

# Bulletin

Winter 2013 (January to March)

**PUBLISHED BY**

VanDusen Botanical  
Garden Association  
5251 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC V6M 4H1

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**GARDEN HOURS**

**January and February**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**March**

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**WEBSITE**

vandusengarden.org

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@VanDusenGdn



## “There Is No Stranger under the Cherry Tree.”

— Kobayashi Issa



Official opening ceremony of the sake barrel, Sakura Days Japan Fair

By Kerry Moore

**G**etting past New Year in Vancouver is a bit like sailing a ship around Cape Horn — we feel the worst is behind us and look forward to a smooth passage, in our case, into spring. That optimism brings hope of warmth, light, new beginnings, new friendships and the *Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival*.

Held annually in April, the celebration wraps itself symbolically around the city's 40,000 cherry trees which burst into bloom at that time, their boughs throwing out clusters of gorgeous blossoms of rich pink and pure white.

The 2013 festival will take place from April 4 to 30 at venues around the city and will be celebrated with music, art, viewing walks, rides, haiku and parties. There's even a surprise within the celebration, like the truffle heart of a rich chocolate — the *Sakura Days Japan Fair*, a weekend immersion in the culture of Japan. This year there will be a special emphasis on giving families the opportunity to 'See, Learn, (and) Do!' it all on April 6 and 7 at VanDusen Botanical Garden. These two days

will be packed with activities from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On the happily-named Cherry Stage, situated on the Great Lawn, the Lion Dance will capture the imagination. Tetsu Taiko will shake the leaves and blossoms while the celebratory *World Umbrella Dance*, featuring the Shiamak Davar Vancouver Performance Team, will give way to gentle koto performances and robust martial arts demonstrations.

That's just part of what beguiles — at the Children's Tent, kids will find an introduction to traditional Japanese toys, hands-on origami (paper-folding) and kirigami (paper-cutting).

At other sites within the Garden, including the Visitor Centre, there will be arts, crafts and books; an opportunity to try on a yukata (cotton kimono); enjoy a Japanese tea ceremony; sip at a sake-tasting; and nibble on food. A focus on popular culture will showcase Japanese anime (cartoons and animation) and manga (comics).

While we may think we already know much about the Japanese culture, the diversity of weekend activities guarantees as many surprises as it promises entertainment and pleasure. Admission to *Sakura Days Japan Fair* is free for VanDusen Members; non-members may purchase advance tickets from the Admissions Desk in the VanDusen Visitor Centre beginning March 1, 2013.

For details of the *Sakura Days Japan Fair*, see [www.japanfairvancouver.com](http://www.japanfairvancouver.com). For details of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, see [www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca).

Kerry Moore is a Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival volunteer.

photo: Michael Le Geyt



**Harry Jongerden** *Garden Director*

**O**n a recent morning I encountered three photographers in the Visitor Centre waiting to enter the Garden. They were carrying the serious equipment of the serious shutterbug — tripods, telephoto lenses and more. Some people like to enjoy a coffee in the new Truffles Fine Foods Café as they wait for the Garden to open,

but these three gentlemen were poised like greyhounds at the gate, eager to get in.

We're an especially beautiful garden thanks to the brilliance of our first director, Roy Forster, and Park Board deputy superintendent, Bill Livingstone. Long-time members know these names well. For any of you new to VanDusen membership, it's good to learn the names of the giants on whose shoulders the rest of us stand. They've left us a legacy of natural beauty that's irresistible to photographers, and to you.

Most of us take pictures of flowers and landscapes to have a souvenir, while others do so as artists. We have many artist-photographers who find inspiration at VanDusen and who use the Garden as a living studio. Many of you have seen some of their work on display

in the old Garden Entrance — photographs by Harold Ma, Raymond Lo and J.T. Tse. More recently, Harold Ma's work is being displayed in Truffles, and he will have a show in the Discovery Room in the New Year. Mr. Ma points out to me that he always finds something unique and beautiful to capture at VanDusen.

Images of nature comfort, delight and inspire us, particularly in the winter when many plants are dormant in our gardens. Whether it's a seductive magazine spread or the artistry of VanDusen's photographers, we respond to images that idealize the plants and landscapes we aspire to experience in the real world, and perhaps achieve in our own gardens.

