

## WEEKLY UPDATE #15 - JULY 9 - JULY 16, 2016

Over the Canada Day weekend the sun was shining and the Garden was a delight to behold. In the Canadian Heritage Garden the sugar maples were doing their best to get into the spirit of things by producing thousands of trainee Canadian flags.

### GUIDE GOINGS ON

1. There are no Guide meetings during July and August.
2. The next Guide specific event will be the Garden Walk on August 4th with Miguel in the Canadian Heritage, Vegetable and Alma VanDusen gardens.

**Red envelopes for gratuities** - We have a dwindling supply of red envelopes into which gratuities are placed. If you have unused red envelopes of any size, no longer needed for their original purpose, please leave them in the locked cupboard in the Volunteer Lounge for Adrienne to pick up. To convert them to gratuity purposes, information needed to document gratuities received will be computer printed on the envelopes you donate. (Many thanks!)

### GARDEN GOINGS ON

#### Sunday, July 17

1. 10am - 4pm **The Vancouver Shade Garden Society Annual Show** in the Floral Hall - **FREE ADMISSION**
2. 12 - 3 pm (1pm concert at the Great Lawn) Enjoy **Kids Day with Will's Jams**. Kids can sing and dance to a live concert by Will Stroet, star of the musical TV series Will's Jams on Kids' CBC. After the concert, they can create garden themed arts and crafts; play fun lawn games like giant Jenga and Connect 4, savour tasty eats & much more! - **FREE FOR VAN DUSEN MEMBERS**

#### Saturday & Sunday July 23 & 24th

Sat 10-5 and Sun 10-4 **BC Fuchsia and Begonia Society Show & Sale**. (Floral Hall and Cedar Room) FREE. Sale items will include "Heather's Jams" All profit from Heather's Jams supports VanDusen Garden and has so far given: 3 Visitor Cart Covers, 2 Visitor Wheelchairs, Visitor Umbrellas, Ivy Busting Supplies, Canadian Medicinal Plant Labels (underway), new Magnolia (underway) and Ribes lobbii.

### TREE OF THE MONTH

July 'Tree of The Month' is the Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). It is now on the VanDusen website along with those for March, April, May and June, at: <http://vandusengarden.org/explore/vandusen-botanical-garden/>

## **COURSES AVAILABLE**

Of the many courses available, you may be interested in these two:

Sunday, 17 July 2016 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm **Know your Bees of BC** - Brian Campbell - VanDusen Botanical Garden

Wednesday, July 20 6:30 - 9 pm **All about Perennials** - Spend the evening outside in the Perennial Garden and Black Garden with VanDusen gardener, Casey Werfl.

## **ART IN THE LIBRARY**

From July 7th to September 20th, 2016, there is an exhibition by two local artists:

***From Representation to Abstraction: Sculpture and Photography***  
by Nancy Lin and Grant Withers

Nancy Lin now devotes most of her time to clay art. She makes realistic models of plants which she then makes remarkably lifelike using brightly-coloured oil paints.

Grant Withers spent six years at VanDusen Garden. In his work Grant blurs the boundary between photography and painting. All of the pieces are based on images captured in VanDusen Garden.

See: <http://vandusengarden.org/learn/library/>

for examples. (Thanks to Marina Princz, Librarian, for this information)

## **MYSTERY PLANT 1**

In the corner of the White Garden nearest the Fragrance Garden and the Phyllis Bentall Garden there are a number of tall (above the hedge) large white flowers with bright yellow 'table tennis' ball centres. These are *Romneya coulteri*. They are Matilija poppies or tree poppies and are native to southern California and northern Mexico. See: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/21715/Romneya-coulteri/Details>

## **MYSTERY PLANT 2**

Throughout the Black Garden there are 14 recently planted seasonal small green plants with clusters of bright yellow slipper-like flowers. In the Chilean section of the Southern Hemisphere Garden there are another 23 of these plants. Fortunately, there is a label (Under the Western Red Cedar on the 'Chilean' side of the path), saying it is *Calceolaria integrifolia* 'Sunshine', a member of the 'Slipper family'. See: <https://elainezengplants.wordpress.com/2014/08/01/calceolaria-integrifolia-sunshine/>

## PLANT HIGHLIGHT - Hydrangeas

The two big beds of hydrangeas - along the Rhododendron Walk and around the Peony bed - are amongst the most colourful parts of the Garden at present.

The literal meaning of "Hydrangea" is quite clear. This group is named from the Greek words for water, *hydros*, and jar or jug, *angos* - the flowers need a lot of water when they are developing and the flower is cup-shaped.

The symbolic meaning of a gift of hydrangeas is subject to so many different interpretations that you may choose to play safe and give a good book instead.

Amongst the symbolism described on the 'Flower Meaning' website at:

<http://www.flowermeaning.com/hydrangea-flower-meaning/>

are:

- Heartfelt and honest emotions of any kind
- Gratitude and thanksgiving to someone else
- Developing a deeper understanding between two people
- Abundance and prosperity
- The 4th wedding anniversary for a couple
- Grace and beauty, sometimes taken to an extreme of vanity and narcissism

These seem generally positive, apart from the sting in the tail of the last one. The problem is that it does not end there. The other diverse meanings of Hydrangea also include:

- Heartlessness and acting without thinking about the feelings of another
- Frigidity and disinterest in a romantic proposal
- Boasting and bragging about false accomplishments

The associations of the colour of the flowers changes the meaning, with pink, blue, white and purple all meaning multiple, sometimes opposing, different things.

Another fact to bear in mind if giving plants or flowers is that Hydrangeas are moderately toxic if eaten, with all parts of the plant containing cyanogenic glycosides. *Hydrangea paniculata* is reportedly sometimes smoked as an intoxicant, despite the danger of illness and/or death due to the cyanide.

Remember that there is a wealth of information online in Erica's Book at:

<http://www.ericanotebook.com/>

During Patti'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)