

BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

February 19, 2019

<p>Robins Visitors Center - North Terrace; Asian Valley; Flagler Garden – Joan Van Arnum Walk & Dot’s Garden</p>	<p><i>Helleborus cv.</i> Various evergreen cultivars include Christmas Rose, Lenten Rose and Stinking Hellebore. The cupped flowers, subtly colored green, white, purple or cream, open on 2- to 3-inch stems. The blooms are long lasting, both on the plant and, when cut early in the blooming season, in arrangements. Hellebores prefer partial shade and fertile soil, will slowly spread to create clumps and will produce seedlings near the mother plants. Hellebores are unattractive to deer, rabbits and snails.</p>	
<p>Conservatory - Front of Atrium</p>	<p>Bromeliads. Strappy leaves of varying hues and patterns characterize members of the family Bromeliaceae, which originated in New World rainforests. Special leaf adaptations help collect nutrients from the air while the roots are used mostly for anchorage. The low-growing rosette of <i>Neoregelia sp.</i> has deep red leaves surrounding a central cup. The red and purple flower stalk of <i>Aechmea ‘Del Mar’</i> strongly contrasts with its bright green leaves and is a beacon for pollinators.</p>	
<p>Conservatory, - East Wing & Atrium</p>	<p>Orchids are one of the most prolific plant families, with more than 25,000 species and 70,000 hybrids and cultivars, which are registered by the Royal Horticultural Society. <i>Cattlianthe</i> Fire Island ‘Fiery’ HCC/AOS and its pale relative, <i>Ctt.</i> ‘David Sweet’, are hybrids of two orchid genera (<i>Cattleya</i> and <i>Guarianthe</i>). Although orchids are easy to cross, the very small seeds must be grown in sterile conditions. Most orchids sold today are hybrids.</p>	
<p>Upper Asian Valley</p>	<p>Bell-flowered Cherry, <i>Prunus campanulate</i> ‘Okame’ is a small deciduous tree, 15-25 ft. tall with a rounded canopy. It is one of the earliest blooming of the flowering cherries and is noted for its abundant rosy pink, mildly fragrant flowers and cold tolerance. Introduced in 1947, this variety received the Award of Garden Merit from the British Royal Horticultural Society. Easily grown in moist, well-drained soil with full sun for best flowering.</p>	

<p>Flagler Garden - Joan Van Arnum Walk & Children's Garden</p>	<p>Oregon Grape, <i>Mahonia 'Arthur Menzies'</i> confirmed its cold hardy reputation with racemes of bright yellow flowers and glossy green foliage. The garden has several <i>Mahonia</i> varieties which bear blue-black fruit attractive to birds. The sharp spiny leaves make them unappealing to deer. The genus is named for Bernard McMahon, who corresponded with Thomas Jefferson, and was a horticultural steward for plant collections from the Lewis and Clark expedition.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley – Upper Walkway</p>	<p>Witch Hazel, <i>Hamamelis cv.</i> Witch hazels are medium sized, deciduous shrubs that are noted for spidery, often fragrant flowers that emerge before the foliage. 'Diane' has brilliant coppery red flowers. This cultivar was created by a Belgian couple and named for their daughter. Hardy in Zones 5-8, it is undaunted by snow and ice. 1993 Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit Plant, reconfirmed in 2005</p>	
<p>Flagler Garden – Joan Van Arnum Walk & Woodland Walk</p>	<p>Snowdrops, <i>Galanthus nivalis</i>, are hardy perennial bulbs with linear leaves and white bell-shaped flowers with green streaks. Snowdrops are adapted for cold, having leaf tips that can penetrate frozen soil and chemicals that prevent icing. In Virginia's warmer climate they produce short-lived winter blooms. Snowdrops grow in moist organically rich soil, in partial shade and do well in woodland settings and under deciduous trees where they often naturalize.</p>	
<p>Robins Visitors Center - North Terrace; Asian Valley; Flagler Garden</p>	<p>Winter Daphne, <i>Daphne odora</i> A native of China and Japan, Winter Daphnes are small shrubs with dark glossy, leathery leaves and intensely fragrant reddish-purple flowers. Best grown in moist, rich, well-drained soil and part shade to shade. Full sun will burn foliage in hot climates. Plant near entrances and walkways where the fragrance can be enjoyed. Can be temperamental to grow but worth the effort.</p>	
<p>Cherry Tree Walk</p>	<p>Japanese Flowering Apricot, <i>Prunus mume 'Josephine'</i>. Long popular in Asia, this small tree of the Roseaceae family did not intrigue Americans until the 1990s. It is perfect for small gardens in Zones 6-9 as it grows to only 20 feet. 'Josephine' produces single white spicy scented blossoms – but no edible fruit – and is resistant to diseases and pests. Flowering Apricots require a sunny spot, rich soil and uniform moisture. Prune after flowering to produce long new growth that will increase the number of flower buds for the following year.</p>	