



VanDusen Botanical Garden Guide Newsletter

Spring 2009

In this edition:

Letter from Garden Director.....	2
Note from Guide Chair.....	3
Report from Garden Superintendent.....	4
Display Labels: the Future.....	5
Volunteer Recognition.....	6
Self-guided Tours.....	7
VanDusen Book Club.....	7
VBGA and Capital Campaign Events.....	8
Information Booth - 2008 Tour Statistics.....	9
Seed Collector Updates.....	9
Garden Bird Watch: Varied Thrush.....	10
More Gardens to Visit.....	11
Guide Council - Education & Newsletter Teams.....	12
Guide Education and Meeting Calendar.....	13

Message from VBGA to Guides

By Henry Hawthorn, president, VanDusen Botanical Garden Association Board

I want to congratulate and thank everyone who volunteers as a VanDusen Botanical Garden guide and wish you the best of luck at the start of a new year of helping visitors to appreciate the remarkable Botanical Garden we share. The mission of the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association is concisely stated as helping everyone to understand and embrace the fundamental importance of biological diversity to their lives. Your efforts are essential if we are to carry out this mission and are, of course, greatly appreciated.

Trees, Glorious Trees!

By Harry Jongerden, garden director, VanDusen Botanical Garden

"I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree."

Joyce Kilmer may seem a bit sappy (pardon the pun) to our modern ear, but it's hard to argue with him on the perfection of nature's beauty. Some still measure a tree's worth in board feet of lumber, but most of us have come to understand and appreciate the immeasurable value of a tree's oxygenating and air purification powers, as well as its provision of shade, wind protection and wildlife habitat. In addition to these attributes that make our planet livable, trees seduce us with their colours, their movement, their sounds and their majestic presence. Both science and poetry would agree, there's nothing as lovely as a tree.

Until recently, it was enough to refrain from cutting trees down to ensure their health. What could be easier than to nurture nature's self-sufficient giants? Much has changed in recent years. Pollution has placed a number of specimens and species at risk. Our trees are threatened by invasive insects and pathogens. While everyone knows about pine beetle devastation to our forests, we can only hope that *Phytophthora ramorum* [Sudden Oak Death] - currently laying waste to many gardens and forests in Britain - does not become as infamous here. As for the insidious influence of climate change, let's not even go there at this point. We've got immediate threats to tree health at hand.

What can we do about all this? It's hard to take on the problems of the world, but I like to think we can do our bit. At the very least, plant a tree, or ten! Yes, it's always best to plant a tree 20 years ago, but it's never too late to give yourself that pleasure - whether at home or elsewhere.

In park departments we're fond of saying, "cut one down, plant three." That's not just a glib rationalization for tree removal. Few people love trees more than we do. Decisions to remove them can be contentious, but when trees become unhealthy, hazardous or problematic, we need to act. Remember, "cut one, plant three."

Our architects and landscape architects have been very sensitive to existing specimen trees in their layout for the new building and its driveway. Very few will require removal, and some are still small enough to be relocated. There will also be some judicious tree removal between the Nature Centre (formerly the Ed. Centre) and the Service Yard to accommodate Children's Education programs. When balancing the needs of our Education mandate with a desire to preserve existing trees, I won't have a problem with that decision. As we cut one and plant three, we'll do our best to avoid controversy.

The *New York Times* carried an obituary last year of a passionate gardener, garden writer and tree lover, M.M. Graff. She was known as a scourge of the New York City Parks Department, and I can only hope I don't encounter the likes of her here (even though I would likely agree with her on just about everything!). Lamenting the loss of a tree, she is quoted as saying, "Where that majesty stood, there is now just a sigh in the air." There's something about trees that brings out the poet in all of us - but even Joyce Kilmer would have trouble topping that one.

Beech trees in autumn
- photo by Cindy Swoveland



Note from the Guide Chair

By Patti Lazzerini, guide chair, and guide, Friday Walking Team

Hello everyone,

Our new season as VanDusen Botanical Garden Guides begins officially on Sunday, April 5. It promises to be an exciting, busy and challenging time.

