



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 KBG at
(206) 542-4777
20312 15th Ave. NW · Shoreline, WA 98177
www.kruckeberg.org

Newsletter produced by Susan Will

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

Some Personal Comments and Plants

By Walter Bubelis

Whenever I visit the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden it is with both a sense of wonder and trepidation. There are so many treasures in the garden that I feel as if I were in a plant candy store. Old friends I gladly recognize, but there are always new species that puzzle me and which I feel I should know.

Over the years, one sure way I have found to learn about a plant is to grow it myself. With the space restrictions of most gardens, that cuts down on the total, especially trees and large shrubs. I end up choosing plants that give me great pleasure by offering year-long features whenever possible. Some favorites of mine that are in the KBG are the following, and I invite you to seek them out at the garden.

Viburnum propinquum. I actually became aware of this while getting my Masters under Dr. Kruckeberg. There are wonderful, established, broad sweeps of these at the University of Washington beneath Johnson Hall along the esplanade toward Drumheller Foundation. They are the largest examples I've seen. They carry an air of being neat and tidy with them, perhaps due to their shyness of flowering and fruiting. Coupled with an even growth habit forming an arching mound of eventually five feet by eight feet, they could overwhelm some sites. Mine, after 15 years, is still a manageable two-foot wide expanse. When you find *Viburnum propinquum* at the Kruckeberg Garden, note the elegant, evergreen foliage, narrow leaves up to 4 inches long with reddish petioles. It's a quiet beauty that isn't widely available.

Alders

Alders are such a quiet, rather undemanding type of plant. Typically we think of them en masse while driving through the lowlands and foothills en route to some elevation destination. When driving northward on I-5 to Everett for my conifer class at Legion Park in February, I look forward to the color changes in the catkins swelling slowly as spring approaches. Even on gray days, the alders and willows promise foliage and warmth ere long.

Unfortunately for many of us, there will be an interval of scratchy eyes and countless bouts of sneezing when the plump catkins open and release their pollen. If the winter has been consistently cold, then the alders have a mercifully shorter pollination period. Despite the often debilitating effects of this allergy, I am saddened by the fewer numbers of alders every year as they give way to developments.

Since few people would be convinced to plant an alder due to its connotations, it has to be a special type to change someone's mind. The cutleaf version of the European Common Alder is one such candidate. This beauty is not for everyone, of course, but if you like the laciness of Japanese maple cultivars paired with fast growth and a tolerance for moist soils, you've got a winner. Every specimen I've seen, even in drier locations, makes an impressive sight, if not a focal point. Tent caterpillars probably would enjoy it as much as they do other alders, but one wouldn't notice their handiwork as much since the leaves are so open to begin with!

Alnus glutinosus 'Imperialis' has a native counterpart in *Alnus rubra* 'Laciniata'. This native red alder is only available in the trade on a sporadic basis.

Oaks.

English oaks. Mistletoe. Druids. English estates. Romans. All part of the Holm Oak tale. Like many others, I've always been fascinated by this genus that produce such a bounty of usually edible, attractive acorns. Some birds eat



PUBLISHED BY THE
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Robert Ferguson
Randall Hitchin
Wendy K. Kay
Matt Loper
Laura Zybas

Ex officio members
Art and Maren Kruckeberg

Mark Your Calendar

- April 7 Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm
- April 28 Open Garden for members, 1-4 pm
- May 5 Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm
- June 2 Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm
- June 20 General membership meeting, 7 pm
- July 7 Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm

Call 206-542-4777
for tour reservations

Please pass this newsletter
on to a friend!

acorns, but typically it's the rodents, like squirrels and chipmunks, or the foragers such as pigs and boars, that find these so tasty, being laden with fatty oils.

With Christmas not far past, mistletoe is fresh in song if not in deed. Whereas deciduous oaks in the United States are particularly susceptible to mistletoe, British oaks, especially evergreen ones, are rarely host plants. Druids would more likely find the striking green bunches in hawthorns, poplars, ashes, and other deciduous trees.

