

THE ORACLE

A Newsletter from the Darts Hill Garden
Conservancy Trust Society

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Sharon Lawson, Member at Large

The 'Get Growing' event on April 29th was a huge success. More than 600 visitors came to the garden! The plant sale brought in \$4,080. Thank you to all the volunteers on the propagation team for all their work propagating, growing, maintaining and selling an amazing selection of plants.

If you missed our first plant sale, don't dismay — our next one is Saturday, May 27th from 11 am to 3 pm.

June is the start of the Artist in Residence program and Z.inc Artist Collective art installations in the garden.

The first artist residency starts on Saturday, June 3rd with artist Amelia Waiz, who will be in the garden creating a selection of botanical illustrations painted in an impressionist style, focusing on the flowers of Darts Hill. In July, sculptor Nickie Lewis will be gracing the garden. Drop by on any open day to see artworks from Ying-Yuan Chuang, Carol Alexander, Teresa Kelin, Celeste Snowbar, as well as students from KPU throughout the summer into mid-September.

Garden visitors will have the opportunity to interact with our artists from 2:00-3:00 pm on June 11, 24 and July 15.

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Darts Hill Garden Park
• One Woman's Vision

MEMBERS' EVENING

JUNE 21, 2023

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Please join us for a rare evening visit to the garden!

Enjoy live music and a small sweet treat while you wander among the flowers and artwork on the longest day of the year.

We invite our membership to bring up to 4 additional family and/or friends to the garden.

NO GUEST PASSES REQUIRED.



SUMMER SOLSTICE

DHGCTS COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE HOSTS A RHODODENDRON-LAYERING WORKSHOP

On May 3, rhododendron enthusiast Dr. Norma Senn from Victoria, BC provided DHGP staff members, Ken, Alia and Maria and Alyssa and Tomo from The Glades with a demonstration of both air and ground layering of rhododendrons. Everybody in the morning workshop had an opportunity to practice their propagation skills.

If you see, nestled in the branches of a rhodo, a silver potato, you are looking at an example of air-layering! This propagation method is slow and laborious as the air layers need to be checked regularly for moisture. It can take several years to produce roots this way.

Ground layering usually offers better success but not all rhododendrons in the garden have branches suitable for this method of propagation.

Some rhododendrons like *R. keiskei* ground layer naturally. Many of the rhododendrons in Darts Hill are sole examples of their species, so propagation of these rare plants ensures an heir and a spare!

Provided by Susan Murray





MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Joanne Senetza, Hospitality

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

PLANT SALES

SATURDAY, May 27, 10-4pm

SATURDAY, September 9, 10-4pm

RE-ENACTORS

SATURDAY, June 10, 10-4pm

The Re-enactors are an award-winning heritage re-enactment performance troupe based on real people from Surrey's past.

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

SATURDAY, June 17, Aug. 26, 10-4 pm

Enjoy the tranquility of the garden with live music featuring local artists from around the Lower Mainland.

MEMBERS' ONLY SUMMER SOLTICE EVENING

SATURDAY, June 21, 6:30-9:00 pm

STROLLS CONTINUE FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAYS:

SATURDAY, April 1, 10-4 pm to

SATURDAY, September 30, 10-4 pm

The final Members' Day of the 2022-23 winter season was held on March 12th and saw a mix of sun and cloud, 8 degrees with periods of rain in the afternoon. Turn-out was good at 37 members attending, including four new Hospitality Team members: Janifer, Jill, Casey and Ida, who staffed the Welcome table in two shifts.

There were a few families with younger children in the garden who took delight in examining the large cone from the *Pinus coulteri* that has been on display. Some guests commented on the rewarding experience of seeing the intricate structure of the trees without their leaves, but hints of spring were definitely present with the show of crocuses under the heritage tree and *Helleborus* in bloom.

With the garden now open to the public as of April 1st, the Hospitality team is on somewhat of a hiatus as the city of Surrey takes on staffing the Welcome table until October. However, we are looking forward to greeting members at the Welcome table once more for the next Members' event for 2023, the Summer Solstice evening on June 21st.

And this is a reminder to use your membership benefits, including one free \$4 plant and a 10 percent discount at all Darts Hill plant sales. Also, on Members' Days, access to Darts' house and the opportunity to visit with other members or peruse Mrs. Darts catalogued book collection and horticultural periodicals. (Note: the collection is a non-circulating library.)