We have already accepted guided walking tour bookings from Calgary and North Vancouver during the last week of March. We will also be providing pre-season walking and cart tours on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29, at the request of the organizers of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival. Thank you to the captains and team members, Council members, and staff who so swiftly and positively translated thought and talk into action to meet these pre-season tour requests.

We have bookings for Earth Day celebrations on April 22 and will be introducing special tours, with a specific focus on the fundamental importance of biological diversity during Earth Week.

In May, Chilliwack seniors have booked our services, and in June we will be interpreting our wonderful Botanical Garden for delegates to the Vancouver International Rose Conference.

Garden guides are also currently writing self-guided tours that will be available for visitors each month during the upcoming season.

All these activities are, of course, in addition to other seasonal tour bookings and our regular daily walking and cart tours.

There is so much useful and interesting information in this newsletter to assist us in educating our visitors. My thanks to the contributors and the newsletter team for sharing their time, expertise and knowledge with us. Please share this expertise and knowledge with others.

Throughout this season, please use every opportunity to raise the awareness of visitors to the benefits of membership of the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association, which has our unequivocal support.

We will continue to be pro-active, flexible, authentic, patient and realistic VanDusen Botanical Garden Guides! Have a happy, fulfilling and joyful guiding season,

Cheers!
Patti

Other Cherry Blossom Festival Events of Interest to Guides

Monday, March 16, 7:30-9:30 pm, Floral Hall

Cherry Scout Workshop

If you would like to scout for cherries in your neighbourhoods, this workshop will help you with the details. Bill Stephen will talk about cherries in the city, and Wendy Cutler will talk about what being a scout entails. You can read more about scouting under the CHERRIES tab at <http://www.vcbf.ca>

Monday, March 30, 7:30-9:30 pm, Floral Hall

Blossom Biology

This lecture will help Cherry Scouts and anyone interested in learning how to identify cherry cultivars and the horticulture of the cherry tree.

Both events are free but please register with Wendy Cutler, 604-685-7405, wcutler@vcbf.ca

New Book on Vancouver's Cherry Trees

Vancouver's 36,000 cherry trees will soon be coming into bloom, and the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival has published a limited edition field guide to the 35 different cultivars of flowering cherries growing in Metro Vancouver.

The book is entitled *Ornamental Cherries in Vancouver* and was written by Douglas Justice, Associate Director UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research.

There will be a copy available in the VanDusen Library, as well as ones for sale in the Garden Shop.



2008 Sakura Day Celebration
photo by Donna Astbury

An Olympian Report from our Garden Superintendent

By James Warkentin, garden superintendent, VanDusen Botanical Garden

Preparations for the 2010 Olympic events are well underway at VanDusen. For several months now, rigorous planning has been top priority, and the staff have been involved every step of the way. The winter season has allowed us to test the venues and to finesse our winning strategies. We will be at the Floral Hall podium, and here is how we'll get there:

Gerry will be operating the newly installed t-bar lift to take skiers to the summit of Waterfall Mountain. Nancy has been increasing her personal best on the giant slalom down the Rhodo Walk, skillfully carving her way around the hydrangea bed and the labyrinth of beech trees. The Azalea Trail has been the toughest course so far. Casey, a perennial favourite, plans on dazzling the crowds with aerials from the slate roof of the Scots cottage. Norm, who has a keen eye for training, may be lured out of retirement to help coach the apprentice gardeners as they prepare for the Nordic Classic along Great Heron Lake Way. Miguel, amazing as it seems, will single handedly shoulder the financial burden of the event, managing the hedge funds as they splay downward, a real tendency with pyramidal schemes. James P. will produce the garden games, having learned early on how to respond to ever-changing directors' ever-changing ideas. Egan will manage the opening ceremonies and other entertainment, and even now can be heard increasing his vocal range as he shortlists the musical acts. He is also trained to provide electrical layout under a blanket of snow. Peter, our media mogul, will take charge of all forms of media, broadcasting each Olympic moment to a sixties soundtrack. Bruce has the responsibility for coordinating all of the many volunteers who will be here for the games. He will also be the official timekeeper, starting the games at exactly 7 a.m. most mornings. Finally, the most important task of all goes to the man with the well-oiled fleet. Shaun is expected to be here at all hours of the day and night, grooming, zamboniizing, and performing all manner of site maintenance.