Until the soil warms up and the rains let up, visit our Discovery Room this winter and experience art that kindles your desire for the spring awakening.



## Plant Donations

Gratefully accepted by  
the Plant Sale

Please contact

Jean McComb 604-261-4556  
or Margie Knox 604-261-1868

## *Marvellous* **Manure Sale**

**Saturday March 2**  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parking Lot

**20kg bag only \$5**



***Give Your Garden a Spring Tonic!***

NOTEWORTHY PLANTS — Hybrid Mahonia *Mahonia x media* ‘Charity’

photo: Michael Le Geyt

By Michael Le Geyt

Winter can be a grey and gloomy season in Metro Vancouver, and we are fortunate that our mild maritime climate allows a number of winter-flowering plants to thrive and gladden our spirits with their unexpected blooms. One of these is a striking member of the barberry family (Berberidaceae), *Mahonia x media* ‘Charity’, a cultivar selected by hybridizing *M. japonica* (from Japan) with *M. lomariifolia* (from China). ‘Charity’ is a woody, evergreen shrub with a rather statuesque, architectural form. In late fall its racemes of canary-yellow blooms emerge and remain open for several months, presenting a brilliant and uplifting contrast to the leaden skies of winter. The flowers are sweetly scented and offer sufficient nectar to attract over-wintering Anna’s hummingbirds. Eventually blue-purple berries will develop, and these too will be sought after by birds.

The glossy green leaves of ‘Charity’ are leathery, pinnate and armed with sharp teeth — gardeners beware! This is a robust plant, easily capable of reaching a height of seven to eight feet. It can however be reduced in size by cutting back hard in early spring — it will recover without loss of next year’s flowers. ‘Charity’ requires little maintenance, is tolerant of different soil types and can be grown in containers. It thrives equally well in sun or in part-shade. A particularly hard winter may damage the shrub but it will usually re-shoot from the base in spring.

Like other mahonias, ‘Charity’ has an inner bark that contains the bright yellow alkaloid berberine. Berberine has been used by the indigenous peoples of Asia and North America to dye basketry and wool. It also has powerful medicinal properties and has been used to treat a variety of ailments. On a hiking trip to the Himalayas I once watched with interest as our Sherpa guide cut open a stem of Nepalese mahonia (*M. napaulensis*) and extracted its bright yellow inner bark. He then proceeded to chew the

inner bark to extract the berberine and described how the Sherpa people used the masticated mixture as an eye balm. Berberine is also found in our B.C. species, *M. aquifolium*, *M. nervosa* and *M. repens*, and our native peoples carefully used its extractions for medicinal purposes because they recognized its potency.

Another interesting characteristic of ‘Charity’ is that it has touch-sensitive stamens which close quickly toward the stigma when disturbed, even in cold, wintry conditions. It is likely that such an action has evolved to brush pollen against the legs of a visiting insect, thereby aiding in cross pollination.

All things considered, *M. x media* ‘Charity’ is an interesting shrub worthy of consideration for the home garden. You can view it in winter bloom at several locations in the Garden, including the Sino-Himalayan Garden.

*Michael Le Geyt is a VanDusen volunteer*



photo: Claire Kermack

Graduating Guides, Class of 2012

## Join the Team—Become a VanDusen volunteer

### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION DAY

Saturday February 23  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring lunch, we'll provide refreshments. Dress for the weather. Learn about the many volunteer opportunities at VanDusen. Tour the Garden with enthusiastic, knowledgeable Guides. Orientation is a prerequisite for becoming a VanDusen volunteer. Call Judy Aird to register.

### Only Have a Little Time?

Consider volunteering a few hours at the Manure Sale on Saturday March 3 or on the preceding Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

### Cutting Garden & Dried Flower Arrangers

This group, which offers the only 'hands-on' gardening experience available to VanDusen volunteers, meets on Wednesday mornings. Their activities include preparing the soil, planting seeds, watering, weeding and nurturing the developing plants. At bloom time the flowers are cut and hung from racks to dry, after which the dried flowers are made into beautiful arrangements that are sold in support of the Garden.

In the fall of 2011 our much-awaited Visitor Centre opened its doors. Visitor Services volunteers and Guides were there to welcome visitors, both old and new, to ensure a memorable Garden experience. We anticipate that even more visitors will come to the Garden

in 2013 and that we will need to bolster our numbers of 'host' volunteers. If you have been thinking about joining our volunteer ranks, this is an excellent time to consider one of the following opportunities.

