## THE ORACLE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DARTS HILL GARDEN CONSERVANCY TRUST SOCIETY

#### DARTS HILL GARDEN PARK IS LOCATED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> AVE. AT 170<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SURREY, B.C.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: Nancy Oike

Having just come through a very busy spring and early summer, the work of the Society has finally slowed down to a relaxed pace. I'm writing this summary of Darts Hill projects and activities at the end of July, just prior to going on vacation to the Cariboo and Haida Gwaii. One of our main goals for 2014 was to increase the number of visitors to the garden and to broaden our demographic.

As a result, from April through mid-July, we welcomed approximately:

> 385 visitors to our nine Saturday Strolls, 550 to the April Open House, 365 to the May Open House, 650 to the Garden Festival, 350 to Sounds of Summer (organized by City staff), 80 from five guided group tours, and 20 pruning class participants -

for a total of 2400 visits.

Many of these were first-time visits. In addition, we've welcomed many volunteers from our community partners, South Surrey Garden Club, Alpine Garden Club of B.C., and Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society and their affiliates. Along the way, we've learned a lot about promoting the Garden through social media, a plethora of free on-line sites, and traditional media. We still have much to learn, and your advice is always welcome.

Continued.....

Echinacea cultivar 'Aloha,' Yellow Coneflower



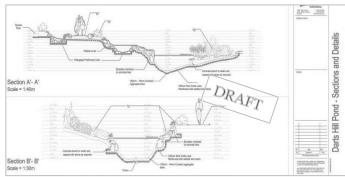
• Garden Park •

September 2014 45<sup>th</sup> Edition

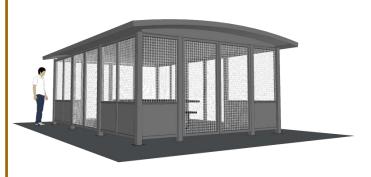
#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, cont'd.....

Plans for the pond renovation are proceeding at a brisk pace thanks to Maria Fish and Ted Uhrich from the City of Surrey's Parks Planning, Research, and Development team. Starting with her original pond renderings and the input received from members at the AGM, Maria has created a series of additional renderings complete with stream, small waterfall, pathways, and seating. A team led by Society member Susan Murray and including Pam Yokome, Sharon Lawson, and me researched and recommended a variety of water plants for future plantings, with expert input from Hawaiian Botanicals personnel, Roger Pinette of Ponds Beautiful, and Gary Lewis of Phoenix Perennials.

Pond construction, expected to begin in late August, will be done by external contractors under the management of Park Development Services. Financing for the pond will come from fundraising activities and interest from the Endowment Fund with matching funds from the City of Surrey.



The labelling project is ready to begin, with equipment in place and a group of seven eager volunteers ready to begin planning, organizing, and taking training on the equipment. This work will begin in the fall.



Look for a 12 ft. by 20 ft. shelter, soon to be installed on a cement pad in the field to the north of the propagation area. The shelter, owned by the City of Surrey, has been looking for a home, and we are only too happy to accommodate it. It will be used by the Society and community partners for classes, workshops, and other activities where shelter is needed.

Finally, the Society's plans for Fall and Winter are to formulate a strategy to grow our volunteer force. It will include recruitment, training, retention, care of volunteers, and production of a volunteer brochure. Let me know if you'd like to be involved by contacting <u>chair@dartshill.ca</u>

I look forward to a busy September with the garden open every Saturday for Strolls or special events. Our last public event of 2014 will be the Open House on October 18. Here's hoping for great fall colours.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES: HAND-WRITTEN NOTES FROM THE JOURNALS OF ED AND FRANCISCA

#### As found and provided by Nancy Armstrong

So far we have shared only archival material written by Francisca, as most of the notebooks and bits and pieces are in her handwriting. The limited written records she has left pertain to all of her interests, with the largest number being something related to the garden.

Ed's profession was a Chartered Accountant, so I found it not surprising that the content of the main source we have of his writing almost always involves some sort of money record. Like all of the notebooks, journals, diaries and other paper formats that both the Darts kept, the entries span many years.

The first entry in this Ledger is 1943 and perhaps the most delightful is the last series of 3 entries written in late December of 1983 and two in April of 1984 mostly about "The FIRE".