Seriously though, the winter wear and tear has once again taken its toll, and the timing of the successive snowstorms couldn't have been worse. The positive news is that the damage in December was nothing as severe as in 2006. The majority of the damage has once again been to the woody plants. Mostly trees, but some shrubs gave way under the heavy snow. Cherries, pines, birches, and larches failed, and we have had to remove some of them due to the extensive damage. In other cases we have removed plants because of combined damage from the '06 and '08 winter storms. Pines have been amongst the worst hit trees, and in the last month we have removed a number of them from the heather area, conifer ravine, and the Nature Centre area. As always, the Douglas fir litter was thick below the stands, and climbers spent days clearing the debris from the upper branches.

The maze fared poorly during December, and with up to two feet of snow sitting atop the hedge and freezing temperatures remaining constant during this time, many plants collapsed under the weight and had little chance of regaining their shape. We began the long process of tying plants upright and trust that extra support and tapering the top with a good hard pruning will encourage new growth and recreate some precise geometry.

The marginally hardy plants in the Southern Hemisphere Garden are some of the toughest losses, and after the clean-up is done, we will be missing too many of our favourite hebes, phormiums, and other lovely plants like the embotrium, maytenus and eucalyptus.

The guru from Walden Pond once said that one could never get enough of nature, but I confess that after four weeks of slipping over snowy hills at the Garden, our band of shovellers felt that we had truly had enough of this version. It has been so great to see the snowdrops return and the snow patches finally recede. We now have a great Olympian event ahead of us, and that is to nurture the Garden back to a dynamic and inspiring state. As I said earlier, the staff are up for it, so get the medals ready, and let the Garden games begin.



Display Labels: the Future

By Janelle Ellis, plant documentation technician, VanDusen Garden

Tired of seeing old, cracked, and peeling labels in the garden that are impossible to read? So are we! It's time we switched our old and tattered display labels to something new. With the purchase of a laser engraver, we can now affordably make professional display labels. We will be including the same information, and will add new features that should grab the attention of VanDusen visitors.

Out with the old and in with the improved!

As before, the labels will have the common name, botanical name, family name, nativity and accession number. The new features include the habit and symbols to describe interesting features about the plant. These symbols, which denote 'sun,' 'part sun/part shade,' 'shade,' 'attracts hummingbirds or butterflies,' 'native to BC,' 'drought tolerant,' and 'endangered,' will allow people to connect with plants more easily.

No more tape!

We will use outdoor-grade, black, textured plastic with white letters. The laser engraver produces clear, crisp lines that make the labels easier to read. These labels will be placed on black metal stakes that are reusable, sturdy and harder to remove or break. Check out the photo to get a preview.

A peek into the future...

We are working towards purchasing a new database that will allow us to produce these labels with ease and consistency. This database will not only speed up the process of making labels but will also drastically improve the way in which the public can interact with the Garden.

The database, called *BGBBase*, is especially designed for botanical collections, including arboreta, herbaria and botanical gardens. In contrast to our current software, *BGBBase* can track complex and detailed information, which can then be shared with other institutions. What's more, the database allows read-only access to the public. It has advanced image-banking capabilities and a mapping feature, which will allow us to map our plant collections so that visitors can pinpoint where plants can be found in the Garden.

Replacing all the labels will be a lot of work, but it will be well worth it. So, as the season warms, keep your eyes open for the new labels.



