

## Bright Spots



# Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

A SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR

February 8, 2017

### Did you know...

Walking the garden at this time of year allows you to spot some unique plants that have been hiding in plain sight. We all love the color and profusion of spring, but those rioting blooms demand so much attention the background that makes them pop becomes well-nigh invisible. So if you are here for a quiet winter stroll, turn onto the upper Asian Valley path and take a look at *Rohdea japonica*, Lily of China. Despite the common name this evergreen perennial is a member of the asparagus family. Moreover, its blooms are well hidden on short stems at the base of the foliage and thus according to Avent\*\* “are rarely seen by anything other than a ground fly or occasional slug.” It is the bright red-orange clusters of the seed from these blooms that can be spotted now amongst the spikes of green.

If you love hosta, this plant might be of interest, as it grows happily in similar conditions, and provides evergreen ground cover. Besides the swath under the *Acer palmatum* in Asian Valley there are several plantings in the Flagler Perennial Garden. One large cluster is along the Woodland Walk where you might spot some early spring bulbs as well.

Rutgers named *Rohdea japonica* plant of the year in 2013, but you will probably not find it at a big-box garden center. A quick internet search for the name with “nursery” will turn up some reputable sources for your new find.

Sources: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/HLA/Dunwell/Rohdeajaponica.html>;  
<http://www.waltermagazine.com/thats-some-asparagus-rohdea-japonica>

\*\* Author Tony Avent is a well know horticulturist and plantsman, owner of Plant Delights Nursery;  
<http://rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/plantoftheyear.html>

**\*Notable Plants:** Several times a month, Garden Volunteers record the most dramatic seasonal displays and highlight exceptional plants in the garden and Conservatory.

**+Denotes Virginia Native Plant**

Plant Material	Location
<b>CENTRAL GARDEN and CONSERVATORY LOOP</b>	
<b>FOUNTAIN TERRACE</b>	
Winter Daphne, <i>Daphne odora</i> , small shrub with evergreen leaves; tight pink buds opening to pink tubular flowers	Left rear bed, Garden Shop side
Christmas Rose, <i>Helleborus x ericsmithii</i> ‘Silvermoon’ clusters of creamy white flowers beginning to open above foliage of silver green leaves	Left rear bed, by glass doors

Variegated Boxwood, <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> 'Aureovariegata', variegated pyramid shaped evergreen, leaves edged in yellow	Throughout, 16 matched shrubs
Christmas Rose, <i>Helleborus niger</i> 'Joseph Lemper', greenish blossoms above large, deep green leaves	Right front bed, Café side
<b>OUTSIDE THE GATES TURN LEFT, THEN TURN RIGHT TO ENTER</b>	
Crocus, <i>Crocus angustifolius</i> 'Cloth of Gold', cup shaped gold flowers with bronze feathering over grass-like foliage	In front of the brick wall
<b>GEORGE BRAGDON DAFFODIL GARDEN</b>	
HUNDREDS OF DAFFODIL SHOOTS ARE EMERGING FROM THE GROUND, WATCH AS THEY CONTINUE TO GROW AND FLOWER	Throughout
RETURN TO THE BRICK PATH, TURN RIGHT TO	
<b>EAST and WEST TRIANGLE BEDS</b>	
Pansy, Panola <sup>R</sup> Deep Blue/Blotch	Throughout
Pansy, Panola <sup>R</sup> Blackberry Sundae Mix	
Pansy, Panola <sup>R</sup> White	
Pansy, Panola <sup>®</sup> Lilac Shades	
<b>CONTINUE UP THE STEPS</b>	
<b>Ornamental Grass Garden In Front of the Conservatory</b>	
Switchgrass, <i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Northwind', grass topped by beige plumes	Both sides
Ravenna Grass, <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> , very tall, erect clump-forming grass	Both sides, rear
<b>CONSERVATORY</b>	
<b>Palm House</b>	
<b>*Sago Palm, <i>Cycas revoluta</i></b> , lush stems radiating from center. This 32 year old plant was started from seed by a garden volunteer and recently donated to LBG. Notice the emerging red seed.	Central spiral bed, second level, left of center
<i>Clivia miniata</i> , brilliant orange clusters of trumpet shaped flowers with yellow throat above foliage	Left side in pots on the floor
<i>Cymbidium</i> orchid, clusters of mustard yellow-green flower petals with burgundy speckled lip	Center left in pot on floor
Queen Sago Palm, <i>Cycas circinalis</i> , cone bearing evergreen, stiff leaves with stiff narrow leaflets and strongly recurved margins. This plant is not actually a palm tree.	Central spiral planter, right side
Corsage orchid, <i>Cattlianthe</i> Gold Digger 'Orchid Jungle' CCM/, gold petals surround burgundy lip	Right side on ledge of Spiral Planter in multiple pots
Bromeliad, <i>Aechmea blanchettiana</i> , tall colorful flower spikes of red and yellow above strappy sharp-edged leaves	Central spiral planter & corner beds
Bird of Paradise, <i>Strelitzia reginae</i> , vivid orange and bright purple crane shaped flowers, large dark green fan-shaped leaves	Bed to left of entrance
Bromeliad, <i>Aechmea</i> 'Loie's Pride', tall salmon and yellow flower spike above elongated strappy leaves, green with yellow stripes	Rear side of spiral planter, in pot on ledge
Bromeliad, <i>Portea</i> 'Jungles', large rosette of stiff leaves, tall orange flower spikes	Pot at the rear and in hanging baskets

