

Tree of the Month, July 2012:

Orangebark or tall stewartia (*Stewartia monadelphica*)

Orangebark stewartia (*Stewartia monadelphica*), is a beautiful small tree with soft green leaves, white summer-blooming flowers, and mottled orange bark. The sculptural orange branches of this species dominate the winter landscape, making it popular with gardeners.

Native to Japan and Korea, *Stewartia* is a member of the Tea family, Theaceae. Legendary naturalist Carl Linnaeus named the genus after John Stuart, the 3rd Earl of Bute, in the 1750s. Due to a typo, the genus was named *Stewartia* instead of *Stuartia*, which resulted in centuries of spelling arguments between botanists. Due to taxonomic law, *Stewartia* is still the accepted spelling, although in the UK the genus is often referred to as *Stuartia*.

At VanDusen, you can find orangebark stewartia on the Rhododendron Walk.