- Are you a people person, enthusiastic about the Garden and your city? Consider becoming an in-house concierge at the Information Desk. Join the Visitor Services volunteers who greet and welcome visitors, promote Garden activities and membership, as well as answer questions related to tourism and the Garden.
- Are you interested in enhancing your hosting skills and learning about plants and the natural world in a social environment? If so, whether you are newly retired, new to Vancouver or new to the Garden, then Guiding may be for you. We provide the training and experience. You bring your love of people, interest in the Garden and a desire to learn.
- Do you enjoy children and want to share your passion for the natural world with them? If so, consider joining our Youth Education volunteers who bring nature alive by leading groups of students (kindergarten to Grade 7) through hands-on science exploration in the Garden.

Each of these volunteer programs is based on comprehensive training in a supported team environment and features ongoing learning and social opportunities.

To learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities, don't wait — call today.



**Brian Clark**  
VBGA President, 2011-13

We have just passed the first anniversary of the opening of our new Visitor Centre. Much of the past year has been taken up with enhancing this remarkable physical structure with the software needed to make the Centre as informative and stimulating as possible. In the previous issue Garden Director Harry Jongerden described the ambitious interpretation project that will soon grace its walls and present attractive botanical information to visitors.

The Garden Club of Vancouver Today in the Garden display located near the Garden Entrance has also been completed and is a popular feature, with its freshly cut specimens, identification notes and where-to-find locations carefully maintained by volunteers. For a more comprehensive description please see pages 6 – 7 in

this issue, written by Plant Documentation Technician Samantha Sivertz.

In the autumn Bulletin Librarian Marina Princz described the capabilities of the Yosef Wosk Library and Resource Centre, located within the Visitor Centre. Our hardworking Education staff has relocated the school, youth and adult courses and workshops into a new home within the VanDusen Guides Classroom. The classroom's recently installed Smart Board is providing a modern and valuable education delivery tool, as described on pp. 10 -11 by Education Assistant Tania Clarke.

Directional signage and storytelling using colourful static graphics and digital display provide helpful and interesting information to Garden visitors, both outside and inside the Visitor Centre. Wifi, within the Visitor Centre and Truffles Fine Foods Café, is much appreciated by those who bring their electronic devices to the Garden.

All of these achievements are entirely due to the gifts from the generous donors who love and support the Garden. The features themselves are the creation of the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association staff working with the Garden's curatorial staff, consultants, artisans and technicians.

On the first anniversary of the opening of the Visitor Centre, we are able to look back with pride at what we have achieved together.

## SAVE A TREE SAVE MONEY

Help us reduce costs.  
Sign up to receive your  
Bulletin online.

Email us TODAY!  
[membership@vandusen.org](mailto:membership@vandusen.org)

Bonus  
The online Bulletin is in full



## SOCIETY ACT

### VanDusen Botanical Garden Association

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of the Members of VanDusen Botanical Garden Association ('the Association') will be held in the Visitor Centre at VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5151 Oak Street, Vancouver, British Columbia on Monday, April 15, 2013 at 7 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, 2012,
- 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.

By Order of the Board  
**Tony DuMoulin, Secretary**

# THE RETURN OF Today in the Garden



**I. to r. TIG volunteers Jaki De Pape, Dorothy Macey, Norma Dixon, Marilyn Goebel**

By Samantha Sivertz

**A**fter a long wait the Plants-to-See display at the Garden Entrance has finally returned. The new and improved presentation, renamed the Garden Club of Vancouver Today in the Garden (TIG) display, has been installed along the rammed-earth wall that leads to the Visitor Centre. It was a special day for the six volunteers who maintain the display. They had been on hiatus since the old display was taken down in October 2011, and they were eager to see the new display unveiled and tested. Headed by Team Captain Jaki De Pape, the other dedicated TIG volunteers include Norma Dixon (TIG volunteer since 2002), Marilyn Goebel (TIG volunteer since 2007), Susan Lee, Dorothy Macey (TIG Volunteer since 2004) and Anne Roburn (TIG volunteer since 2007).

