

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, January 22	General membership meeting 7 pm
February 4—8	Northwest Flower & Garden Show
Sunday, April 4	Garden cleanup work party, 12-4 pm
Saturday, April 24	Open Garden for members and guests

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.

Drought-Tolerance in Our Gardens, Part II

by Art Kruckeberg

Regular readers already will have a representative list of Northwest natives with drought tolerance capabilities (see KBG News, October 2003). We now enrich the palette with tolerant trees and shrubs from other lands. Many have been used in local gardens for years. From a perusal of the world's major climatic regions, a good place to begin is with regions having Mediterranean (or near-Mediterranean) climates; regions of long rainless periods, from March or April to October. The five Mediterranean climate zones include the Mediterranean basin, Southern California, South Africa, coastal Chile and western Australia. The first two areas can give us an ample source of tolerant ornamentals.

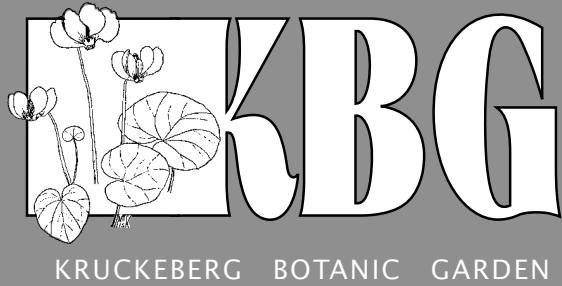
MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

CONIFEROUS TREES: We start with three pines, all of intermediate height: Aleppo pine, *Pinus halapensis*; maritime pine, *P. pinaster*; and stone pine, *P. pinea*. Two cedars are elegant: Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus libani*; and Atlas cedar, especially the silvery blue form, *Cedrus atlantica* var. *glauca*. An impressive spruce is the Armenian or Oriental spruce, *Picea orientalis*; this was featured recently as a Northwest Plant Pick. The best of the junipers is *Juniperus oxycedrus*, the prickly juniper. And, finally, Italian cypress, *Cupressus sempervirens*.

BROADLEAF TREES: Of the many Mediterranean oaks, look for holly (or Holm) oak, *Quercus ilex*, and cork oak, *Q. suber*; both are evergreen. Notable deciduous oaks are Turkey oak, *Q. cerris*; Portuguese oak, *Q. lusitanica*; sessile oak, *Q. petraea*; and southern forms of common oak, *Q. robur*. Most of these can be seen in the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. A few Mediterranean maples endure drought: Field maple, *Acer campestre*; Montpellier maple, *A. monspessulanum*; and Tatarian maple, *A. tataricum*; all three are medium-sized trees. I saw a small sweetgum in Turkey that should do well here: *Liquidambar orientalis*. A relative of the English or common beech, *Fagus sylvatica*, can withstand drought: oriental beech, *F. orientalis*. Common in Puget Sound plantings is the strawberry tree, *Arbutus unedo*, kin to our native madrone, *A. menziesii*. It can get up to 25 feet tall, is evergreen with white, flowers in late summer and bears fleshy fruits into spring.

It would be derelict of me not to include at least one leguminous (Pea Family) tree; it resembles the typical mimosas. The silk tree, *Alnizzia julibrissin*, is valued for its elegant, finely divided compound leaves and fluffy pink flower heads.

SHRUBS: There is a host of Mediterranean shrubs, many well-known in local gardens. Since the list could become encyclopedic, we will look at a fair sampling of the best ones. Many of these shrubs thrive in dry maque-scrub, what Californians call chaparral. Plentiful are members of the pea and min families. These I list first.



Board of Directors

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation

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

Ex officio member

Art Kruckeberg

Meetings and Elections

The winter general membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm on Thursday January 22, 2004, 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. The speaker will be KBGF member Bors Vesterby, whose talk is titled "Key Washington Ferns." As many readers know, a botanical "key" is a means for identifying a plant. A traditional key is a written series of diagnostic steps, developed for a given species, that leads the reader to a conclusion about the identity of a certain plant. As anyone who has tried to "key out" a plant knows, such text-based keys are notoriously difficult to use. Bors will explain his alternative to the traditional approach: A *photographic* key that is visual and intuitive to use, where every described feature is imaged, linked and defined. His focus will be on native ferns, and he will show lots of photos of scenic Washington habitat and some of the state's rarest ferns.

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

Drought-Tolerance in Our Gardens . . . *continued*

The leguminous shrubs are mostly broom-like, with sparse foliage and yellow flowers. While we all must avoid growing that pestilential Scots broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), other brooms are better behaved: *Cytisus* "Moonlight broom", *C. supinus*; and the glorious Atlas broom, *Cytisus battandieri*. Of the several kinds of *Genista*, try Spanish gorse. *G. hispanica*. Kin to these is the leafless yet green-branched Spanish broom, *Spartium junceum*. Other Mediterranean legumes merit use. The beautiful redbud or Judas tree (really a tall shrub), *Cercis siliquastrum*, has kidney-shaped leaves and copious reddish purple pea flowers adorning its upper stems. Among Mint Family shrubs, the most familiar are lavender (*Lavandula spica*) and rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*); each does double duty...handsome in the garden and savory in the pot. The wild lilacs that often dominate the California chaparral have Mediterranean counterparts, the rockroses (*Cistus* species). Of the many types in the trade, try *Cistus ladaniferus*, *C. laurifolius* and *C. albidus*. Each rockrose flower lasts but a day but is replaced daily in midsummer. Most have white flowers, each with a dark central spot. Almost all are evergreen and like full sun.

