

The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden at Richmond Beach is dedicated to fostering and providing educational, cultural and aesthetic enrichment for all who visit: gardeners, amateur and professional horticulturalists, and young students of the plant world — in all, people of all walks of life.

“In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, we will understand what we are taught.”

-- Baba Dioum Fenegal

Questions, ideas, suggestions?  
Please contact KBGF at  
(206) 542-4777  
20312 15th Ave. NW · Shoreline, WA 98177  
[www.kruckeberg.org](http://www.kruckeberg.org)

Newsletter produced by Susan Will

Art by Mareen Kruckeberg: **Cyclamen coum**  
from the Caucasus Mountains blooms mid-winter  
regardless of weather.

## Meetings

A general membership meeting was held on Thursday evening, January 18, 2001, at the Richmond Beach Congregational Church-United Church of Christ. The guest speaker was Dr. Richard G. Olmstead, Associate Professor of Botany at the University of Washington. Prof. Olmstead's talk was a fascinating biogeographical tour of southwestern Australia, Tasmania, the Cape Town region (Table Mountain) of South Africa, and the area of Chengdu, capital city of Sichuan Province in western China. Several of the plants Olmstead saw and photographed are included in the Kruckeberg collection, including a species of *Zelkova*, a medium-sized tree common in China and Japan and noted for its autumn color.

Prof. Olmstead did his undergraduate work at SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry and was awarded a PhD in Botany by the UW in 1988. Before joining the faculty of the UW in 1996, he taught for five years at the University of Colorado. An interesting historical note: Prof. Olmstead's family tree includes Frederick Law Olmsted, the founder of American landscape architecture and our foremost park designer (one branch of the tree dropped the "a" in Olmstead). It was Olmsted's sons, Frederick Jr. and John, who designed Volunteer Park, Woodland Park, the UW campus, Washington Park Arboretum, and many other parks and boulevards in the Seattle area.

The next general membership meeting is planned for June. Board meetings are normally scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month; members are welcome to attend.

## Garden Tours

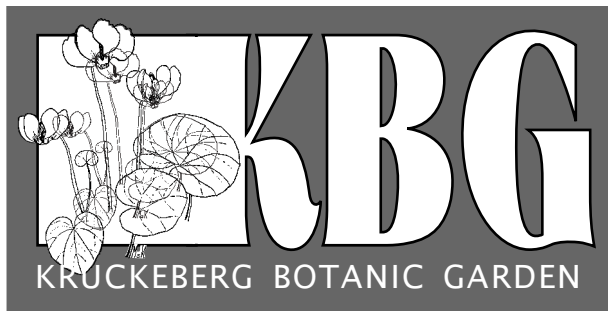
As it did last year, the City of Shoreline will offer tours of the Garden in its quarterly 2001 Shoreline Parks & Recreation Guides. Look for the Guide in your mailbox, and contact the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at 206-546-5041 to sign up. The City of Edmonds will also offer KBG tours in its Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services catalog, "CRAZE." For more information call 425-771-0230. Tentative dates are April 14 (Edmonds) and May 19 (Shoreline). In each case the fee is \$20 per person, of which the City forwards \$15 to KBGF.

Tours may be scheduled directly by calling Mareen Kruckeberg at 206-546-1281. These tours normally are offered for groups of 6 to 15 persons by appointment. The fee is \$15 per person (fee waived for students). Tours normally start at 10 am and last about two hours. Parking is limited, and carpooling is recommended whenever possible.

## Volunteer Help

We plan to resume Sunday afternoon work parties in March 2001. This year they will be on the first Sunday of the month (with exceptions in September and October). The dates are March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 9, and October 14. Please mark your calendar and join us if you can. Start time is noon, and we usually work until 4 or 5 pm. The March-April-May dates will be particularly busy, as we recover from winter and anticipate Mother's Day. We need your help, even for an hour or two, whenever your schedule permits. If you have questions, please contact either of the following: Frankye Jones (206-546-5325, [brockfrankye@earthlink.net](mailto:brockfrankye@earthlink.net)) or Bonnie Storm (206-352-7088 or 206-542-4777, [bstorm@kruckeberg.org](mailto:bstorm@kruckeberg.org)).