"The new display is a great introduction to VanDusen. People are often surprised that there is still so much to see in the Garden in the fall and winter months," says Ms. Roburn. Ms. De Pape concurs, "The display is often the magnet that draws Members for walks of discovery year round and, as we do our gathering and displaying, we are able to meet and talk to them — a real pleasure for us."

Constructed of wood, aluminum and Plexiglas, the display was designed to match the aesthetic of the Visitor Centre. Funded through a generous donation by

the Garden Club of Vancouver, the display is the product of several months of consultation between the designers, VanDusen staff and volunteers. The staff included the volunteers in the design process as their years of experience proved invaluable for the practical aspects of designing the new one. The new display can accommodate up to 15 different plant selections, each with a numbered location marked on a large Garden map.

"When we did the first display of the new set-up, visitors were hovering around before we had even finished. It gives them an appetizer of what they'll see in the Garden. The maps help them locate plants that interest them," comments Ms. Goebel. "I feel privileged to be part of the Today in the Garden team. It helps me focus on the amazing plants in the Garden and appreciate the changing of the seasons. We work on the display before the Garden opens, and being alone in the Garden is special."

The Plants-to-See display has long been an important part of the visitor experience. It has existed in one form or another for at least 20 years. It began life as a row of glass jars on a table on the Deck and was then upgraded to a custom-made wooden display hanging outside the old Garden Entrance in what is now the Shaughnessy Restaurant building.



photo: Samantha Sivertz

According to Norma Dixon, "When we six Plants-to-See volunteers packed up the old display, we had no idea it would be almost a full year before we could again share Garden highlights with visitors. As weeks and months went by with no sign of a new display, we began to think we'd settle for a row of pickle jars. But then it happened — a new 'knock-your-socks-off' display that visitors have been applauding. The Plants-to-See team has happily become the Today in the Garden team. Everyone has to admit that the new display was worth waiting for, and a whole lot better than that row of pickle jars."

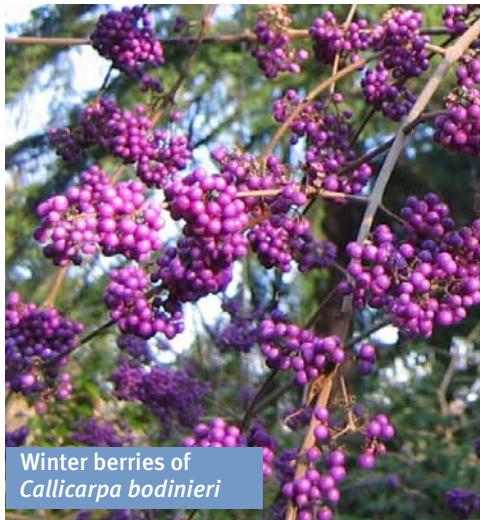
"I have always thought that displaying what is current in the Garden for visitors before they actually walk through the doors has been one of the most important things that we do for the Garden.

Parents bringing children often stop and talk with them about the display. Now they can point out just where they can find things, and the children are excited about having a plant hunt. It's a real learning experience for all," comments Ms. Macey.

The new display is still a work in progress. As the volunteers work with it, adjustments and alterations are being made to ensure that everything functions as it should. The VanDusen staff would like to thank the volunteers for their patience and support in the creation of Today in the Garden. According to Garden Director Harry Jongerden, "The former Plants-to-See display near the old Garden Entrance was VanDusen's best interpretive feature. Even with our Visitor Centre and the new interpretive elements within it, Today in the Garden is still the best thing we do. Our volunteers do a tremendous job to keep it fresh and fascinating."

Next time you visit the Garden, we invite you to check out the Garden Club of Vancouver Today in the Garden display. The abundance of winter seasonal highlights may surprise you.

Samantha Sivertz is VanDusen's Plant Documentation Technician.



**Norma Dixon arranges the display**



Do you love books? Do you want to meet with friendly and thoughtful people to discuss stimulating ideas about nature, gardens and all things related? VanDusen Book Club is looking for new members!

**S**ince our first meeting in 2008, we have tackled a wide variety of books and topics, including works on botany, horticulture, plant hunting, conservation and art. Some of the authors have included such notables as Francis Kingdon-Ward, David Suzuki, John Muir, Penelope Hobhouse and Christopher Lloyd.

