

IN THE GARDEN

Let's get into the cherry blossom spirit

April 2, 2015. 4:25 pm • Section: In the Garden

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Prunus subhirtella var *pendula* Yae-beni-shidare.

Vancouver's 9th annual Cherry Blossom Festival got under way today with the Cherry Jam at Burrard Station.

This launches a month of events to celebrate the beauty of cherry blossoms, which are still blooming all over Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

It has been an early spring, but thousands of Japanese cherry trees are only just starting to bloom, so we are going to see a lot of beautiful pink blossoms this month and even into May.

At the heart of the festival is the idea of bringing people together. 'There is no stranger under the cherry blossom tree' is how a Japanese poet once put it.

So let's get into the spirit of the festival and make this unique and very special event a great success.

Here's a guide to some of the activities coming up. For full details, go to <http://www.vcbf.ca>



Prunus Umineko

APRIL 3

Sakura Illumination

9 to 10:30 p.m. | Venue TBA, see website



Egan Davis with cherry blossom kite

APRIL 4

Picnic, Kite Dance & Kite Making Workshop

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | David Lam Park

Tree Walk and Talk

1:15 to 2 p.m. | Yaletown/David Lam Park



Egan Davis flying his cherry blossom kite.

APRIL 5

Kite Dance with Mass Ascension

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. | Vanier Park

Tree Walk and Talk

1:30 p.m.-3 p.m., | West End



Prunus Pandora

APRIL 11

Bike the Blossoms

11 a.m.-3 p.m. | South side of John Hendry Park (Trout Lake), 3300 Victoria Drive (@ E 19th Ave.)

Tree Walk and Talk

10 to 11:30 a.m., | UBC.

1:30 to 3 p.m. | VanDusen Gardens

APRIL 11, 12, 18, 19

Plein-Air Sessions & Plein-Air Challenge

The April 11 challenge is a three-hour art competition judged by members of the Federation of Canadian Artists, including Bob McMurray, Caren Heine and Alfonso Tejada. Register by April 9 for teaching sessions by Alfonso Tejada, watercolour (April 12), Jan Poynter, acrylics (April 18), and Maria Josenhans, oils (April 19)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | VanDusen Gardens

Tickets and info: from \$35, vcbf.ca



Prunus Shiro-fugen

APRIL 11-12

Sakura Days Japan Fair

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. | VanDusen Gardens

APRIL 12

Tree Walk and Talk

10:30 a.m. to noon | Stanley Park

2 to 3:30 p.m. | Queen Elizabeth Park

Cherry Blossom Community Day

11:30 to 3 p.m. | Larry Berg Flight Path Park, Richmond

APRIL 18

Blossom Bollywood & Kite Dance

1 to 2:30 p.m. | Vancouver Art Gallery



Prunus Ukon

APRIL 26

Cherry Blossom Picnic

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Centennial Park, Kerrisdale

Tree Talk & Walk

11 a.m. to noon | Kerrisdale.

UNTIL JUNE 1

Haiku Invitational

UNTIL JUNE 1

Haiku Invitational

This year's theme is connections: How do you connect to people, places, and moments of experience in the context of seeing cherry trees bloom?

Info: vcbf.ca

UNTIL APRIL 29

BC Blossom Photo Watch Contest

Tweet or Instagram using the hashtags #VCBF2015 and #AllNipponAirways to win a trip to Japan.

Info: vcbf.ca

swhysall@vancouver.sun.com

Read more:

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/High+kite+cherry+blossoms/10919932/story.html#>