

## IN THIS ISSUE

Early Bloomer

The First Flowering Tree



We were awarded "Best Of Houzz" 2015 for Customer Satisfaction by Houzz, the leading platform for home remodeling and design. Our 8 year old landscape design firm was chosen by the more than 25 million monthly unique users that comprise the Houzz community from among more than 500,000 active home building, remodeling and design industry professionals.

We want to thank all of our wonderful clients who have given us the privilege of working on their property.

### Jay Petrow



Jay's creative vision, coupled with his horticultural knowledge, produces extraordinary landscapes for his clients.

To reach Jay with your landscaping questions, please call 203-803-0533 or [email](#)



## The Garden in February

Greetings!

With record snow and cold blanketing most of the Northeast it's difficult to remember that nature returns to its full glory once temperatures start to rise. For the earliest flowering trees and shrubs, those blooms may be starting now or in just a few weeks. Hard to comprehend but true.

Read on to learn more about early flowering plants that can raise your spirits during the cold late winter days ...

### The First One to Flower: Witch Hazel

Hamamelis x intermedia, commonly known as witch hazel, can start to bloom as early as January into February and March. A cross between Japanese witch hazel and Chinese witch hazel, Hamamelis x intermedia can reach a size of 10 to 15 feet high. Maximum flowering will occur in full sun but will have a reliable show in part shade. The flowers are fragrant and the fall foliage can be spectacular, making this a plant that can be used at the back of shrub borders or as a specimen in the landscape.



The gold flowering variety, Arnold Promise (top) and the scarlet flowering Diane liven up the bleak winter landscape

Dr. Michael A. Dirr, tree guru and renowned author of Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, says of Hamamelis x intermedia, "Why these plants are not in greater use is beyond me."

And if that's not enough praise for this plant, witch hazel has been shown to be deer resistant.

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The fall foliage of witch hazel gives this plant the multi-seasonal interest that I look for in all my plant choices when designing

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### Only Show in Town: Cornelian Cherry Dogwood

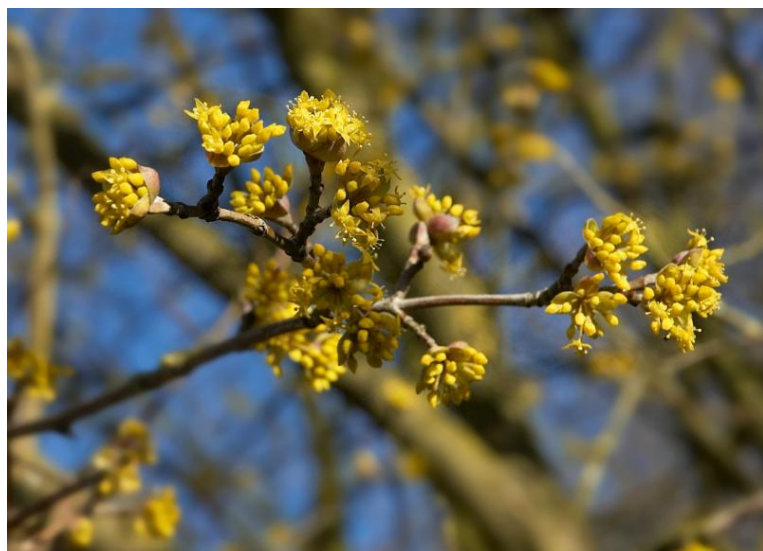
March often comes in like a lion but *Cornus mas*, a tough, durable dogwood can withstand the cold and be the first tree to flower in the new season. Bright yellow flowers fill the naked branches in March as this small tree makes a great addition to any landscape.



The Cornelian Cherry Dogwood brightens the landscape even before the ubiquitous Forsythia flowers

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*Cornus mas* can reach 20-25 feet high and, like most dogwoods, can thrive on the edge of woodlands in filtered light. Bright cherry red fruit ripen in June and July serving as snacks for the birds or can be used to make preserves.




*Cornus mas* flowers against the blue sky add much needed color early in the season

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If you are looking to add some winter color in your landscape next year, please give me a call when the ground thaws out.

Sincerely,



PetrowGardens Landscape Design

203 803-0533

[Email Jay](#)

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Please forward this newsletter to others who  
would appreciate it - thanks!

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PetrowGardens Landscape Design creates unique landscape solutions by integrating classic design principles of repetition of shapes, harmonization of colors, and use of contrasting textures and forms with artistic expression. The resulting gardens promise to be inviting to explore and stimulating to your senses. Native and non-native plants that provide seasonal interest for both you and the wildlife in our region are used in our designs.