

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.

#### Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Thanks to a host of volunteers for representing the Foundation at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in February. A special "well done" to Bonnie Storm for a very professional job in planning and preparing our presence at the show. Bonnie's attention to detail was invaluable. We look forward to participating again next year.

#### Garden Location:

20312 15th Ave NW, Shoreline, WA 98177

#### Questions, ideas, suggestions?

Please contact KBGF at  
(206) 542-4777

kgbf@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.

## Oaks in the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden

by Art Kruckeberg

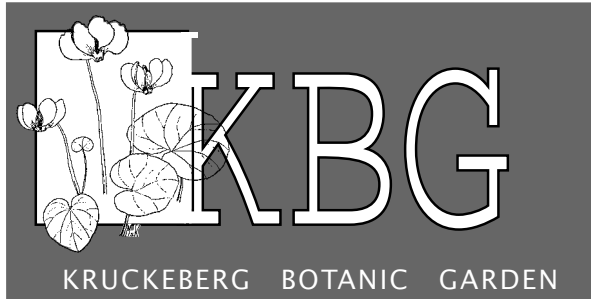
### Part 2: Oaks and Their Kin from Beyond the West

In the last newsletter we featured species of the oak family (Fagaceae) from western North America, ones that thrive and add beauty to our Garden. True to our belief that plants from other lands blend well with our western natives, we give oaks and their kin from eastern North America, Europe and Asia the spotlight in this issue. They, too, have proved hardy here and join other woody plants with their charms of stature and foliage.

Let us start with oaks from eastern North America. Early on we planted a seedling of northern red oak (*Quercus rubra* var. *borealis*) in the meadow; it is now over 40 feet tall, an elegant deciduous tree. One pin oak (the deciduous *Q. palustris*) came as an acorn all the way from France (Bordeaux Arboretum). A famous eastern U.S. oak, American white oak (*Q. alba*) also came from acorns sent us by a plantsman in the east; it is now 30 feet tall. Famous? It is the state tree of Connecticut, Iowa and Maryland. One evergreen oak from the southeast, *Q. virginiana*, will soon find a site in the meadow. It, the southern live oak, is a grand tree of the southern states, often festooned with Spanish moss (*Tillandsia*, a flowering plant). An imposing clump of the bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*) has been in the meadow for years; it came from our daughter's nursery in eastern Montana.

We now turn to oaks from Europe and the Near East. Most suitable for our own near-Mediterranean climate (dry summers) are oaks from the Mediterranean basin. A favorite in Puget Sound plantings is the evergreen holly (or Holm) oak, *Quercus ilex*. Yes, often the leaves are sharply toothed like holly (*Ilex*). Our own area's celebrated Elisabeth Miller used this durable evergreen tree for her traffic island plantings; a notable example is bordering the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. We have several Holm oaks, delighting in full sun. A close relative of Holm oak is the cork oak (*Q. suber*); ours in the Garden is too young to yield wine bottle corks, but wait a while!

Years ago we grew from acorns an oak from Israel, the evergreen *Quercus calliprinos*, a close look-alike of the California scrub oak (*Q. berberidifolia*). It is now a handsome, eight-foot tall, branched shrub with glistening, toothed leaves. Looking further east into Turkey, we have grown a good sampling of that country's rich oak diversity. It was through the generous help of Dr. Hayratin Karaca, a leader in Turkish conservation, that we assembled a variety of Turkey's attractive oaks. Though it ranges from the British Isles to Turkey, our specimen of *Q. robur* (English oak) came from Turkey; it is a bit more shrubby than its northern kin. Other Turkish oaks in the Garden include *Q. pubescens*, *Q. volcanica* and *Q. petraea*. But the kingpin of them all is the Armenian oak, *Q. pontica*. Dr. Karaca sent us a bag of acorns; all germinated, and we have this handsome, multi-branched shrub in several sites. Cross-pollination among them has yielded viable acorns, so *Q. pontica*, with its large, elegant leaves, is now in the MsK Nursery. One last oak from Turkey, indeed the Turkey oak (*Q. cerris*), also is part of our oak collection.



