

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

Newsletter produced by Susan Will

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

Conifers in the Garden, Part 2 by Art Kruckeberg

Our first installment (*October 2001* issue) covered only a part of the vast clan of cone-bearing trees, the Pine Family (*Pinaceae*). There we reviewed the many familiar pine family members: pines, firs, spruces, hemlocks, and larches. Now we must do justice to the conifer clan by looking at the rest, some in large groups, or families, others in small families.

In this article we pay allegiance to the Cypress Family (*Cupressaceae*), where we encounter still other familiar types: cedars, cypresses, arbovitae, and junipers. The key feature of the Cypress Family is the foliage type. Rather than twigs clothed with needle-shaped leaves (long, linear, and pointed), Cypress Family conifers bear on their twigs tiny scale leaves. Just go out in your garden and pluck a branchlet from most any juniper or cedar. Observe the overlapping, tiny, shingle-like scales; these are leaves! Each overlapping leaflet is not more than one to two millimeters long. Quite a contrast from needles!

Several of the Cypress clan are natives to the Pacific Northwest and are prominent in the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. The most familiar is Western Red-cedar (*Thuja plicata*), so common in the Puget Basin. It was the mainstay fiber and wood tree of our region's First Peoples, the Salishan speakers. It was used for crafting canoes, longhouses, and totem poles, and it served many other domestic uses. It is easy to tell from other cedar kin by its sweetly fragrant foliage when crushed. Also, its small cones are longer than broad. We have used Western Red-cedar as a tall screen along garden borders; it can be planted in rows and pruned as a hedge. There are other *Thuja* species; we grow *Thuja koreana*, the Korean cedar.

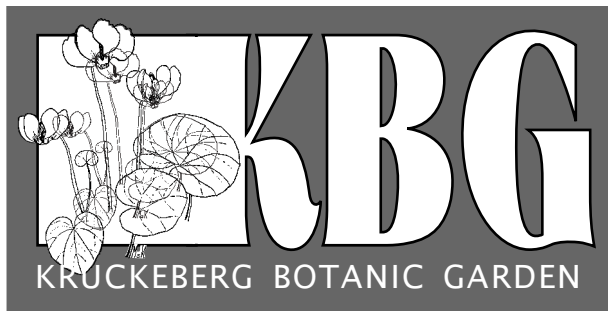
Widely grown as ornamentals are members of a related cedar type in the genus *Chamaecyparis*. Foremost is Port Orford cedar (or Lawson cypress, *C. lawsoniana*), a native of the Klamath-Siskiyou country of southwest Oregon and adjacent California. Lawson cypress has been a popular ornamental for years. The many cultivated forms come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. The narrow columnar forms are often used as screening trees or hedges.

Alaska (or yellow) cedar (*C. nootkatensis*) is kin to Lawson cypress, yet is easily told apart by its gracefully pendant foliage. Our garden has three fine specimens of Alaska cedar. Both Alaska cedar and Lawson cypress have small, round, pea-sized cones.

An unusual variant of Alaska cedar is the Leyland cypress. It originated as a spontaneous hybrid in England, a cross between Alaska cedar and Monterey cypress. Because of its rapid growth, Leyland cypress has been widely used for creating instant landscapes. Our specimen is over 50 feet tall.

The namesake group of the Cypress Family contains species of the genus *Cupressus*; 13 species of cypress occur in the Old and New Worlds. We grow several of them, all from California: Gowan cypress, Sargent cypress, and Baker's cypress. The Monterey cypress is one parent of the garden hybrid, Leyland cypress. All members of *Cupressus* have rather large, round, up to walnut-sized cones.

Incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) is a favorite of ours, with its handsome columnar shape and fine foliage. It is a Pacific Coast mountain



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Ex officio members
Art and Mareen Kruckeberg

Mark Your Calendar

- Aug. 4 Garden cleanup work party 12-4 pm
- Sept. 7 Plant propagation class 10 am -12:30 pm
- Sept. 8 Garden cleanup work party 12 -4 pm
- Sept. 15 Open Garden for members & guests 12-4 pm
- Oct. 6 Garden cleanup work party 12-4 pm

Call 206-542-4777
for tour reservations

KBGF Wish List

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

- A computer more capable than a Pentium II (166 MHz) or a Macintosh Performa
- A PC-compatible external hard drive (sealed or removable cartridge)

native, ranging from northern Oregon to Baja California and thoroughly drought-tolerant. Its cones are up to one inch long, with boat-shaped cone scales. It is widely used along I-5 in Oregon, in the center strip along curves. Our garden has three mature specimens of incense cedar.

A most distinctive cypress is the Hiba Arborvitae (*Thujaopsis dolabrata*) from Japan. Its scale leaves, largest of all the cedars, form a striking pattern on branchlets, especially when seen from below. We have two mature specimens of this elegant conifer; it should be more widely grown.

A final conifer group, the junipers (*Juniperus*), is the largest in the Cypress Family, with 50 species in the Northern Hemisphere. Many junipers have two kinds of foliage: scale leaves like the cypresses, and short needle leaves. Also, their seeds are encased in fleshy ifruitsi rather than in woody cones. They show their conifer alliance with pollen in cones. In form, junipers may be tall trees (*Juniperus virginiana*), tall shrubs (*J. squamata*), or low ground covers (*J. 'Tamariscifolia'*). The ground cover Juniper 'Tam' is widely grown in our area. There are three native junipers in this region, all of which are in our garden. The common juniper (*J. communis*) is a semi-prostrate shrub in the high mountains (and on serpentine soils). The Rocky Mountain juniper (*J. scopulorum*) is a familiar sight in the San Juan Islands... a small tree there. Our specimen came from Cypress Island, that island misnamed by Captain Vancouver who thought the juniper was a cypress! The third native, *J. occidentalis*, is rare in Washington, found only in the Juniper Dunes near the Tri-Cities and the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River.

