

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; and we will understand only what we are taught."*

- Baba Dioum, Senegalese ecologist.

**Garden Location:**  
**20312 15th Ave NW**  
**Shoreline, WA 98177**

### Questions, ideas, suggestions?

Please contact KBGF at  
(206) 542-4777  
kbgf@kruckeberg.org  
www.kruckeberg.org

P.O. Box 60035, Shoreline WA 98160-0035

Newsletter produced by Suzanne Koidahl

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

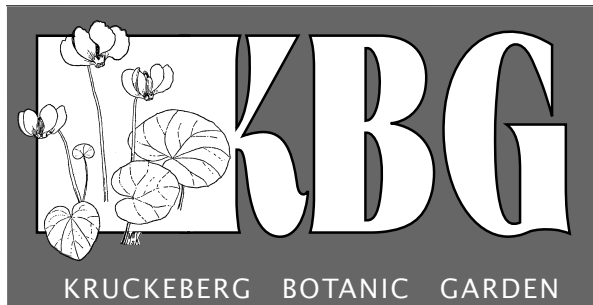
## A Botanist Encounters Cuba

by Art Kruckeberg

You may ask: Why should a North Temperate Zone plantsman venture beyond his familiar Pacific Northwest flora? Two justifications come to mind. First and foremost is the desire – nay, even urge – to enrich one's knowledge of the world's floral diversity. That quest for enrichment has been a part of my professional life; pursuit of unfamiliar plant life has taken me to South Africa, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Japan, Turkey, and now Cuba. Each country, with its unique flora, has embellished my appreciation of our planet's living world.

A more immediate lure to visit Cuba was to attend a conference on my specialty, the plant life of serpentine soils. In many places worldwide, a unique rock, serpentine, weathers to create soils that only specially adapted plants can tolerate – even thrive. These soils, poor in essential nutrients and high in concentrations of toxic nickel and chromium, keep most plant life at bay: surrounding vegetation is excluded from serpentines. Yet, worldwide, Nature meets the serpentine challenge by fostering plants that have become adapted to this hostile habitat. Serpentine rocks and their derived soils are part of the larger plate-tectonics drama. The most revolutionary discovery in the science of geology was to identify the worldwide occurrence of collisions between gliding "plates," mini-continents of earth's crust. When these moving plates collide, ruptures in the crust produce volcanoes and the emergence of upper mantle material at the earth's surface. This mantle rock is mainly composed of iron-magnesium silicate mineral. When it reaches the surface, it becomes "serpentine" rock, so-called because the rock often takes on the mottled pattern of snake's skin.

Cuba has one of the richest serpentine floras on the globe. So, it was most appropriate that the Fourth International Conference on Serpentine Ecology be held on this, the largest Caribbean island. United States citizens find travel to Cuba fraught with governmental restrictions. Fortunately, my University of Washington has official sanction to permit its personnel to visit Cuba on scientific or educational ventures. With permit in hand, I and two colleagues flew non-stop from Vancouver, B.C., to Cuba, landing in the resort center, Varadero. Our ultimate destination, Havana and its Jardin Botánico Nacional, was reached by bus and taxi... late at night. Beginning on April 22 we had four days of lecture sessions in the fine conference center at the botanical garden. Midway in the lecture sessions we broke for an all-day field trip to the Pinar del Rio district, northwest of Havana. Of course, it was a serpentine habitat rich in unique plants. The site is preserved under the auspices of the University of Havana. Notable here were two small palms, both restricted to serpentines, and a gorgeous, red-flowered *Euphorbia* that tested positive for high levels of nickel in its foliage.



### Board of Directors

#### Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation

Liz Birkholz  
 Michael Broili  
 Robert Hauck  
 Wendy K. Kay  
 Jeanette Kunnen  
 Matt Loper  
 Kathie Morino  
 Bonnie Storm  
 Laura Zybas

### Ex officio member

Art Kruckeberg

### Meetings and Elections

The semiannual general membership meeting was held on June 19, 2003. Art Kruckeberg spoke on "The Asian Influence in Northwest Gardens."

The membership reelected Matt Loper to another three-year term on the Board of Directors, and they elected two new members: Robert Hauck and Jeanette Kunnen. We are fortunate to have such capable people willing to give of their time. A brief biography of each director is posted on the Foundation's web site. The Board will elect officers for the next year at their meeting on July 15.

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](mailto:kgbf@kruckeberg.org) for more information.

