

40TH ANNIVERSARY

On August 30, 2015, VanDusen Botanical Garden officially turned 40 years old. The story of how the Garden came to be, the personalities involved, and the evolution of the Garden over time were celebrated twice this past summer.

The first was the official launch of *Celebrating 40 Years: a photo retrospective* on June 30th. Organized and coordinated by volunteers and staff of the VBGA, and funded by the McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund, this exhibit features more than 800 curated photographs (and supporting text) that document the history of the Garden from its time as the Shaugnessy Golf Course to present day. Visitors are encouraged to see this remarkable showcase of the Garden in the Discovery Room of the Visitor Centre until September 20, 2015.

The second celebration was organized by Park Board on August 16th. Thousands of people came out to the Garden to celebrate its 40th birthday. Activities included a photo booth, climbing wall, fairy post office, tattoo stations, historical and botanical talks and tours, a putting green, and education activities for families. There was music, food and an opportunity to hear from some of the original founders of the Garden.

The history of the Garden is one of collaboration and shared passion for all things horticultural. If the participation and enthusiasm of visitors and supporters at these events is anything to go by, the future of the Garden will be more of the same. 🍀



Invited guests taking in the exhibit at the June 30th opening reception.



The photo retrospective leaders: Midge Oke, Eve Harrison and Susan Mawhood.

Photos: Phil Kirby

INSIDE: Combating European Fire Ants
Summer Camp
Festival of Lights
and more...



Photo: Shawn Mitchell

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT: INVASIVE SPECIES TECHNICIAN

The VanDusen Botanical Garden Association and City of Vancouver Park Board agreed to jointly fund a position – for a full year – to help combat the spread of European Fire Ants in the Garden. Lisa Wong has been our Invasive Species Technician since the beginning of January this year. Our editor recently interviewed Lisa.

What is an Invasive Species Technician?

My job is to constantly explore the Garden to find where European Fire Ants (EFA) might be living and to destroy their nests. I report to Cynthia Sayre, the Garden Curator, and work with her to develop strategies and approaches to beating back the ant population. Together, we also work closely with the gardeners to keep the Garden as free of ants as we can.

What happens when you find them?

I look for signs of ants. I follow them until I can find their nest(s). And then I basically dig them out and spray them with *AntOut*®. Sometimes

I have to do this several times at one site. I've also been using flags to mark where nests have been found and treated so that I can easily go back to see if I've actually gotten them all.

What is "Ant out"?

To safeguard the health of the Garden, the Vancouver Park Board is applying *AntOut*®. It contains permethrin, a synthetic form of the natural insecticide pyrethrum found in chrysanthemums.

How many nests have you found this year so far?

It's really hard to say. But definitely a lot.

Are we making progress in controlling this species in the Garden?

Overall, I would say yes. In the areas I've been treating ... when I go back, I find a fraction of what was there before and other areas where we've definitely gotten rid of them altogether. But there are some areas, like the Alma VanDusen Meadow, where the scale of infestation is so big that it is almost impossible to even make a dent.

What is the biggest "aha" moment of the past year for you?

That our practices and approaches here are being watched by others and are being shared around by researchers and city staff. It feels good to know that we are making progress managing the ants in the Garden and helping others make progress elsewhere. 🍀

An Afternoon with Stanley Asset Management

Jan 14, 2016 – 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Stanley Asset Management works closely with Scotia Private Client Group, including Private Banking, Commercial Banking, and Wills, Estates and Trust Services.

In partnership with VanDusen Botanical Garden, Stanley Asset Management is pleased to invite VBGA members to meet and network with their representatives in a wine and cheese format.

The afternoon will feature a spirited and engaging conversation on the current investment environment, followed by a unique opportunity for one-on-one time to ask the experts your personal questions on the investment markets, how to generate investment income, financial planning strategies, and charitable giving.

Please RSVP to Allison Sproule at allison.sproule@scotiamcleod.com by January 7, 2016. If you have any questions, you are welcome to call Stanley Asset Management at 604-661-1531.

KIDS + SUMMER + VANDUSEN = A WHOLE LOT OF FUN AND LEARNING

What a summer it's been! VanDusen's summer camp program took a leap of faith this year with the decision to double the opportunities for kids to explore, learn and play in the Garden. Clearly it was the right move, as all 16 camps have been full, with several camps completely selling out within 10 minutes of being announced. How lucky we are that our fundamental values regarding the importance of outdoor, hands-on learning are shared by the Vancouver community. Our campers come from a diversity of families, many of whom are first-time visitors to the Garden, and often become members as a result of this experience.

This summer, over 300 children have spent a week at the Garden to explore connections between plants, people, insects, birds, food, and art. They created ephemeral earth art, released ladybugs, planted and harvested vegetables, identified insects in the ponds, learned bird watching, planted cuttings in the greenhouse, and explored every inch of the Garden. They learned about a "Tree of the Day", "Artist of the Day", or "Bird of the Day", and discovered Cedars, Ginkgos, Oaks, Monet, Goldsworthy, Van Gogh, herons, owls, or woodpeckers. Our new traveling camp, "Bogs to Beaches", took older campers to explore Camosun Bog, Lynn Canyon, Stanley Park, Bloedel Conservatory, and other interesting sites around the city.

