

VanDusen Botanical Garden

Guide Weekly Update #11: June 9 to June 15, 2019

Brought to you by Ashley Lambert-Maberly (ashley.lm@ubc.ca), award-winning ☺ Sunday walking guide.

13 June 2019 Thursday: Guide Meeting and Presentation

Combining Education with Business! The speaker will be Egan Davis, who will speak on “Alpine and Steppe Plant Habitats of Armenia,” and the event is being hosted by the Monday guides. I’m assuming, as usual, they’d appreciate it if you could pitch in with one plate of something per team.

12-14 June 2019 Wed-Fri: Pollinator Days

You may stumble across elementary-aged students and their facilitators at hands-on activity station throughout the Garden from 10:00am to 2:00pm each day.

Big Changes Afoot!

In case you missed Cynthia’s very informative walk, you should be aware that the Garden was given a great deal of temporary extra money in its budget to spend on revamping several areas of the garden (but not on more gardeners, unfortunately), including paving the Formal Rose Garden. The Garry Oak meadow will be replanted with North American ornamental plants; succulents are being planted in the Yuccan Garden (which will be relocated, and rethought, by the Stone Garden); a new major Pollinator garden to replace the Fragrance & Herb Gardens; and continued expansion of the BC native garden.

PERFECT PAIRINGS

► The trough gardens will be moved, including presumably this recently planted *Chamaecyparis obtusa* ‘Kamaani’ from 2018. It’s tiny, but the normal species form will grow to 35 meters tall with a 1 meter thick trunk that provides high-quality timber which was used to build Osaka Castle and the Ise Shrine, for instance. ► Their new location should be near this large but unlabelled conifer. Long-standing guides, please let me know what it is! (Currently I think of it as the “tree I walk past to get to the weeping *Sequoiadendron giganteum*”). ► Changes on the slope by Livingstone Lake are already underway, with the new Astilbe Garden in full swing, and some of the succulents by the little zigzag bridge have been planted, though (at press time) they are not yet labelled. The pink shell-like succulent is an *Echeveria* cultivar (likely ‘Mauna Loa’, parent of the equally dazzling ‘Etna’ cultivar... what fun that you can specialize in Volcano-themed echeverias!) ► The tall spiky fellow is a Century Plant (an *Agave americana* cultivar, perhaps ‘variegata,’ there are several similar cultivars), which, despite its name, lasts only 10 to 30 years typically. Both species are supposedly hardy in zone 8, so I will keep an eye out and see if they are left to weather our winter: the intention here is to combine a mix of seasonal and permanent plantings as the slope is somewhat awkward to garden.



You can normally DOWNLOAD all my photos from Google. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/vandusenphotos> and each week I'll keep adding more shots.