**Plant of the Month:** March

**Scientific Name:** *Edgeworthia chrysantha* ‘Nanjing Gold’

**Common Name:** Paperbush

**Selected by:** Senior Horticulturist Katie Dickson

This woody shrub possesses year-round interest by the score. Thriving in partial shade, this rounded, shubby beauty is lush with obovate matte blue-green leaves all summer. As temperatures cool in December, the foliage falls away to reveal stark warm brown stems. Come late winter, these branches display a delightful array of velvety, globose, butter-yellow composite flowers which emit a strongly sweet, honey-like aroma. The flower heads on ‘Nanjing Gold’ are large and robust, with individual florets tightly packed and less floppy than those of *E.* ‘Snow Cream’ or *E.* ‘Gold Rush’.

I appreciate this plant both in the landscape for its winter floral interest and also in cut flower arrangements. Although the flowers nod slightly, they can be wired to face upright and fill the house with fragrance. To grow the happiest paperbushes, try to site them in a somewhat protected spot with decently draining yet moist soil. These work great at the edge of a woodland garden amongst spring-blooming bulbs, ferns, and farfugium. Also consider positioning a few amongst a mixed winter-flowering shrub border of forsythia, camellia, witch hazel and winterberry holly. If you’re looking for a large shrub (think 6’ wide by 8’ tall) with multi-season prettiness and unique flower power, paperbush is a knockout!