

University Finnerty Garden Friends

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Dear Friends,

First, I would like to send New Year greetings to you all. I hope that 2006 will be a good year for each of you.

I have just been doing rainfall totals for each of the months of 2005, and unless it rains every day in December, it is clear that this will be one of the driest years I have recorded on Galiano since 1987. No wonder the Western Red Cedars and the Grand Fir are dying out. I have lost over 40 cedars in the last two years. Some of my trees are still healthy looking, but it is sad to see hundred year old trees dying. All of us who rely on wells for our drinking water are worried since, so far, the rain has not penetrated far into the ground, thus putting the level of the water table at risk. Many of the island streams are still dry—not a good sign at this time of the year. By this date last year, all of my storage tanks for garden water were full, but not this year. A worry.

Now the bird news! In the late spring and early summer, I fed the usual thousands of rufous hummingbirds. At the height of the feeding season, I was using 10 kilograms of sugar every 5 days. They were late arriving this year, but the big numbers finally turned up. As some of you know, I have also been feeding ravens for several

years. A mature pair had their nest not far from the house, and they came to the feeding tray for household scraps on a regular basis. And each year, they brought one or two young to the tray. For the past few years, they have succeeded in fledging only one bird, and I suspect were getting quite old. They have been around here for at least 15 years, and are reported to live for about 25 years. In September, a flock of 10 others arrived and drove the old pair away.



A young pair have taken over the range and appear to have adopted the same nest area. There has been a report of a dead raven found fairly close by, so it appears that the mature pair were either killed (certainly they were viciously chased) or have died. The young pair are defending vigorously their right to be here. According to the books on ravens, the flock would be composed of immature birds, probably up to 4 years of age. As they approach maturity, they form pairs and then have to find a nesting area. This is not easy, since each mature pair guards an area about a kilometre in radius. They

are talkative and interesting birds to have near the house.

Just recently, we had a meeting about the Finnerty Garden's Calendar. It appears that we may have located someone who will undertake its distribution, and if this works out, we will produce one for 2007. We are also exploring the possibility of using some of the excellent pictures we have in order to create a screen saver for computers and to produce some note cards. We are saving the profits from these special events to build up a reserve fund for the Gardens.

Carmen and her Advisory Committee have been meeting regularly and, with the hands-on care provided by Tony and Rhonda, are steadily improving the gardens. They are choosing plants that complement the rhododendrons and give year-round interest to the various beds. They are well on their way to achieving this. We are most lucky to have the advice and help of so many talented gardeners. Joe Harvey, our Acer expert, has given years of wonderful advice, but is now retiring from the Committee. We will miss him.

When I next write, it will be spring with all of its excitement and glory. I look forward to it. ♡

Betty Kennedy



Eucryphia Forest

Margaret deWeese

A friend of mine, a great friend of plants, once said she dreamed of having a Eucryphia forest. Immediately in my mind this conjured up a dark centuries-old forest lit up by white Eucryphia flowers with white unicorns prancing below.

I have a small Eucryphia nymansey beside the pond which I bought five years ago at the Milner Gardens Plant Sales area. Their potted trees were taken from cuttings from the trees in the garden, but as it was early Spring, the trees were not in flower. Every year, I will mine to flower but it hasn't yet. Eucryphas like a sunny warm humid spot with cool roots. I cover its roots with pond weed and water it well, which it likes as it has put on a foot of growth this year.

This August I took some overseas friends to visit the Milner Gardens near Qualicum, and there, amid old Douglas Fir trees, were towering, flowering Eucryphas and the effect was stunning. The leaves are a soft grey green and the blossoms are wide open, white and honey scented. These attract the bees so the whole tree seems to hum. The only thing missing from my vision were the unicorns and they would have been banned, along with the deer, from the fenced areas of the Milner Gardens.

From www.botany.com is the following:

Eucryphas

"This group consists of five tender, evergreen and deciduous

trees or shrubs native of South America and Australia. These plants produce attractive white flowers with noticeable yellow stamens, from mid-summer to early fall, once they are a few years old. The flowers have four petals and grow up to 2½ inches long. *E. cordifolia* is a large, evergreen shrub or, in good conditions, a broad, columnar tree up to 40 feet high. Its oblong leaves have wavy edges and are usually heart-shaped at the base. This variety is fairly alkaline tolerant. *E. glutinosa* is a large, deciduous shrub or small tree; however, it is evergreen in the wild. Its erect-growing branches are covered with pinnate leaves, which become tinged with red and orange in the autumn. Its white flowers are borne in profusion in mid-to late summer. *E. lucida* (Leatherwood) is a large, evergreen shrub or small tree that is clothed with simple, oblong-shaped leaves that are covered with bloom underneath. The pleasantly scented, drooping flowers are up to 2 inches across and are produced in early to mid-summer. A variety of *E. lucida*, called 'Pink Cloud', has flowers with pink-edged petals fading to white, with the bases stained red."