Our reading material focuses on non-fiction, with a smattering of fiction thrown in. About half of our meetings revolve around specific books, and the rest are made up of open ended topics such as *Anything by or about Vita Sackville-West*, *Gardens in Impressionist or Post Impressionist Art* or *Gardens of Italy*. When we focus on specific topics, members choose from an array of

available material and report back to the group on what they have learned.

Our meetings take place in the library on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. We meet nine times a year (July, August and December are excluded).

You are not obligated to come to every meeting in the year but consistency and enthusiasm are appreciated.

Contact Marina if you would like to be added to the email list or require more information. Our list of 2013 readings will soon be available by email and posted on the Library page of the VanDusen website.

#### LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sunday: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

## MEMBER NEWS

Membership Office 604-257-8675 /  
membership@vandusen.org

#### THE ANY OCCASION GIFT

Mark any special occasion, birthdays, anniversaries or the New Year, with the greenest of gifts, a membership to VanDusen Botanical Garden.

Wrap up the Garden as a gift and you will be giving your family member or friend the opportunity to explore, learn and relax in your 55-acre Garden. You belong here — by giving Garden memberships, your loved ones will as well. Purchase in person during regular Garden hours, by phone or mail. For more membership information, please visit the Garden website.

VanDusen Membership — a naturally great gift!

#### MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

To ensure you receive discounts from VanDusen's Garden Shop and our participating Garden partners, ask for your renewal label at the Admission Desk on your next visit to the Garden, line-up permitting. This label will let these retailers know that you are a current VBGA Member.

#### RENEW AND WIN

Renew your membership before it expires and your name will be entered into our monthly draw to win lunch at the Garden. Thanks to Shaughnessy Restaurant and Truffles Fine Foods Café for partnering with us.

Renew now — you and the Garden will both benefit.



**Saturday March 30**

**Two sessions**  
**10 a.m. to noon**  
**or 1 to 3 p.m.**

A-mazing adventures for children between ages of 2 to 10.

Pre-purchased tickets required. Tickets not available at the gate on the day of the event.

Tickets on sale at Garden Admission Desk March 1. All sales are final, no refunds.



**The VanDusen Garden Bench Program**

**A wonderful way to celebrate a loved one**

For more information contact  
Sharon Brown 604-257-8666

**THANK YOU!**

On behalf of the VBGA Board of Governors, President Brian Clark wishes to thank everyone who donated to VanDusen Botanical Garden during 2012.

**NEW FUNDER GETS ON BOARD  
THE NATURE EXPRESS**

We are pleased to announce that the McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund has recently contributed to VanDusen's Nature Express Bursary. These funds, together with those received from RBC Foundation and The Optimist Club of Vancouver, provide much needed opportunities for urban children to reconnect with nature while supporting and enhancing standardized provincial learning requirements.

The Nature Express Bursary Program was established in 2002 with the financial support of our funders. This bursary has enabled your Association to subsidize educational program-

ming to inner-city children throughout Metro Vancouver. The Nature Express Bursary has facilitated field trips to Vancouver's most beautiful outdoor classroom for more than 10,000 children, their parents and teachers during the 2007 - 2011 school years.

**VANDUSEN - YOUR 55-ACRE  
LIVING CLASSROOM**

This tagline says it all: *VanDusen Botanical Garden – connecting people to the wonder of plants and the natural environment.*

Each year gardening courses, lectures, educational programs, new books and journals, guided and self-guided tours are provided in your Garden. Individuals, families and school classes are drawn to the Garden for its comprehensive, integrated approach to education in VanDusen's living classroom. We can't do it without you. Your annual donation assists in ensuring that these programs are offered each year.



## Adopt-a-Tree

at VanDusen Garden to  
commemorate a significant  
event or remember a loved one.

For further information:  
[vandusengarden.org](http://vandusengarden.org)  
(under Giving) or  
Development Office  
604-257-8190

photo: Raymond Chan

**DONOR PROFILE - Nigel & Barbara Bunning**

by Marguerite Toews

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with two of VanDusen's long-time Members and donors, the Bunnings. Nigel shared his passion for the Garden and its impact on their lives as well as why donating, over and above their annual membership, is important to them.

