40TH ANNIVERSARY

On August 30, 2015, VanDusen Botanical Garden officially turned 40 years old. The story of how the Garden came to be, the personalities involved, and the evolution of the Garden over time were celebrated twice this past summer.

The first was the official launch of Celebrating 40 Years: a photo retrospective on June 30th. Organized and coordinated by volunteers and staff of the VBGA, and funded by the McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund, this exhibit features more than 800 curated photographs (and supporting text) that document the history of the Garden from its time as the Shaugnessy Golf Course to present day. Visitors are encouraged to see this remarkable showcase of the Garden in the Discovery Room of the Visitor Centre until September 20, 2015.

The second celebration was organized by Park Board on August 16th. Thousands of people came out to the Garden to celebrate its 40th birthday. Activities included a photo booth, climbing wall, fairy post office, tattoo stations, historical and botanical talks and tours, a putting green, and education activities for families. There was music, food and an opportunity to hear from some of the original founders of the Garden.

The history of the Garden is one of collaboration and shared passion for all things horticultural. If the participation and enthusiasm of visitors and supporters at these events is anything to go by, the future of the Garden will be more of the same.

INSIDE:
Combating European Fire Ants
Summer Camp
Festival of Lights
and more...

Invited guests taking in the exhibit at the June 30th opening reception.
I have to do this several times at one site. I've also been using flags to mark where nests have been found and treated so that I can easily go back to see if I've actually gotten them all.

What happens when you find them?
I look for signs of ants. I follow them until I can find their nest(s). And then I basically dig them out and spray them with AntOut®. Sometimes I have to do this several times at one site. I've also been using flags to mark where nests have been found and treated so that I can easily go back to see if I've actually gotten them all.

What is an Invasive Species Technician?
My job is to constantly explore the Garden to find where European Fire Ants (EFA) might be living and to destroy their nests. I report to Cynthia Sayre, the Garden Curator, and work with her to develop strategies and approaches to beating back the ant population. Together, we also work closely with the gardeners to keep the Garden as free of ants as we can.

What is “Ant Out”?
To safeguard the health of the Garden, the Vancouver Park Board is applying AntOut®. It contains permethrin, a synthetic form of the natural insecticide pyrethrum found in chrysanthemums.

How many nests have you found this year so far?
It's really hard to say. But definitely a lot.

Are we making progress in controlling this species in the Garden?
Overall, I would say yes. In the areas I've been treating … when I go back, I find a fraction of what was there before and other areas where we've definitely gotten rid of them altogether. But there are some areas, like the Alma VanDusen Meadow, where the scale of infestation is so big that it is almost impossible to even make a dent.

What is the biggest “aha” moment of the past year for you?
That our practices and approaches here are being watched by others and are being shared around by researchers and city staff. It feels good to know that we are making progress managing the ants in the Garden and helping others make progress elsewhere.

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MEMBER NEWS

VanDusen Garden Shop’s Holiday Sale
25% off for VanDusen Members only
Wednesday, Nov 18 and Thursday, Nov 19, 10 am to 7pm

Present your valid VanDusen Membership card to receive your discount on all regular-priced merchandise. Sorry, books and magazines are not included in the sale.

Holiday Offer

Starting on October 1, purchase membership for someone else and we’ll give them and you 2 extra months. Gift certificates for membership must be activated no later than March 31, 2016 in order to receive the additional 2 month benefit.

Offer valid from October 1 to December 31, 2015.
Limit of (1) two-month membership extension, regardless of the number of gifts purchased. Purchaser must have or purchase their own VanDusen membership to be eligible. Bonus months are non-transferable.

GET CARDED
Do you have your VanDusen photo membership card?
Not yet? We can help!

Simply bring 1 piece of photo identification to the Garden (during regular hours), along with your membership receipt, and within minutes we’ll provide you with a photo card, complete with renewal decal, which will give you instant access to all of your member benefits.

A valid VanDusen photo membership card is required to access your discount benefits. Unfortunately, we will not be able to honour your member discount without this card.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Our dedicated volunteers and gardeners have been busy testing lights and creating props gearing up for this year’s Festival of Lights. This holiday tradition runs nightly from December 1 - 31, 2015 from 4:30pm to 9pm, with late nights from December 18 to 23 when they keep the lights on until 10pm. The Garden is closed on December 25th, Christmas Day.

Visitors can experience a frozen winter wonderland with nearly 1.5 million lights decorating an expanded 15 acres of VanDusen Garden. Children and adults of all ages can enjoy live entertainment, have their photos taken with Santa (Dec. 1 – 24), have a meal or snack during the show and be captivated by the Dancing Lights on Livingstone Lake.

Purchase tickets in advance to skip the line! VanDusen Garden members can take advantage of discounted tickets and a fast track line-up. See you there!

VanDusen Botanical Garden Association | 5251 Oak St. Vancouver, BC V6M 4H1 | www.vandusengarden.org