In addition to the Sunday work parties, hands-on work of various sorts goes on all year, weekdays and weekends. If you'd like to help on days



other than Sunday, give us a call. As you know, maintaining such a large area is quite a task, and last year's volunteer effort made a great difference! With your help, we can keep up that momentum.

For those with other interests and skills, we'd also welcome your help with administrative work. We still need a newsletter editor, and we need help on our publicity committee. There's also work to be done in computer database management, grant applications, and membership growth. If you have an interest in these areas, please contact Frankye, our coordinator of volunteers.

### New Web Site

Our new web site is [www.kruckeberg.org](http://www.kruckeberg.org). The site is hosted by Worldlink, Inc., a local company with over 5,000 subscribers. We have been quite pleased with the support and positive attitude at Worldlink. Our agreement obliges us to remind members of their service, and we do so enthusiastically. They offer full service throughout Western Washington at very competitive prices, and KBGF members are eligible for a discount. You can learn more at the Worldlink site, [www2.w-link.net](http://www2.w-link.net), or at 206-361-8785.

### Membership Renewal

We're mailing this newsletter to more than 50 friends whose membership has expired, and many who have not yet joined. Look in the lower right corner of the mailing label for the expiration date of your membership. Please send renewal donations to Kathie Morino, 958 Walnut, Edmonds 98020. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Gift matching is a great way to get more bang for your buck. Bank of America and Microsoft are examples of organizations that match employee gifts to non-profit organizations such as KBGF. Your payroll office will be able to tell you more.

### Send Us Your Email Address

Of the 140 or so KBGF members, we have email addresses for about 60 people. Email is a quick and inexpensive way for us to inform you of happenings of interest. If you think we may not have your email address, please send a message to [kbgf@kruckeberg.org](mailto:kbgf@kruckeberg.org). We invite friends of KBGF (nonmembers) to do the same; we have about 150 of you on our mailing list. All such personal information is kept strictly private.

### KBGF T-shirts for Sale

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation T-shirts are now available for \$15. The shirts are dark green with the cream-colored KBGF logo and come in a variety of sizes. Shirts are available for purchase at the Garden or call (206) 542-4777 to order one. Shipping is \$2.50.

### KBGF Wish List

Besides cash donations, KBGF welcomes donations of needed items. Our wish list currently includes:

- A computer more capable than a 486 or Macintosh Performa
- A Mac-compatible external hard drive (sealed or removable cartridge)

### KBGF Board

Michael Broili, president  
Al Brookes, vice president  
Kathie Morino, treasurer  
Bonnie Storm, secretary  
Robert Ferguson  
Randall Hitchin  
Wendy K. Kay  
Matt Loper

### Ex officio members

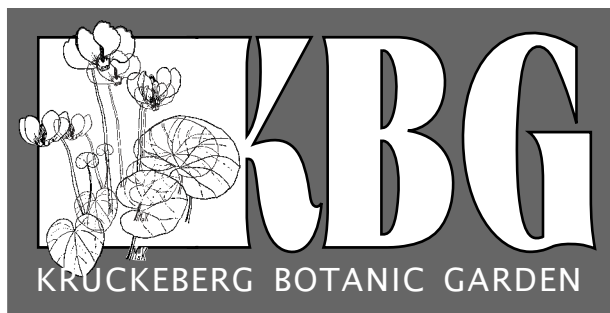
Art and Mareen Kruckeberg

## Mark Your Calendar

March 4 Garden cleanup work party  
April 1 Garden cleanup work party

Call 206-546-1281  
for tour reservations

Please pass this newsletter  
on to a friend!



## Witch-Hazels in the Garden

by A. R. and Mareen S. Kruckeberg

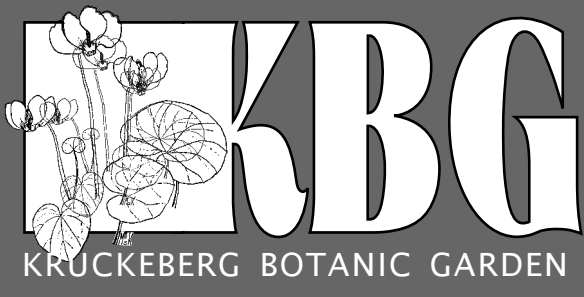
The witch-hazel family (*Hamamelidaceae*) embraces many fine ornamental trees and shrubs. The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden is home to several of them. All are woody and clothed with elegant, mostly deciduous, foliage, as well as blessed with distinctive flowers. The family's native lands are in eastern North America and Asia, displaying a well known distribution pattern: close relatives in both New and Old Worlds. It is evident from the fossil record that these disparate locales were once part of a continuous ecosystem across North America to eastern Asia.