Woodwardia plant label
photo by Janelle Ellis

Volunteer Recognition at VanDusen

By Judy Aird, director, VanDusen Volunteer Services

Next month, on April 20th, the VBGA will hold its annual Volunteer Recognition event in conjunction with its Annual General Meeting. We will recognize deserving volunteers who have made a significant contribution to the Garden and its mission. Earlier in the year, individual volunteers and groups had the opportunity to submit nominations for awards, which will be reviewed by a panel of high-level volunteers together with Volunteer Services. Currently there are three categories of awards in addition to the Years of Service awards which are awarded after ten years of volunteering:

The Award of Recognition is given to volunteers who have demonstrated a significant contribution to the mission of the Association, enthusiastically participated in the activities of the Garden, and consistently made a positive contribution in their volunteer experience.

The Award of Distinction is given for an exceptional level of service and dedication to the Garden to volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to the mission of the Association and demonstrated leadership skills which have inspired others to contribute positively to the Garden.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is the highest honour given to one volunteer annually for an outstanding contribution of time and effort to the Garden on behalf of the Association. The Volunteer of the Year is also honoured by the Vancouver Park Board as part of their recognition program for volunteers in all the different Park Board entities. Usually the Volunteer of the Year has already received an Award of Recognition or Distinction.

Since the inception of the Volunteer of the Year award in 1985, 20 of VanDusen's recipients have been guides. At VanDusen, receiving this award does not mean a golden handshake and off to retirement; in fact, more than half of past recipients are still active in the Garden, and many hold leadership positions. Here is the list of our Volunteers of the Year to date:

1985	Jean Laverock	1997	Audrey Ostrom
1986	Erica Dunn	1998	Vera Nixon
1987	Marion MacDonell	1999	Louise Dyer
1988	Margaret Daniels	2000	Joan Baker
1989	Peggy Irving	2001	Dick Mackenzie
1990	Nan Sherlock	2002	Gloria Paulsen
1991	Kay Raisbeck	2003	Michael LeGeyt
1992	Aimee Murrell	2004	Honorine Loader
1993	Rita Lehmann	2005	Nancy Dickson
1994	Betty Stubbs	2006	Joan Bentley
1995	Mildred Wells	2007	Jean Hurst
1996	Jenny Williams	2008	Margie Knox

We know that recognition should take a variety of forms so that it has meaning to a larger number of volunteers, and we are working towards expanding our modes of recognition. But no matter what we come up with, we can never adequately express our gratitude and appreciation for the efforts of every single volunteer who works tirelessly and contributes so much. Thank you!



New for 2009: Self-Guided Tours for Visitors

By Vivien Clarke, vice-captain, Wednesday Morning Walking Team
& chair, Guide Education Team

Last November a pilot project was initiated to produce seven self-guided tours for 2009. The first of these, *Bare Bones and Skeletons - A Winter Seasonal Self-guided Tour* written by Sunday Walking Team Vice-Captain Marty McConnell and former guide Wendy Porteous, appeared in late February. A group of seven guides has agreed to ensure the production of the remaining tours for 2009.

In the future, we hope to create thematic, family-oriented and interactive tours to complement the seasonal or monthly tours. This year, however, we will focus on reviving and revitalizing the self-guided tour which will guide visitors to points and plants of interest and enhance the visitor's experience of the Garden. The self-guided tours will also be helpful to guides in refreshing their knowledge of the garden during different seasons of the year and can be offered to visitors who would like some structure to their visit but don't have time for a guided tour.

The project is under the umbrella of the Guide Education Team with Vivien Clarke acting as contact person and project leader. It is hoped that other guides will volunteer to write tours for 2010. The research for next year's monthly tours should ideally be done this year; interested guides are asked to contact Vivien as soon as possible at vvclarke@shaw.ca

VanDusen Book Club Now Stepping into Second Year

By Marina Princz, librarian, VanDusen Botanical Garden

Over time, most book clubs develop their own unique styles and character. The VanDusen Book Club is a casual, member-led club where discussions are spirited and there seems to be little trouble keeping to topic.

