

Celebrating 40 years!
1975-2015

spring Bulletin

April - June 2015

Plant Sale Celebrates VanDusen's 40th Anniversary!

In recognition of VanDusen's Ruby Anniversary, we are showcasing reds in plants – brilliant, showy, sizzling red. There's nothing like the addition of crimson flowers or blood red foliage to add zing to any garden area.

We have many choices when it comes to introducing vibrant warmth to our gardens. *Rhododendron* 'Trilby', deep crimson with black markings, and the showy red 'Nova Zembla' make fine statements in the spring garden. Stunning accents can be found in many Japanese maples, such as "Crimson Queen" with cascading, lace-leaf foliage, or "Bloodgood" with red samaras and purple-red fall colour. Delightful new varieties are available of Raymond Evison *Clematis* - 'Amethyst Beauty' and 'Rebecca'. Both are superb container plants.

Perennial *Monarda* 'Jacob Cline' makes a sizzling-hot display of brilliant scarlet flowers on mildew resistant plants. *Astrantia major* 'Ruby Wedding' is an easy-to-grow perennial with unique umbels of starry flowers. As for edibles, we think of 'Blood Vein' Sorrel, which adds a tangy flavour to salads, and 'Ruby Chard', with bright crimson stems.

This year, as you peruse the wide selection of plants at the Plant Sale on April 26th, consider bringing a little more red into your garden and celebrate 40 years with VanDusen. We look forward to seeing you here!

Joan Bentley, Plant Sale Chair, 2015



Clematis 'Rebecca' by Greg Boege



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Message from the Association Director

This year is the Garden's 40th anniversary. It will be a year to celebrate, to reflect on the history of the Garden and to dream about the potential of the next 40 years.

This year I would encourage everyone to visit the Garden and the Bloedel Conservatory as often as you can. When the news is all about pipelines, the price of oil, housing market pressures, household debt, education funding and the challenges of healthcare, green space is one of the last few respites we can all (affordably) enjoy. And nothing will take you away from the stress of city living faster than the beauty of the collections at both venues.

Over the coming months we will be hosting a range of events in the Garden and the Conservatory: walks, tours, learning opportunities and fun events. We will also be presenting a special Garden retrospective in the Discovery Room at the VanDusen Visitor Centre celebrating the Garden's 40 years of peace and tranquility in the heart of one of the world's most beautiful cities.

As always, please do regularly visit our website for updates on happenings at the Garden and the Conservatory at vandusengarden.org.

Shawn Mitchell is the Association Director of the VBGA

Curator's Chat – From the Ground Up

Ants in our Plants – European fire ants at VanDusen

Unless you've been living under a rock - hopefully not one shared with fire ants! - you're unlikely to have escaped the attention surrounding European fire ants (*Myrmica rubra*) cropping up across Metro Vancouver. These invasive ants swarm people, pets or wildlife when their nests are disturbed, inflicting multiple painful stings.

Only distantly related to the infamous red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) of warmer climates, European fire ants (EFA) prefer warm moist conditions, nesting in garden beds, turf, moss, beneath rocks, wood and garden debris. They spread by colony budding and through sharing infested plants, soil, mulch or compost.



In 2013, European fire ants were confirmed at VanDusen. While there are no proven controls for this species, through VanDusen's experimental trials in 2014, we achieved successful control of small-scale infestations by applying a combination of physical and chemical methods. Further monitoring will reveal the long term effectiveness of this approach but we are excited to share our early results.

With the ants now dormant, we are busy implementing VanDusen's European Fire Ant Management Plan with the help of our new, full-time Invasive Species Technician, Lisa Wong, whose position is jointly funded by the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association and the Vancouver Park Board. Lisa has already made great progress towards making infrastructure improvements and introducing protocols to prevent the spread of EFA in the Garden. In spring, Lisa's efforts will shift to on-the-ground control.

Meanwhile, we continue to contribute to public outreach and bring stakeholders together to find solutions through collaboration and research initiatives.

To learn more, join us at VanDusen for Vancouver's first public European Fire Ant Open House, on Saturday, March 7th. Dr. Rob Higgins, BC's invasive ant expert, the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver, the Vancouver Park Board and other experts will be on hand to answer your questions. In the meantime, check out our European fire ant fact sheet and spread the word, not the ants!

Cynthia Sayre is Curator of Collections at VanDusen Botanical Garden

Now there are three!

Our guided cart fleet has grown to three six-passenger electric carts. Generous donations from F.K. Morrow Foundation and The Highbury Foundation, contributions from several individual donors, together with the trade-in value given for our two old carts, provided the funds to purchase another, new Club Car.

Cart number three will arrive in time for the beginning of this year's guiding tour season.

Members and visitors with mobility issues have enjoyed volunteer guided cart tours at VanDusen since 1977. The carts offer the opportunity to experience areas of the Garden these visitors would not be able to access without the VBGA's cart program.

Sakura Days Japan Fair: Spotlight on Japan and Spreading Cherry Cheer!