Rhododendron 'Lem's Cameo' - by Susan Burdak

Let me introduce you to "The Rolls Royce" of rhododendrons, as referred to in the Singing Tree article about 'Lem's Cameo'. Found in bed 19 and scheduled to bloom in late April-May, this evergreen rhododendron was added to the Darts Hill collection by Mrs. Dart in 1973 for the pricey sum of \$20.00 (equivalent to over \$128.00 in today's currency)! Touted in the Millais Nursery article as one of the most sought-after rhododendrons of its day, it was "...once described in an American Rhododendron catalogue as the plant Rhodoholics would kill for when 1st introduced." It is a winner of two awards: RHS Award of Garden Merit, 2020 and American Rhododendron Society, NW USA Plant Award, 2011. This broadleaf Ericaceae elepidote was hybridized in 1962 by Halfdan Lem, an American, from the seed parents (R. Dido Group x R. 'Anna'). It is interesting to note in the UBC Botanical Garden forum 'Lem's Cameo' was one of the parents of 'Nancy Evans', "...a small evergreen shrub only 24-36" (60-91 cm) with the unusual characteristic that the buds start out red and then change to a pale yellow as they open."



Rhododendron 'Lem's Cameo' – photo: K. Piccott

Description:

Foliage: elliptic leaves, apiculate apex, cuneate base, about 5" (12.7 cm) long; the dark green leaves are retained for 3 years but have the interesting habit of producing new leaves in a coppery bronze or red mahogany colour, which then matures to the dark shiny green colour. It has a rounded, open, upright growth habit and reaches a spread of 5 feet (1.5 m) in 10 years with stout branches supporting the large flower/trusses and has a life expectancy of 40 years.

Flower/Truss: apricot cream and pink, strong purplish pink at edges shading to a light yellowish pink at the throat with a strong small red dorsal blotch, reverse shaded red, widely funnel-campanulate, wavy lobes with large 20" (50.8 cm) dome shaped trusses of 17-20 flowers on stout branches. Little to no fragrance.

Ideal location: Low maintenance but needs more feed and shelter than most rhododendrons, preferring dappled sunlight. Well drained, rich, moist, acidic soil preferred, does not like standing water. Mulch around root zone during winter if planted in an exposed or cold microclimate. Hardy to 0 degrees F.

Propagation: Difficult to propagate; usually grafted.

Recommended for its stunning flowers and eye-catching foliage. No negative characteristics. Ideal as an accent to fine leaved shrubs, in mass plantings and for general garden use. Because it is a slow growth rhododendron it is good for situations where height is an issue.

References:

- The American Rhododendron Society*, <https://www.rhododendron.org/>.
Breen, Patrick. "Landscape Plants." *Rhododendron* 'Lem's Cameo' / *Landscape Plants* / Oregon State University, <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/rhododendron-lems-cameo>.
Nurseries, Millais. "Millais Nurseries." *Millais Nurseries*, <https://www.rhododendrons.co.uk/>.
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Plants (2021) *Squak Mt. Greenhouses & Nursery*. Available at: <https://squakmtnursery.com/plants> (Accessed: January 26, 2023).
Richards, C. (2009) *UBC Botanical Garden Forums*. Available at: <https://forums.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/> (Accessed: May 3, 2023).
Whysall, Steve. "Best Rhododendrons Named for 2011 | Vancouver Sun." *Vancouver Sun*, 29 Jan. 2011, <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/staff-blogs/best-rhododendrons-named-for-2011/>.



PROPAGATION GROUP

A big thank you to the volunteers who have been attending the Wednesday work sessions, propagating plants and replenishing the beds in preparation for our plant sales. Volunteers for the **Saturday, May 27th** plant sale day will be needed once again. If you are available to lend a hand – as a cashier, information provider, golf cart driver, label reader, or just an extra pair of hands on a busy day, please email info@dartshill.ca. Your email will be forwarded to the propagation team to sign up for a shift. Shifts are 3 hours in length – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Looking forward to seeing you on the May 27th! Anne, Nancy, Pam and Ross