**How long have you been involved with the Garden?**

"I have been involved with the Garden for the past 30 years, both as a Master Gardener and frequent visitor. Since I come here so often, we refer to my wife as a 'VanDusen widow,' and happily so... incidentally, she is also an avid Garden lover," Nigel added with great wit.

**You decided to donate monthly. Why?**

"It is the easiest way to give. You can spread it out so it fits every income level, even if you are on a fixed income. Just because you cannot give a big amount does not mean that you cannot give. Every amount counts."

**After coming here for so many years, do you have a favourite part of the Garden?**

"I cannot say that I have a favourite place in the Garden. It is 55 acres of sheer delight."

And I will say it was a 'sheer delight' to meet these lovely individuals.

# EDUCATION AT THE GARDEN

Gillian Drake, Director: 604-257-8669 / [educate@vandusen.org](mailto:educate@vandusen.org)  
Tania Clarke, Assistant: 604-718-5898 / [familyprograms@vandusen.org](mailto:familyprograms@vandusen.org)

## THE SMART BOARD IS IN



The Smart Board has been installed and is in action in the VanDusen Guides Classroom. This innovative learning tool will be the basis of a new field trip program at the Garden and is already enhancing our Family Programs, adult courses and Horticultural Therapy Certificate Program. Our instructors are thrilled to use the Smart Board — toggling between PowerPoint, digital ink and the Internet with just the touch of a finger.

We demonstrated the usefulness of the Smart Board at the B.C. Field Trip Fair, hosted by VanDusen, when 600 teachers came to peruse field trip opportunities in 50 Metro Vancouver sites.

The board integrates perfectly into Family Programs as well. In November families identified birds and learned habitat recognition through interactive programming.

We are taking our education programs to a new level with the Smart Board and enabling our learners to connect with nature in innovative ways. The board is an exciting tool that we intend to use in tandem with our most important teaching tool: our exquisite 22-hectare living classroom.

## SECRETS OF SURVIVORS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY CAMP

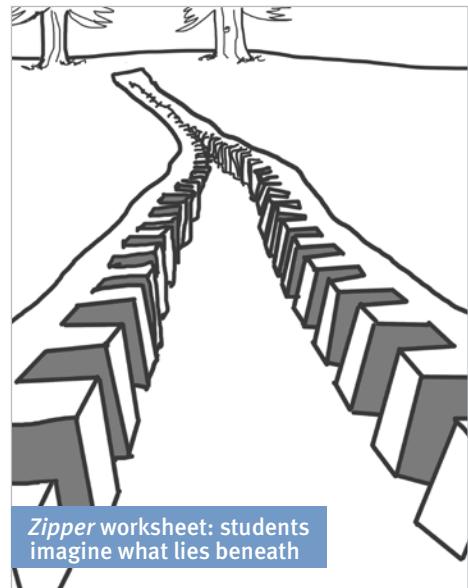
Last October VanDusen held a lively 'Survivor' day camp for children ages 6 - 9. We explored unique adaptations of Garden plants from the mighty sequoia to the elegant water lily. The children were very keen to dissect and inspect seeds and examine their adaptations for survival. Afternoon activities emphasized the interconnectedness between survivors. Campers also analyzed the survival tactics of B.C.'s wildlife in a visit to the *Wild@Art* exhibit in VanDusen's Discovery Hall. Each camper created a camouflaged leaf litter critter, celebrating creatures big, small and imaginary. Thanks to all the campers and educators who made the day such a success.

## ART IN THE GARDEN – A NEW SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIP AT VANDUSEN

With the addition of exciting artwork in the Garden for the Earth Art exhibit, we felt inspired to develop a new program with an artistic slant. Until now our field trips for schools have focused on science content, so we're excited to open up the Garden as a destination for art studies, with a focus on the relationship between art and nature.

Designed for Grades 4 - 7, in alignment with B.C.'s visual art curriculum, this self-guided tour leads teachers and students through the Garden to the Black Eagle canoe, Transformation Plant, Gitsan totem poles, Korean Pavilion, Zipper, and several pieces on the Great Lawn.

We have created a detailed guidebook providing information on the artwork and artists and have suggested activities, discussion-stimulating questions and extension projects for the classroom. Students can sketch, critique art, and explore the relationship between nature and art. Teachers can design a custom, self-guided tour from the information provided, selecting the artwork and topics that best meet their needs and interests.