### A Botanist Encounters Cuba . . . *continued*

Nightly, while at the conference center, we went in to see the sights of old Havana. Early Spanish-era buildings – churches, forts and palaces – have been restored...most impressive. One night, we visited Hotel Ambos Mundos ("Both Worlds"), where novelist Ernest Hemingway had stayed. Atop the hotel was an open pavilion – a bar with grand views of the city. Here we savored "mojitas," a rum drink popular in Cuba. As at so many public places, we were enchanted by live music, in this case a trio of flute, guitar, and drums performing Cuban tunes. At noon on our last day at the conference center, we convened in an outdoor picnic site for a fine meal and, again, live music.

Conference over, we delegates left for eastern Cuba to visit the most extensive serpentines on the island. The all-day bus trip took us through miles of flat terrain, mostly agricultural: sugar cane, bananas, sisal and cattle. We reached our destination, the city of Moa, near midnight. The main Cuban freeway, four-lane "Autopista Nacional," took us only about half the way to Moa. The rest of the way was on two-lane, often deeply rutted roads. We were slowed near every little village and town by all kinds of traffic: horse carts, bicycles, tractors, and pedestrians. Moa, our headquarters for the next three days of field trips, is hardly a picturesque city. Its main industry, mining and smelting of nickel and chromium (from the nearby serpentine outcrops) give it a rather bleak, rusty brown appearance.

Our trips in the field, though, were most rewarding. The plant life on the serpentines there is rich in diversity. While on normal soils the vegetation would be tropical forest, on serpentines it is open pine forest with a rich understory of shrubs and herbs...a kind of chaparral or maqui. A major part of this serpentine region is protected as the Alexander von Humboldt National Park. The famous 18<sup>th</sup> century naturalist, von Humboldt, was the first to document the vegetation of Cuba.

Two colleagues and I left the conference party from May 1-5 for a leisurely tour of eastern and central Cuba by van complete with driver and charming Cuban guide. Notable stops along our route were some fine old cities. First was Holguin in eastern Cuba, a city of parks, plazas, and elegant Spanish architecture. We also enjoyed other colorful cities: Camaguey, Trinidad, and Cienfuegos. Approaching the latter city we stopped at the famous Cienfuegos Botanical Garden, a rich collection of tropical trees. It was founded by an American sugar-cane grower who first used the garden to test varieties of cane. He then became fascinated with tropical trees; his mature collection was managed by Harvard University until 1961 and now is a Cuban national treasure.

Just before going to the Varadero airport on May 5, we spent a morning in yet another picturesque city, Matanzas, on the Caribbean coast. By noon we were searching for a lunch spot. Just west of Varadero we found Casa de Al, a charming restaurant on the beach, where we had seafood paella and Cristal beer. "Casa de Al," because this was Al Capone's mansion in the 1930s! After lunch we toured Varadero, finding it a very touristy place, much like a Florida spa: throngs of foreign tourists, many from Canada, France, and Germany.


We then endured the five-hour flight back to Vancouver, but rich in memories of a remarkable country. All in all it was a most glorious trip: outstanding serpentine flora, a convivial and informative conference, coupled with a bountiful immersion in Cuban culture. ☒

### Mark Your Calendar

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday July 13        | Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm |
| Sunday August 3       | Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm |
| Sunday September 7    | Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm |
| Saturday September 20 | Open Garden for members and guests |
| Sunday October 5      | Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm |

### Garden Tours

The next scheduled tour of the season will be on Saturday, September 13. This tour is offered via the City of Edmonds Parks & Recreation Department. For more information see their fall catalog, "CRAZE" (due in early August), or call 425-771-0230. The fee is \$20 per person, of which the City forwards \$15 to KBGF. Additional tour information is on our web site, [www.kruckeberg.org](http://www.kruckeberg.org).

Tours also may 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). For organizations dedicated to coordinating senior citizen activities, a flat fee of \$100 is charged, irrespective of group size. Tours normally start at 10 am and last about two hours. 


### Parking

Many readers know the Garden is in a residential neighborhood, the right of way on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. is narrow, and parking for visitors is quite limited. When planning a visit for tours or other events, please make carpooling a very high priority. When necessary to reduce parking impact on the neighborhood, we will set special parking arrangements. If you have questions about parking, call us at 206-542-4777. Thanks in advance for your cooperation, and thanks also to KBG neighbors for their patience.