The next time I visit the gardens I shall look in their plant sales area and see what other varieties they have. Veronica Milner had great foresight when she selected her trees, and her Eucryphas are choice for summer-flowering trees. 🌿

On The Map

Tony James

Curator, Finnerty Gardens

It's hard to believe that the original Finnerty Gardens is now 31 years old. That is the old section across Ring Road plus the area on this side close to the ponds and interconnecting stream. Looking at some old photos, one can easily see how plants and trees have matured or disappeared, especially the native vegetation. The Gardens have now reached a level of maturity and have expanded in size probably as far as they can. We know what plants succeed in these conditions, whether it is because they have taken to one of the numerous microclimates, have survived the ravages of the wildlife or are hardy enough to withstand extreme changes of weather and growing conditions. Some of the material (and especially the older rhododendrons) is now towards the end of its life but, thanks to propagation by interested people, we can replace these with similar newer plants. As we do not know when these older ones may fail, we plant the young material in different places and they can be moved to the original spot at a later date should we wish to preserve the history or location of that plant. In the future, we are looking to establish collections of plants



and in this way give a focus for a particular bed. We already have a good range of Acers and Magnolias, and future possibilities may include hardy Fuchsias, Araesimas, Epimediums, species Paeonies, Manzanitas, Trillium and Clematis. We have a wide variety of conditions for these plants, each with its differing growth requirements.

The irrigation system is now at last as we would like it, and can easily be altered to fit in with plant growth or additional material. It has been an interesting exercise in that we have tried out a lot of different systems such as drip, microsprays and other modern type low volume sprinklers, and have presently settled on an older-style system of watering but using better heads. As a result, we are in a position to assess each bed and all the plants therein. The issue of whether the bed should have a theme, a common origin, a focal point, a specific collection of plants or association with a donor or piece of history can now be addressed.

Early next year, you should see some signage at each major entrance giving a map of the Gardens and some basic information. The original bed numbers have been supplanted with a bed name. This will be noted on the map, which in turn will be oriented to the direction you are facing. In addition, the intent is to have a name sign on each bed. This may help people to negotiate their way around without getting lost. We may also have a flyer available by the sign with the map and other details on it. This would make way-finding much easier and the map could show plants or areas of special interest. We are also going back



to an earlier method of labeling plants. This is the use of a printed tape with white lettering on a black background stake. It does not detract from the plants, merges into the background, is easily readable and appears to be weatherproof. The modern method of using thermal transfer printed labels on special hardwearing material plus attempts to get black tape for white lettering, have not proven to be very successful.

After a hiatus of a year, the intent is to activate a calendar for next year. As well, there will be other innovative ways of spreading the word about the Gardens.

The Garry Oak Meadow Restoration Project in the meadow between Cedar Hill X Road and Finnerty Gardens may give the appearance to many of a neglected area. It is not a part of the Gardens, although occasionally you may see familiar Garden faces working in there. At the moment they are clearing the wooded portion to the east of any invasive plant material, notably Himalayan blackberry, as well

as the remaining piece of bush close to the Gardens. It now looks quite denuded showing how much this invasive material chokes out the native flora. In addition the native rose and snowberry is in itself invasive and will need keeping in check. There are 80 individual plots in this meadow each being about 2m x 3.5m. Although they may all look the same, each has had its own treatment both in preparation and in planting. They will be evaluated twice per year by the Environmental Studies group and eventually they will bring forth recommendations on how best to prepare and restore conditions for a Garry Oak meadow. Of course we see broom, blackberry, dock and thistle seeding in the plots and although it may seem best to remove them, they are part of the experiment to see how these areas can be started. Hopefully some more signage will explain the situation.