Reading material so far has leaned towards non-fiction, with a smattering of fiction thrown in. About 75 percent of our meetings revolve around specific books, and the rest are made up of open-ended topics such as 'anything by or about Vita Sackville-West,' 'roses,' or 'Native American culture and its relationship to the plant world.' For these general-topic months, members choose the material they want to read and report back to the group on what they have learned. Members show a keen interest in the material and arrive with a range of background research and information, thus enriching the discussion for everyone.

The book club meets nine times a year (July, August and December are excluded) on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Volunteer Lounge. Tea is provided, and members are encouraged to bring appetizers to share if they wish.

New members are welcome. Call me at 604-257-8668 or email me at library@vandusen.org if you would like more information or to be added to the members' list.

Upcoming books/topics include:

- March 24 2009 Native American Culture and its relationship to the plant world (general topic)
- April 28, 2009 Von Arnim, Elizabeth. *The Enchanted April*
- May 26, 2009 Plant explorers (general topic)
- June 23, 2009 Suzuki, David and Wayne Brady. *Tree: a Life Story*
- September 22, 2009 Kingdon-Ward, Francis. *In the Land of the Blue Poppies: The Collected Plant-hunting Writings of Frank Kingdon-Ward*
- October 27, 2009 Best of the Northwest - books on various topics relating to the Pacific Northwest (general topic). Subtopics could include: native plants, garden planning and design, history (biographical material on BC or Pacific Northwest botanists and gardeners such as Vancouver's own Ruth Olde, Thomas Hobbs, Brian Minter, or Christine Allen).
- November 24, 2009 Capek, Karel. *The Gardener's Year*

Upcoming 2009 VanDusen Botanical Garden Association and Capital Campaign Events

By Brian Clark, guide, Saturday Walking Team and member, VBGA Board

Here is the 2009 line-up of events in support of the VBGA and Capital Campaign:

Sunday, April 26 - VanDusen Botanical Garden Plant Sale (in support of VanDusen Botanical Garden Association).

Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14 - VanDusen Private Garden Tour (in support of VanDusen Botanical Garden Association). Two days, ten private gardens. Master Gardeners and VanDusen Guides are needed to look after the gardens, many of which require two volunteers at a time. This year the ticket is being redesigned to become a ticket and passport, with each garden being stamped as each ticket holder arrives. Additional volunteers will be needed to look after greeting and ticket stamping.

Sundays, July 12, 19 and 26 - NEW EVENT VanDusen Jazz in the Garden Series (in support of VanDusen Botanical Garden Association) is under development. Each of the three evenings will feature two jazz groups, with an intermission between the two presentations. Tickets will be sold for a single evening for a price that will be reduced when all three are purchased as a package. Show time will be 5:30 pm, with two hours of music in total.

Wednesday to Saturday, July 15 to 18 - Vancouver Voices Opera (in support of the Planting The Seed Capital Campaign). Details may be obtained from the from the capital campaign office 604-257-8625.

The Jazz Concert Series and the Vancouver Voices Opera will both be presented on the Great Lawn Stage.

Saturday, September 26 - VanDusen Compost and Bulb Sale (in support of VanDusen Botanical Garden Association).



Hamamelis X intermedia - Jelena
Photo by Midge Oke



Letter from Information Booth Coordinator and 2008 Statistics

Dear Guides,

A new guiding year is soon to begin and my term as Information Booth Coordinator is almost over. I have enjoyed the experience and want to thank all of you for the support you have given me over the past three years. Your questions, comments, suggestions, ideas and assistance in caring for the booth have been invaluable and very much appreciated. A special thank you to Vivien Clarke and Patti Lazzerini for their continued assistance and to Beryl Hickenbottom, my co-coordinator last year, who has been a great assistant, taking on the responsibility of the booth itself.

Please welcome Kumi Sutcliffe in her new position as one of the information booth coordinators and many thanks to Beryl who will remain in her position as co-coordinator.