April 2023
plant sale



Propagation team preparing beds for new wall. Photos: A. Sprung



New wall, as built by the city of Surrey staff. Photos: K. Piccott



Art installations in the garden



DARTS HILL
• Garden Park •

1633 170th Street, Surrey BC

IN VIVO

June 9 – September 30

Fridays • Saturdays • Sundays

10am – 4pm

Z·inc Artist Collective and Friends

Rosemary Burden, Ying-Yueh Chuang, Willa Downing, Lesley Garratt,
Polly Gibbons, Cora Li-Leger, Marcus Macdonald, Sophie Macdonald,
Claire Moore, Helma Sawatzky, Jan Storer, Debbie Westergaard Tuepah



dartshill.ca/visit-the-garden
ph. 604-501-5100
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zincartcollective.ca

[@z.inc.artcollective](#)

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of Surrey's Cultural Grants Program

2023 Special Project - Redevelopment of Bed 48e Susan M. Murray, Chair of the DHGP Collections Committee

The redevelopment of Bed 48e, the area located immediately under the *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Tortulosa' (Tortulosa Hinoki cypress), was identified by the DHGP Collections Committee as a potential project at their December 8, 2021 meeting. The project was put on hold in 2022, except for the crown lifting of the cypress tree in the fall. Lifting was completed in early spring of 2023 with the removal of a large limb on the west side.

At the January 2023 meeting, the committee confirmed the redevelopment of Bed 48e as a major project. The DHGCTS Board approved it as the Society's Special Project for 2023.

The area under the *Chamaecyparis* was an awkward area, but strategically located between the two Alpine Gardens in Beds 48 east and west. The first step, the crown lifting of the *Chamaecyparis*, highlighted the trees' attractive red bark and opened the area to better light and air circulation. Loose soil was sloughing away around the base of the tree so a substantial wall of fieldstone boulders was installed to create a strong edge to the new bed.

A planting prescription for the new plants was developed by the Collections Committee. Plants for the new bed were to reach a mature size of not more than 30 cm (11.8"). The new plants must also be rare, unusual and not already in the garden's extensive collection of over 4,500 plants.

As per the Collections Committees' criteria for new plants, plants might also be on the edge of their ability to survive in south Surrey's 8b hardiness zone.

Online catalogues were researched and an order was placed in February at Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend WA for 32 plants - two each. Plants purchased included, *Kunzea muelleri* (yellow kunzea from the mountains of SE Australia), *Lomatium martindalei* (Coast Range lomatium), *Mertensia maritima* (European oyster leaf plant), and *Wulfenia carinthiaca* (wulfenia, endemic to Gartnerkofel mountain of the Carnic Alps, Austria). Far Reaches Farm is a specialist nursery that sources and grows rare and endangered plants from all over the world. Susan Murray, chair of the Collections Committee, traveled to Port Townsend to pick up the order on May 4. A trip to the Washington State Agriculture office in Bellingham to procure the required USDA Phytosanitary certificate was necessary.