In some ways the Garry Oak Meadow makes a nice counterpoint to the exotic garden behind. We have Finnerty which is a garden of introduced plants set in a mature Garry Oak and Fir forest contrasting with the small native plants set into a meadow of introduced grasses and plants. It will be interesting in the long term to see which does the best in terms of survival and compatibility. I know where I would place my bets.

Finnerty Gardens is now definitely "on the map". 🌿



Winter Interest in Finnerty

Carmen Varcoe



We are so lucky to live in Victoria as our winters are perfect for a brisk or slow walk, depending on the temperature through Finnerty Gardens. Although winter is considered to be a time of dormancy, it can give us pause to consider the more subtle things growing at this time of year.

To begin with, there will always be a few flowers to relish. From early December onward, you can catch the delicate pink or white flowers of the *Camellia sasanqua* in the garden. Combined with their dark glossy green leaves, they are beautiful. The yellow spikes of *Mahonia* begin blooming in late November and will carry on into February. This plant, although prickly, provides nectar for our resident Anna's hummingbirds all winter. The scent is quite subtle and often depends on temperature. Another plant valuable for hummingbirds and lovely scent is the winter blooming honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*. It is also easier to reach with one's nose than the Mahonia, which is often too tall for us to appreciate its scent.

If you are prone to looking down as you walk through the gardens, you will notice a small evergreen glossy shrub which will have sweet scented pinkish flowers in winter. Its common name is Christmas box-*Sarcococca*. A tree that is often not noticed because of its rather pale yellow smallish flowers is the *Chimonanthes*. This tree, in my opinion, has the most wonderful of scents and

is aptly called wintersweet. The scent will often pervade a large area around it and is worth seeking out in January and February. Another tallish shrub that is in bloom from November to late January is the *Viburnum* with pink fragrant clusters of flowers on bare branches. This plant too is a favourite of our hummingbirds. Witchhazel or *Hamamelis* are often referred to as being fragrant, but this is an elusive perfume usually dependent on temperature. However, the spidery orange and yellow blooms are another reason to admire that shrub in winter. An evergreen shrub usually overlooked in summer is the *Garrya elliptica*. In winter its foliage is a good shade of green which helps to highlight the long catkins that hang very gracefully from each branch tip.

Apart from flowers and scent there are some other reasons to take a winter walk through Finnerty. The deciduous trees and shrubs often give us another feature to enjoy, such as bark or the tracery of their limbs. For bark, the newly planted grove of *Betula* or white birch near the Henderson Road area look stunning in winter light. One of the best trees for bark is the *Acer griseum* or paperbark maple. The cinnamon brown bark peels off in a most attractive way. But for me the best is the *Prunus serula* with its coppery-brown glossy bark that really invites one to touch it. With bare limbs one can really enjoy the twiggy of such shrubs as *Corylopsis pauciflora*. This plant is very slow growing and is often rarely higher than 3' to 4'. The buds are tiny and the limbs very branched. With a dusting of snow they can look very lace-like. Our native huckle-

berry is exquisite in winter with its green lattice-like twigs, and is also beautiful when covered by a dusting of snow.

Coloured limbs are another feature of our winters in Finnerty. Look for the red stems of *Cornus* Mid Winter Fire or *Salix* Flame. Also there are the bright yellow stems of *Cornus* Flaviramea to admire.

Of course, we must include all the berried treasures that abound in the garden at this time of year. A violet purple berried bare-leaved shrub that can be spotted anytime from November onwards is the *Callicarpa* or Beauty berry. Lower down hugging the ground look for a little ground cover with bright red berries. It is a *Gaultheria*. A little more prickly but nevertheless very attractive is the Butcher's Broom with spiky leaves and bright red berries. Another low evergreen shrub that gives us both red berries and lovely scent in winter is the *Skimmia*. These plants you will find in the most unexpected areas of Finnerty, usually in a shady spot. *Ilex* or hollies are the most well known. Without exception, their berries are always a welcome sight. *Ilex* Sparkleberry has the most appropriate name for a holly, although bare branched, the berries really do sparkle even on a gloomy misty day. As well, the *Ilex* Silver Queen is beautiful with its creamy white edged foliage.

A tall columnar tree with dusky pink clusters of berries for late fall and into winter is the *Sorbus hupehensis* Pink Pagoda, a good source of food for our resident birds in winter. Lastly, one really has to thank the much maligned ivy for its winter interest— not the plain green one that

has become a scourge of most gardens but the coloured variegated ones, such as Gold Heart and Colchica. There's always some of this to admire as you walk in Finnerty, usually hugging an oak tree or stump.

