


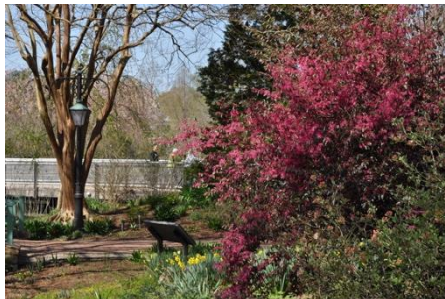


BRIGHT SPOTS





CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

April 5, 2021

+ Virginia Native Plant

*Location of Bright Spots Sign

<p>*Asian Valley and Throughout</p>	<p>Japanese maples have reached their spring peak. You will find every color, size and shape of tree, especially in the Asian Valley: the lime green <i>Acer japonicum</i> 'Aconitifolium' full moon maple, the small, red <i>A. palmatum</i> 'Crimson Queen' dissected maple and an orange-turning-to-green <i>A. palmatum</i> 'Katsura' are just some of the offerings. The Garden brings double delight with the trees' reflections in the lakes. The ease of care once established adds to this species attraction in home gardens.</p>	
<p>*Asian Valley, Flagler Garden, Streb Conifer Garden</p>	<p>Fringe flower, <i>Loropetalum chinense</i> var. <i>rubrum</i> 'Zhuzhou Fuschia' is shouting spring's arrival with clusters of magenta blooms resembling pom-poms. This versatile relative of witch hazel can also be pruned into a tree like form. Provide moist, well-drained soil and shade from afternoon sun. If magenta is too bright for your garden palette a white blooming cultivar is also available.</p>	
<p>*Flagler Garden</p>	<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, reverting to pink after pollination. 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>	
<p>*Flagler Garden, Woodland Walk</p>	<p>+Celandine poppy, <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>. A reliable harbinger of spring in the woods, this delicate woodland wildflower is a native perennial that grows best in rich, moist shade. 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 are easily spread in damp soil. Do not confuse it with the <i>very</i> invasive lesser celandine, <i>Ficaria verna</i>, a very tricky look-alike.</p>	

<p>George Bragdon Daffodil Garden, *Flagler Garden and Throughout</p>	<p>Daffodils. Originally from Iberia and North Africa, <i>Narcissus</i> were prized in ancient times as a symbol of rebirth. Named for conceited Narcissus of Greek mythology, 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 swath along the Main Garden Walk.</p>	
<p>*Flagler Garden and Throughout</p>	<p>Ferns. These 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, ferns offer a variety of shapes, colors and textures, <i>Dryopteris erythrosa</i>—is an evergreen fern with striking fall color and <i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i> (cinnamon fern) hosts several species of caterpillars. Ferns have also been useful in remediating contaminated soils.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley, *Flagler Garden and Throughout</p>	<p>+Eastern redbud, <i>Cercis canadensis</i>, is a native understory tree. Pea-like rose-purple flowers bloom on bare branches in early spring followed by heart-shaped lime green to burgundy leaves depending on the cultivar. Cauliflory is the botanical term for blooms along the trunk and branches which makes the flowers more accessible to pollinating insect crawlers.</p>	
<p>*Flagler Garden, Streb Conifer Garden</p>	<p>Jack-in-the-pulpit, <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> would be an exotic looking addition to a shady garden. The flower, in shades of green to purple, consists of the “Jack” (spadex) residing within a “pulpit” (spath). The fleshy flower stalk is shaded by two large leaves. All this greenery will disappear by mid-summer as the plant goes dormant. <i>Arisaema</i> thrive in part to full shade, and can be used in rain gardens. Roots are poisonous.</p>	
<p>*Flagler Garden across from Bloemendaal, Streb Conifer Garden and Throughout</p>	<p>Lily of the valley bush, <i>Pieris japonica</i>, is an evergreen shrub that 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 genus is named after Pieria, the home of the 9 Greek Muses. This elegant but slow-growing Asian native lives best in some shade and rich soil and is deer resistant. Pictured here is the heat tolerant <i>P. japonica</i> ‘Planow’ Mountain Snow™ Pieris, found in the Flagler Garden.</p>	