

BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

March 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 species 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 for floral arrangements. Hellebores prefer partial shade and fertile soil, will slowly spread to create clumps and will produce seedlings near the parent plants. Hellebores are unattractive to deer, rabbits and snails.</p>	
<p>George Bragdon Daffodil Garden & Throughout</p>	<p>Daffodils, <i>Narcissus cv.</i> Originally from Spain, Portugal and North Africa, daffodils were prized in ancient times. Today, more than 32,000 registered cultivars have been selected, which are classified into thirteen categories based upon the features of the petals, cup shape, as well as their size (the miniatures). On March 30-31, the Garden will host the Virginia Daffodil Society Show where daffodils are judged and awarded prizes. Check website for public hours.</p>	
<p>Upper Garden - Arbor</p>	<p>Flowering Cherry, <i>Prunus x 'Snofozam' Snow Fountains®</i>. A snowfall requiring no scraping of windshields! The pure white blossoms of this weeping ornamental cherry are long lasting. The trees may produce a few small inedible black fruits, but the next show stopper will be the gold and orange foliage colors in the Fall. A slow grower (planted in 2000) that likes full sun and is drought resistant, it is a good choice for a small garden.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley, Flagler Garden, Margaret Streb Conifer Garden</p>	<p>Paper Bush, <i>Edgeworthia cv.</i> is heralding spring, sporting clusters of tiny cream and gold trumpets dangling from dark bare branches. The blooms fill the air with intoxicating fragrance, alerting winter pollinators to a feasting opportunity. The inner bark was used to make paper in its native China, hence the common name. This shrub will does well in Virginia provided with some shade, rich soil and protection from winter winds.</p>	

<p>Asian Valley, Flagler Garden</p>	<p>Camellia, <i>Camellia japonica cv.</i> is blooming all over. This evergreen, long-lived and bird-friendly shrub enjoys winter sun, allowing it to blossom before the trees leaf out; then summer shade protects its glossy leaves. They are best placed under a deciduous tree canopy. Look throughout to see its various flower forms (single, double, anemone) and the white, red, rose and variegated flower colorations. Plant your favorite variety in well-drained acidic soil.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley, Flagler Garden & Main Garden Walk</p>	<p>Magnolia cv., <i>Magnolia stellata</i>, commonly known as star magnolia, is noted for its compact size (15-20 ft) and early blooms of white star-like flowers. Saucer Magnolia, <i>M. x soulangeana</i> has fragrant pink flowers with white interiors. Unlike our evergreen Southern Magnolia, these trees are deciduous and enjoy locations with moist, acidic, organically rich soil. Early spring frost can damage flowers.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley & Streb Conifer Garden</p>	<p>Flowering Quince, <i>Chaenomeles japonica cv.</i> Both cultivars of this thorny shrub with selections with scarlet, red and white flowers that could pass for apple blossoms. The blooms seem to float in the air, since they appear before the leaves. The branches of <i>C. japonica</i> 'Contorta' in Asian Valley are an Ikebana enthusiast's dream; whereas, 'Toyo Nishiki' is so floriferous that it could be mistaken for a fluffy cloud fallen to earth.</p>	
<p>Streb Conifer Garden</p>	<p>Lily of the Valley Bush, <i>Pieris japonica</i> 'Mt. Fire', is an evergreen shrub with two annual expressions. In spring, pendulous clusters of lightly scented creamy white flowers that resemble pearls cover the plant. Early summer's new foliage is brilliant scarlet. Other cultivars have flowers in shades of white, pink and deep rose. Also known as Andromeda, it is slow growing, tolerates shade and is deer resistant.</p>	
<p>Main Garden Walk</p>	<p><i>Crocus angustifolius</i> 'Cloth of Gold' This early spring bulb signals the end of winter, with orange-gold star-like flowers with streaks of maroon, are emerging among the purple violas. The bulbs were well known in Europe by the 17th century. These members of the Iridaceae (Iris) family are related to <i>C. sativus</i>, whose stigmas are the source of saffron. Recipient of British Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.</p>	