Dec 21 (Wed) (Cold for over a week)

About 10 AM burned brush pile by lower gate, throwing on old asphalt shingles after awhile grass on West side of fire caught, no shovel so Cisca went to get one – all three in lower garden frozen in so she ran up to house for one. Meanwhile fire spread, wind blowing and soon all the field & orchard burned, the 168 St hedge badly burned in part. The blaze so high it burned insulation off telephone cable. Hodgson power off for nearly four hours. Phones on up the hill off until mid aft. On Friday. Some Rhodos scorched and may die. Someone phoned Fire Dept. – 3 trucks on 168 St and one on 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. They saved part of hedge and stopped fire some distance below the hill.

Dec 28 Phoned Insur. Co, - B.C. Tel will be claiming costs of repairs. Skating on Lost Lagoon for several days now.

Dec 29 Some rain here & temp about 32 F.



1984 \$11,403.02. Apr 20 Got invoice from B.C. Tel?!

Apr 25 Today found a lot of Rhodo blossoms frosted as well as the young soft new growth, but lovely dry weather yesterday & today. Maybe more frost tonight.

of the start

## FALL OPEN HOUSE DATES:

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014** - 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Don't miss our fall plant sale!

In an early fall walk through the garden, you will see many plants and trees just as they begin to produce nuts, fruits, and a variety of unusual seed pods. The grasses are also of particular interest. Many fall flowering plants are at their best in September and provide early fall colour throughout the garden.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014 - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Be sure to join us for the final Open House at the garden this year. In the fall, visitors can enjoy the magnificent changing leaf colours of a variety of maples, the *Nyssa sylvatica, Enkianthus perulatus,* as well as late flowering asters and other blooms. Birds love the variety of berries available in so many shades of purple, bright red, yellow and orange.

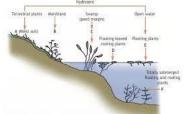
### POND PROJECT - UPDATE



'Before' photos! Stayed tuned for the 'After'

Pond planting update: Susan Murray headed a subcommittee that created a list of recommended unusual water or marginal plants for our pond. Excellent recommendations were received from Douglas Justice, Gary Lewis at Phoenix Perennials, Roger Pinette at

Ponds Beautiful, Hawaiian Botanicals, Alan Cheung and board members, Nancy, Pam and Sharon. Everyone is looking forward to the pond's completion in the fall!



## PROPAGATION GROUP UPDATE

**PLANT SALE:** Come join us for a plant sale on our Members' Day - September 21 and get first pick at all plants, especially Alpines. We are also holding a plant sale at the Open House on Saturday, September 27th, 2014 from 11:00 am to 3 pm.

We currently have the largest inventory of alpines, perennials, shrubs and trees since plant sales have been held in the Garden from *Leontopodium alpinum* var. Stella (Edelweiss) to *Tricyrtis* 'Kohaku' (Toad Lily) and *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn' and *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Kukimiya Sugi'.

There are also a number of different Aquilegia ready to plant for next Springs enjoyment.



Pam Yokome has considerable talent in her small greenhouse. Earlier this year, it was reported by Nancy Armstrong, to the propagation volunteers, that Pam has propagated two Weigela! What's not to love? BOTH are beautiful. The first is *Weigela 'Courtalor'* commonly sold under the trade name of CARNAVAL And the second is *Weigela florida 'Variegata'*.





## MEMBERSHIP CORNER, ANNE SPRUNG - COORDINATOR

MEMBERSHIP@DARTSHILL.CA

# UPCOMING SCHEDULE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MEMBERS' DAY SUNDAY <u>SEPT 21</u> 11 – 3 PM

SUNDAY <u>Oct 19</u> 11 – 3 pm

SUNDAY <u>NOV 16</u> 11- 3 PM

SATURDAY <u>Sept 27</u> 11 – 3 pm Open house and plant sale

> SATURDAY OCT 18 11 – 3 pm Open House

Reminder: Anne has moved -.Please send renewals to: 2131 131A Street, Surrey V4A 8Y8

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday strolls every Saturday in September. The pond is being updated and renewed, some of the pathways will be closed around the pond.

Our friends from the Tai Chi group will be demonstrating in the garden. Dates are being confirmed.

#### SEPTEMBER 21- Members' day: 11:00 – 3:00 pm

Taste the fruits of the garden! I will be collecting apples, pears, quince, crab apples, grapes, various nuts and other edibles in the garden. What suits your taste buds? What needs to be cooked to be eaten, and what can be eaten raw? The house will be open, come enjoy the view of the garden from Francisca's living room.

Members have access to the plant sale a week ahead of the Open house. Come see what you can add to your garden from the huge variety of specialty plants we have looked after all summer.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER, continued.....