Here are the tour statistics for 2008:

- Guided Walking Tours (a.m. and p.m.): 2880 visitors. This includes the January, February, March, November and December Sunday tours and the Saturday orientation tours in addition to the regular season tours.
- Roving Guides Public Contact - January - November: 1480 visitors
- Number of Cart Tour Visitors: 1989

Again, many thanks to everyone.
Sheila Hildred

VanDusen Seed Collectors Update By Heather Gillis, VanDusen Seed Collectors Chair

In 2008, deck seed sales by the guides raised \$1,843.45. This figure represents 26% of the Seed Collectors' total revenues in 2008 and formed part of the Seed Collectors' recent \$6,000 donation to the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association. A big thank you to all guides who helped us raise these funds for the Garden.

We will be increasing the 'in garden' price for seeds from \$2 to \$3 per package this season. There have been no price increases for seven years, while the cost of packaging materials has risen. The \$3 price still represents a savings compared to our web store prices. Other changes for 2009 include improved cash box procedures and clarification regarding seed sales to US visitors; these are outlined in Deck Seed Sales Info in the yellow notebook at the information booth.

For 2009, we have 490 seed varieties for sale at our web store, www.vandusen.plantexplorers.com. This year we will be highlighting seeds of native plants at Seedy Saturday, the plant sale, and deck sales. Lists of North American natives and Pacific Northwest native plants will be included in the guides' seed catalogue on the deck.

The Seed Collectors currently have 75 members who collect, clean and package seeds from the garden. There are two groups that meet on Tuesday and Sunday. You can reach the Seed Collectors by e-mail at vandusenseeds@gmail.com.



Skimmia Japonica
(male) Rue family

Harbinger of Spring: the Varied Thrush

By Anne Roburn, guide, Friday Cart-driving Team

The Varied Thrush (*Ixorius naevius*) is probably BC's most attractive songbird, often seen at the Garden. Its range covers the Pacific Northwest from Alaska and the Yukon in summer to Southern California in winter.

In profile the thrush resembles a robin, except for the shorter tail. The male has a black V-shaped breast band and face mask; his chest, throat, 'eyebrow' and wing bars are orange, and he has bluish-gray and black upper parts. The female's colours are more muted.

The bird chooses moist coastal conifer forests as its habitat, preferring mature and old growth areas. It forages on the forest floor and eats spiders, worms, beetles and other insects, switching to a more vegetarian diet of seeds, berries and acorns in winter when it migrates to warmer climates. It may then form small flocks with sparrows and robins.

We know that spring has arrived when at dawn and at dusk we hear the male sing: a long, eerie, whistling sound, repeated at short intervals at different pitches. At breeding time the female chooses the nesting site and builds a nest, often in a young conifer, close to the trunk. She will lay three to four sky-blue and brown speckled eggs and incubate them for 14 days. The male will feed her and help to feed the young, which are able to fly after about two weeks.

There is concern about declining numbers of the Varied Thrush. Birder groups all over the province are working on a BC breeding bird atlas which will help us to determine if the numbers are coming back or if further action is needed.



Varied Thrush
photo by Kurt Knoll

March

By Percy Bysshe Shelley

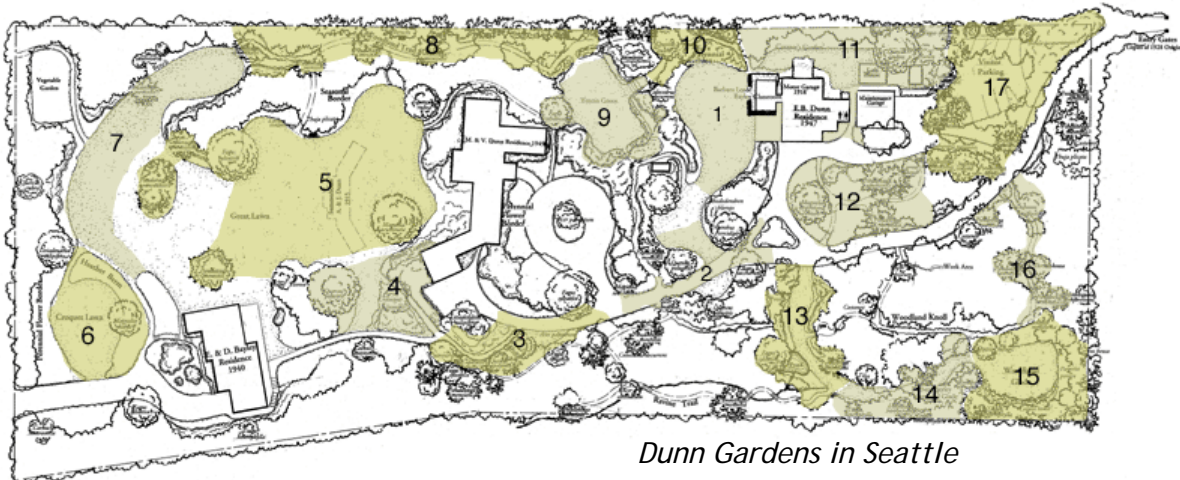
And the Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
Rose from the dreams of its wintery rest.
The snowdrop and then the violet,
Arose from the ground with warm rain wet,
And their breath was mixed with sweet-odour sent
From the turf like the voice and the instrument.