**Board of Directors**  
**Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation**

Al Brookes, president  
 Michael Broili, vice president  
 Kathie Morino, treasurer  
 Bonnie Storm, secretary  
 Liz Birkholz  
 Randall Hitchin  
 Wendy K. Kay  
 Matt Loper  
 Laura Zybas  
**Ex officio member**  
 Art Kruckeberg

Please pass this newsletter on to a friend!

### Meetings and Elections

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday June 19, 2003, beginning at 7 pm 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. Art Kruckeberg will give a presentation on "The Asian Influence in Northwest Gardens." We hope to see you then.

The terms of three members of the Board of Directors will expire June 30th, and the vacancies will be filled by election at this meeting. The nominating committee's slate will be posted on the KBGF web site by May 20th and presented to the membership at the meeting. Members in good standing are eligible to vote. There are nine directors, and the term of office is three years. Directors must be members and may serve two consecutive terms. Members are encouraged to apply or suggest another name and may do so by calling 206-542-4777.

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.

### Oaks in the . . . Garden *continued*

Oaks occur on every temperate continent of the Northern Hemisphere, so to Asia we turn. Through seed exchanges we have acquired several Asiatic oaks, mainly from Japan. Three are evergreen: *Quercus glauca*, *Q. myrsinaefolia* and *Q. phillyraeoides*, all handsome trees. The one deciduous Japanese oak, *Q. acutissima*, has done well for us.

A final Asiatic species belongs to a genus akin to *Quercus*: *Lithocarpus*. We praised our native *L. densiflorus* (Oregon tanbark oak) in the last newsletter. Our tall *L. henryi* is from China; its long, narrow, evergreen leaves are distinctive. Its source was acorns "snatched" at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

Also "borrowed" from a botanic garden were acorns of the majestic *Quercus mongolica* var. *grosseserrata*, a Japanese oak. It was that magnificent garden in St. Louis, the Missouri Botanic Garden, from which we "rescued" fallen acorns.

Beeches, also in the oak family, are favorite trees for Northwest gardens. Our specimen of *Fagus sylvatica* 'Rohanii' is 60 feet tall; it has purplish, dissected leaves. Though oaks don't get into the Southern Hemisphere, their kin, the southern beeches (*Nothofagus* species), elegantly represent the family, mostly in New Zealand and southern South America. Our specimen of *N. dombeyi* (southern beech from Chile), an evergreen with small leaves, is now over 40 feet tall. We have two other southern beeches, *N. antarctica* (South America) and *N. solandri* var. *cliffortioides* from New Zealand.

So, do be charmed with the notion that there is a nook for most any oak or its kin in a garden: tall, stately trees, medium-sized trees, or shrubs with the added value of superb foliage, evergreen or deciduous. **K**

### Mark Your Calendar

Sunday April 6	Garden cleanup work party	12-4 pm
Saturday April 19	Open Garden for members and guests	
Sunday May 4	Garden cleanup work party	12-4 pm
Saturday June 7	Richmond Beach Garden Tour	
Sunday June 8	Garden cleanup work party	12-4 pm
Saturday June 14	Plant propagation class	10 am
Thursday June 19	General membership meeting/election	7 pm

### 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.

### Open Garden

On Saturday, April 19, 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. Please see the note above and 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.

Profile of a Volunteer: Frankye Jones

by Liz Birkholz

When Frankye Jones walks though the KBG gate, she is transformed. There's something about this garden that's hard to put into words, she says. She wishes she had been able to explain to Mareen what she did for Frankye and other people who visit the garden, who, like her, immediately feel lighter and at home. For Frankye, the atmosphere usually is quiet and rejuvenating at the volunteer work parties. She might see Jeremiah Ralston pruning something off in the distance. She may notice a half-dozen or dozen people quietly working around her and chat a little with them. She remarks that it is magical because many of the gardeners contentedly do their tasks quietly.