So I hope you feel as I do that, even in our season of mist and cold, there is a great deal to enjoy in Finnerty. Just reward yourself with a cup of cocoa laced with lots of whipped cream and even some liquor after a brisk walk. Then, you will feel blessed to live in Victoria. 🍀

The Birds and the Bees

Norman Todd

At the American Rhododendron Society convention held in Victoria this last spring two of the world's great rhododendron gurus participated in a short but significant ritual. Peter Cox—plant explorer, author, hybridizer—had traveled from the UK to present the Royal Horticultural Society's Loder Rhododendron Cup to Warren Berg of Washington State, plant explorer and hybridizer. Both men have made outstanding contributions to the knowledge of the Asian flora and to the cultivation of Asian plants in Western gardens. For many gardeners it is the creation of new hybrid rhododendrons that ensures their lasting renown. For a hybrid to be a success it must be significantly better or markedly different from its parents. There are now in excess of 30,000 registered rhododendron hybrids,

but it is probably safe to say that a mere 10% of that number meets these two criteria. Both Cox and Berg have demonstrated a ruthless scrutiny in the protracted assessment of the new progeny of their hybridizing efforts. A hybrid from Cox or Berg is almost always worth growing. Cox is the creator of a series of hybrids of small stature to which he gave the names of birds. Berg's most



well known hybrids contain a "Bee" in their bonnet. There are more Birds than there are Bees. Several of these plants have been around for about 25 years, but it is not easy to find commercial sources for some of them. They are more easily available in British nurseries than they are in British Columbia and consequently are seen in more gardens over there. I recall admiring several of the Birds in a plot that was probably not more than 100 square feet behind the iron railing of a Georgian terrace house on a busy street in the center of Glasgow. It was a tasteful tribute to Peter Cox's efforts. Here are the names of the Birds known to me: "Chiffchaff", "Chikor", "Curlew", "Egret", "Eider", "Grouse", "Merganser", "Phalarope", "Pipit" (a natural hybrid), "Razorbill", "Snipe", "Wigeon" and "Wren". These are all lepidote rhododendrons, which is to say that the undersides of the leaves—and often other parts of the plants—have

scales. Whether a rhododendron has scales or not is an important factor in determining its botanical classification. Berg's Bees are comprised of both lepidote and elepidote rhododendrons. Here are the names of the Bees that I know: "Ginny Gee", "Golden Bee", "Honey Bee", "Jan Bee", "King Bee", "Patty Bee", "Too Bee", "Wanna Bee" and "Wee Bee". I grow a plant called "Queen Bee"; however, I suspect that someone preferred the title Queen to King (maybe an ardent feminist) because the "Queen" and the "King" are to my eye identical. Furthermore, the name "Queen Bee" is officially given to a plant that was registered by another hybridizer in 1962 and I am sure that Warren Berg would neither use nor endorse a name, even in a casual way, which was already taken. A small area would accommodate all of the above for a period of say 20 years. If my memory is correct there is a bank in the Cox garden/nursery at Glendoick, Scotland with some, or maybe all, of the original Birds and some of these plants are now taller than a human. I have a plant of "Egret" that is over 30 years old and it is almost shoulder height. Albert de Mezey, of local horticultural fame, once advised me that "To grow rhododendrons one needs a physical age of 30 and a longevity of 300." This is true but one also needs a garden that is ever expanding as the darn things can become quite big during such a period of time. It is always satisfying to give one's prejudiced opinions an airing, so I offer some comments on the worthiness of some of these plants. In this age of governance by opinion poll one cannot ignore



the preference of the buying public. The winner is without doubt "Patty Bee". "Patty Bee" is a cross between keiskei "Yaku Fairy" and fletcherianum. It passes the test of being better than either parent in several characteristics — although I would not like to be without either. "Patty Bee" is more floriferous and reliably so from an early age; it is easier to please; the yellow flowers are of deeper intensity and of greater substance. Given a well-drained but never dry, fairly open location, it will flourish and not outgrow a 75 cm. space for many years. The runner-up in the sales department is "Ginny Gee". I can hear the protests already: "This is not a Bee". Warren Berg introduced both hybrids about the same time in the 1970s. I suspect he had not settled on a line of Bees at that time and perhaps now he wishes he had perfect continuity. But perhaps not: "Ginny Gee" is clearly a commemorative name and for that reason is cherished both by Warren and the chosen honouree. It grows in the same fashion as "Patty Bee". Its leaves are not so glossy and the flowers are pale pink and white. They both bloom in April. Having dwarf narcissus or other bulbs as companions solaces the sensibilities, even of those with acutely refined