Gavin with leaf art

photo: Tania Clarke

## WHAT'S COMING UP IN ADULT EDUCATION?

### JANUARY

- 20 Horticultural Therapy Information Session
- 23 Plant Lab: Kitchen Botany
- 26 iPhoneography Level 1

### FEBRUARY

- 9 Digital Photography Workshop
- 14 Winter Watercolour
- 15 Plant Nutrition for the Informed Gardener
- 23 Companions in Containers

### MARCH

- 2 Success with Seeds
- 9 Enlighten Your Photos
- 9 Microgreens – taste them, grow them
- 9 Organic Veggie Growing for Beginners
- 13 Design With Colour
- 16 Fruit Tree Basics
- 16 Soil 101
- 16 Orchid Growing for Beginners

### HORTICULTURAL THERAPY – HEALTHY BY NATURE

VanDusen's 2013 Horticultural Therapy Certificate Program, taught by Shelagh Smith, starts in February. Curious? Come to the Information Session on January 20 at 1 p.m.

**HT Course 1:** Introduction to Horticultural Therapy takes place on the following Sundays: Feb. 17, 24, Mar. 3, 8 (Friday) and 10, 2013. Refer to the website for details.

### BIRD WALKS IN THE GARDEN

Join Jeremy Gordon for a guided bird walk on the Saturdays listed below, starting at 10 a.m. from the Garden Entrance. Free for Members or with Garden admission.

**January 19**

**February 23**

**March 30**



photo: Raymond Chan

# HSBC Family Programs

Financial assistance for these programs is provided by HSBC Bank Canada

Programs are for families with children ages 5-11 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### FOLK STORIES OF FAMILIAR PLANTS

Explore a winter wonderland through folklore. Visit plants like the Christmas rose, both in the Garden and on our Smart Board. Learn the legend of the poinsettia, make your own starch poinsettia, warm up with hot cocoa and listen to an Athabaskan tale, *The Bag of Warmth*.

**Sunday January 27, 10:30 a.m. – noon**

### SUPER SURVIVORS

Could your family survive winter using only the plants around you? Play our Survivor Game and learn about the many amazing uses of our native plants. We will investigate plant and animal adaptations to survive winter conditions and design our own super survivors. Everyone will create a camouflage creature to take home.

**Monday February 11, 10:30 a.m. – noon**

### KIDS CORNER AT SEEDY SATURDAY

**Saturday February 23, Drop-in all day from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

### WORM WORLD

Spring is almost here. As life above ground begins to stir, things are moving underground as well. Take a closer look at worms, how they live, what they eat and the important things they do. Make a mini worm composter to take home.

**Sunday March 10, 10:30 a.m. – noon**

Programs are for families with children aged 5 -11 yrs. Price: Member Family \$15, Non-Member Family \$25 (includes admission to the Garden). Bursaries available.



Pre-registration is recommended. Call 604-718-5898 or email [familyprograms@vandusen.org](mailto:familyprograms@vandusen.org). Please refer to the website for further information.

# CALENDAR

## Guided Tours, January through March

Sundays at 2 p.m. Free for Members or with Garden admission. Meet on the Entrance Plaza just inside the Garden Entrance.

### JANUARY

**19 Saturday** Bird Walk, 10 a.m. Meet in the Visitor Centre Atrium. Rain or shine. Free for Members or with Garden admission.

**27 Sunday** HSBC Family Program, Folk Stories of Familiar Plants: For families with children ages 5 – 11. Details: pg. 11

### FEBRUARY

**2 & 3 Saturday & Sunday** Metro Vancouver Gardening Society Spring Flower & Penjing Show. Floral Hall, Admin. Bldg., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days. Admission: \$2 per person/ \$5 per family. Information: Tony Wu 604-473-9837 / tonychwu@gmail.com

**11 Monday** HSBC Family Program, Super Survivors: For families with children ages 5 – 11. Details: pg. 11

**23 Saturday** Bird Walk, 10 a.m. Meet in the Visitor Centre Atrium. Rain or shine. Free for Members or with Garden admission.

**23 Saturday** Seedy Saturday. Floral Hall, Admin. Bldg., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Presented by the B.C. Master Gardeners Association. A celebration of heritage varieties and organic gardening featuring more than 30 growers, seed companies, exhibitors and Heritage Seed Swap. Admission by donation.

