

BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

March 9, 2020

+ Virginia Native Plant

<p>North Terrace & Throughout</p>	<p><i>Helleborus cv.</i> Known as Christmas Rose or Lenten Rose, there are many evergreen cultivars on the market today. The cupped flowers, subtly colored green, white, purple or cream, open on 2- to 3-inch stems. The double-petaled variety in the photo is located in Dot's Garden. The blooms are long lasting, both on the plant and in arrangements. Hellebores prefer partial shade and fertile soil, will slowly spread to create clumps and will self-seed. Hellebores are unattractive to deer, rabbits and snails.</p>	
<p>North Terrace, Flagler – Dot's 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 if the soil is wet, but worth the effort.</p>	
<p>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 and classified into 13 categories based on features of the petals, cup shape and size. See our 270+ varieties throughout the Garden – such as this featured 'Jetfire' in Flagler. On Mar 28 and 31, from 2 pm to 5 pm, Garden visitors can enjoy statewide daffodil shows which showcase award-winning blossoms.</p>	
<p>Arbor at the Four Seasons Garden</p>	<p>Flowering Cherry, <i>Prunus</i> × 'Snofozam' Snow Fountains® is an ornamental cherry with showy white blossoms and a weeping habit, hence "Snow Fountains". It is slow growing; the trees espaliered on the arbor were planted in 2000. Bees now are busy pollinating, but the small, black fruit are inedible. In autumn the leaves turn shades of gold and orange. Full sun is best, providing protection against the many diseases and insect pests that are prone to attack this genus.</p>	

<p>Asian Valley, Flagler</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 do well in Virginia when provided with some shade and rich soil.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley, Flagler, Streb-Minor Gardens</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 new growth starts; then summer shade protects its glossy leaves. It is best planted under a deciduous tree canopy 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>	
<p>Flagler Garden and Cherry Tree Walk</p>	<p>Witch Hazel, <i>Hamamelis × intermedia</i> ‘Arnold Promise’ is a vase shaped deciduous shrub growing to 12’-15’. It is noted for its spidery, yellow, fragrant flowers that are a boon to winter pollinators. Flowers emerge before the foliage; on very cold days the petals will curl up to prevent damage. ‘Arnold’ is an introduction of the Arnold Arboretum (Boston). Fall foliage is yellow to yellow-orange. Hardy in Zones 5-8.</p>	
<p>Streb-Minor Gardens</p>	<p>Flowering Quince, <i>Chaenomeles sp.</i> Cultivars of this thorny and twisted shrub grow scarlet, peach and white flowers that could pass for apple blossoms. The blooms of <i>C. japonica</i> ‘Toyo Nishiki’ seem to float in the air because they appear before the leaves; its branch structure is an Ikebana enthusiast’s dream. <i>C. speciosa</i> ‘Cameo’ (photo) is notable for its double peach-pink flowers, more compact shape and thornless branches.</p>	
<p>Main Garden Walk, White Garden, Streb-Minor Gardens</p>	<p>Lily of the Valley Bush, <i>Pieris japonica cv.</i> This evergreen shrub blooms in early spring with pendulous clusters of lightly scented white, rosy or raspberry flowers that resemble a string of pearls or little bells. The new summer foliage emerges orangey-red and develops to a deep glossy green. Sometimes known as Andromeda, and named after the home of the Greek Muses, this elegant but slow-growing Asian native lives best in some shade and rich soil. Its deer resistance is yet another asset.</p>	