



Kruckeberg Botanic Garden News

For Members of the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation

Issue 25 • January 2009

Brookes Steps Down

KBGF'S UNSUNG HERO LEAVES VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR ROLE

As retirement from the University of Washington approached, Al Brookes discovered his wife had a clear idea of what he should NOT do with his free time. "Gretchen mentioned something along the lines of 'you're not going to just hang around, are you?'" said Al. He got the message, and the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden got Al.

Al describes himself as a curious type to get involved with a botanic garden because he lacked a background or interest in botany. His 23-year career as a Naval officer focused on submarines, then on the sciences of oceanography and meteorology. He enjoyed his second career, in R&D administration for the UW's Applied Physics Laboratory, enough to continue to work part time even after retirement.

"Riding the UW Express bus from Shoreline, I had noticed a man with a beret who often was traveling at the same time," he said. That man was Art Kruckeberg. "I saw an article in the Enterprise about a group that wanted to preserve the Kruckeberg property." He went to a meeting to see what it was about.



Al Brookes

It was an opportunity to volunteer nearby. And as Al said, "This guy Kruckeberg looked like an interesting character."

After serving on the steering committee and helping to develop a plan, Al became one of the founding board members of the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation. He eventually was elected president and served out his term before deciding that he could do more for the organization if he wasn't on the board.

"...who, unsung and mostly unrecognized, gets the work done in an efficient, timely and skillful manner..."

"There were myriad opportunities to help, but I didn't feel I could do both," he said.

As the type of person who sees a need and works to fill it, Al gradually gathered a multitude of projects and responsibilities for the Foundation. Working with Maren Kruckeberg, he helped organize tours. He was working on signage, developing and managing the membership database, helping to organize signage, and serving in the role that most Foundation members recognize — volunteer coordinator. For years, Al's personal connections with a cadre of loyal volunteers has led to fully staffed Mother's Day Sales, community fair booths, and a solid schedule at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show.

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Meet Emily Sprong

Emily Sprong joined the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation as volunteer coordinator in early December. Emily has a long history in non-profit settings, most recently as manager of Seattle Audubon's teen program, BirdWatch. Originally from Massachusetts, she has a BA in psychology from Williams College and an MS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont. She is thrilled to join KBGF at this pivotal time and is excited to help develop more programming and volunteer opportunities at and around the garden. She is also looking forward to expanding the garden's bird list.

When not working for KBGF, Emily chases after two young daughters, Triona (4) and Kalina (1) with her husband Dan, plays ice hockey, and occasionally tends goats to keep the weeds at bay in her own North Seattle garden, which is definitely a work in progress.

She encourages anyone who has ever considered volunteering at the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden to get in touch with her to talk about the many ways you can be involved. Reach Emily at 206-612-7312 or emily@kruckeberg.org.

Mark the Date!

Don't miss the semi-annual KBGF **Members Meeting**, Sat., Jan. 17, 1:00 p.m. at the Shoreline Historical Museum. See Calendar, pg. 4.



Published three times per year by the
Kruckeberg Botanic Garden
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*The nonprofit KBGF operates the
Kruckeberg Botanic Garden,
a public garden owned by the
City of Shoreline.*

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden and MsK Rare Plant Nursery

20312 15th Ave. NW
Shoreline, WA 98177
206.546.1281

www.kruckeberg.org

Open Friday–Sunday

Spring/Summer Hours

Fri.–Sun.
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Fall/Winter Hours

Fri.–Sun.
10 a.m.–3 p.m.



Asplenium trichomanes
Mareen S. Kruckeberg

Making History

MAREEN S. KRUCKEBERG PROFILED IN MUSEUM EXHIBIT



Dicentra formosa
Mareen S. Kruckeberg

Mareen S. Kruckeberg did not graduate from college and never held an important post. Yet, this largely self-trained horticulturist made a name for herself and her Richmond Beach nursery over a span of 45 years. Today, the MsK Rare and Native Plant Nursery is the centerpiece of the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden, and Mareen is the subject of an exhibit at the Shoreline Historical Museum.

Mareen earned a reputation in the community as an expert in plant propagation and often taught classes on the subject. She built up her nursery stock from propagating

plants in the garden and by trading seeds and cuttings with other well-known botanists in the region and around the world. The Kruckebergs counted among their friends UW botanist C. Leo Hitchcock and Carl English, the landscape architect who shaped the botanic gardens at the Ballard Locks.

In addition to her work in the garden and nursery, Mareen was an accomplished botanical illustrator; her drawings appeared in ads for the nursery and accompanied her husband's scientific articles. She provided consultation to the editors of *Sunset Magazine* for many years on horticultural subjects. She personally led tours of the garden upon request; all this while raising five children with her husband.

Mareen passed away in 2003 at the age of 77. *Mareen Schultz Kruckeberg: A Horticultural Legacy for the Washington Community* will be on display at the Shoreline Historical Museum from Nov. 15, 2008, through March 14, 2009. The exhibit is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Women's History Consortium.

Museum and Garden supporters celebrated the opening of the exhibit on Nov. 15. Art Kruckeberg shared memories of his wife and guest curator Deborah Horn spoke of Mareen's love of plants and nature.