The 9th annual Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival (VCBF) presents *Sakura Days Japan Fair* on the second weekend of April 11th & 12th when the cherry trees will be in fuller bloom! Now more to experience with new culinary demonstrations, Tree Spirit Fairies, DIY musical instruments and Kite Making workshops! Come as your favourite anime character and be a part of the Cosplay Parade. Meet & Greet with voice stars of popular anime shows including Dragonball Z, Inuyasha, Gundam Seed and Black Lagoon! Purchase tickets at VanDusen's Admission Desk or online at japanfairvancouver.com

For more fun and engaging VCBF programming, please visit www.vcbf.ca

Vancouver Heritage Foundation Bloedel Conservatory Restoration

Engineer Leonard Pianalto from Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd. will talk about the engineering behind the restoration and roof replacement of the tridetic dome of the Bloedel Conservatory in Queen Elizabeth Park, completed in August 2014. Built in 1966, the original roof had deteriorated and the building was at risk until the City of Vancouver agreed to fund the restoration.

Date: Wednesday, April 22nd, 2015, 12 – 1:30 p.m.

Location: BCIT Downtown Campus, 555 Seymour St, Vancouver

Cost: \$15 | Learning Units (LUs): 1.5 Core | Register at:

<https://register.beanstream.com/scripts/registration.asp?form=399>

Plant Donations

Please consider donating plants to the VanDusen Plant Sale. Phone any of the following volunteers for information on where to drop off your plants:

Jean McComb: 604-261-4556

Lindsay Macpherson: 604-466-9765

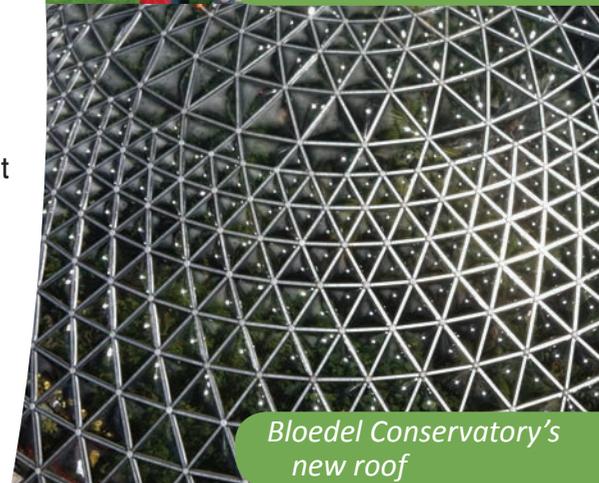
Margie Knox: 604-261-1868



Enjoy cart tours through the Rhododendron walk



Sakura Days Japan Fair



Bloedel Conservatory's new roof



Photo courtesy of Majomo photography

Summer Camp & Events

Summer Camp at the Garden

Registration opens on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Give your child a fun, activity-filled week of exploring the Garden, making new friends, and learning more about the natural world around them and their role in the urban ecosystem.

VanDusen's camps are immensely popular and always receive rave reviews from parents and campers alike. Our carefully crafted blend of science, exploration, games and crafts give children the opportunity to learn and play throughout the beauty of the Garden and the Conservatory, while fostering positive stewardship of the environment.

July 6 – 10

In Pursuit of Pollinators, ages 5-7

Art in the Garden, ages 8-10

July 13 – 17

Art in the Garden, ages 5-7

In Pursuit of Pollinators, ages 8-10

July 20 – 24

Bugs in the Big Picture, ages 5-7

Veggie Gardening Adventures, ages 8-10

July 28 - 31

Bugs in the Big Picture, ages 8-10

Veggie Gardening Adventures, ages 5-7

Aug 4-7 (4 days)

Science in the Garden, ages 5-7

Bogs to Beaches – VanDusen Camp on the Go!, ages 8-11

Aug 10-14

Science in the Garden, ages 5-7

Bogs to Beaches – VanDusen Camp on the Go!, ages 8-11

Aug 17-21

Science in the Garden, ages 8-10

Budding Birders, ages 5-7

Aug 24-28

Play with Plants, ages 5-7

Budding Birders, ages 8-10

Please check vandusengarden.org for camp details and registration.

Summer Camp Bursaries

The VanDusen Botanical Garden Association is pleased to provide bursaries for families in financial need. Please contact the Education Department at 604-718-5898 for information. If you are interested in supporting the bursary program, and giving a child the opportunity to go to camp, we would love to hear from you!



Campers learning how to harvest veggies

National Garden Days

June 19th to the 21st is National Garden Days in Canada, a celebration of our public gardens. Kicked off with National Garden Day, always the Friday before Father's Day, Garden Days is a three-day celebration that takes place over the Father's Day weekend. The program's objective is to draw attention to our cultural garden landscape, history and innovations and to underscore the importance of public and private gardens, the values of home gardening and the promotion of environmental stewardship. Garden Days is a joyful, country-wide celebration of the role of gardens in our communities and in our lives.



View all upcoming events at vandusengarden.org

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

VanDusen Botanical Garden Association

MOVED by TONY DUMOULIN and SECONDED by VICKY EARLE that:

The annual general meeting of the Association be held in the Visitor Centre at VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5151 Oak Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, on April 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of:

- (a) presenting Volunteer Recognition Awards,
- (b) considering the financial statements of the Association for the year ended December 31, 2014,
- (c) considering the report of the Board of Governors to the Association,
- (d) electing Governors,
- (e) appointing an auditor,
- (f) authorizing the Board of Governors to fix the remuneration of the auditor,
- (g) considering and, if thought fit, passing special resolutions for which proper notice has been given, and
- (h) transacting such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting; and

2. The Secretary be instructed to give notice of the annual general meeting to the members of the Association.