PHOTO: Ken Warren

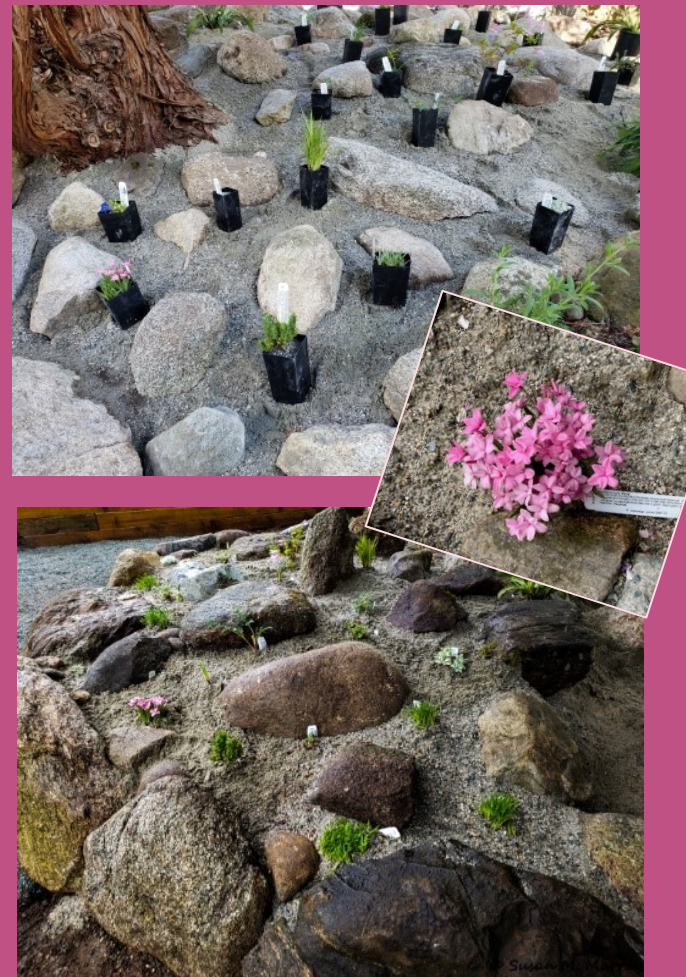


PHOTO: K. Piccott

The inspector checked the plants for an infestation of the brown garden snail (*Helix aspera*) and other phytophagous snails. At the end of the day, a significant delay at Canadian Customs, which was the result of incomplete paperwork (an officially signed B3 Coding Form was required!), was solved with the help of Dan Nielsen, COS Manager Landscape Operations and Park Partnerships. The plant shipment was finally permitted into Canada.

To complete construction before planting, the new bed was lined with a poly weed barrier. Many pallets of fieldstones placed and embedded into the sand. On Friday May 5, Ken, Alia and Susan completed the rock placement on the west side of the new bed and half of the tiny plants were planted. Additional rocks were placed with the help of the Gehl and the second batch of tiny plants were installed on the east side of the bed on Tuesday May 9.

The crew included summer student Kerry from KPU (her first week on the job!!) As the new plants are rare and a bit fussy in their cultural requirements, it will be interesting to see how well they grow in the coming seasons. There is room to add a few more choice items to this new bed!



LET'S CONTINUE TO RAISE THE ROOF!

In addition to fund raising for special projects, the DHGCT Society continue to invest funds. We sincerely wish to have an entrance that will have visitors anticipating their stroll through this incredible garden. The city of Surrey is putting aside capital funding and the DHGCTS is working in partnership with the city to raise the roof on the Darts Hill Garden Park Welcoming Centre!

<https://dartshill.ca/support-the-garden/>

Thank you. Tax receipts will be issued to our donors.

The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society is incorporated under the BC Societies Act and is a registered charity.
Charitable No. 86285 7935 RR0001.



In 2013, Nancy Armstrong began writing articles for this newsletter entitled 'From the Archives'. These were stories of Francisca and Edwin Darts. She has done a fabulous job of researching through notebooks, photos, personal journals and through the city of Surrey's Archives to provide us with an insight into the Darts' lives. This, below, is from Winter 2013. Enjoy!

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

As found and provided by Nancy Armstrong

We are fortunate to have several irregularly kept, and not always dated, journals and other bits and pieces of hand-written materials from both Francisca and Edwin Darts. It is not possible to read them without wishing fervently that there were more, as they so clearly reflect their personalities, their love of developing the property, their zest for life and their incredible energy and productivity. We will continue sharing excerpts from this treasure in upcoming issues of **The Oracle**. The first is written by Francisca, or "Cis" or "Cisca" as she was called by Ed and her family.

April 18, 1949

This morning, Easter Monday, Ed got busy to put up our Mail Box. He began by collecting his tools and digging the hole on the high side of the drive so we can see the box from the front door. I trundled behind to try out the new rubber tire on the wheelbarrow and began loading the stones on our shrubby bed which I had previously raked into "windows" as Ed called them. Every load I wheeled to where Ed was working on the road and he obligingly emptied them around the post-hole to make a sort of landing field for the mail man. Ed painted the post a beautiful green with Cuprinol to preserve it and please me at the same time. It was a very superior job and the smartest looking post in the district.

The Rural Delivery man came along about 11:10 AM and stopped to chat and also to pass his suggestion that perhaps the post should be higher (after Ed had just sawed off a foot) and that the hole was too far off the road. They finally compromised. And so to lunch.

After lunch heigh ho! and to our Port Orford Cedar* Hedge again. This Hedge must be written about in capital letters at it has gotten to be a major project. All we actually planted today was 25 but we cleared the worst part of the fence line and it should be better sailing from now on, except that we have only 50 left and are about 200 short and we have no more time until Sunday probably to finish. I hope the poor things don't perish in the meantime. We are thinking of calling it Darts' Folly.

A good wash tonight and so to bed, ready to go to town tomorrow.

Some dating may be useful to fully appreciate this entry. The Darts had moved into the unfinished house in late 1947. In 1949, when they were 33 and 46, the house was still unfinished and they were both still employed full time 5 days a week in Vancouver. The idea that one could see the road (Coast Meridian, now 168th) from the front door is hard to imagine in 2013.

**Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (Lawson cypress) is a conifer native to Oregon and California. It is called Port Orford cedar in its native locality.

RHODODENDRON INDUMENTUM IN DARTS HILL GARDEN PARK

A TREASURE HUNT FOR HIDDEN BEAUTY - A FIVE-PART SERIES

by Susan M. Murray

This is the SECOND of a five-part series with a new group of rhododendron species described in subsequent editions of *The Oracle*. The first part can be read in the [Spring 2023](#) newsletter. Take your time to explore the garden and admire these truly wonderful rhododendrons. Imagine Mrs. Darts's delight when she sourced these plants as seeds or small transplants and put them in her garden! It has taken decades for them to reach maturity.

Part 2 - BEDS 6, 7s, 8w, 74, 98 - 7 plants

Begin Part 2 at the Welcome Table. The first three Rhododendrons are planted in a row from the front of Bed 7s to the back of bed, just a few metres from the table. Ask the Welcome staff to point them out for you!

1. *Rhododendron* hybrid (*R. smirownii* x *R. rex* subsp. *rex*) - Bed 7s and Bed 35e

This gem of a hybrid Rhododendron can be found right next to the path as you beginning your stroll toward Augustinii Walk. Look to the right about 10 metres (32 feet) from the Welcome Table. You will have to bend down to see this hybrid closely. Planted in 2020, it is small! The 15 cm (7.5 in.) leaves have a beautiful **light tan indumentum** on the reverse. The indumentum is very soft to the touch. This Rhododendron has a colourful deep yellow midrib on the top of the leaves as well. It will be lovely to see the blooms when this plant grows larger.



2. *Rhododendron phaeochrysum* - Bed 7s, China 3,350-4,200 m. (11,000- 13,800 ft.) (Dark golden)

The new shoots of *Rhododendron phaeochrysum* are tomentose. The woolly hairs covering the stems slough away in clumps as the leaves age. The leaves are large, to 15 cm (6 in.) long, oblong in shape and dark green with a yellow midrib and yellow petiole. They are hairless above with a lovely, suede-like **dark orange brown indumentum** on the reverse. The blooms are funnel-bell-shaped, white-creamy white, or white blushed rose, and sometimes spotted crimson. The flowers are held in trusses of up to 15. Please don't step into Bed 7s! *Rhododendron phaeochrysum* was planted in 2020 approximately 3 metres from the edge of the path. We will have to wait for the plant to grow a little more to see its attractive indumentum clearly!



Directly behind *Rhododendron phaeochrysum*, you will see Rhododendron 3.

3. *Rhododendron fulvum* - Bed 7s - Yunnan, Sichuan, Myanmar, Assam, Se Tibet 3,000–4,000 m. (9,800- 13,100 ft.), (Tawny)

When the small *Rhododendron fulvum* in Bed 7s matures it will form an open, upright, tree-like Rhododendron with very lush foliage. The leaves will measure to 20 cm (10 in.) long. They are smooth, shiny dark green on the top. There is a **fawn to bright cinnamon felt** on the reverse, a fabulous brilliant cinnamon indumentum! The flowers are funnel-shaped, white blushed rose to deep rose, occasionally blotched and spotted crimson. The blooms are held in loose rounded trusses of up to 20. *Rhododendron fulvum* blooms March to April. It is a bit hard to see it. When it was planted in the spring of 2020, a spot was selected about 4 metres from the edge of Bed 7s. Just imagine how wonderful these three small Rhododendrons will appear in 30 or 40 years. Mrs. Darts's vision for her garden must have been one that included a great deal of patience. The tiny specimens she planted in the 1970's are now mature!



Now, stroll along Augustinii Walk to the Tractor Road. Turn right and look for the magnificent *Rhododendron lanigerum* in Bed 6.

4. *Rhododendron lanigerum* - Bed 6 - Assam, Se. Tibet 3,050- 3,350 m. (10,000- 11,000 ft.), (Woolly)

Rhododendron lanigerum matures to a small tree 6 metres (20 ft.) tall, with very long drooping oblong, lance-shaped leaves. The leaf underside has a fuzzy **tan brown indumentum**. The flowers are campanulate and held in large trusses of up to 25 or more blossoms. Appearing in March-April, the blooms are a rosy purple or reddish purple or dark magenta. This stunning plant is one of the finest foliage plants in the garden. Find *Rhododendron lanigerum* about 15 metres (49 ft.) south of Six Corners, next to the Tractor Road in Bed 6. If you only have time to find a few of these special Rhododendrons, don't miss this one!