When I first saw a mature Holm Oak it was on an English estate dating from the 1700's. It was a magnificent specimen, wider than tall, singularly alone in its splendor, just shorn grass up to its massive trunk. Smaller Holm Oaks used in various city plantings at triangles or as street trees never will get the space or time to realize their potential. Nor will the 30-foot beauty at the Kruckeberg Garden. It appears to have succumbed to a root fungus. A younger example is also to be found in the lower meadow. Shade and infected soil negate replanting in the same site, but I hope another one gets sited elsewhere. With so many memorable associations, it deserves another chance. Oh! The Roman connection? Authorities are uncertain as to *Quercus ilex* being a British native or whether the Romans brought it with their colonization, since it is a Mediterranean native.

Walt Bubelis, now in his 31st year of teaching, is a faculty member and former chair of the Department of Horticulture, Edmonds Community College.

Meetings

Regular Board meetings are normally scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month; members are welcome to attend. Call 206-542-4777 or email kbgf@kruckeberg.org for more information.

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday June 20, 2002, beginning at 7 pm at the Richmond Beach Congregational Church-United Church of Christ. The church is located at the corner of Richmond Beach Rd. and 15th Ave. NW. Art Kruckeberg will give a presentation on "Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest." We hope to see you then.

The terms of three members of the Board of Directors will expire June 30th, and the vacancies will be filled by election at this meeting. The nominating committee's slate will be posted on the KBGF web site by May 20th and presented to the membership at the meeting. Members in good standing are eligible to vote. There are nine directors, and the term of office is three years. Directors must be members and may serve two consecutive terms. Members are encouraged to apply or suggest another name and may do so by calling 206-542-4777.

Maren's Corner: The Benefits of Pumice

From time to time Maren Kruckeberg shares her views of plants and gardening. Here are a few thoughts on pumice.

If you are not familiar with the benefits of pumice, it's never too late to learn. As you know, pumice is a volcanic glass, very light in weight because of the many cavities caused by expulsion of water vapor when the rock was ejected into the atmosphere. At MsK Nursery we always amend the soil with crushed pumice, not vermiculite, when potting the many plants that need good drainage, such as *Daphne*, *Ceanothus*, *Artemisia*, and *Hebe*. Pumice is a bit expensive to use freely, but used selectively it can be a boon to the roots of these plants. You can obtain pumice at many nurseries (for example, Sky Nursery sells a four-quart bag for \$2.27).



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Web Site

In each issue we include this standing reminder of our web site, www.kruckeberg.org. Worldlink Internet Services is donating domain-name hosting for KBGF. Worldlink offers the following discounts to KBGF members:

- Dialup Internet Access at \$15/month
- DSL at 15% off
- All other Worldlink services at 10% off

Worldlink is a local company with over 5,000 subscribers, and we have been pleased with their support and positive attitude. Visit www.wlink.net or call 1-888-361-4638 for more information.

KBGF Wish List

We welcome donations of needed items. Our wish list currently includes:

- **A computer more capable than a Pentium II or Macintosh Performa**
- **A PC-compatible external hard drive (sealed or removable cartridge)**

KBGF T-shirts

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation T-shirts are available for \$15. They come in various sizes and colors, with green lettering on a taupe background. Place an order or inquire by calling 206-542-4777 or emailing kbgf@kruckeberg.org.

When placing such plants in the ground, remember that they will benefit also from being planted in a hole that's deeper than usual to ensure good drainage and avoid puddling in the soil above the hardpan. Finally, speaking of soil, don't forget that the words "soil" and "dirt" are not interchangeable. Housecleaners deal with dirt, gardeners work with soil!

Garden Tours

The City of Edmonds is now offering tours of the Garden in its Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services catalog, "CRAZE" (Winter-Spring 2002). The dates are April 13 and May 25. For more information call 425-771-0230. The City of Shoreline also offers a tour of the Garden on June 15 in its 2002 Spring Recreation Guide. A summer tour is planned for July 13. Contact the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at 206-546-5041 to sign up. In each case the fee is \$20 per person, of which the City forwards \$15 to KBGF. Tours are usually conducted by Mareen Kruckeberg.