tastes. My personal favourite is "Razorbill". Peter Cox writes that this is a chance seedling of spinuliferum. Imagine being so fortunate as unexpectedly discovering such a treasure! The flowers on "Razorbill" are most unusual being up facing tubes of rosy pink grouped in sizeable clusters. They are produced in profusion in March. Cox's most famous dwarf is probably "Curlew". This won the Cory Cup at the Royal Horticultural Society for the best hybrid of any genus (1980?). It has proportionately very large flowers for the size of the leaf, and is surprisingly robust given the miffiness of both parents, ludlowii and fletcherianum. I have seen the first parent only at the Cox nursery and brought back two plants to Victoria. One I gave to a much better grower than I, but neither of us was able to satisfy its temperamental needs.

"Curlew's" flowers are a bright yellow with deeper shading and greenish-brown spotting. Its bark is attractive and it has a somewhat open but interesting architecture. It does not like a hot site and resents too much fertilizer. If well grown, "Chikor" is a tiny bushy plant with soft yellow flowers in profusion. This is one plant that certainly does better in the cooler Scottish summers. Gardeners who like the challenge of growing the higher elevation Asiatic primulas will enjoy "Chikor", which is named after a partridge-like Asian bird. I really like Berg's "Wee Bee". It is very similar to "Too Bee" being a sister seedling. Warren tried to register it as "Not Too Bee" but evidently this was not allowed. The flower buds of "Wee Bee" are

of quite a dark hue; some call the colour turkey red. They open to a rose pink on the outside and pale yellow on the inside. If I had space for only one plant I would choose "Wee Bee" over "Ginny Gee". Thank goodness they are dwarfs so this seldom becomes a gut-wrenching decision. Most of these plants are described in Greer's *Guidebook to Available Rhododendrons*, third edition. This book is recommended as an inexpensive reference. However, the best reference is to see thrifty plants in a local garden. The easy ones pay their rent every month; the more difficult ones boost the ego and give a muted reward when a whimsical name like "Too Bee" or "Wanna Bee" rolls subtly off the tongue of a showing off gardener. 🍀

Evergreen Oak Mystery

Margaret deWeese



I live near the Elkington property on Maple Bay Road, the property in respect of which the Land Conservancy helped Barbara Stone and her small band of dedicated people save its fine Garry Oak ecosystem for research and for posterity. Victoria would not be as unique without the *Quercus garryana*. Each Fall the streets' edges are piled high with their leaves which are assiduously collected and turned into fine acidic compost to grow acid-loving genera.

So when I saw an unnamed Evergreen Oak for sale, I was surprised and curious to find out

more about this mystery tree. I bought the tree, planted it near the Garry Oaks on my property and watched with pleasure as it put on a lot of new growth during our long warm summer as I kept it well watered. I joined a Botanical Garden Forum and found a posting by Alex Downie, the author of *The Woodland Garden*, who has been growing many varieties of Evergreen Oaks, and through Google, I attempted to eliminate those which did not match the leaves on my specimen. Through the forum, Mr. Downie contacted me and gave me the following interesting information about my mystery tree. He also kindly gave me permission to quote him in this article. Although it is a long quote it is filled with interesting and transferable information for our readers:

“Your oak is a Japanese blue, or ring-cupped oak (*Quercus glauca*). The species is native to E. Asia—China, Japan, and part of the Himalayas. This oak is rated hardy in Zone 8 and 9 only, so is considered borderline for the milder areas of the Pacific Northwest. I have a 14 year old tree of *Q. glauca* in my North Vancouver garden, planted as a seedling from a one gallon container in 1991. My plant came from Forestfarm nursery in southern Oregon. Oaks establish best when planted very small, in fact the best trees grow from acorns planted in place. All of my evergreen oaks have been planted small and have done exceedingly well, so I can vouch for this advice.

