









BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

April 14, 2019

+ = Native Plant

<p>George Bragdon, Flagler, Dot's & White Gardens</p>	<p>Bleeding Heart, <i>Lamprocapnos spectabilis</i> (formerly <i>Dicentra</i>) is a species of plant from the poppy family. This old garden favorite has sprays of dainty heart shaped flowers dangling from graceful arching stems. Modern cultivars in this group of woodland perennials have flowers that range in color from red to pink to white (<i>L. 'Alba'</i>). <i>L. 'Gold Heart'</i> in the Fountain Terrace has shocking bright chartreuse foliage. Because the plant goes dormant in summer, bleeding hearts are best planted through a loose ground cover or paired with later developing perennials.</p>	
<p>Four Seasons, Asian Valley & Woodland Walk</p>	<p>Ferns, It's hard to believe that the alien looking fiddleheads emerging in shady nooks and the Woodland Walk are from the same plants that will later welcome us into those cool glades on scorching days. In shade gardens, ferns offer a variety of shapes, colors and textures, <i>Dryopteris erythrose</i> is an evergreen fern with striking fall color, <i>Athyrium</i> x 'Ghost' has pale fronds that will brighten a dark corner and <i>Osmandastrum cinamonea</i> (Cinnamon Fern) hosts several species of caterpillars. Ferns have also been useful in remediating contaminated soils.</p>	
<p>Bragdon, Asian Valley, Joan Van Arnum Walk, Flagler Garden & Throughout</p>	<p>Rhododendron cv. Springtime in Virginia is defined by a profusion of azaleas (a subgenera of Rhododendron). A stately Exbury cultivar 'My Mary' is about to bloom in Bragdon while <i>R. x 'Karens'</i> (pictured) is rioting now in the upper Asian Valley. Down the hill in Flagler find the striking native <i>R. canescens</i>, Florida Pinxter Azalea, with its clusters of creamy blush blooms and startlingly long anthers. Shade and acid soil will suit all these plants.</p>	
<p>Meditation Garden, Asian Valley, Flagler Garden & Throughout</p>	<p>Viburnum, <i>Viburnum</i> spp. Our Garden Explorer database lists forty different specimens of Viburnums. Some are shrubs, others multi-trunk small trees (see our native (<i>V. prunifolium</i>) in the Meditation Garden. Many are in bloom right now with creamy white snowball shaped inflorescences, and some (<i>V. x carlcephalum</i>) are delectably fragrant. <i>V. utile</i> 'Eskimo' pictured here is semi evergreen in our range.</p>	

Asian Valley & Throughout	<p><i>Acer species</i>. Asian Maple trees have reached their spring peak. You will find every color, size and shape of tree, especially in the Asian Valley: the lime green Fullmoon Maple, the small, red ‘Crimson Queen’ dissected Maple, an orange-turning-to-green ‘Katsura’ are some of the offerings. The Garden offers double delight with the trees’ reflections in the lakes. The ease of care once established adds to this species attraction in home gardens.</p>	
Asian Valley & Flagler Garden	<p><i>Camellia, 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 planted under a deciduous tree canopy and in well-drained acidic soil. Look throughout to see its various flower forms (single, double, anemone) and the white, red, rose and variegated flower colorations.</p>	
Asian Valley, Joan Van Arnum Walk	<p><i>Tree Peony, Paeonia suffruticosa cv.</i> Our woody peonies have begun to break free. This magenta ‘Shima Daijin’ cultivar is one startling vision. Pair it in your garden with complimentary plants. Or, follow the ancient Chinese custom to use the bark for medicinal purposes. Better yet, bring cut flowers inside to best appreciate the variety of colors and fragrances of this species. A tree peony can grow to shrub-like proportions, supporting 8” blossoms for 2 weeks.</p>	
Flagler Garden	<p>+Virginia Bluebell, <i>Mertensia virginica</i>, is a native ephemeral wildflower that thrives in moist, rich woodland soil in part to full shade. Spreading clumps will form a charming colony over time. Flowers begin with pink buds and mature to cornflower blue trumpets. The plants go dormant and the foliage dies to the ground in mid-summer so bluebells are often paired with other shade lovers like Ferns, Hostas or Astilbes.</p>	
Flagler Garden, Woodland Walk	<p>+Celandine Poppy, <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>. This delicate woodland wildflower is a native perennial that grows best in rich, moist shade on the cool north side of a house or under a deep canopy of trees. The blooms will revive a grouch with their cheery yellow rays or interest a child with their historical uses as war paint and fiber dye. The seeds naturalize or you can easily spread them in damp soil. A reliable harbinger of spring in the woods.</p>	