submitted by Dorothy Macey

More Gardens to Visit

VanDusen guides often include gardens in their travel plans. Here are some recommendations to consider when planning your next vacation or outing:

- ✎ Half a world away from Vancouver, Marie Bruce, Thursday Walking Team Member, visited the **Aswan Botanical Garden** in Egypt. "I escaped from my tour group for an afternoon during a trip to Egypt last April and rented a felucca to take me across the Nile to Kitchener Island. Aswan Botanical Garden is situated on Kitchener Island in the middle of the River Nile, and it offers a welcome oasis from temple touring. The Island was given to Lord Kitchener when he was consul general of Egypt in the 1890s. There he created the garden and covered the entire Island with rare trees and shrubs imported from all over the world. The Egyptian Government now owns the property. It is open to the public every day and is often used by locals and school groups for picnics and outings. Some of the vines were overgrown, not surprising in that climate, and I'm sure the garden has seen better days, yet everything was well watered and clearly labelled. Cooling breezes blew in from the Nile as I wandered along the paths. I found the layout of the garden very easy, and all the paths eventually take you to the tearooms and down to the waiting feluccas for the return trip to Aswan. It was a memorable afternoon for me in an enchanting setting."
- ✎ Next time you're in Paris, Wednesday Afternoon Walking Team Member Marilyn Goebel recommends the **Albert Kahn Museum** and its gardens in Boulogne Billancourt, a 20-minute metro ride from the heart of Paris. Albert Kahn, a French financier, believed in universal peace. To support his idea of utopia, he created a 4.5-hectare garden reconciling several different styles of gardens, including Japanese, French, and English. One surprising feature is a tiny forest where Atlas cedars and spruce grow in blue-grey harmony. The ethnographic museum is fascinating too.
- ✎ Much closer to home, Marilyn also recommends **Big Rock Garden** in Bellingham, a sculpture and landscape garden in a former nursery that specialized in rhododendrons and Japanese maples. You can find directions at www.cob.org/services/recreation/parks-trails/bigrock.aspx
- ✎ In Seattle, two estate gardens are definitely worth a visit. **Dunn Gardens** features the original 1915 Olmstead Brothers layout, with towering firs and wonderful perennials. Information is at www.dunn gardens.org. On a more elaborate scale, the **Bloedel Reserve** on nearby Bainbridge Island is 150 acres, half in second-growth forest and the other half beautifully landscaped. Check out their web site at www.bloedelreserve.org. Both gardens require planning ahead, as appointments are needed for a visit.



