

BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

October 22, 2018

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bragdon, Main Garden Walk & West Island Garden | <p>Holly, <i>Ilex spp.</i> A native deciduous shrub that produces a crop of brightly colored berries in late summer. These showy berries may often persist throughout the winter and are a valuable source of food for birds. Look for <i>I. 'Winter Red'</i> in Four Seasons, Flagler and throughout. A striking stand of <i>I. 'Winter Gold'</i> looks smashing in West Island.</p> |  |
| Conservatory Beds, Asian Valley & Throughout | <p>Aster spp. Aster translates as "star" from the ancient Greek and aptly describes the appearance of the flowers. At the edge of the Lotus Bridge the tall stalks of <i>Aster tataricus 'Jindai'</i> stand like sentinels, while <i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium 'Raydon's Favorite'</i> can be found in beds fronting the Conservatory and elsewhere. Alive with bees, they are a pollen source.</p> |  |
| Upper Fountain Garden, Cherry Tree Walk & Throughout | <p>Chrysanthemum spp. This plant is a native of China where it was believed to bestow longevity. Linnaeus named the genus from the Greek - <i>chrysos</i> (gold) and <i>anthemon</i> (flower) in 1753. In the mid 1800's the plant hunter, Robert Fortune, risked his life to collect varieties for the Royal Horticultural Society. These fall showstoppers, with a variety of flower forms and shapes, echo the changing leaves all around them.</p> |  |
| Healing Garden & Throughout | <p>Beautyberry, <i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i>, is a real beauty! Clusters of showy lilac-violet fruit form along the long arching stems of this small shrub. One of the best ornamental fruiting shrubs, try planting in combination with hollies, <i>Ilex</i> (red berries) or <i>Pyracantha</i> (orange berries) for a berry spectacular display.</p> |  |

BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

October 22, 2018

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Four Seasons, Main Garden</p> <p>Walk & White Garden</p> | <p>Variegated red twig dogwood, <i>Cornus alba</i> 'Elegantissima' is not your grandmother's dogwood. This woody shrub sheds its white edged leaves in Autumn to reveal brilliant red stems that brighten the landscape. Although pruning is not generally required, many gardeners will remove a portion of the oldest stems to stimulate new growth which will display the best color.</p> |  |
| <p>Asian Valley, Lucy Payne Minor & Throughout</p> | <p><i>Camellia</i> spp. These beautiful flowering shrubs, native to China and Japan, are well represented with more than 50 varieties in our garden. Prime time for <i>Camellia sasanqua</i> blooms is fall through early winter. Sasanquas grow slowly and will tolerate more sun than japonica varieties. <i>Camellia japonica</i> usually flowers from the late winter months into early spring. Both varieties produce abundant flowers. Although most prominent in the Asian Valley, our lovely selections are all "bright spots" indeed!</p> |  |
| <p>Flagler Garden</p> | <p>Fountain grass, <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 'National Arboretum' Beside the stream in Flagler, clumps of <i>P. 'National Arboretum'</i> display dramatic dark seed heads aging to buff. (<i>Penna</i> is from the Latin, "feather" and <i>seta</i>, "bristle", is an accurate description.) All of these grasses require less water than our traditional lawn grasses. And, while "low maintenance" does not mean "no maintenance", most of them need cutting only once a season.</p> |  |
| <p>Entrance to Visitors Center</p> | <p>Container gardens The containers throughout the garden are a vibrant mix of textures and colors with the unusual addition of edible plants. Check out the tall ornamental grass "thriller"; "fillers" include <i>Coleus</i>, Swiss chard 'City Lights' with its bright multi-colored stems, ornamental kale 'Redbor' and small, chubby ornamental peppers. <i>Dichondra argentea</i> 'Silver Falls' spills over the pot edge to soften the arrangement. Many of these plants are cold hardy and will still look wonderful as the temperature drops.</p> |  |