My blue oak (so named for the bluish underside of the leaves) has been pest and disease free. In

April it takes on a golden fleece appearance when covered with young expanding shoots. So far it has been hardy, but did suffer some bark split during the very cold winter of 1993 when we got down to -14 C. The tree was much younger, so perhaps it has acquired more hardiness since then? Interestingly, the foliage was not damaged by the cold, but its thin bark was. The tree fully recovered from the bark split within two years and this didn't seem to check its growth. You may want to protect your young tree for the first couple of years by mounding up some cedar boughs around it during cold snaps. This will keep the wind and sun from scalding your young tree. The covering boughs should be removed when mild weather returns.



Quercus glauca
Evergreen Oak

Another interesting thing about the tree is that, in contrast to many broadleaved evergreens originating in milder climates, this oak is quite snow-resistant. The branchlets themselves are fairly brittle, but the stout stems and bushy mounded growth resist the weight of heavy snow very well. I still knock off heavy wet snow to be safe, but it is getting harder to do now that my tree is almost 20 feet high! (I use a long

bamboo cane for this).

You may notice that on the sunny side of the plant the leaves turn a yellowish colour during the winter. This is normal, and the leaves regain their bright apple-green colour when warmer weather returns.

This oak naturally branches very low and without training will become a giant multi-stemmed bush. If you desire a single trunked tree then you must suppress competing side shoots and shoots low down on the main stem. Select one strong leader, and suppress other shoots. Don't remove the young shoots along the trunk, just cut them back so they do not get a chance to compete with the main stem. Leaving the stem shoots, especially on a young tree, will result in better growth and will protect the thin bark from sun-scald and frost cracking in winter.

It might interest you to know that the oak tolerates pruning very well. In fact this species along with *Q. myrsinaefolia* (an even hardier evergreen oak species) is used for hedging in Japan.

One concern came to mind when I read your piece and learned that you have planted the evergreen oak near the Garry Oaks on your property.

Although *Q. glauca* is an oak, it requires a different moisture regime than the Garry oak. The latter are adapted to the cool-mediterranean climate found in Victoria, as characterized by cool, wet winters coupled with a long period of low soil moisture during the dry summer months. In contrast, *Q. glauca* originates in east Asia which has an opposite moisture



regime, dominated by a summer monsoon weather pattern with abundant rainfall during the summer growing season, and drier weather predominating during the winter.

Having said this I realize that many plants are quite adaptable. *Q. glauca* would definitely need supplemental watering to see it through long periods of drought. *Q. garryana* does not, of course need any watering! Therefore my concern is about the impact of watering this evergreen oak planted in a habitat that is not expecting any supplemental moisture. What could this do to the health of the Garry oaks?

As a point of discussion we know that mature arbutus trees resent summer watering, and I'm sure you've seen examples where a well-meaning gardener inherits a mature arbutus and winds up killing it with kindness when trying to incorporate it into a conventional, summer-irrigated landscape. Slowly the arbutus tree declines, becomes susceptible to root rot and foliar fungal diseases, and eventually dies. I don't think the Garry oak is as sensitive as arbutus, but again, knowing how precious these oaks are (certainly more valuable ecologically and culturally than an exotic Asian evergreen oak!) I thought I should at least mention the issue to you.

I think you should minimize any disturbance to the Garry oak habitat. Irrigating a tree that needs summer moisture to survive runs counter to this, and could eventually harm the native oak trees. There is a lot of experience in California with problems that arise when developers retain the native Live oak trees

and find them difficult to manage—mature trees have a really hard time adapting to summer watering when they have evolved over millenia to survive summer drought. If I were to plant an evergreen oak species intended to be complimentary to the Garry oaks it would be one of the Californian or Mexican species— these are native to a similar ecological zone and would not need any summer watering once established. I have *Q. hypoleucoides*, the Mexican silverleaf oak, growing nicely in my (relatively wet) North Vancouver garden. The key to its success has been that I never water it in the summer. My Asian oaks are planted in other areas of my garden, in combination with other Asian plants (e.g. rhododendrons, mahonias, etc.) that thrive (and need) summer watering during our long dry spells.

Your evergreen oak is quite small and could be moved safely this fall-winter, once our rainy season starts again. If you're thinking of transplanting the *Q. glauca* then do it this fall— don't wait too long, as these trees do NOT transplant well. A good place for the evergreen oak might be near your home, for example, far from any large Garry oak trees, in a location where summer watering will not impact the native oaks you are wanting to protect.”

What a wealth of information and what generosity to spend the time to inform a new member of the forum! Thank you Alex Downie, Supervisor of Queen Elizabeth Park and Bloedel Conservatory, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

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