### **OCTOBER 19 – MEMBERS' DAY:** 11:00 – 3:00 pm

DROP BY TO SEE THE GARDEN CHANGE COLOUR: Come see the colourful foliage, all the unusual seed pods, or drop into the house to listen to one of Francisca's garden talks on the screen, and enjoy a hot beverage.

Or Take a tour, either guided, or self guided: We had an <u>Ancient Tree tour</u> available, complete with map and tree history. Members were encouraged to find plants and trees as indicated on the map. Some of the plants could have been found that grew in the Jurassic era when there were dinosaurs. A geologic time scale is also available to explain where the *Gunnera*, *Ginko*, *Sequoia*, and *Magnolia* fit in development of plants.

The <u>Family Tree tour</u> features some of the special trees in the north eastern part of the garden; trees such as the *Pseudocydonia sinensis* (Chinese Quince), Stewartia, *Acer griseum*, and *Cunninghamia lanceolota*. Follow the map to find the trees, feel their bark texture and learn their growing habits.

### **NOVEMBER 16– MEMBERS' DAY:** 11:00 – 3:00 pm

Our last Members' Day of 2014 and often a wet rainy day but what a good time to enjoy the garden when it is settling down for the winter. Again, the house is always open to members, on Members' Day. Drop by to look through the many books in the library or enjoy a quiet moment or two having a cup of tea. Our new laser engraver will be in operation and this could be a good time to see how the Society are moving forward with our garden labeling project.

## What you missed:

### **Mystery plant for June 2014**

There are 2 plants thought to be extinct that can be found in the garden. When doing the geologic tour, *Wollemia nobilis* or Wollemi pine, thought to be extinct until a grove was found in Wollemi National Park in New South Wales in Australia. The trees were identified by comparing leaves to fossilized specimens. *Metasequoia glyptostrobies* or Dawn Redwood, an ancient tree species that was once worldwide. Glaciation wiped out most of the trees. Several trees survived in a small area in central China. This beautiful tree was also found in fossil specimens.





#### Mystery plant for July 2014

I am a deciduous shrub from Japan, China and Korea. I have alternating greyish green leaves that have silver scales on the lower side of the leaf. I stand about 5 feet tall. I am covered in 2 inch red elongated berries that are edible to all animals. I am highly invasive in Indiana. I was planted to provide erosion control and wildlife food sources but am now happily out of control. I reproduce easily and spread quickly. I am called Autumn Olive. *- Elaeagnus umbellata,* 

## SPECIAL TREES OF DARTS HILL

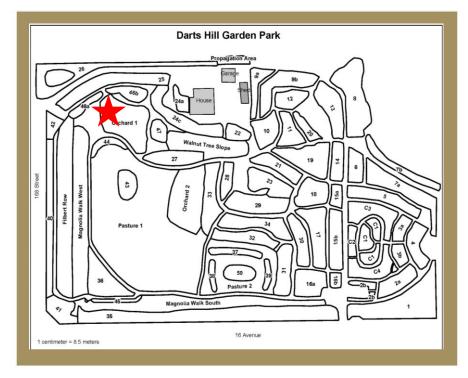


## Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'

Tree:Cerciscanadensis'ForestPansy',Name:RedbudForestPansy,Common

Forest Pansy' is a large deciduous shrub or small tree. Leaves to 12cm in width, broadly heart-shaped, deep red-purple. Flowers small, pink, seldom abundant. Grown mainly for foliage effect. (www.rhs.org.uk)

Family: Caesalpiniaceae Bed: 46E Notes: Procured at the Rhododendron Horticultural Societies AGM in 1983



THE GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF PLANTS – a self guided tour at Darts Hill Garden Park

Geologic Time Periods (not to scale)	Millions of years ago (MYA)	Organisms:
Quaternary	1.6	Humans (~4 mya)
		Magnolia, Cedrus, Nuphar, Veronica, Gunnera
Tertiary	66	Equisetum (~65 may)
Cretaceous		Nothofagus (~80 may)
		Gunera (~95 mya)
Jurassic	138	First Flowering Plants <i>Taxodium</i> (Bald Cypress) <i>, Dicksonia</i> (tree ferms Wollemi pine
		Monkey puzzle tree
	205	Ginkgo bilob a (~200 mya, living fossels)
Triassic		first donosaurs (~230 mya)
	240	
Permian		Sciadopitys (~250 mya)
	290	First conifers
Carboniferous		
	360	First ferns
Devonian		
	410	Early horsetails (~400 mya)

Did you know that there are plants at Darts Hill Garden that existed over 400 million years ago!