Mrs. Darts purchased this *Rhododendron lanigerum* from Caperci Nursery in October of 1974 for \$2.00. Good luck finding one for that price today!



Carry on to Six Corners and look to your left behind one of the benches for the next Rhododendron.

5. *Rhododendron* 'Cherries and Merlot' - Bed 8w

Rhododendron 'Cherries and Merlot' is a compact rhododendron, reaching one metre in height in 10 years. The elliptic shaped leaves are very attractive with a glossy dark green upper surface and a bright yellow midrib. The **deep purplish red underside** contrasts strongly with top of the leaf. *Rhododendron* 'Cherries and Merlot' has one of the most highly coloured leaf undersides of all the Rhododendrons in the garden.



While this is not an indumented plant, the superlative leaf colouring is too good to miss in a treasure hunt for hidden beauty! The bell-shaped flowers are a brilliant red. *Rhododendron* 'Cherries and Merlot' blooms in late April in DHGP. Find this *Rhododendron* immediately behind the bench labelled, "From a Grateful Union", at the south end of Bed 8w.



Now head north up the Tractor Road toward Redwood Walk. Turn right at Redwood Walk. *Rhododendron strigillosum* is close at hand on the left. This spectacular *Rhododendron* is easy to locate, first find the Sierra redwood- *Sequoiadendron giganteum* in Bed 98, the *Rhododendron* is growing 4 metres west of it. This interesting plant is easy to examine closely!

6. *Rhododendron strigillosum* - Bed 98 - Sichwan- 2,130- 3,048 m. (7,000-10,000 ft.), (With short bristles)

The growth habit of *Rhododendron strigillosum* is upright and open, with very bristly new growth. The bristles on the new growth are red! The foliage is long and quite narrow measuring 18 cm by 5 cm (7.5 by 2 in.). The leaves are bright green. The midrib on the underside is densely covered with **cinnamon colored** pilose hairs. Take a closer look at the leaf petioles. They are covered with very short (less than 1 cm) brown bristles too. This is an easy way to identify this plant! The deep-blood-red flowers are tubular bell-shaped and held in trusses of 8-12. *Rhododendron strigillosum* is stunning when it blooms in late March - early April in DHGP.



Complete your circular walk around Bed 8w and head east down Cedar Lane to the exit and parking lot. The next plant is on the north side of Bed 7s, along Cedar Lane, about 25 metres from the Welcome Table.

7. *Rhododendron bureavii* - Bed 7s - Yunnan, 3,350- 3,960 m. (11,000-13,000 ft.), (After E. Bureau)

The leaves of *Rhododendron bureavii* are dark green above with a bright **cinnamon coloured** tomentose indumentum on the reverse. You'll have to look up to see the underside of the leaves as this plant is 3 metres high! *Rhododendron bureavii* blooms in May. The white or pink flowers are marked with crimson. Unfortunately, the specimen in DHGP is a bit scraggly, with an open, irregular habit but the soft leaf indumentum is worth seeking the plant out, it is spectacular! Because of its indumentum, *Rhododendron bureavii* is considered one of the finest plants within the genus *Rhododendron* to use to hybridize new cultivars. Mrs. Darts purchased this *Rhododendron bureavii* from Drings in March 1970 for \$1.50. What a bargain!



CITY OPERATIONS

by Maria Fish

Park Operations Coordinator – Feature Gardens

Everything has come on at once now that we don't have the evening frosts. The Rhododendrons are looking spectacular and are a great draw for many of our visitors.

VISITING THE GARDEN

The last month has been a great success with over 1600 visitors so far this year. The wet weather over the weekend didn't bring out the best numbers but Family Day and Get Gathering events more than made up for it. Given the weather projections over the Mother's Day weekend, we should expect to see good numbers again.

Upcoming events and activities in the garden include days with live music, Nature Story Time (this has been waitlisted for the next two dates) featuring the Re-enactors and Volunteer Garden Work Parties. We are looking forward to having the hanging basket workshop back in June. In addition, we can expect to see the garden activated by both Z.inc collaborative and the Artists in Residence Program.

