

VanDusen Botanical Garden

Guide Weekly Update #12: June 16 to June 22, 2019

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

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22 June 2019: Member Morning

8:00am: Enjoy VanDusen Garden before the public gets in: first 50 members get free coffee!

PERFECT PAIRINGS



► The Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) is blooming. You can find it adjacent to the lawn that divides Eastern North America and the Cypress Family gardens. Neither Brian nor I can remember it blooming before, and since the flowers smell amazing, it turns out ... she's a girl! (The male tree's flowers don't smell nearly as nice). This tree was voted State Tree of Kentucky, but the administration forgot to properly record this ruling. When it was discovered that the State was officially treeless, some 20 years later, a pitched battle erupted between those who wanted this tree to stand, and those who favoured the Tulip Poplar. But when the journalist who championed the Coffee Tree died, sentiment swung in its favour. 20 years after that, they reconsidered and the Tulip Poplar became the new State Tree. ► All around it the Bowman's root (*Gillenia trifoliata*) is blooming. This rose family member is also known as Indian physic, though its curative properties are likely overstated (Thomas Jefferson mentioned it as a medicinal plant in his only published book). ► You may notice, if you have eyes in decent working order, that the Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) on the Garry Oak hill is blooming. But the hill itself is also bursting into bloom, thanks to the first plantings of the new ornamental focus in this area. Brightening this corner are several *Salvia greggii* 'Burgundy', a Mirage Series cultivar. Bred by Darwin Perennials (in Illinois, not Australia), this series reputedly is more heat tolerant than is typical of the species.



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