That wonderful *Taxodium distichum* in our garden was in existance in the Jurassic period of the earth's development

Next time you see a flowering Magnolia, realize that that species of plant has been around for well over 1.6 million years.

Pick up a self-guided tour package, or print off the map in this edition to check out the many ancient plants in our garden.



## Chitalpa tashkentensis

As provided by Pam Yokome



The flowering pink small wide tree × *Chitalpa tashkentensis*, is a bizarre hybrid between two unlikely parents, the *Catalpa bignonioides*, the cigar tree, and *Chilopsis linearis*, the desert willow. The result is a great, relatively drought tolerant small tree that flowers from mid summer until early autumn. The flowers are on short stems at the ends of the branches and each flower is reminiscent of a foxglove bloom.



### As provided by Nancy Oike; Coordinator of the Festival

The first-ever Darts Hill Garden Festival on June 28, attracted approximately 650 visitors to the Garden, including many families and first-time visitors. Fortunately the weather cooperated, offering a mixed bag of clouds, a little sunshine, and just the odd small shower to keep things interesting. But nothing prevented enjoyment of our many exhibits and activities: guided tours, dancers, artists, musicians, kids' activities,

Master Gardeners, environmental exhibits, tai chi exhibits, tree hunt, and plant sale.

The Garden Festival was a joint effort of the City of Surrey and the Darts Hill Trust Society. Thanks go out to Nikki Higgs and Partners in Parks staff for the excellent planning and logistical organization that went into staging this event and to Alan Cheung and the gardening staff for maintaining our beautiful setting.



Special recognition is given to Linda Stanley Wilson, our past Board Chair, for her extraordinary efforts in organizing the artists, dancers, and musicians; creating our lovely posters and flyers from original art by Elizabeth Hollick; and keeping the festival web page up to date.

### 2014 DARTS HILL GARDEN FESTIVAL, cont'd.....

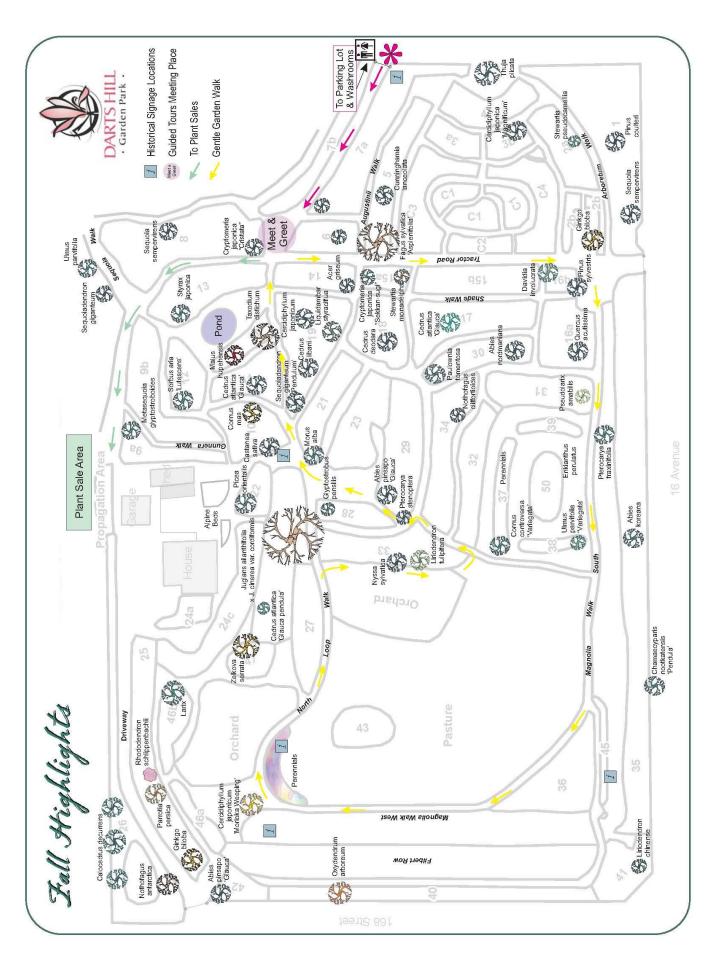
Without our volunteers and supporters, this event could not have happened. Many thanks to the following individuals and groups:

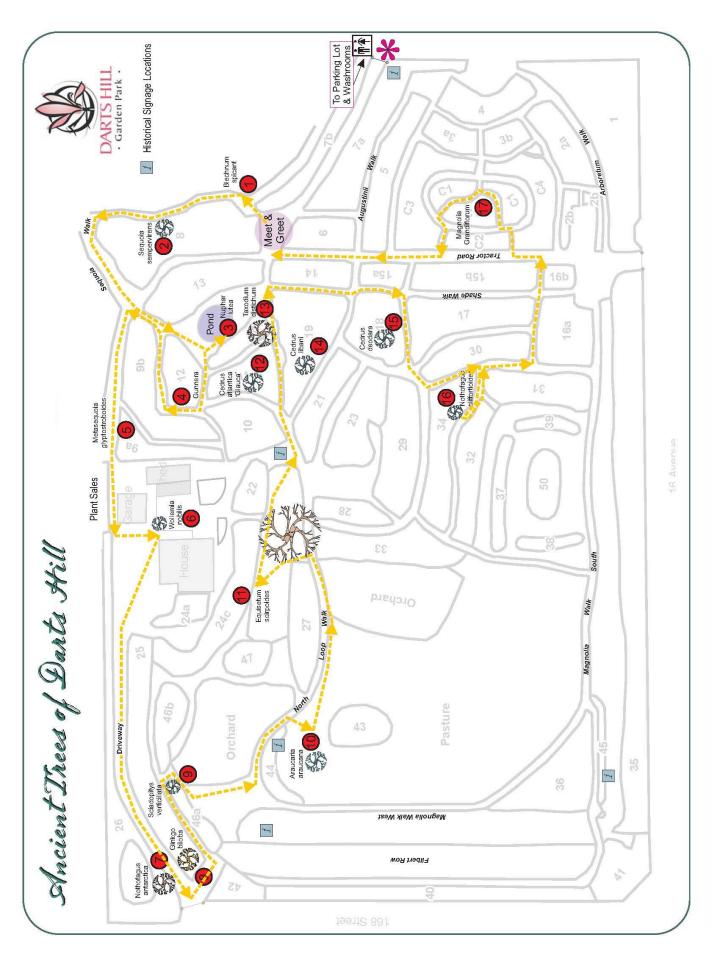
- Pam Yokome, our Board vice-chair, who created our festival map and put much time and energy into helping with organizing and promoting the festival.
- Lee Bolton Robinson, who skilfully managed the entrance and exit of artists and their exhibits.
- Nancy Armstrong and Darts Hill's intrepid group of propagation/plant sale volunteers.
- Anne Sprung, who organized and staffed our membership/volunteer/information table.
- Darts Hill Guides.
- XBa DanceCo.
- Nuvo Music School.
- Participating artists: Scarlet Black, Mark Blaney, Joanne Carter, Crescent Beach Photography Club, Robert Gary Parkes, Deborah Strong, Lesley Tannen, and The Brass Band Art Group - Linda Steele, Kathy Neudorf, Cheryl Dick, and Sue Klapwijk.
- BC Bonsai Society.
- Jenn Brisson of Circulus Hoops.
- Maggie, from Kidsbooks.
- Taoist Tai Chi Society.
- Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society.
- Little Campbell Watershed Society and Langley Environmental Partners Society.
- B.C. Used Oil Management Society.
- Taoist Tai Chi Society.
- Greeters and Tree Hunt Volunteers.
- City of Surrey Park Play Volunteers.
- A big thank you to Gary Lewis of Phoenix Perennials for continuing support and donation of three \$50 gift certificates as prizes for the tree hunt.





Photos provided by Linda Stanley Wilson





## Sounds of Summer Music Series sponsored by the City of Surrey – July 16, 2014 at Darts Hill Garden Park

From guitars to sitars, classical melodies to blues beats, you'll have heard it all during Surrey's Annual Sounds of Summer. These FREE performance series in the city's gardens is a fantastic way to discover a new garden, rediscover a favourite space, or relax and unwind within a beautiful outdoor setting.

This year we saw another large crowd enjoy classical music at Darts Hill.



Photos provided by John Sprung

Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society is an organization working in partnership with the City of Surrey to ensure the preservation of Darts Hill Garden Park.



#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Chair: Membership Coordinator: Guide Coordinator: Editor of The Oracle: Propagation: updates@dartshill.ca membership@dartshill.ca tours@dartshill.ca newsletter@dartshill.ca propagation@dartshill.ca

