What’s Blooming—February 2021

Here’s a selection of some of the colorful orchids flowering at the estates this February. The spider orchid (Arachnis flos-aeris) on the wooden trellis next to the fountain is an extraordinary specimen!

Beautiful powderpuff plants (Calliandra spp.) of several varieties are flowering vigorously throughout the gardens this month.

Chinese hat plants (Holmskioldia spp.) in both red and yellow are blooming in the Garden Shoppe near the museum’s west porch.

The giant aloe (Aloe vaombe x spectabilis) above is flowering in the succulent garden. The other plants pictured here are on the museum and lab side of the property.

Sunflower
Helianthus sp.

Seminole Dombeya
Dombeya ‘Seminole’

Crown of Thorns
Euphorbia mili

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
Brunfelsia grandiflora

Blue Sky Vine
Thunbergia grandiflora

Yellow Elder
Tecoma stans

Rose
‘Cramoisi superieur’

Tropical Hydrangea
Dombeya walichii

Bougainvillea
Bougainvillea ‘Imperial Delight’

Rose Allamanda
Strophanthus gratus

The Bougainvillea Gate north of the museum is really starting to pop in time for Valentine’s Day! Pictured below are some of the more “romantic” flowers blooming this month.
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Lady of the Night
Brunfelsia plicata

Brazilian Cloak
Megaskepasma erythrochlamys

Snapdragon
Antirrhinum sp.

Sweet Begonia
Begonia odorata

Queen’s Wreath
Petrea volubilis

Purple Firespike
Odontonema callistachyum

The strange seed pods of the fountain clerodendrum (Clerodendrum minahassae) growing in the Moonlight Garden look like little red starfishes. The plants pictured above can all be found growing nearby.

Mango trees (Mangifera indica) make a type of compound flower called a panicle. A panicle is a branched raceme in which the branches are themselves racemes. These tiny flowers will become the fruits we enjoy this summer!

The Hong Kong orchid tree (Bauhinia blakeana) north of the Security Station flowers along a central stem called a raceme that produces new flowers as it grows. There is also a white orchid tree in bloom in front of the Edison Caretaker’s House.

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Water lilies (Nymphaea spp.) delight in the reflecting pond at the center of Mina Edison’s Moonlight Garden. This pond is meant to reflect the light of the moon at night, but its glassy surface also captures a stunning image of the daytime sky. Starburst bush is bursting to life south of the Pool Complex, and the ylang ylang just south of Edison’s Study is starting to bloom again as well.

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