



Kruckeberg

Botanic Garden News

Plant Collections in the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden: Nutmeg Trees (*Torreya*)

by Arthur R. Kruckeberg

A most distinctive group of conifers are the nutmeg trees in the genus *Torreya*. Unlike most conifers that bear seeds in woody cones, *torreyas* bear their seeds in a plum-sized semi-fleshy "fruit," known as an aril. Each aril contains a single large seed. *Torreya's* 506 species are in the Yew Family (*Taxaceae*). The seed only resembles that of spice-producing nutmeg which is the family *Myristicaceae*; *Torreya* seed have no culinary value.

For years we have grown the California Nutmeg, *T. californica*. After 40 years it has become a huge specimen with a massive leaning trunk. As a sapling it was given to us by Carl English, noted Seattle horticulturalist and head gardener at the Seattle Locks. Later we have grown specimens from wild-collected seed from the Sierras and the Coast Ranges of northern California. Also in the garden are two small specimens of the Japanese *Torreya nucifera*.

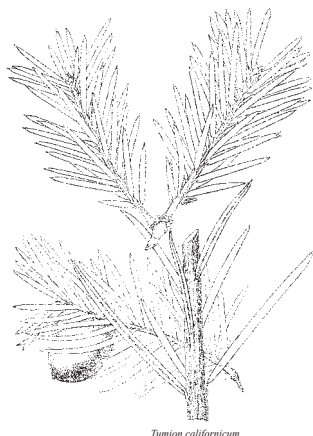
Then this year we have received two more species as gifts from the

conifer enthusiast, Paul Jersky. One is the rare *Torreya taxifolia* found locally in south Georgia and north Florida. The other from Paul is *T. grandis* from China. We hope some day to acquire the other remaining Asian *Torreya* species.

The occurrence of related species in widely separate locales is an oft-encountered discontinuous distribution pattern in other conifers and in many flowering plant genera. Thus, similar is the distribution of the three or four Douglas fir species, two in the New World and three in Asia. We grow one Asian Douglas fir, *P. wilsoniana*.

Another common name for the *torreyas* is "stinking cedar," because of the presumed ill-smelling foliage when crushed. However our *T. californica* (California nutmeg) has a rather pleasant resinous odor like that of many other conifer foliage. Finally we must honor the nutmeg tree's namesake, John Torrey. He, of Columbia University and colleague Asa Gray of Harvard, were North America's most famous and most productive botanists of the mid 19th century, and were well known abroad.

Editors Note: This is a first in an occasional series about plant collections at the Kruckeberg Botanical Garden. In the garden, view California Nutmeg, T. californica located east of the big house, T. taxifolia (approx. three-feet tall) at the far western end of the meadow, and the T. yunnanensis (approx. one-foot tall) on the southern edge of the central meadow, not far from the stone bench.



Tamion californicum

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Ribes laurifolium

"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

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden and MsK Nursery

20312 15th Avenue NW
Shoreline, WA 98177

New Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday - Sunday

www.kruckeberg.org

(206) 542-4777

The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden at Richmond Beach is dedicated to fostering and providing educational, cultural and aesthetic enrichment to the community and all who visit.

Work Party Schedule

Sundays, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

July 29
Aug. 12 & 26
Sept. 9 & 23
Oct. 7 & 21

To stay ahead of the weeds this year, we are having work parties twice-monthly. If you can't make it to one, we hope you can make it to the other.

In addition to the pleasure of spending time in the lovely surroundings of this "piece of paradise" (as Art calls it), you will receive free plants or coupons for discounts at the nursery. Garden staff will be on hand to help you identify weeds, and give tours during breaks so you can also learn more about the rare and beautiful species.

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MsK Memorial Wall Ready for Installation

by Enid Kruckeberg-Kriewald

In early June the MsK memorial water wall created by Little and Lewis of Bainbridge Island was completed. The memorial wall will acknowledge Mareen K, my mother who passed away in 2003. Garden director Deborah Horn and I took samples of plants from the garden to the studio of Little and Lewis in late May. We brought the mutant Tanbark Oak, big leaf maple and a variety of ferns and other plants my mother loved.

The artists were excited to be able to use these botanical materials and when David Lewis emailed me and exclaimed "I think this is our best wall we have ever done," I knew it would be beautiful.

