGRANT	Left side near doors
Spiral Ginger, <i>Costus comosus</i> , glossy green leaves with spirally arranged velvety undersides, large showy flowers	Left side near doors
Conservatory, West Wing ENJOY AN ARRAY OF SPRING FLOWERING BULBS	
Japanese Pittosporum, <i>Pittosporum tobira</i> 'Vanegatum', large shrub with waxy green leaves edged in white, clusters of tiny white flowers VERY FRAGRANT	Right side
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
Enjoy a display of spring bulbs including crocus, hyacinth, tulips, and daffodils	Both sides
Crown of Thorns, <i>Euphorbia milii</i> 'Mini Spring Song', thorny plant with sparse leaves, small pale-yellow flowers	Left side, across from the cottage
Red Headed Irishman, <i>Mammillaria spinosissima</i> , small deep pink flowers with yellow centers born on numerous low multi-lobed cactus	Right side just past the cottage
FROM CONSERVATORY, PROCEED TO ANGLED PATH ON THE LEFT	
CONTINUE TO VISITOR CENTER AND TURN LEFT ON THE AGGREGATE WALK ASIAN VALLEY A VARIETY OF FOLIAGE COLORS AND TEXTURES CHARACTERISTIC OF AN ASIAN GARDEN	
Lenten Rose, <i>Helleborus x orientalis</i> , clumps of flowers with large leaves; mix of purples, pinks, and whites	right 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 RIGHT ONTO GRAVEL LOOP	
* <i>Edgeworthia tomentosa</i> 'Gold Rush', medium shrub with unusual drooping flowers at tips of branches; white outer petals, opening to yellow, VERY FRAGRANT	Back of the loop
EXIT LOOP AND CONTINUE ALONG LAKE	
Variegated Himalayan Pine, <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> 'Zebrina', elegant, long, drooping, blue needles, banded with creamy yellow	Left on hillside across from lake
AT THE SHOJI SCREENS, TURN RIGHT	
TURN LEFT BEFORE TEA HOUSE, GO DOWN THE CURVING PATH	
Chinese Redbud, <i>Cercis chinensis</i> 'Avondale', stand of unique multi-stemmed trees with dark pink flowers on bare branches	Left of path deep in bed
Winter Honeysuckle, <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i> , small SWEETLY FRAGRANT white blooms with protruding yellow stamens	Right at curve of path
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PATH, TURN RIGHT, CURVING AROUND THE LAKE	
AT INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT TO ENTER Joan Van Arnem Memorial Walk	
* <i>Helleborus</i> 'Onyx Odyssey', clusters of dusky purple flowers with bright white stamens	Right of path
+* <i>Virginia Bluebells</i> , <i>Mertensia virginica</i> , cornflower blue bell-shaped flowers emerge pink before changing to blue	Throughout
* <i>Lily of the Valley Bush</i> , <i>Pieris japonica</i> 'Dorothy Wycoff', a group of compact rounded shrub with reddish purple buds opening to cascades of soft pink flowers aging to white	Right of path before the bridge
Chinese Winterhazel, <i>Corylopsis sinensis</i> var. <i>calvescens</i> , stand of very tall, multi-stemmed shrubs with abundant tiny yellow flowers	Both sides of path
AT INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT AND LEFT DOWN THE STEPS ENTERING Woodland Walk	
Throughout this garden area, look for a variety of blooming Hellebores and daffodils Winter hardy ferns create a wonderful variety of texture and color	
Witch Hazel, <i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i> 'Aphrodite', upright deciduous shrub with burnt orange spidery flowers along the stems	Throughout
* <i>Paperbush</i> , <i>Edgeworthia papyrifera</i> , deciduous shrub with EXTREMELY FRAGRANT flower clusters along bare branches	Right of path
AT THE END OF THE PATH, TURN RIGHT TO ENTER WHITE GARDEN	
* <i>Bleeding Heart</i> , <i>Lamprocapnos spectabilis</i> 'Alba', cluster of small plants with bright green foliage and creamy white heart shaped flowers along arching stems	Right of path
RETRACING YOUR STEPS, LOOK RIGHT	
GRACE ARENTS GARDEN VICTORIAN STYLE GARDEN	
ENJOY A COLORFUL DISPLAY OF SPRING FLOWERS; FRAGRANT HYACINTHS, DAFFODILS, TULIPS AND VIOLAS	
WALK TOWARDS CHILDREN'S GARDEN, TO ENTER Lake Walk	
Along this path, signs of spring: emerging foliage, bulbs flowers beginning to bloom	
Columnar Sargent Cherry, <i>Prunus sargentii</i> 'Columnaris', small tree with upright growth habit, delicate pink blossoms along bare branches	Left side
BEAR LEFT INTO LUCY PAYNE MINOR GARDEN	
Lily of the Valley Bush, <i>Pieris japonica</i> 'Mt. Fire', pendulous clusters of white flowers on small shrub	Right of path
Lily of the Valley Bush, <i>Pieris japonica</i> , tall shrubs with cascade of white flowers	Beyond gazebo, both sides
BEAR LEFT ONTO STAMPED CONCRETE WALK, THEN LEFT AGAIN ONTO AGGREGATE PATH	
Jonquil Daffodil, <i>Narcissus jonquilla</i> var. <i>henriquesii</i> , petite yellow trumpet flowers	Left side at path

	intersection
LOOK FOR A VARIETY OF COLORFUL REDBUDS ALONG THE LAKE EDGE BELOW THE ROSE GARDEN AND YOSHINO CHERRY TREES RIMMING THE ROSES	
TURN LEFT TO FOLLOW THE PATH ACROSS THE TOP OF THE ROSE GARDEN, TURN RIGHT TO GO UP THE MAIN PATH	
Lily of the Valley Bush, <i>Piers japonica</i> 'Variegata', shrub with glossy dark green leaves edged in white, small white flowers	Left of path
*Magnolia, <i>Magnolia x</i> 'Sundance' , tall tree with palest yellow blooms	Left of path
TURN RIGHT ON BRICK PATH TO RETURN TO VISITORS CENTER	