Thank you to members of the Artists in Residence Subcommittee (Karen Ewing, Sharon Lawson, Willa Downing, Susan Murray, and Cora Li Leger) for their great work in refining the programs' application and implementation processes. In reviewing the proposals, we will have a great variety of thought-provoking, whimsical pieces, and performances.

DRAINAGE

Due to the lack of bids, we have re-issued the request for bids for the 50 bed renovations. As the proposed work will exceed the \$25,000 threshold, we need to have three written quotes. We did not receive this in the last round of bidding. The new closing date is May 12, 2023. Additional contractors have been requested to bid.

IRRIGATION

Drip irrigation has successfully been installed in beds 30-32. We have our first zone that is now completely drip irrigation. This is an important first step as watering restrictions are changing due to global warming and population densities here in the lower mainland.

We will proceed with quotes for the main parking lot in July - the request for proposals is currently being developed.

ELEVATED ENTRANCE WALK

The final design of the structural elements are being refined. A geotechnical engineer has been retained to sign off on the design. This walk will begin at the main washrooms, through the forested area, to the welcome shed.

SIGNAGE

The biodiversity signage has been delayed by the development of a cross section to illustrate the food forest. Upon its completion the biodiversity signs will be fabricated and installed.



Magnolias Photos: M. Fish

MAP UPDATE

We are in receipt of the completed survey of the garden. We have retained a consultant to do the rendering of the map in a similar style to what was shown in the Signage and Wayfinding Strategy. It is projected that the rendering will be completed mid April.

Suggestions have been made for alternative names for the proposed Tractor Road east. The first draft of a new map will be completed the week of May 15th. Members of various committees and staff will be invited to assist with the review process.

Upon completion of the map, we will be able to move forward with a number of projects: the brochure, Mrs. Darts' tour and the Wayfinding Signage.



16TH AVENUE AND 168TH STREET SIGN BED

We have been contacted by the Engineering section. They will be proceeding with intersection upgrades at 16th and 168th this summer. They will be disturbing the area, we recently graded out in preparation of seeding this spring. As part of this, we will be working with Engineering to improve ongoing drainage issues.

RHODODENDRON IDENTIFICATION

Did you know that the DHGCT Society have labelled over 900 rhododendrons, with still more to be identified.

The Labelling Committee, and the Collections Committee, were thrilled that Douglas Justice was able to visit the garden on two occasions this past month to endeavour to identify unlabelled rhododendrons that were in bloom. Approximately **58** more will now be labelled. Wow!

Thanks to Nancy Oike, Liz Knight, Cynthia Waiz, Anne Sprung, Maria Fish, Ken Warren, Susan Murray, Kathy Piccott and, of course, Douglas Justice.

BED 24 E &W

Due to high quotes received, we were unable to bring in contractors to assist with the maintenance on this bed before opening. Staff feel that they will be able to address the weeds when they prune the azaleas (after they bloom), at which time the bed will be mulched.

SEPARATED PEDESTRIAN WALK

Recommendations to extend the gravel path have been brought forward by the Collections Committee. It is proposed that we extend the gravel path started in bed 21 to extend past the trilliums in bed 23 and the benches in bed 29.

This would potentially address issues with slugs around the trilliums and the grass that is being shaded out in front of the benches. This work would not proceed until the fall at the earliest.

REPLACEMENT OF PROPAGATION WALL

With feedback from the propagation group, modifications to the wall were carried out promptly before the plant sale. This project has been completed.

Photos provided by K. Piccott and A. Sprung



Embothrium coccineum 'Inca Flame'

Along the driveway in Bed 26, just west of the holly hedge, you will have been very pleased to see the stunning colour of the flowers of our *Embothrium coccineum* 'Inca Flame'.

A hardy evergreen tree that required full sun, the magnificent orange-scarlet flowers appear in May and early June. Common name: Chilean fire tree.

Following the rhododendron ID session on May 18 with Douglas Justice, the stunning 'Inca Flame' caught Douglas' attention.



Susan Murray and Douglas Justice, May 18, 2023
Photos: K. Piccott

THE BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

Here is your link to the May edition of [The Bulletin](#). Enjoy reading about planet friendly gardening, floral design winners, pollinators, house plants, Anise swallowtail (*papilio zelicaon*), scholarships and more.

The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society (DHGCTS) is incorporated under the BC Societies Act and is a registered charity. Charitable No. 86285 7935 RR0001.
Please consider making a [donation](#).

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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.