The smoke bush *Rhus cotinus* (or *Cotinus coggygria*), is frequently planted in our area. The tall deciduous shrub usually appears in its plum-purple foliage form. In midsummer flower, it seems on fire with its smoky masses of tiny flowers.

We have delighted in watching the evergreen sumach, *Rhamnus alaternus*, defy drought, as does another maqui shrub, *Phillyrea angustifolia*. The latter is 6 to 8 feet tall with narrow evergreen leaves. It is said to tolerate maritime conditions as well as drought.

A deciduous spindlebush, *Euonymus latifolius*, gives us fine fall color and unbelievable red fruits that slowly release their red seed on tiny threads. Seeing it is wanting it!

A final Mediterranean is the bay laurel of ancient Greek tradition. Evergreen with aromatic leaves, think of it in your culinary doings as bay leaves. Or at graduation as the plant of the baccalaureate!

A third installment will explore other non-native drought tolerant plants, especially from California and other Mediterranean climates. ☞

Docent Training to Begin

In case you haven't heard, we are delighted to report that docent training *really will begin early this year!* Katie Talbott and Deborah Ferber, co-chairs of the KBGF Docent Committee, have been hard at work designing the program, and volunteers have been solicited. For those who are interested but missed the late December deadline for application, please call Deborah at the MsK Nursery (546-1282) to make special arrangements. The 2004 classes begin February 21st.

Conservation Easement a Reality

An essential milestone was reached on October 14, 2003, when Art Kruckeberg signed the Grant Deed of Conservation Easement that will protect his property in perpetuity from development. Susan Dunn signed on behalf of the E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust, formalizing the Trust's acceptance of responsibility (as "Donee") to oversee compliance with terms of the Easement. Mrs. Dunn is chair of her organization's board of directors. The Cascade Land Conservancy also agreed to serve as an alternate Donee if needed.




Susan Dunn and Art Kruckeberg

The importance of this agreement can not be overstated, as it sets the Garden on a permanent, irreversible course of conservation. The essence of the agreement is expressed in the so-called "Conservation Values" that are to be preserved and maintained:

- a. Open space, in part for the scenic enjoyment of the public
- b. Botanical garden, containing collections of rare and unusual specimens
- c. Park-like and wooded areas, and
- d. Educational opportunities for the public.

Those of us who have been privy to the long process of creating the Easement would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the cordial assistance and encouragement of the Dunn Garden Trust board. Susan Dunn, Monte Powell, and Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson were especially supportive. We also wish to express our admiration of the professional expertise and the patient, respectful and reassuring manner of the Trust's counsel, Konrad Liegel, whose efforts were vital.

The Foundation is now in the process of negotiating a Purchase and Sale agreement with Dr. Kruckeberg, and our Fundraising Committee has begun to develop a plan to raise the funds needed not only for purchase but also for endowing a maintenance program. The target amount has not been set, but we expect it to be about \$1.3M. Those of you with experience or just interest in fundraising are encouraged to offer help; we are not professionals, and this is a daunting task. Many hands make light work. 



Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson, Art Kruckeberg and Monte Powell

Volunteer Help

KBGF will again have an educational booth at the 2004 Flower & Garden Show, February 4-8. Contact us if you can help by staffing the booth.

The first Sunday afternoon work party of the season is scheduled for April 4. Did you remember to add KBGF work parties to your list of New Year's resolutions? It's not too late to make another resolution, and we do need the help. The next three 'First Sundays' are May 2, June 6, and July 11. 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.

And, as you suspected, there's still a big need for volunteers in the other work of the Foundation. In particular, we need help with publicity; the work is intermittent, low stress, and can be done by email and phone. We're also looking for people who would enjoy helping with newsletter mailings or monitoring our Richmond Beach PO box, and we need help with hospitality during tours, plant inventory and labeling, grant applications, and gardening workshops. Experience is not required, and you'll meet some interesting people! If any of these areas sounds appealing, please contact us.

KBGF T-shirts

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

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)

Has Your Membership Expired?

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 month and year your membership expires. 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 October:

Barb Elliot
 Rebecca & Charlie McKee

Lisa Hilderbrand
 Barbara Schechter

Renewing and Returning Members

Thanks to those members who renewed or rejoined since October:

Robert Akridge & Gregory Peterson
 Van Bobbitt & Sharon Wilson
 Walt Bubelis
 CoCo Cartier
 Roy & Delores Chamberlain
 John Dixon
 Dominique Emerson
 Barbara Hilty
 Catherine Hovanic
 Janice Humeniuk
 Barbara & Roger Johnson

Scott Keeny
 Gail Lerch
 Coleman Leuthy
 Bob O'Brien
 Hans & Lyn Sauter
 Valerie & Rick Speed
 Peter & Astrid Steffen
 Sigrid Vierthaler
 Susan Wright

Web Site

Reminder: our web site is at 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 or call 1-888-361-4638 for more information.

KBGF Wish List

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

- Volunteers...lots of volunteers!
- 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

Please pass this newsletter on to a friend!

Garden Tours

The first scheduled tour of the spring will be on Saturday, April 17. 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 adult (age 18 and older), of which the City forwards \$15 to KBGF. The fee for a youth (age 12-17) is \$10 (\$7.50 to KBGF). Additional tour information is on our web site, 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 adult (\$7.50 for youths). 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.

Open Garden

On Saturday, April 24, 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 bloom. Refreshments will be available. Those who drive to the Garden are reminded that parking is tight: It's a residential area, and 15th 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.

Parking

Many readers know the Garden is in a residential neighborhood, the right of way on 15th 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.

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 kgbf@kruckeberg.org. All such personal information is kept strictly private.

KRUCKEBERG BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION
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Shoreline, WA 98160-0035