Here are some witch-hazels and their kin that grace our garden:

*Liquidambar formosana*, a small tree native to Taiwan and China, is a kind of sweet gum (*L. styraciflua*), the commonly planted street tree. The foliage is scarlet in fall. It is rare in cultivation. Our two specimens are in the west end of the lower meadow. *Hamamelis*, the genus of witch-hazels, has six species in eastern North America and eastern Asia. The best of the genus is *H. mollis* (Chinese witch-hazel), with large oval leaves and covered with golden yellow flowerlets in mid-winter. Our arborescent shrub, located just south of the driveway, faithfully blooms around Christmas! It is a real show in winter, with no leaves to compete with the display of flowers; it emits a marvelous perfume. (See photo of *H. mollis* on web site.) Our other witch-hazel, *H. intermedia*, is nearly as spectacular as *H. mollis*. It too blooms leafless in mid-winter and is scented in flower. Its burnt orange flowers bedeck the broadly spreading (25 ft. across), six-ft. tall shrub. This witch-hazel is a garden hybrid, *H. japonica* crossed with *H. mollis*. It is at the base of the wooded slope to the meadow. We grow four species of *Corylopsis*, the winter-hazels. All are fine garden shrubs, with creamy yellow, pendant, flower clusters in early spring. *Corylopsis spicata*, *C. pauciflora*, and *C. glabrescens* grace the upper garden in early April with a profusion of flowers on naked branches. *Corylopsis sinensis* is at least two weeks later in bloom; we have it espaliered against the house chimney, making a most elegant display. (See photo of *C. spicata* on web site.)

*Parrotia persica* is a small tree native to the mountains of Iran. It is best noted for its brilliant fall color, often reddish purple. *Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana*, another small tree, has the foliage of winter-hazel but very different flowers: white, petal-like bracts surrounding a pincushion of yellow flowerlets, looking like a flowering dogwood in bloom. Three specimens grace the garden: one by the house in the upper garden, and two in the meadow. *P. jacquemontiana* is a native of the Himalayas.

Our single specimen of the shrub, *Disanthus cercidifolius*, performs to perfection each fall with its crimson foliage. This most unique member of the family has round leaves like the redbud bush and tiny maroon flowers in the spring. A native of Japan and China, it is in the upper



garden west of the house, under a flowering cherry.

*Sycopsis sinensis* is a tall, evergreen shrub with leathery leaves, native to China. Our largest specimen died a few years ago, but we have a young replacement in the nursery. Grown for its fine foliage, its flowers are not showy.

Curiosity about the common name, witch-hazel, provoked a bit of sleuthing. "Witch" or "wych" is an old Anglo-Saxon word for flexuous or bending. It was first applied to the European elm (*Ulmus glabra*), the Wych Elm. Other woody plants with flexuous twigs have used the "wych" word: thus the wych-hazel (species of *Corylus*, the hazelnut). Then, in the 19th century, "witch-hazel" was borrowed for the family featured here. Only by misapplication did the word take on a more sinister meaning — goblins and witches!

We have been generous in giving garden space to so many members of the *Hamamelidaceae* family. Their ornamental quality is unsurpassed, and most are available in specialty nurseries. They are, indeed, premier plants for Puget Sound gardens.

# membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Categories

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Oak (Benefactor)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Douglas Fir (Patron)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Red Cedar (Sustaining)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Dogwood (Club)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Dawn Redwood (Contributing)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Madrone (Regular)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Vine Maple (Student/Senior)

Please make tx-deductible checks payable to KBGF and mail to Kathie Morino 958 Walnut Edmonds, WA 98020

Please let us know how you heard about the Garden:

KRUCKEBERG BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION  
20312 15th Ave. NW  
Shoreline, WA 98177