Dunn Gardens in Seattle

Garden Guide Council 2009

Chair - Patti Lazzerini
Vice-Chair - Sheila Hildred
Secretary - Jacqui Lehto
Treasurer - Adrienne Clark
Vice-Treasurer - Susan Lee
Past Chair - Claire Kermacks
Information Booth - Beryl Hickinbottom and Kumi Sutcliff
Carts - Bill Addison and Eve Harrison
Education - Vivien Clarke and Sally Maclachlan
Special Events - Cindy Swoveland and Susan Lee



Helleborus orientalis
Photo by Midge Oke

Guide Education Team

Chair - Vivien Clarke
Vice-Chair - Sally Maclachlan
Continuing Guide Education - Sue Abzinger and Anne Roburn
Walks with Gardeners - Marilyn Goebel

Newsletter Team

Editor - Marilyn Goebel
Proofreader - Cindy Swoveland
Proofreader - Fritz Newmeyer (Labeler)
Proofreader - Nancy Wong
Print Distribution - Judy Aird
Layout - Dolores Martin

Guiding Dates for 2009

Sunday, April 5

First day of 2009 guided tour season

Monday, October 12

Last official day for cart tours - may continue until Sunday, October 25 if weather is good

Sunday, October 25

Walking tours finish

Guide Education Calendar 2009

March (no Continuing Education in March)

Thursday, March 12, 10 a.m.

David Tracey on *Guerrilla Gardening*, followed by a general guide meeting

April (no Continuing Education in April)

Thursday, April 2, 10 a.m.

*Gardener Walk: James W. on *Sustainability*

Thursday, April 9, 10 a.m.

Mike Nassichuk on *Vegetable Gardening*, followed by a general guide meeting

May (guide meeting and Continuing Education are reversed this month)

Thursday, May 7, 10 a.m.

*Gardener Walk: Nancy on *The Rhodo Walk*

Thursday, May 14, 10 a.m.

Continuing Education: Laura Doheny on *Perennials*

Thursday, May 21, 7:15 p.m.

Norma Senn on *A Brief History of Pacific Northwest Gardening*, followed by a general guide meeting

June (guide meeting and Continuing Education are reversed this month)

Thursday, June 4, 10 a.m.

*Gardener Walk: James P. on *The New Entry Fragrance Garden*

Thursday, June 11, 10 a.m.

Continuing Education: Walk in the garden with Cindy Sayre

Thursday, June 18, 7:15 p.m.

Heather Merilees on *A Ground-level Introduction to Biotechnology*, followed by a general guide meeting

July

Thursday, July 2, 10 a.m.

*Gardener Walk: Egan's area

August

Thursday, August 6, 10 a.m.

*Gardener Walk: Gerry on *The Sino-Himalayan Garden*

September

Thursday, September 3, 10 a.m.

*Gardener Walk: Miguel on *Heirloom Vegetables*

Tuesday, September 8, 9:30 a.m.

Joint meeting with Master Gardeners

Thursday, September 17, 10 a.m.

Continuing Education - to be announced

October

Thursday, October 1, 10 a.m.

*Gardener Walk (last one of the season)

Harry Jongerden on *My Vision*

Thursday, October 8, 10 a.m.

Mike Barker on *Evolutionary Biology*

followed by a general guide meeting

Thursday, October 15, 10 a.m.

Continuing Education - to be announced

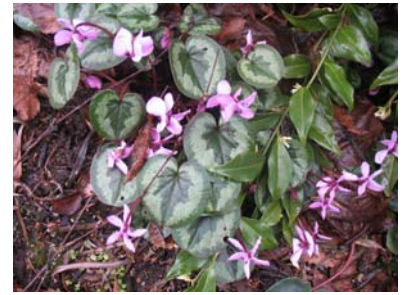
November

Thursday, November 12, 10 a.m.

Rudi Pinkowski on *Tree Ferns*, followed by a general guide meeting

Thursday, November 19, 10 a.m.

Continuing Education - to be announced



Cyclamen coum (Persian violet)
Primrose family
Photo by Midge Oke

Upcoming Cedar Lectures

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

E-Flora BC with Brian Klinkenberg

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Brazil - An Introduction to a Naturalists Paradise with Dr. Keith Wade

Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

Sustainability - Flavour of the Month or the New Vanilla? with VanDusen Garden Director Harry Jongerden

Thursday, June 11, 7:30 p.m.

Roses North and South with rosarian Dr. Donald McLean

See the VanDusen *Bulletin* for more details