**23 Saturday** Kids' Corner at Seedy Saturday. Floral Hall, Admin. Bldg., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This free family event will have a variety of seed-inspired activities during our annual Seedy Saturday event.

**23 Saturday** Volunteer Orientation, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Orientation is a prerequisite for volunteer activities at VanDusen Garden. Details: pg. 4.

### MARCH

**2 Saturday** Annual Manure Sale. Parking lot, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$5 for a 20 kg bag. First come, first served. Information: vandusenmanure@gmail.com

**10 Sunday** HSBC Family Program, Worm World: For families with children ages 5 – 11. Details: pg. 11

**17 Sunday** Medicine Wheel Ceremony. Noon -3 p.m. at the First Nations' Medicine Wheel in the Canadian Heritage Garden. Join elders from the First Nations community in a spiritual ceremony to mark the changing of the season. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather, bring a small stone to bless and leave at the wheel as well as a food

## VanDusen Garden Shop

### WAKE UP CALL

# Winter

The Garden Shop offers a wide selection of seeds, plants, boots and gardening tools.



item to share at the pot luck meal at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Information: Librarian Marina Princz at library@vandusen.org / 604-257-8668

**23 & 24 Saturday & Sunday** Vancouver Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale. Floral Hall & Cedar Room, Admin. Bldg., Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission: \$7. Information: Margaret Prat 604-261-8474 / margaretprat@shaw.ca

**30 Saturday** Bird Walk, 10 a.m. Meet in the Visitor Centre Atrium. Join Jeremy Gordon for a guided birding exploration in the Garden. Rain or shine. Free for Members or with Garden admission.

**30 Saturday** The Great A-Mazing Egg Hunt. For families with children ages 2 – 10. Two time slots available: 10 a.m. - noon or 1 – 3 p.m. Pre-purchased tickets required. Tickets are NOT available at the Gate on the day of the event. Tickets go on sale March 1, in person only, at the Visitor Centre Admissions Desk. Information: tracee.jung@vancouver.ca

### APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

**15 Monday** VBGA Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Recognition: at 7 p.m. in the Visitor Centre, 5151 Oak Street. The meeting will begin with volunteer awards and then proceed to the business portion. Details: pg. 5

**28 Sunday** VanDusen Plant Sale, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. THE sale of the year. More than 40,000 plants for sale. Catalogues available in advance at the Garden on April 1. Bring your wheelbarrow and a friend. Master Gardeners will be on site to give advice. Other features include Plant Check and Plant Pick Up areas. Admission to the Garden is free this day. If you wish to donate plants to the sale, contact Jean McComb 604-261-4556 or Margie Knox 604-261-1868.

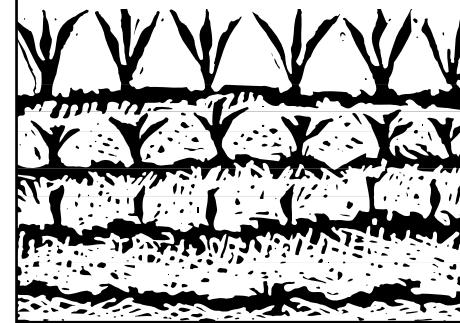
# Seedy Saturday

**February 23, 2013**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Floral Hall

A celebration of heritage varieties and organic gardening featuring more than 30 growers, seed companies and exhibitors, Heritage Seed Swap.

Admission by donation.



### CONTACT US

**604-257-8335** 24-Hour Info Line

**604-257-8666** Administration Office

**604-257-8463** Admissions Desk, Visitor Centre

**604-257-8669** Education, Adult

**604-257-8332** Education, Course Registration

**604-718-5898** Education, Family Programs

**604-257-6915** Facilities Rental

**604-257-8660** Garden Director

**604-257-8665** Garden Shop

**604-257-8190** Gifts to the Garden

**604-257-8668** Library

**604-257-8670** Media/Public Relations

**604-257-8675** Membership

**604-257-8662** Plant Information Line

**604-261-0011** Shaughnessy Restaurant

**604-267-4966** Truffles Café

**604-257-8162** Visitor Services & Info, Visitor Centre

**604-257-8674** Volunteer Director

Full list under **Contact Us** on [vandusengarden.org](http://vandusengarden.org)