

VanDusen Botanical Garden

Guide Weekly Update #7: May 12 to May 18, 2019

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

18-19 May 2019 Saturday/Sunday: VJGA Sumi Bonsai Club Show

In the Floral Hall. Sometimes (especially for Bonsai!) guests are confused, and look for the event in the garden. Gently turn them around and point them back through the Visitor's Centre.

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Erica's Notebook Updates

Learn lots for your spring walking tours: the notes from James P's excellent tour of the Eastern North America and Mediterranean Gardens and Lyn A's "Marvelous Melody" self-guided tour are now available on Erica's Notebook, <https://www.ericanotebook.com>

DUTCH TREAT

► A temporary change of pace today. In case you missed the talk at the Guide Meeting on Thursday, here are a few photographs from the Netherlands, and some nuggets of information that are applicable to VanDusen. The tulip is not from the Netherlands, nor Turkey: it hails from the slopes of the Tien Shan Mountains in China, where they meet the Pamir Mountains in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Passing nomadic Turks embraced the flower, settled in Anatolia, and cultivated the flower. It arrived in Europe in the late 16th Century, where it shortly took ill with an aptly-named Tulip Breaking Virus that created spectacular colour variations but weakened the plant. Nowadays almost all tulips with broken colour patterns have achieved their look via careful selection and breeding. (Pictured, a sea of tulips at Keukenhof) ► At right, the Fern garden at Hortus Botanicus Leiden, one of the world's earliest botanical gardens. Originally conceived in the 16th century, botanical gardens were intended to give doctors and apothecaries a chance to study medicinal plants, and to learn to distinguish between similar-appearing plants which had different effects. This garden, begun in 1593, originally contained 1,000 species crammed into a 35x40 meter space. The current garden is now about the size of our Great Lawn.



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