Note the frequent use of the word *cedar* throughout this essay. In its strictest utilization, the word should apply only to species of *Cedrus*, species of the Pine Family: Cedar of Lebanon, Atlas cedar, Deodar cedar...these are the cedars in the strictest sense, all kin in the genus *Cedrus*. Such is the loose usage of common names.

Stay tuned for the third in this series: more conifers are yet to come. A tour of the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden can bring alive all we have related here.

Meetings and Elections

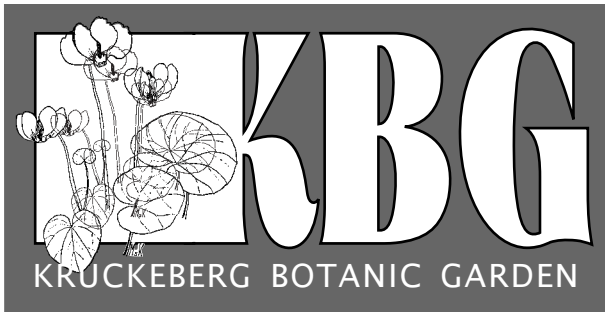
Regular Board meetings are normally scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month; members are welcome to attend. Call 206-542-4777 or email kgbf@kruckeberg.org for more information.

The summer general membership meeting was held on Thursday June 20, 2002. Art Kruckeberg gave a presentation on "Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest," and three vacancies on the Board of Directors were filled by election. Michael Broili and Kathie Morino were re-elected to their second three-year term, and Liz Birkholz was elected to her first term. Biographical sketches for all directors are posted on the KBGF web site, www.kruckeberg.org.

Garden Tours

Summer and fall tours of the garden have been scheduled by the City of Shoreline (July 13 and October 12) and the City of Edmonds (September 14). For more information call 206-546-5041 (Shoreline) or 425-771-0230 (Edmonds). 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 stu-



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KBG volunteer Barbara Hilty

KBGF T-shirts

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation T-shirts are available for \$15. They come in various sizes, and you can choose the new color combination (green on taupe) or the original (cream on green). Place an order or inquire by calling 206-542-4777 or emailing kbgf@kruckeberg.org.

dents). Tours normally start at 10 am and last about two hours. Parking is limited, and carpooling is recommended whenever possible.

Volunteer Help

Our Sunday afternoon work parties will continue through October. The remaining work-party Sundays are August 4, September 8, and October 6. Please mark your calendar and join us, noon to 4 or 5 pm. We need your help. If you have questions, please contact us at 206-542-4777 or kbgf@kruckeberg.org.

We had good Sunday turnouts in May, June, and July. Many thanks to Barbara Hilty, Frankye Jones, Wendy Kay, Enid Kruckeberg, Mareen and Art Kruckeberg, Jennifer Madrid, Mayleea Nelson, Jeremiah Ralston, Ashley, Stires, and Karen Ware.

A tip of the cap also to those who have consistently volunteered in the garden at other times during the week: Deborah Ferber, Heather Nelson, Jeff Smith, and Bors Vesterby. If your Sunday afternoons are otherwise occupied, consider a weekday visit.

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 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.

Reflections by a KBG Volunteer

We think you will be touched, and perhaps inspired, by these thoughts from one of our most loyal volunteers:

"An unbelievable treat! I steal away from under the weeds in my own garden and the plants waiting for my clippers. With gloves and a digger in hand, I join other volunteer weeders and spend a couple of hours at the fabulous Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. These four acres of beauty and serenity surround me. As a senior citizen I return home a little stiff, but definitely inspired!" -- Barbara Hilty, Richmond Beach

Open Garden

On Sunday, September 15, the Garden will be open to members and their guests from 12 - 4 pm. We hope each of you will come and enjoy the Garden. Refreshments will be available, as will plant lists for those interested in a self-guided tour. Those who drive to the Garden are reminded that parking is tight: It is a residential area, and 15th Avenue is relatively narrow. It is best to park on the east side of the street (especially in the immediate vicinity of KBG) and place your car as far off the right of way as possible.

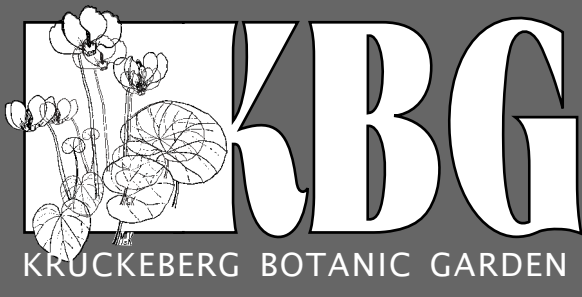
Another Propagation-by-cuttings Class Offered

KBGF will host another propagation-by-cuttings class at the Garden on Saturday, September 21, starting at 10 am. The class should last about 2½ hours. Participants will learn the techniques of starting plants from softwood cuttings. The focus will be on evergreen trees and shrubs (camellias, rhododendrons, etc.), which are best started in the fall. Please bring pruners and a single-edge razor blade or a very sharp knife; all other supplies will be provided.

Class size is limited to 12 people. Enrollment is first come, first served, so sign up soon. Members will have enrollment preference through Sunday, August 10, but non-members should sign up now to establish a place on the list. We are asking a fee of \$30 for members, \$40 for non-

Continued on back page

Please pass this newsletter on to a friend!



JULY 2002 NO. 1

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:

members. Instructions about payment will be provided when enrollment is confirmed.

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

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.w-link.net or call 1-888-361-4638 for more information.

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 430 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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