

ARS District 9: This Week in the Garden - *March 22, 2020*

by *Don Hyatt*

Since we won't be able to arrange garden tours this spring, I thought it might be nice to provide a virtual tour of what is in bloom in our District 9 this week. The images on these pages were taken by Doug Jolley, Sandra McDonald, and me, Don Hyatt. If you have some images from your garden that you would like to share, please send them to me. Maybe I can work them into future issues.



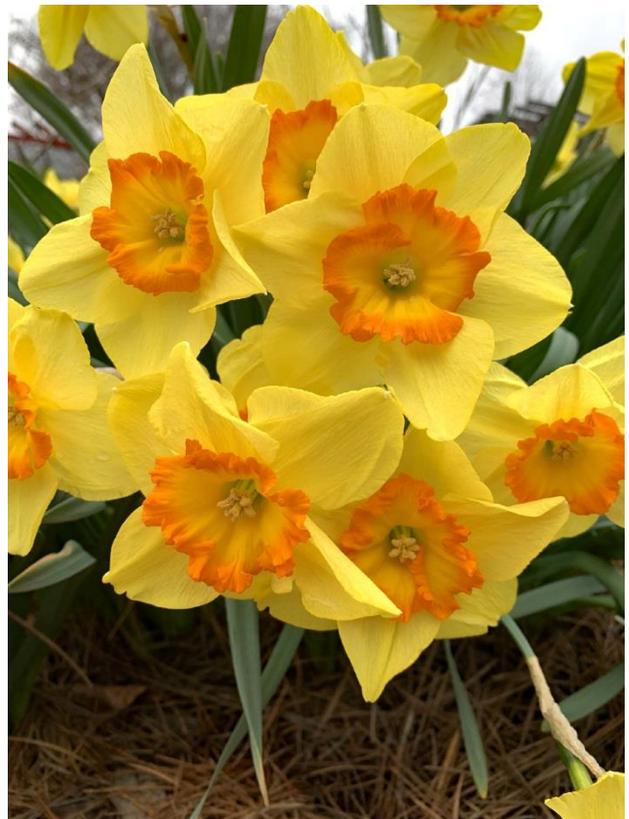
Daffodil 'Pink Charm' Photo: Doug Jolley



