

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.

KBGF Board
Michael Broili, president
Susan Will, vice president
Kathie Morino, treasurer
Bonnie Storm, secretary
Allan Brookes
Donn Charnley
Robert Ferguson
Wendy K. Kay

Ex officio members
Art and Mareen Kruckeberg

"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

Newsletter produced by Susan Will

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF BOARD JUNE 22

This summer the general members of the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation will vote for the first time for board members. The election for two board positions will take place at the Thursday, June 22 General Meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond Beach Congregational Church (corner of Richmond Beach Rd. and 15th Ave. NW, down the street from the Garden). Besides the election, the meeting will feature a slide presentation by Art Kruckeberg and a Foundation update.

The Board meets the third Tuesday evening of each month at the Garden to conduct Foundation business. You must be a member to serve on the board. If you are interested in running for the board, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Michael Broili, (206) 546-3119; Kathie Morino, (425) 771-9199; or Susan Will, (206) 542-6480.

KRUCKEBERG BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR UPDATE

The City of Shoreline is once again offering tours of the Garden in its Spring 2000 Shoreline Parks and Rec Guide. The two Saturday tours are April 29 and May 20. Contact the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department at (206) 546-5041 to sign up for either tour. Cost is \$20 per person.

Tours are also held on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Garden at (206) 542-4777. Special tours are also available for an additional charge.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

On Feb. 20 the clouds parted and we had an unbelievably warm and sunny day for work in the garden. Truly, this was the best weekend of the winter, and we were very lucky to have scheduled the Winter Work Party for that day. Even though this was a holiday weekend and lots of folks were out of town, we were fortunate to have a good number of volunteers who donated their time and talent to pruning, weeding, raking, transplanting and overall clean-up. It was pretty amazing and very satisfying to see what was accomplished at the end of the day. It was a great job by great volunteers, with super guidance from Mareen and Bonnie. In addition to working hard, we took advantage of the chance to enjoy the blossoms in the garden (ah, those cyclamen knock me out everytime!), and we got to hear about the hummingbird goings-on down in the meadow.

So, thanks to the volunteers: Al Brookes, Gretchen Brookes, Donn and Alan Charnley, Wendy Kay, Frankye Jones, Enid Kruckeberg, Heather Marks, Helen McCall, Kathy Morino, Marion Snyder, Bonnie Storm, Vicky Tyree and Marjorie Ziff.

MONTHLY WORK PARTIES THIRD SUNDAYS

Throughout the spring and summer we will be holding work parties on the third Sunday of each month. The next one is set for April 16. Also mark your calendars for May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20 and Sept. 17. If you can, please let Frankye Jones (206-546-5325) or Bonnie Storm (206-542-4777) know if you're planning to come. If you would like your name to be added to the volunteer list, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Frankye Jones at (206) 546-5325, brockfrankye@earthlink.net.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Of the 130 or so KBGF members, we have email addresses for about 55 people. Email is a quick and inexpensive way for us to inform you of happenings of interest. If you think we may not have your email address, please send a message to kgbf@ctr.net. We invite friends of KBGF (non-members) to do the same; we have about 150 of you on our mailing list. All such personal information is kept strictly private.

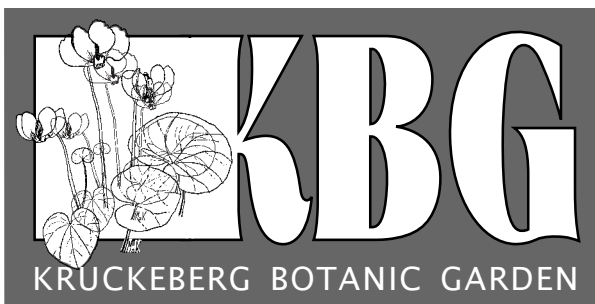
KBGF T-shirts for Sale

Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation T-shirts are now available for \$15. The shirts are dark green with the cream-colored KBGF logo and come in a variety of sizes. Shirts are available for purchase at the Garden or call (206) 542-4777 to order one. They will also be available at the June 22 General Meeting (see story at top).

