

BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

November 9, 2020

+ Virginia Native Plant

* Location of Bright Spots Sign

<p>North Terrace Garden, Asian Valley, *Flagler Garden & Streb Conifer Garden</p>	<p><i>Camellia sasanqua</i>. This species of camellia blooms in the autumn. Differing from the late winter blooming <i>C. japonica</i>, these plants are shorter, have smaller serrated leaves and possess flowers that are more delicate in both their single and double forms. The shrub is drought tolerant, likes full-to-partial sun in a rich soil and can be used as a hedge or pruned to a tree-form. Now is the time to view the varied cultivars around the Garden.</p>	
<p>*Upper Fountain Garden, Asian Valley & Flagler Garden</p>	<p>Cushion Mum, Hardy Chrysanthemum, <i>Chrysanthemum</i> 'Pink Sheffield'. Linnaeus named these sturdy perennials from the Greek chrysos (gold) and anthemon (flower) in 1753. No longer just in shades of gold, mums provide pollinator loving beauty from October to frost (pho). Cut the plant back by half in early summer and it will bloom on short stems that won't flop over. It is easy to root these cuttings in water and then share with friends.</p>	
<p>*Conservatory - Dome House</p>	<p>Mistletoe Fig, <i>Ficus deltoidea</i> is native to the tropics of Southeast Asia. It is the only <i>Ficus</i> species that will produce fruit when cultivated indoors. Inedible, pea-sized fruit matures from green to pink and red, a striking contrast to the dark shiny green leaves. The plant loves light and humidity. Its slow growing nature makes it a great favorite of bonsai artists. Our specimen is about six years old and is planted in driftwood with companions of varying texture and color.</p>	
<p>Conservatory - *Atrium & East Wing</p>	<p><i>Anthurium andraeanum</i> is a cheery, exotic plant that offers glossy, green heart shaped leaves topped by heart shaped pink, red, purple or white long-lasting blooms. Native to Columbia and Ecuador it is an epiphytic perennial that can't stand temperatures below 60 degrees. It's been scientifically proven to scrub harmful indoor air pollution from homes and offices. This plant wants plenty of indirect bright light and prefers high humidity.</p>	

<p>*Conservatory – East Wing</p>	<p>Dutchman’s Pipe, <i>Aristolochia</i> is a vigorous woody vine that climbs and twines up and over the cottage. Subtropical but winter hardy, it brings welcome shade to porches and pergolas. The dense, overlapping, dark green leaves almost hide the distinctive flowers mottled with yellow and purple. The flower's strong scent attracts insects to the hairy central tube - when the hairs die, the pollen-covered fly is released. Some species are butterfly host plants.</p>	
<p>Louise Cochrane Rose Garden</p>	<p>Roses, <i>Rosa</i>. With cooler weather, repeat bloomers fill the garden with swatches of color. <i>R.</i> ‘Miracle on the Hudson’ features spectacular red semi-double flowers with a light fragrance (photo,*). <i>R.</i> ‘New Dawn’, a light-pink climbing rose whose blooms age to white, is beautiful against the grey stones. <i>R.</i> ‘Wekvossutono’ Julia Child™, a Floribunda rose, brings shades of yellow. Look for the colorful rose hips.</p>	
<p>*West Island Garden & Lucy Payne Minor Garden</p>	<p>Swamp Cypress, Bald Cypress, <i>Taxodium distichum</i> is a deciduous conifer. Its soft, green, needle-like foliage turns glorious bronze at this time of year before dropping to the ground, hence “bald”. Look for clusters of cones the color of oxidized copper. These large trees (to 100’) develop hollow conical structures from the roots that may help to stabilize the tree in its damp environment. Native Americans repurposed larger “knees” as bee hives.</p>	
<p>*Asian Valley & Grace Arents Garden</p>	<p>Maidenhair Tree, <i>Ginkgo Biloba</i> ‘Magyar’. The unique fan-shaped leaves gleam golden as this group of 6 stand tall and thin as sentinels along the stream. Native to China, Ginkgoes date back 270 million years. The trees are dioecious. ‘Magyar’ is a male clone with a narrow, upright (fastigate) habit that makes it an ideal street tree. Contrast its shape and size (planted 1999) with the legacy ginkgo in Grace Arents garden.</p>	
<p>Four Seasons Garden, West Island Garden, *Cherry Tree Walk & Main Garden Walk</p>	<p>+Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i>, is a native deciduous shrub that produces a crop of brightly colored berries that will persist into winter (hence the common name) and provides food for our feathered friends. <i>Verticillata</i> is Latin for “whorled” and refers to the arrangement of the berries around the stems. ‘Winter Red’ (photo) is a female cultivar noted for its heavy fruiting; a male holly is required for pollination. Look also for <i>I. verticillata</i> ‘Winter Gold’.</p>	