

## WEEKLY UPDATE #19 – AUGUST 6 – AUGUST 13, 2017

The very hot and smoky weather looks set to continue for at least the next week. This poses health problems, both for Guides and visitors. As you walk in the Garden, there is no harm in pointing out the water fountains along the way – particularly the one nearest the maze, ‘hidden’ in the Canadian Heritage Garden. Before setting off, it is a good idea to check that your radio is on and that someone replies when you test it.

### NOTED ON FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST, 2017

- Silk trees *Albizia julibrissin* are in bloom above the waterfall and opposite the Fern Dell
- The display bed outside the main entrance has at least 8 different colourful Echinaceas
- The ‘Grains’ section in the vegetable garden is popular with visitors
- The Lavender Walk is at its peak
- A blue heron was hunting well in Cypress Pond where the water lilies were cut back
- A barred owl was seen near the Transformation Plant sculpture

### MYSTERY PLANT 1

The white mophead hydrangeas in the White Garden and near the Rose Garden arch are *Hydrangea arborescens* ‘Annabelle’, common name ‘Hills of Snow’

See: [http://plants.gardenworks.ca/11190002/Plant/206/Annabelle\\_Hydrangea](http://plants.gardenworks.ca/11190002/Plant/206/Annabelle_Hydrangea)

### MYSTERY PLANT 2

In the Fragrance Garden, in the two beds on the Herb Garden side, are two blue-grey plants with large toothed leaves (up to 20 inches long.) One, at the White Garden side, is near the inner diagonal path and the second is near the middle of the outside edge of the other bed. If the leaves are rubbed and sniffed, they smell like peanut butter! These South African plants are *Melianthus major* ‘Antonow’s Blue’ - common names are ‘honey bush’ or ‘peanut butter plant’.

See: [http://outlawgarden.blogspot.ca/2013/10/melianthus-major-antonows-blue-my\\_3.html](http://outlawgarden.blogspot.ca/2013/10/melianthus-major-antonows-blue-my_3.html)

Note: All parts of this plant are poisonous. Antonow was a Seattle plantsman.

### MYSTERY PLANT 3

In the concrete tubs between the Glasshouse and the tropical beds are orange-reddish bracts with small curved white flowers. These are *Justicia brandegeana*, or shrimp plants.

See: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a522>

### Garden Walk with Tomas Equizabal August 3rd, 2017

- Marilyn GI’s report on the walk is available now on Erica’s Book<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ericanotebook.com/gardener-walks.html>

## **SOCIAL SUNDAYS AT VANDUSEN IN AUGUST<sup>2</sup>**

Free with Garden admission. Sunday afternoons - 3:00pm to 5:30pm on the Great Lawn.

### **August 6: Paul Filek Band**

- A former Canadian Idol contestant, Paul Filek (80s and 90s covers)

### **August 13: Coldwater Road**

- Coldwater Road (50s era with folk and country) rich in harmonies. Coldwater Road is folk music with a reason to dance.

### **August 20: Company B Jazz Band**

- Company B Jazz Band (20s and 40s era), a Vancouver-based 6-piece group in the style of the Andrews and Boswell Sisters, rouses crowds for dancing and smiles with their cheerful renditions of classic repertoire from the 1920s through to 1940s.

### **August 27: Day Trippers**

- The Day Trippers (60s and 70s) are a Vancouver based Beatles tribute band that transport you back to the touring days of the early 1960s.

During Patti B's absence over the next few weeks, please send any comments, suggestions for future "Weekly Update" topics, questions etc. to: [malcolmjhunter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:malcolmjhunter@hotmail.co.uk)

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<sup>2</sup> <http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/vandusen-social-sundays.aspx>