KBGF WISH LIST

Besides cash donations, KBGF welcomes donations of needed items. Our wish list currently includes:

- A computer more capable than a 486 or Macintosh Performa
- A Mac-compatible external hard drive (sealed or removable cartridge)



INTIMATIONS OF SPRING IN THE KRUCKEBERG BOTANIC GARDEN

by Art and Mareen Kruckeberg

Late February in the Garden offers a captivating preview of the Spring's flowering to come. Now the awakening from winter's sleep is in full sway. The early bulbs — crocus, snowdrops and daffodils — are reaching their peak of bloom, and the fawn lilies are showing bud. With them, the early cyclamen (*C. coum*) along with our four hellebores (*H. niger*, *H. corsicus*, *H. orientalis* and *H. foetidus*) are in full flower. By the end of February, the early blooming Chinese witch-hazels (*Hamamelis mollis* and *H. X intermedia*) and silk tassel bush (*Garrya X issaquahensis*) will be on the wane; they were the earliest harbingers of the prelude to Spring...elegant all through January.

The two glorious witch-hazels merit further comment. The twin-paired specimens of the yellow *H. mollis* in the upper garden have a combined spread of 45 feet; it is in golden bloom at Christmas-time, and with a rich, delightful scent lasting until mid-February. The witch-hazel (*H. X intermedia*) down in the meadow has a horizontal spread of 30 feet; its low profile (about six feet) gives the viewer an unforgettable, eye-level display of its mass of orangey-bronze flowers.

Our mild winter — no snow and little frost so far— seems to have precipitated, earlier than usual, the promised swelling of buds. The white form of our native currant (*Ribes sanguineum*, cv. *White Icicle*) is already in early flower, as is that faithful foreteller of the new floral year, Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*).

An early-blooming tree, Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*, in the dogwood clan) is now a breathtaking haze of yellow. It should stay in flower well into March. And now, in early March, we are seeing the once-dormant larches in early, vibrant green leaf.

We yearly count on the earliest rhododendrons to break floral bud. Faithful as ever, the arborescent *Rhododendron sutchuenense* is showing floral color, as are some of its nearest relatives.

So, by and beyond the official start of Spring (21 March), the Garden will continue to put on a lavish display: rhododendrons in rich variety, magnolias (*M. kobus* and *M. denudata*), and forsythias (the striking, early-flowering *F. giraldiana* and the later *F. ovata*). By mid-April the floral tally reaches well-nigh infinity!

We have been preparing for Y2K's floral season with a variety of tasks, during much rain and little sunshine. Mulching with our shredder's output goes on throughout the early wet season. Transplanting nursery stock and adding to the garden display are in full swing. With the aid of twelve volunteers, early spring cleanup of the garden helped restore a well-groomed landscape.

Yea verily! The awakening garden restoreth the soul. Longer days, balmy nights and copious moisture augur well for the coming bountiful spring.

membership

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 checks payable to
KBGF and mail to
Kathie Morino
958 Walnut
Edmonds, WA 98020

Mark Your Calendar

- April 16: Work Party at the Garden
- April 20: Monthly tour at 2 pm
- April 29: Shoreline sponsored tour
- May 18: Monthly tour at 2 pm
- May 20: Shoreline sponsored tour
- May 21: Work Party at the Garden
- June 15: Monthly tour at 2 pm
- June 18: Work Party at the Garden
- June 22: General Meeting & Election at 7 pm
RB Congregational Church
- July 16: Work Party at the Garden
- July 20: Monthly tour at 2 pm
- Aug. 17: Monthly tour at 2 pm
- Aug. 20: Work Party at the Garden

Call 206-542-4777

for tour reservations or more information

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20312 15th Ave. NW
Shoreline, WA 98177