Tours may also be scheduled directly by calling the KBGF voicemail line, 206-542-4777. 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.

Open Garden

On Sunday, April 28, the Garden will be open to members and their guests from 1 - 4 pm. We hope each of you will come and enjoy the Garden in bloom. Refreshments will be available, as will the opportunity for membership renewal. Those who drive to the Garden are reminded that parking is tight: It's a residential area, and 15th Avenue is relatively narrow. It's best to park on the east side of the street (especially in the immediate vicinity of KBG) and ensure the car is as far off the right of way as possible.

When you approach the gate you'll see the beautiful new "Kruckeberg Botanic Garden" sign. The sign was designed by Mareen Kruckeberg and Tim Hall, a calligrapher and family friend, and crafted by ARTCO Sign Company. Michael and Zach Broili mounted the sign on a handsome post of clear cedar.

Propagation-by-cuttings Class Offered

KBGF will host a propagation-by-cuttings class at the Garden on Saturday June 8, starting at 10 am. The class should last about 2 hours. Participants will learn the techniques of starting plants from softwood cuttings. Focus will be on deciduous shrubs and trees, and vines. Please bring pruners and a single-edge razor blade or a very sharp knife; all other supplies will be provided.

We are asking a fee of \$5 for members, \$15 for non-members. Class size is limited to 10 people. Enrollment is first come, first served, so call now to get your name on the list. Members will have enrollment preference through Sunday May 5.

To sign up or ask questions, leave a message at 206-542-4777 or email us at kbgf@kruckeberg.org.

Volunteer Help

Sunday afternoon work parties have resumed on the first Sunday of the month (with an exception in September). We had a beautiful day and a good turnout on March 3rd. Many thanks to Michael and Zach Broili, Gretchen and Al Brookes, Judy Chapman, Barbara Hilty, Carl Johansen, Frankye Jones, Wendy Kay, Enid Kruckeberg, Mareen and Art Kruckeberg, Karen Ware, Bors Vesterby, and Amy



APRIL 2002

m e m b e r s h i p

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:

Zundel.

We had a wonderful bonus of expert help on March 15th when Walt Bubelis brought 12 people from the Edmonds Community College horticulture program for an afternoon of pruning. Walt's group, a landscape studies class, included Jorge Alonso, JoAnne Boehme, Charlie Cessna, Wataru Doi, Debbie Eckholt, Charro Flores, Pat Giroux, Maggie Green, John Martin, Cathy Stacey, Sue Schumacher, and instructor Mike Klima. While the weather was not great, the results were. Many thanks to all!

The remaining work-party Sundays are April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8, and October 6. Please mark your calendar and join us, noon to 4 or 5 pm. We need your help, even for an hour or two, whenever your schedule permits. This spring volunteers can take home a tangible reward: A 40-lb, one-cubic-foot bag of Cedar Grove Native Plant Mix. Our supply is not infinite, so get 'em while you can! If you have questions, please contact us at 206-542-4777 or kgbf@kruckeberg.org.

We would also welcome your help with the other work of the Foundation. We're still looking for people who would enjoy being a docent or our newsletter coordinator, and we need help with publicity, plant inventory and labeling, grant applications, workshops and seminars, and our web site. If you have an interest in any of these areas, please contact us.

Membership Renewal

We continue to mail our newsletter to a growing list of friends (now about 70) whose membership has expired, and to many others 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 St., Edmonds 98020. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Send Us Your Email Address

Thanks for keeping us informed of changes in your email address. Email is an inexpensive way to inform you about KBGF events, and we try to keep our address list up to date. Of the 400 or so names on our newsletter mailing list (members and non-members), we have email addresses for only about 200. If you think we may not have your email address, please send a message to kgbf@kruckeberg.org. All such personal information is kept strictly private.

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