After a cry of desperation to the KBGF members for help lifting this 300+ lb piece of art into the van at Little and Lewis I received a call from Kate Gormley, a member who lives on Bainbridge Island. She and her husband were meeting three friends for breakfast the next Saturday and she said they would be happy to meet me over at the L&L gardens. With a lot of teamwork we got it loaded.

I am working now with Matt Tong (the installer recommended by Little and Lewis) and we hope to have the wall installed by mid to late July. It will be located near the greenhouse.

To all of you who have so generously contributed, bringing this project to fruition, we will be announcing the date of the dedication party soon. I am sure that you who knew my mother will agree that this beautiful piece of art captures her spirit. Thanks again to the many people who helped support this effort.



Installer Matt Tong looks at the MsK Memorial Wall to prepare for its installation near the greenhouse.

Woodland Park Zoo Buys Plants from KBG

Brad Huff and Robin McCain came to the KBG and nursery in June to buy native plants for the Woodland Park Zoo. Among their purchases were twinflower (*Linnea borealis*), (*Tiarella trifoliata*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)- the latter were started from seed collected near the Washington Coast, and bloom a creamy white. The two gardeners, part of the Zoo's extensive horticultural team, are remaking a small area of the Northern Trail exhibit.



Board Member Spotlight: Meet Bill Schnall

Bill Schnall, M.D., was born and raised on Long Island but started inching west to attend Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with high honors in Biology and returned to New York City to attend Cornell University Medical College. Upon graduation in 1971, he began his career in pediatrics in the

Pacific Northwest - first as an intern and resident at Children's Hospital, followed by two years as Lt. Commander in the U. S. Navy based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and then 30 years in pediatric practice here in Shoreline. He retired in 2006.

Bill married his junior high school classmate, Jan, in 1973. They have two adult daughters, Lisa and Amy. While in Shoreline, Bill served 10 years on the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, eight years on the Shoreline School Board, and as President of the Medical Staff at Children's Hospital.

Bill's passionate interest in horticulture started innocently enough with a gift, from Jan, of an African violet in 1972. While he no longer has that particular plant, his home, both inside and out, is approaching the density (and beauty) of an Amazonian Rain Forest. He is most proud of his burgeoning bonsai collection and the unusual plant specimens obtained from the Kruckeberg Garden and Heronswood Nursery. Bill's retirement



includes an active exercise program, traveling, engaging his West Highland terrier in active play, reading, wood-working and financial management at his former medical practice, but his love, passion and devotion to horticulture finds him doing "something" in the garden at least three days/week. When it is just too cold, too dark or too wet to be in the garden, Bill would most likely be found elbow-deep in flour (as opposed to flower) making loaves of bread.

Shoreline's Community Wildlife Habitat Project

Kick-off Celebration

Sunday, July 29
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Kruckeberg
Botanic Garden

Learn about what each of us can do to enrich our community, one backyard at a time.

More information:
birdsbeesfishtrees@gmail.com

Sponsored by Sustainable
Shoreline Education
Association

Shuttle parking for the event is available from the parking lot of the Richmond Beach Congregational Church, one block west of the intersection of 15th Avenue NW and Richmond Beach Road.

Membership

Your donation is tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to KBGF and mail to KBGF Membership, PO Box 60035, Shoreline, WA 98160-0035.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

- Please renew my valued membership
- I am already a member but would like to make an additional contribution

Membership Categories

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Oak | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Dawn Redwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Douglas Fir | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Madrone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Red Cedar | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Vine Maple (Student/Senior) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Dogwood | |

Please Don't Forget! Many companies will match donations to non-profit organizations such as KBGF. There are at least 120 such companies in our area; ask your HR office if your employer is a gift-matcher.

Welcome!

Renewing Members

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Laura Van Houten & Bill Willard
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Janet Way
Phyllis A. Woolwine

Garden Tours

Tours may be scheduled by calling the KBGF voicemail line, (206) 542-4777. These tours normally are offered for groups of six to 15 people by appointment. Fees are \$10 per adult, \$5 per youth (12-17 years). For organizations dedicated to senior citizen activities and for student organizations, a flat fee of \$60 is charged, irrespective of group size. Tours normally start at 10 a.m. and last about two hours.

Visit us 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 1-888-631-4638 for more information.

Please pass this newsletter on to a friend!

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation
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Shoreline, WA 98160-0035