Running this many camps came with several challenges, including the need for a second location to call home base. The underused glasshouse between the herb and rose gardens seemed the perfect solution, but it required significant upgrades. So we made the financial commitment to the project and jumped into the challenge. We replaced the leaking glass roof, removed an interior rock wall, poured a concrete countertop around a new sink, repainted the floor, and purchased kid-appropriate furnishings. The result? A beautiful new space absolutely perfect for camp, right in the Garden. The kids love it, as do the many visitors that peek in to see what is going on.

So, now that we have this marvelous new space, what else can we do here? Half of the year it will be occupied by Festival of Lights preparation, and perhaps Santa. At other times, the opportunities are vast, and the ideas aplenty. Perhaps a "Young Sprouts" program for preschool aged children, birthday parties, yoga classes, or horticultural therapy programs. Messy classes on plant propagation or container planting. The possibilities are exciting, but they will need planning, and financial support. We welcome your involvement and look forward to exploring new potential together. 🍀



Photo: Shawn Mitchell

Renovated glasshouse for summer camp



Photo: Gillian Drake

Camper backpack storage



Photo: Shawn Mitchell

Kids taking a break during art camp

NEW SPONSOR

The VanDusen Botanical Garden Association welcomes Stanley Asset Management as a new sponsor of our projects and programs.

Stanley Asset Management is Vancouver's premier investment management group. They offer comprehensive wealth management through uniquely tailored investment solutions and a high level of personal service.



EVENTS AND MORE

For a complete listing of events in the Garden and the Conservatory, AND FOR MORE DETAILS or TICKET INFORMATION, please see our comprehensive listings online at www.vandusengarden.org

Annual Compost, Soil and Bulb Sale

Sept 26, 10 am to 3 pm

Price: \$5 per bag (about 20 litres / 20 lbs.)

Pre-Order: www.heavyethics.com/VanDusen

NOTE: This year we are selling Red Label topsoil, Brown Label manure AND Compost from Harvest Power.

The Art of Craft Lecture Series (Ticketed Event)

Sept 22, Oct 27 and Nov 17

CCBC or VBGA Members \$20 each lecture or 3 for \$50

Non-members \$25 each lecture or 3 for \$65

On each date, three different artists will explore how the Garden inspires their work. Lecture topics are: *From the Garden*; *Botanically Inspired*; and *Reclamation*.

Dried Flower Arranger's Sale

Sept 25 - 27 / Oct 23 - 25 / Nov 27 - 29

Come see us at this sale of dried flower topiaries, centrepieces, wreaths, bouquets and arrangements created with materials grown at VanDusen Botanical Garden. Great gifts!

BOTANICALLY INSPIRED (Exhibition)

Oct 1 to 31 - Discovery Room, VanDusen Visitor Centre

In celebration of Craft Year 2015, Craft Council of BC is partnering with the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association to present a mixed media exhibition of works inspired by the Garden.

CRAFT YEAR, CRAFT BEER: a celebration of the handmade and artisanal

Ticketed event - check our website for details

October 22, 7 pm to 10 pm

This charitable event will consist of a pre-juried winning brewery (judging will take place on October 9, 2015) and a public tasting on the night of October 22 to determine the People's Choice Award.

MEMBER NEWS

VanDusen Garden Shop's Holiday Sale

25% off for VanDusen Members only

Wednesday, Nov 18 and Thursday, Nov 19, 10 am to 7pm

Present your valid VanDusen Membership card to receive your discount on all regular-priced merchandise. Sorry, books and magazines are not included in the sale.



Holiday Offer

Starting on October 1, purchase membership for someone else and we'll give them and you 2 extra months. Gift certificates for membership must be activated no later than March 31, 2016 in order to receive the additional 2 month benefit.

Offer valid from October 1 to December 31, 2015. Limit of (1) two-month membership extension, regardless of the number of gifts purchased. Purchaser must have or purchase their own VanDusen membership to be eligible. Bonus months are non-transferable.

GET CARDED

Do you have your VanDusen photo membership card?

Not yet? We can help!



Simply bring 1 piece of photo identification to the Garden (during regular hours), along with your membership receipt, and within minutes we'll provide you with a photo card, complete with renewal decal, which will give you instant access to all of your member benefits.

A valid VanDusen photo membership card is required to access your discount benefits. Unfortunately, we will not be able to honour your member discount without this card.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Our dedicated volunteers and gardeners have been busy testing lights and creating props gearing up for this year's Festival of Lights. This holiday tradition runs nightly from **December 1 - 31, 2015 from 4:30pm to 9pm**, with late nights from December 18 to 23 when they keep the lights on until 10pm. **The Garden is closed on December 25th, Christmas Day.**

Visitors can experience a frozen winter wonderland with nearly 1.5 million lights decorating an expanded 15 acres of VanDusen Garden. Children and adults of all ages can enjoy live entertainment, have their photos taken with Santa (Dec. 1 - 24), have a meal or snack during the show and be captivated by the Dancing Lights on Livingstone Lake.

Purchase tickets in advance to skip the line! VanDusen Garden members can take advantage of discounted tickets and a fast track line-up. See you there!