<b>East Wing</b>	
TAKE ENJOY THE VARIETIES AND COLORS OF ORCHIDS	
Gum Palm, <i>Dioon spinulosum</i> , 8' tree with arching leaves and two notable 18 inch seed pods	Left side near banana tree
<i>Clerodendrum quadriloculare</i> 'Shooting Star', tall tree , large leaves, huge flower clusters like fireworks, pale pink buds just emerging	Rear of right bed
<i>Philodendron</i> 'Prince of Orange', orange-tinted leaves on new growth	Front of right bed
Spleenwort, <i>Asplenium antiquum</i> , bright green, arching, elongated ruffled fronds, growing vigorously out of stone wall.	Right side
Orchid, <i>Cattlianthe Fire Island</i> 'Fiery", orange flowers with burgundy lip on 2' high stem	Left side on wall in grotto
<b>*White Bird of Paradise, <i>Strelitzia nicolai</i></b> , large banana-like leaves are arranged in a fan-like position, large, crane-shaped, creamy white flowers	Left side beyond grotto, corner bed <b>LOOK UP!</b>
<b>*Pink Wild Pear, <i>Dombeya burgessiae</i> 'Seminole'</b> , pink mop-head flower carried on long stem, medium shrub	Left side beyond grotto, corner bed
<i>Bougainvillea</i> x ' Monka', Oo-la-la®, magenta-red flower bracts on climbing branches	Far left corner and overhead
<b>West Wing</b>	
Ellemeet's Agave, <i>Agave ellemeetiana</i> , huge specimen with gracefully curving leaves, from the cloud forests of Mexico near Oaxaca	Left of entrance
Calamondin orange, x <i>Citrofortunella mitis</i> , abundant miniature orange fruit on small tree in pot	In pot, right side near the entrance
<b>*Passion Flower, <i>Passiflora vitifolia</i></b> , bright red flowers adorn the lobed grape-looking leaves.	Left side on trellis over the bench
<i>Oxalis triangularis</i> 'Mijke', deep purple triangular shaped foliage with delicate pink clusters of flowers	Throughout
Ti Plant, <i>Cordyline terminalis</i> ( <i>C. fruticosa</i> ), upright stem with leaves edged in pink, sprays of white flowers along pink stems	On left after arch
<b>*Meyer Lemon, <i>Citrus x meyeri</i></b> , small tree with abundant yellow lemons	In front of cottage
Cyclamen (red); <i>Kalanchoe</i> (white, pink, orange, red); <i>Salvia</i> 'Black and Bloom', deep blue spikes of flowers	Cottage garden
Crista-De-Galo, <i>Camptosema spectabile</i> , drooping orange flowers on upright, twisted vines	Left side in pot, in border
Beaked Yucca, <i>Yucca rostrata</i> , large ball-shaped, long spiked leaves, pineapple appearance at the core	Right side just past the cottage
Red Headed Irishman, <i>Mammillaria spinosissima</i> , small deep pink flowers with yellow centers born on numerous low multi-lobed cactus	Right side just past the cottage
Hedgehog Aloe, <i>Aloe humilis</i> 'Hedgehog' , short spikes of coral-red blooms, non-rigid spikes along sides of leaves	Left bed, near path
FROM CONSERVATORY, PROCEED AHEAD TO	
<b>FOUNTAIN GARDEN</b>	
TURN LEFT ALONG TRIANGLE BEDS	
<b>FOUNTAIN GARDEN</b>	
Upper Level	