Two more programs are planned in conjunction with the exhibit and open to the public. Please see the Calendar section on page 4. 🌱

KBG Honored with Trillium Award

The Kruckeberg House and Garden have been honored with the Trillium Heritage Award, one of four properties so-honored by the Board of the Shoreline Historical Museum. The Trillium Award recognizes outstanding examples of historic architecture in the communities of Lake Forest Park, North Seattle and Shoreline. The 1904 farmhouse purchased by the Kruckebergs in 1958 remains little changed from its beginnings, while the surrounding land has been transformed into a shady, woodland glen. 🌱



Kruckeberg House circa 1958

Membership Matters

Members and donors are the backbone of our organization. Thanks to all who supported us with financial and in-kind gifts between August 1 and December 18, 2008.

New Members and Donors

Margaret and Robert Boyce
Wayne & Annette Baker
Elizabeth Boba
Margaret & Robert Boyce
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Special thanks to the following people, companies or organizations who have donated goods, space or services.

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We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us with corrections at: kgbf@kruckeberg.org or call 206.546.1281. Donations are welcome at any time and may be mailed to KBGF, P O Box 60035, Shoreline, WA 98160-0035.

Al Brookes

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Ten years after retiring from full-time work at the UW, Al is now making the transition to full retirement. He has decided that this is the time to also move on from his role as KBGF volunteer coordinator. "I don't want people to start thinking of me as indispensable," he said. "It's bad for an organization.

Over the past few years, many of his other projects have been handed over to others. Rod Parke stepped up early to manage tours. Garden Director Sarah Baker now handles signage, and as of December, Al has been working to transfer knowledge of KBGF's volunteer base to Emily Sprong, KBGF's new volunteer coordinator.

"That leaves database management for me," he explains. So even as he reduces his role in many ways, Al will continue to be connected to the Garden and the Foundation.

Asked what he thinks of the future of KBGF, he said, "It's pretty bright. Definitely brighter than it was a year ago when the negotiations with the city over the details of the purchase were still underway."

While Al Brookes may believe he's not indispensable, he definitely has been at the very heart of the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation and helped to create that bright future.

Board president Bill Schnall sums it up, "Behind most organizations, there is usually a 'silent giant' — the one person who, unsung and mostly unrecognized, gets the work done in an efficient, timely and skillful manner while never asking for (and rarely given) credit. For the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation, Al Brookes is that person." 🐾

Calendar

Mareen S. Kruckeberg Exhibit

Nov. 15, 2008 – Mar. 14, 2009

Shoreline Historical Museum
749 North 175th,
Shoreline (free)

Semi-Annual Members Meeting

Sat., Jan. 17, 1 p.m.

Deb Horn, guest Curator for the Mareen Kruckeberg Exhibit, will speak on *Mareen Kruckeberg's Naturalistic Approach to Sustainable Garden Design*.

Shoreline Historical Museum. Open meeting. Bring your friends. (Free)

Lecture: MsK's Place in History

Sat., March 7, 1 p.m.

Speaker Liz Birkholz will present *Mareen Kruckeberg's Place in Washington Women's History*, in conjunction with Women's History Month and the Mareen Kruckeberg Exhibit.

Shoreline Historical Museum (free.)

Northwest Flower and Garden Show

Feb. 18-22: Look for the KBG Booth
Convention Center

Garden Work Parties

Join us on every 1st and 3rd Sun.,
March through Oct.

Sun., March 1, noon–4 p.m.

Sun., March 15, noon–4 p.m.

Sun. April 5, noon–4 p.m.

Sun. April 19, noon–4 p.m.

PLAN AHEAD!

Mother's Day Sale

May 8-10: MsK Nursery Annual
Mother's Day Sale.

Members receive 10% discount on
all purchases. Volunteer and receive
an additional 10% off!

Master Site Plan Begins in 2009

In 2009, the City of Shoreline and the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation will work together to develop a master site plan for the garden. This plan will outline site improvements that support our goals of maintaining a quality plant collection and providing educational, cultural, and aesthetic enrichment for the community. Planned changes include improved parking and restroom facilities, as well as classroom space and enhanced plant propagation capabilities. Once the master site plan is developed, these changes will occur gradually as funding becomes available.

The City will hire a consulting firm with experience in garden or park development to create the master site plan. Work on the plan should begin in March. Public input will be an important part of the master planning process. Stay tuned for an opportunity to share your vision of the Garden's future! 🌱

Thanks, Washington Native Plant Society!



As a co-founder of the Washington Native Plant Society, Art Kruckeberg's name has long been associated with native plant gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Thus, it is no surprise that the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden contains an exceptional collection of native plants from throughout the region. In 2007, KBGF received a \$500 grant from the Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society to improve labeling of native plants.

We installed over 400 new plant signs in the garden in 2008. These new signs will help the public appreciate native plants and inspire them to garden with natives, two goals we share with WNPS. We appreciate their generosity and hope that our relationship will continue into the future. 🌱

Our continued thanks to **Worldlink Internet Services** for donation of domain name hosting. This local company has provided positive support and offers discounted access to KBGF members. Visit www.w-link.net or call 1-888-631-4638 for information.

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation
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Shoreline, WA 98160-0035