

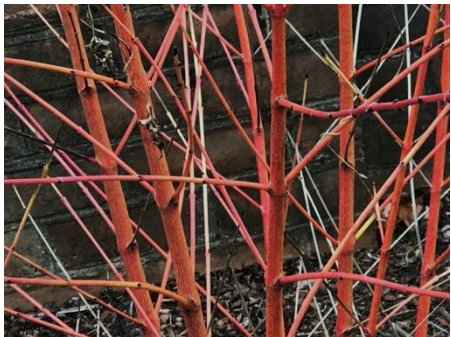







BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

February 3, 2020

+ Virginia Native Plant

<p>North Terrace & Throughout</p>	<p><i>Helleborus</i> cv. Various evergreen cultivars include Christmas Rose and Lenten Rose. 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>North Terrace</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>Four Seasons Garden (outer wall), Fountain Garden & Main Garden Walk</p>	<p><i>Cornus</i> spp. Various dogwood species shed their leaves in autumn to reveal brilliantly colored stems. Look for the bright coral stems of <i>C. sanguinea</i> 'Winter Flame' outside the wall of the Four Seasons Garden. Pruning out a third of the stems each winter stimulates new growth which will give constant color. Plant any one of these varieties in front of evergreens for a stunning contrast in color and texture.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley, Flagler</p>	<p>Paper Bush, <i>Edgeworthia</i> cv. 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 do well in Virginia when provided with some shade and rich soil.</p>	

<p>Upper Asian Valley</p>	<p>Bell-flowered Cherry, <i>Prunus campanulate</i> 'Okame' is a small deciduous tree with a rounded canopy. One of the earliest blooming of the flowering cherries it's noted for its abundant rosy pink, mildly fragrant flowers and cold tolerance. Introduced in 1947, 'Okame' received the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit. Grow in moist, well-drained soil with full sun for best flowering.</p>	
<p>Opposite Grace Arents Garden & Berm at Front Entrance to Garden</p>	<p>Winter Jasmine, <i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i> is a member of the Olive family and the hardiest of all Jasmine species. One of the earliest flowering plants to bloom, these cheery yellow star shape flowers brighten a gloomy winter day. The rambling nature of Winter Jasmine allows it to be grown as a ground cover or trained on a trellis to disguise a wall or fence. It's not fussy about soil but performs best in full sun.</p>	
<p>Flagler Garden</p>	<p>Needle Palm, <i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>, is an evergreen, clumping fan palm characterized by long, sharp needles along the trunk. One of the toughest cold-hardy palms, it can survive Virginia's winters and frozen precipitation. Native to the wet bottomlands of the SE US, these plants often form massive clumps which are almost impenetrable to wildlife. Slow growing Needle Palms are highly adaptable to varying soils and sunlight and can provide a tropical feel to porches, patios and gardens.</p>	
<p>Lake Walk</p>	<p>Japanese Flowering Apricot, <i>Prunus mume</i> 'Dawn'. Long popular in Asia for its early bloom, the species was introduced to America in 1911. Ideal for small gardens in Zones 6-9, growing to ~ 20, it is disease and pest resistant. 'Dawn' is noted for its double pink flowers; other cultivars can display white, red, purple or even light green blooms. Flowering Apricots require a sunny spot, rich soil and uniform moisture.</p>	
<p>Conservatory</p>	<p>Earth Star, <i>Cryptanthus spp.</i> In the Bromeliad family, this genus is a Brazilian terrestrial plant that is short, wide and colorful with its patterned leaves of variegated greens, reds and white. Named for the flower (anthos) that is hidden (krypto) by the leaves, the mother plant dies following its one flowering. Luckily, she produces "pups" that can be separated, planted and grown until the time of their own single flowering, reproduction and demise.</p>	