AT INTERSECTION TURN RIGHT TOWARD EDUCATION CENTER , THEN LEFT TO ENTER	
<b>MEDITATION GARDEN</b> RIGHT OF PATH	
<b>MEDICINAL GARDEN</b> LEFT OF PATH	
Rosemary, <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Gorizia' upright aromatic shrub,	Right side
CONTINUE STRAIGHT AHEAD TO ENTER	
<b>FOUR SEASONS GARDEN</b>	
Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter Red', deciduous shrub, brilliant red berries	Near left side, back of bed
Christmas Rose, <i>Helleborus niger</i> 'Nell Lewis Strain', low clumps of white blossoms turning pink held above foliage	Left side, rear bed
Red Twig Dogwood, <i>Cornus alba</i> 'Elegantissima', small shrub with blood red stems	Right side, front bed
* <b>Yucca</b> , <i>Yucca filamentosa</i> 'Color Guard', low growing plant with brilliant, striped gold and green sword like leaves	Left side, front bed
RETURN TO THE VISITOR CENTER OR ADD	
<b>ASIAN VALLEY LOOP</b>	
FROM THE VISITOR'S CENTER, WALK THROUGH THE IRON GATE AND TURN RIGHT ON THE AGGREGATE PATH CONTINUE STRAIGHT TO ENTER	
<b>ASIAN VALLEY</b> TAKE NOTE OF THE VARIETY OF FOLIAGE COLORS AND TEXTURES CHARACTERISTIC OF AN ASIAN GARDEN	
Lily of China, <i>Rohdea japonica</i> , dark green elongated leaves, red berries somewhat hidden at the base of the plant	Left of path
Sawara Cypress, <i>Chamecyparis pisifera</i> 'Filifera Aurea', mounded shrub of threadleaf golden foliage	Straight ahead at the bottom of the path
AT THE INTERSECTION, TURN RIGHT ONTO THE GRAVEL LOOP	
<i>Edgeworthia chrysantha</i> 'Gold Rush', medium shrub with unusual creamy white flowers at tips of branches, buds just beginning to appear	End of loop, right side
BACK AT THE INTERSECTION, GO STRAIGHT AHEAD ON THE COMPOSITE PATH	
Variegated Himalayan Pine, <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> 'Zebrina', elegant, long, drooping blue needles, banded with creamy yellow	Left on hillside across from the lake
CONTINUE BEYOND THE GRAVEL PATH	
Norway Spruce, <i>Picea abies</i> var. <i>pendula</i> , tall dark evergreen; it appears ready to walk and talk with you	Right side, opposite bench
Chinese Wingnut Tree, <i>Pterocarya stenoptera</i> var. <i>brevialata</i> , take note of the interesting root structure and branching habit of this tree	Right at corner
Coral Bark Japanese Maple, <i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Sango-Kaku', grove of multi-stemmed trees with v-shaped habit, distinctive coral red winter bark, color intensifies in cold weather to almost salmon	At the corner, look right before the Tea House
AT THE SHOJI SCREENS, TURN AND LOOK BACK	
Chinese Juniper, <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Torulosa', a stand of evergreens undulating down the berm	Now to the right on berm
TURN LEFT DOWN THE WINDING PATH	

<i>Helleborus foetidus</i> , a large swath of plants with clusters of pendant, muted chartreuse flowers, deeply cut foliage, leaves smell unpleasant when crushed	Left of path at the rear
* <i>Parrotia persica</i> , grove of three trees with mottled bark, cherry red bloom clusters, attracting bees	Left of path
AT THE INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT	
TURN LEFT ON AGGREGATE <b>MAIN GARDEN PATH</b>	
* <i>Edgeworthia tomentosa</i> 'Nanjing Gold', medium shrub with unusual drooping white buds at tips of the branches	Throughout the triangle bed
TURN RIGHT TO ENTER THE <b>LOUISE COCHRANE ROSE GARDEN</b>	
Blooms have ended for the season. Enjoy the view across the lake.	
<i>Viola cornuta</i> 'PAS221923' Sorbet ® Lemon Chiffon and display of many other selections: XP Yellow, Delft Blue, Marina Improved, Morpho, Blue Blotch, and Blue Heaven	Along path
<i>Magnolia</i> x 'Sundance', a multitude of fuzzy greenish buds on tall tree	Near Left side back of bed
Coral Bark Japanese Maple, <i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Sango-Kaku', multi-stemmed trees with v-shaped habit, distinctive coral red winter bark	Left side, back of bed
THE VISITOR CENTER IS STRAIGHT AHEAD ON THE RIGHT	
<p><b>On pleasant days, you may want to wander the lower gardens including, Flagler Perennial Garden including Rob's Garden, Dot's Garden, Woodland Walk and Joan Van Arnam Memorial Walk; West Island; Grace Arents Garden (A Victorian Garden); Cherry Tree Walk including Lucy Payne Minor Garden and Margaret Streb Conifer Garden or the Vienna Cobb Anderson Meadow and Constructed Wetland.</b></p> <p><b>Especially look for interesting tree architecture or bark, evergreens of various textures and shades, berries and early blooming flowers such as Winter Heath, Witch Hazel and Hellebores.</b></p>	