### Volunteer Help

Thanks to the following volunteers for their help in the Sunday afternoon work parties in April, May and June: Tricia Westlake, Bors Vesterby, Valery Vargas, Bonnie Storm, Nicole Richardson, Teena Reichgott, Bob O'Brien, Nancy Moore, Pavel Lyadnov, Matt Lundberg, Jackie Lappin, Julia Kunko, Wendy Kay, Frankye Jones, Nene Jenefsky, Barbara Hilty, Tara Glarev, Karina Delgado, Camilo Correa, Rob Charrette, Emily and Russ Castner, Walt Bubelis, Gretchen and Al Brookes, and Jocelynn Archibald. The remaining "First Sundays" are July 13, August 3, September 7, and October 5. Please look for our volunteer log to sign in and out, as we need to keep more complete records of who helps on what date and for how long. The log and other volunteer information can be found outside the cottage kitchen door.

Thanks also to Olga Hauptman, who reviews and distributes mail delivered to our box at the contract post office in the Richmond Beach Foods store. We hope someone who resides in that area will step forward to share the task with Olga.

And, yes, there's still a big need for volunteers in the other work of the Foundation. We're looking for people who would enjoy learning to be a docent, and we need help with publicity, plant inventory and labeling, grant applications, and workshops and seminars. If you have an interest in any of these areas, especially docent training, please contact us. 

## membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did you hear about the Garden? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### 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)

### Membership Renewal

We continue to mail our newsletter to friends whose membership has expired, and to others who have not yet joined. Look in the upper right corner of the mailing label for the expiration date of your membership. Please consider rejoining our effort to preserve this very special place. Just clip and mail this form. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Please make checks payable to KBGF and mail to:

**Kathie Morino**  
**958 Walnut St.**  
**Edmonds, WA 98020**

### New Members

Welcome to the following members who have joined since April:

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Carol Bromel      | Gordon and Jeni Hogenson |
| Alice Cummings    | Jeanette Kunnen          |
| Sharon Dreimiller | Ann Lennartz             |
| Sylvia Duryee     | Veronica Seyd            |
| Billie Garber     | Sally Soest              |

### Renewing and Returning Members

Thanks to those members who renewed or rejoined since April:

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bernice Beeman              | James Nicholson              |
| Kathryn Bradley             | Bill and Pauline Pascoe      |
| Tex and Marylou Bunney      | Paul Robben                  |
| Carol and Viggo Christensen | Alice Smith                  |
| Gordon and Elizabeth Church | Mani Soma                    |
| Pat and Susan Dunn          | Janet Standridge             |
| Deborah Ferber              | Bonnie Storm                 |
| Wanda Fleischman            | Gunter and Sigrid Vierthaler |
| Richard Johnsen             | Barry and Ella May Wulff     |
| Bill and Judy Kesel         |                              |

### Web Site

Reminder: our web site is at [www.kruckeberg.org](http://www.kruckeberg.org).

Worldlink Internet Services donates domain-name hosting for KBGF, and offers the following discounts to KBGF members: Dialup Internet Access at \$15/month, DSL at 15% off and 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](http://www.w-link.net) or call 1-888-361-4638 for more information.

**Please pass this newsletter on to a friend!**

### Open Garden

On Saturday, September 20, the Garden will be open to members and their guests from noon to 4 pm. We hope each of you will come and enjoy the Garden in late summer. Refreshments will be available. Those who drive to the Garden are reminded that parking is tight: It's a residential area, and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue is relatively narrow. Please respect the rights and privacy of our neighbors. It's best to park on the east side of the street, especially in the immediate vicinity of KBG. To enhance pedestrian safety, please ensure the car is as far off the street as possible.

### 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 Macintosh Performa
- A PC-compatible external hard drive (sealed or removable cartridge)
- A metal detector—Land Ranger 4 or similar

### KBGF T-shirts

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

### Send Us Your Email Address

Please keep us informed of changes in your email address. The newsletter is a good way to communicate, but it does come only quarterly. Email is a great way to remind you of scheduled events and inform you of changes and short-fuse happenings...and email is inexpensive. For those reasons, we try hard to keep our address list up to date. Of the 290 or so names on our newsletter mailing list, we have email addresses for only about 175. If you think we may not have your email address, please send a message to [kbgf@kruckeberg.org](mailto:kbgf@kruckeberg.org). All such personal information is kept strictly private.

**KRUCKEBERG BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION**  
**P.O. Box 60035**  
**Shoreline, WA 98160-0035**

