

Western Washington Garden Tour Summary

Meeting held on August 11 attended by organising committee, Gillian Davis, Glenda Ewanyshyn, Rosamund Goldberg and Lorraine Shenker (absent Lorna Fraser and Patti Chabot).

Meeting held on September 23 attended by Patti Chabot, Gillian Davis, Lorna Fraser and Rosamund Goldberg (absent Lorraine Shenker and Glenda Ewanyshyn).

The general consensus from those attending the tour is that it was excellent with fabulous gardens and was a lot of fun. This is due to the hard work and extensive planning of the committee. Compliments and thank-you both personal and written from many of the tour participants.

Tuesday, August 5 depart at 7:00 am arrive at the hotel at 5 pm (10 hours)

Wednesday, August 6, 2014 depart 9:30 am arrive at 8:00 pm (10 ½ hours – ½ hour late)

Number of people on the bus 39. Three drove down on Sunday for the day.

Transport: Glenda Ewanyshun and Lorna Fraser

Bus Company: International

Driver: Joseph (\$100 tip)

- Lorna sent an email to the bus company complimenting Joseph for being a wonderful driver, very pleasant to work with and for handling the passengers with a professional ease.
- The bus was comfortable and clean. For any future tours, check to see if the toilets could be cleaned at the end of the first day. Take a spray can of deodoriser on tour.
- The itinerary with directions needed improvement. Drivers are only allocated on the day of the trip and are not provided with directions. It is our responsibility to provide maps and directions.
- While the bus is loading allocate someone to go over directions, timing and itinerary with the driver. At the end of the first day go over directions and itinerary for the second day.
- Request a GPS for the bus.
- Tip – guideline is \$2 per passenger. Make sure we have money on hand to pay for the tip.
- Customs Forms – were provided on the bus. Check with the bus company beforehand.

Accommodation: Lorraine Shenker

Oxford Suites, 9550 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale.

- The rooms were clean and comfortable.
- The food was satisfactory.
- The hotel contact was efficient.
- All charges were put onto one credit card which saved time when checking out.

Border Crossing: Patti Chabot

Patti had contacted Canada Border and Customs to find out their requirements prior to the trip.

- All the paperwork was in order and the crossing went quickly and smoothly.
- Airport buses get priority at the border – allow for an extra half hour to cross the border.

Bellevue Botanical Gardens: Lorna Fraser

Lovely garden and worth seeing but as it is easy for people to access privately we should reconsider before including public botanical gardens in future trips.

Tacoma Museum of Glass: Patti Chabot

Interesting and it was nice to include variety into the trip.

- After the docent tour there was not enough time to see the bridge Displaying Dale Chihuly's glass art.
- The portions of food/sandwiches provided by the restaurant were too large.

Thank you sent by Patti.

Lakewold Gardens: Gillian Davis

Another lovely garden

- The talk given by the docents covering the family connections and history of the gardens was interesting and well done.
- Refreshments were provided before the talk.

Thank you card sent by Gillian. Evaluation form also sent.

Brindley Gardens: Rosamund Goldberg

Karen and Sam Brindley's private garden (next door to Windcliff).

- The Brindleys and their gardener/designer were very hospitable.
- A lovely private garden with stunning views of Puget Sound.
- Thanks to an introduction by Dan Hinkley and Celia Pederson at Heronswood, we were able to see this garden.

Thank you sent by Rosamund Goldberg.

Windcliff: Patti Chabot and Rosamund Goldberg

The garden of Dan Hinkley and Robert Jones and a highlight of the tour.

- Two tours of one hour each were conducted by Dan Hinkley.
- We were able to buy pre-ordered plants as well as plants for sale available on the day.
- All plants were cleared by two Phyto experts from Western Washington Department of Agriculture.
- The display, buying and Phyto clearance of the plants was very busy and could have been streamlined which would have kept us within our time constraint.
- Dan and Robert answered numerous emails during the organisation of the tour and provided exceptional help and suggestions.
- Possibility of having only one group might be preferable as people waiting to tour or having finished their tour were left standing around.

Thank you sent by Patti and Rosamund.

Gift of a book "Cooks of Vancouver" and a bottle of B.C. wine given to Dan and Robert.

Heronswood: Rosamund Goldberg.

Contact: Joan Garrow

Head Gardener: Celia Pederson

We were joined by Dan Hinkley and by Jason Scott, gardener at the Vihil garden and a former head propagator at Heronswood.

- During lunch Dan gave us a talk on the history of Heronswood and Celia gave us an introduction to the present garden.
- Dan, Celia and Jason gave us guided tours of the gardens which are undergoing renovation.
- The lunch was tasty and fresh with a nice touch of flowers on the table.
- During this visit we were running short of time and late and so were rushed through the garden.

Thank you sent by Rosamund.

Thank you to Jason Scott sent by Rosamund.

Gift of a book "Granville Island Cook Book" and a bottle of B.C. wine given to Celia for all her help and for introducing us to two of the private gardens.

Vihil Garden: Rosamund Goldberg.

Henry and Katherine Vihil's private garden.

- Thanks to an introduction by Jason Scott and Celia Pederson we were invited to tour this garden.
- We were accompanied by the garden designer, Paul Repetowski and by Jason Scott.
- This was a stunning garden with many interesting design features.
- Unfortunately, our time in this garden was cut short and Paul was rushed through his presentation which didn't reflect well on our club.
- Rosamund had told Paul prior to the trip that we were on a tight schedule. The one hour we had allowed was cut down to approximately half an hour.

Thank you sent by Rosamund. Rosamund explained that we had run out of time and were anxious not to miss our ferry connection. We regretted that we couldn't see more of this exceptional garden.

Committee Comments: What went well and what could have been improved?

- Committee to have defined organisational roles with one coordinator.
- Snack packs, water and cookies were appreciated. Tour members also volunteered baking. We made note of restrictions of what can be taken over the border.
- Four gardens - possibly too many on the second day.
- Washrooms were a problem on the trip and caused delays which cut short time in the gardens.
- Note where washrooms are located on the pre-tour. Leader to let everyone know where the washrooms are at each stage of the trip.
- Availability of washrooms is a problem when visiting private gardens.
- Build in extra time to allow for delays?
- Eliminate the first part of the trip and go straight to the main destination on the Kitsap Peninsula.
- Would a 3 day trip be better? Some people have monetary constraints so this may not work for all.
- Should we try to keep tours to private gardens as far as possible?
- Keep in touch with Heronswood to find out when they hold plant sales with Phyto inspected plants.
- Arrange a car-pooling trip.
- Dragon Fly Nurseries recommended by Paul Repetowski.
- Ed Davis joined the tour on the second day. It was nice to have an extra person on the tour to help load plants and to help with directions.

Records for the web site:

Summary

Itinerary

Budget

Terms and Conditions

Original sign-up sheet