

## WEEKLY UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 3 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

“It was a bright September afternoon,  
The parched-up beech trees would be yellowing soon,  
The yellow flowers grown deeper with the sun  
Were letting fall their petals one by one...”

William Morris (1834-1896), “The Earthly Paradise”

What a change in the weather! Surprisingly, however, we are way under our average summer (July/August) rainfall! There is very little to report.

1. There is no new information about the status of the trolley chair.
2. Our new Development Officer is going to look into resupplying the Visitor Guide brochure.
3. The ginger plants are flowering.
4. White and pale pink cyclamen are flowering under the Brewer’s spruce and the blue Atlas cedar on the southern side of the Cypress Pond.
5. One little autumn crocus has poked its head up across from the Autumn Stroll and Cypress Pond path junction.
6. A tiny orange treefrog hopped its way across the path leading to the former Education Building, no doubt on its way to the pond. A Gardener’s Walk highlight!!

### **Guide Goings On**

1. Thursday, September 8 – Guide Education – Alan Garr, the garden’s volunteer beekeeper, will speak on bees, with a focus on the garden.  
The Guide Business Meeting will follow.

### **Garden Goings On – it’s a busy month!**

1. Zimcarvings – Patrick Sephani’s show will be held in the Glasshouse and the Formal Rose Garden from September 2 to September 30.  
He will be sculpting, exhibiting and selling his work. Check it out!!
2. Pt. Grey Chrysanthemum Association Early Chrysanthemum Show  
Saturday, September 10 – 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Sunday, September 11 – 10:00am-4:00pm  
Floral Hall  
Free
3. Luxury and Supercar Weekend  
Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11  
11:00am-5:00pm on the Great Lawn  
Some paths may be congested or closed

4. Alpine Garden Club of BC Fall Sale  
Saturday, September 17 – 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Floral Hall  
Free
5. Medicine Wheel Ceremony  
Sunday, September 18 – 12:00pm-3:00pm  
Canadian Heritage Garden  
A celebration of the Autumnal Equinox

### **Garden Clippings**

1. A visitor's comment that maple syrup was being tapped on Saltspring Island warranted further investigation and it is, in fact, true. Harbour House Hotel, which has its own extensive organic garden, taps its bigleaf maples, *Acer macrophylla*, for the sap and uses an evaporator, originally from UBC, to make the syrup.

The property contains 100 bigleaf maples (David Douglas called them the "noblest maple of them all"), producing 1,000 litres of sap annually which is frozen and stored. The boiling down process takes from 7 to 10 hours and produces only 15 litres of syrup; this is because the sugar content of the bigleaf maple sap is only 1%. The syrup is used exclusively in the hotel's restaurant.

BC's maple syrup industry is small and concentrated, for the most part, on Vancouver Island which has a weather pattern of freezes and thaws.

Thanks to Marilyn G. for suggesting this.

2. Marie B. sent along a reminder that municipalities are struggling to deal with Japanese knotweed, a highly invasive plant that grows prolifically in the Lower Mainland. She also sent a link to an article in the *Telegraph*. You can access it, along with other articles, at [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/greenpolitics](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/greenpolitics) or just Google *Telegraph* and "Japanese knotweed".

You can also find an archived "Weekly Update" item (July 10-16, 2015) on the topic of Japanese knotweed on [www.ericanotebook.com](http://www.ericanotebook.com)

### **Tree Highlight – Katsura - *Cercidiphyllum japonicum***

The sugary fragrance that greets my nose when I open the front door to pick up the morning papers emanates from the katsuras on the boulevard in the next block. It is a pleasant and powerful reminder that fall is approaching.

Katsura belongs to a genus, *Cercidiphyllum*, of only two species which are native to Japan and China. *C. japonica* is one of the largest deciduous hardwood trees in Asia where it can grow up to 148 feet while *C. magnificum* is much smaller. They are classified as *Cercidiphyllum* because their leaves resemble those of redbuds, *Cercis*, but they are not related. The leaves of redbuds are alternate on the stems, while those of katsura are opposite.

The trees are dioecious (both male and female trees). The leaves are round or heart-shaped and dimorphic. The continually changing, colourful foliage makes the katsura a three season tree: in the spring, the leaves range in colour from a pinky red to a reddish-purple; in summer, they are green; in the fall, their colour ranges from apricot to orange to golden yellow.

In the spring, small, insignificant flowers, which are wind-pollinated, appear on both male and female trees. These develop into fruits consisting of two to four small pods, each containing winged seeds that are released during the fall and winter.

Probably the most distinguishing feature of the katsura trees is their fall fragrance which has been described as being like caramel, toffee, candy floss, crème brulee, cinnamon, and burnt sugar!! You can choose! Right now, as you come around the corner at the top of the Stone Garden along the path towards the Maze, stop, close your eyes, take a deep breath and let your imagination take you to a bakery or a candy factory.

Both *C. japonicum* and *C. Japonicum* f. *pendulum* have received the RHS Award of Garden Merit. The garden's lovely *C. japonicum* 'Morioka Weeping' at the Waterfall was featured in the August 2012 "Tree of the Month".

On your way into the Visitor Center, take a moment to admire the gorgeous multi-trunked katsura in the Founder's Plaza and look for *C. magnificum* in beds 74 and 127A, both in the Sino-Himalayan Garden.

Please send any comments, questions, clarifications, questions and suggestions to [pkbuchanan@shaw.ca](mailto:pkbuchanan@shaw.ca)

Enjoy the remainder of your Labour Day weekend !

HAVE A GREAT WEEK OF GUIDING!

"September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours,  
but in their lengthening evenings a prophetic breath of autumn."

Rowland E. Robinson (1833-1890), *September Days*