Hellebores in the Jolley Garden Photo: Doug Jolley



'Jack Snipe' Photo: Doug Jolley



'Delibes' Photo: Doug Jolley



Daffodils Photo: Doug Jolley



Daffodil 'Fellows Favorite' Photo: Don Hyatt

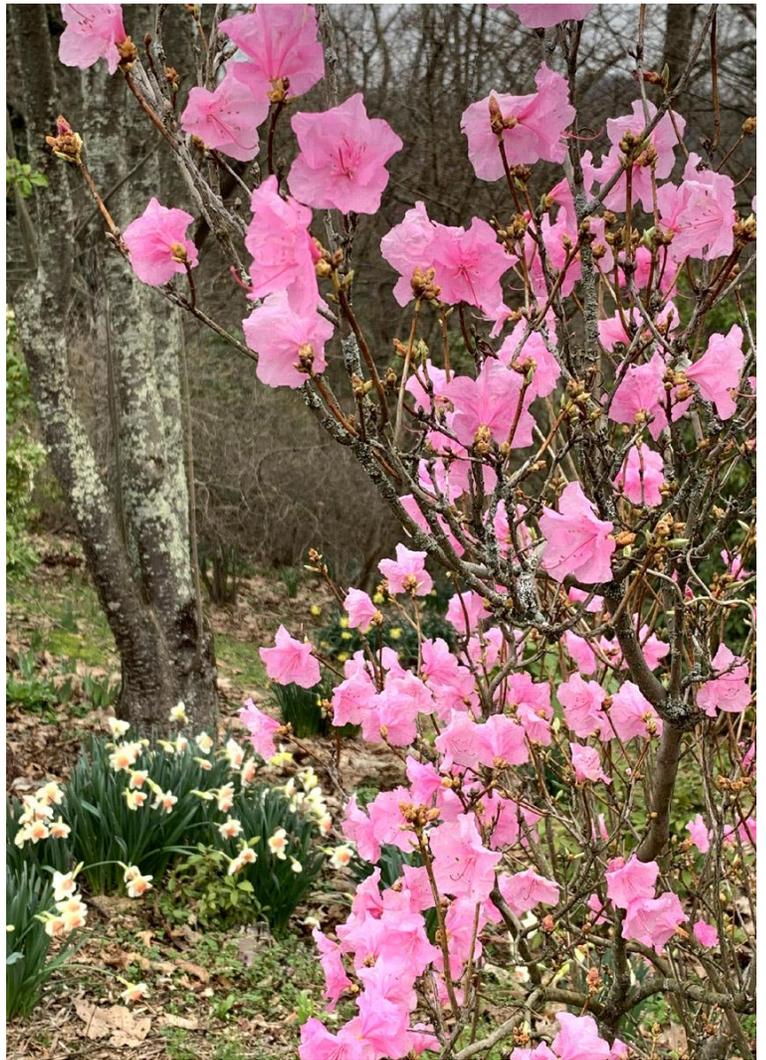


Double Hellebores Photo: Don Hyatt

My hellebores are past peak but the ones in West Virginia at Doug Jolley's garden seem to be in prime condition. I have quite a few double hellebores and even though the flowers are now changing to greenish hues, they are still attractive. I usually trim off the previous year's foliage in early February before they bloom but I just didn't get to that this year.

The daffodils have been phenomenal this spring. I am very fond of the daffodil 'Fellows Favorite' developed by Brent Heath. It is a clear lemon yellow and just glows in the garden. The variety is vigorous, multiplies well, blooms heavily, and the flowers last a long time. Doug has some stunning varieties. Note to self: Buy more daffodils this fall.

Doug's *R. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink' is a great companion for daffodils. It is a very clear pink and is such a treat as one of the first lepidote rhododendrons to bloom. I used to have it but my plant died in 2016 following that late spring freeze. Must get another one!



R. mucronulatum 'Cornell Pink' and Daffodils in the Jolley Garden Photo: Doug Jolley



R. hyperythrum in the McDonald Garden

Photo: Sandra McDonald



R. hyperythrum

Photo: Sandra McDonald

Magnolias have been great this year. Sandra sent a picture of her magnolia ‘Butterflies’ which is one of the best early yellows that I have seen. I finally got to see my magnolia ‘Sayonara’. It blooms early with huge white blossoms flushed with pink. I got my first plant from David Lay at a MAC meeting many years ago. Sadly, my neighbor’s landscape crew cut it down since it was near the property line growing among my azaleas. They thought it was a weed.

I got a second one from Rarefind Nurseries and planted that one near my deck but it had problems, too. One autumn, a male deer rubbed all the bark off of the trunk as they often do in rutting season. I managed to coax an undamaged bud that was above the graft union to grow into another leader. It still took several seasons to see the blossoms. The first buds were either eaten by squirrels or caught by early freezes. This year it has over 70 huge blooms! My deck is high and they are right at eye level where I can reach out and smell them.

Sandra McDonald has some wonderful *R. hyperythrum* seedlings in her garden. They bloom early and have beautiful white flowers. This rhododendron species from Taiwan is exceptionally tough and heat tolerant. It was one of the few to survive a salt water storm surge in coastal gardens after Hurricane Isabel. It has been used to develop the heat tolerant Southgate hybrids.



Magnolia ‘Butterflies’

Photo: Sandra McDonald



Magnolia ‘Sayonara’

Photo: Don Hyatt

I have a number of the small leaf lepidote rhododendrons and most of them are early so they are just beginning to bloom.

During last summer's awful drought, I thought I would lose Haag's '24 Karat'. It was in full wilt all summer long and I did try to water it occasionally. Most plants were under extreme drought stress but my well has its limits, too. '24 Karat' seems fine as if nothing happened.

I am impressed with a double lepidote called 'April Mist' with its delicate, pinkish lavender and white blossoms. I planted it in front of a weeping Blue Atlas Cedar and I like that color contrast. Another double lepidote in bloom now is the deep pink, 'Weston's Pink Diamond'.



'24 Karat'

Photo: Don Hyatt



'April Mist'

Photo: Don Hyatt

I must mention a hardy camellia developed by the late Dr. Ackerman at the National Arboretum called 'Pink Frost'. It is lovely and has never failed me.

This concludes a digital tour of a few gardens in our region. I hope you have some pretty flowers at your home. Please stay well and try to hunker down until we can all get together again. -Don Hyatt



'Weston's Pink Diamond'

Photo: Don Hyatt



Camellia 'Pink Frost Icicle'

Don Hyatt

Garden Share - ARS District 9
Donald W. Hyatt, PVC Newsletter Editor
donaldhyatt@verizon.net