KBG Volunteer Frankye Jones and Rusty

Frankye, a Graduate Advisor at the UW, enjoys meeting new volunteers. She usually finds that, like her, they are learning their way along. "We're on the same wavelength," she reveals. Volunteering is an easy way for her to learn about so many trees and plants, like a particular *Rhododendron* or the bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*). Frankye says the KBG ferns are fabulous, and it is her personal goal to learn their botanical names, like "spleenwort" (*Asplenium trichomanes*). Spleenwort is a terrific rock garden fern, and as Art points out in *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, it can sometimes be found in the "moist talus slopes in the lower to mid-montane forest belt." Frankye likes that it is tiny and that the specimens are larger because they are mature. You can't find spleenwort at regular nurseries.

Mareen's stories also enriched Frankye's experience. Once when Frankye was weeding a big area, Mareen talked about her time in Alaska during World War II. Frankye also enjoys observing wildlife at KBG work parties. She gets to watch hummingbirds and flickers, and Mareen once pointed out a little wren that had built a nest outside her house, only to have chickadees run it off.

Frankye gushes with excitement every September and early October when KBG's *Cyclamen hederifolium* come into bloom. At the top of the drive on the right side, nearly the entire garden floor is covered with the small white and purple flowers; it's a stunningly beautiful scene. The less common spring-blooming variety (*C. repandum*) also can be found on the west side of the main house.

Aside from the plant's beauty, Frankye learned that the remarkable secret behind the cyclamen are diligent ants. Years ago Mareen had started with just one big cyclamen plant. Its seeds have a nutritious substance attached that is attractive to ants. An ant makes off with a seed and its attachment, eventually eating the attachment and leaving the seed to propagate. Frankye believes KBG's collection of cyclamen rivals that of the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island. On the east side of the main house visitors will see a display of the remarkable winter-blooming variety (*C. coum*), a bright spot in a subdued season. **K**

**Volunteer Help**

The Sunday afternoon work party season got off to a good start in March. Thanks to Rich Shrader, Jeremiah Ralston, Enid Kruckeberg, Wendy Kay, Frankye Jones, and Gretchen and Al Brookes. Thanks also for the frequent and skilled work of Rowland Adeniyi and Allen Howard, and to Art Kruckeberg himself, whose work in the Garden far exceeds the rest of us combined. The next three "First Sundays" are April 6, May 4, and June 8. 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. We will be asked for such information when we apply for grants.

As always, there's a need for volunteers in the other work of the Foundation. We're looking for people who would enjoy being newsletter coordinator or 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)

Please make tax-deductible checks payable to KBGF and mail to:  
**Kathie Morino**  
**958 Walnut St.**  
**Edmonds, WA 98020**

**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; a membership form is on this page. Your donation is tax-deductible.

**Send Us Your Email Address**

Please keep us informed by sending an email message to [kbgf@kruckeberg.org](mailto:kbgf@kruckeberg.org). All such personal information is kept private.

**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).

## New Members

Welcome to the following members who have joined since August:

Molly and Bob Cleland	Tim O'Connor
Wendy and Brad Dell	Kathryn Owen and Gregory Relaford
Adrienne Fox	Carole Presson
Olga and Fred Hauptman	Joan and Bill Scott
Helen McCall	Rosealma Smith

## Renewing and Returning Members

Thanks to those members who renewed or rejoined since January:

Rowland Adeniyi	Grace Marshall
Barbara Baldwin	Earl Miller
Bruce and Sheila Berreth	Donald Moe and Maggi Fimia
Mike Broili and Karen Russell	N.A. Rock Garden Society, NW Chapter
Ginny and Steve Burger	Don and Barb Ross
Caroline Kruckeberg-Clemans	Richard Rust
Rick Haase	Barbara Staats
Steve and Helen Hepp	Tim Stearns and Linda Clark
Bronwen Kay	Vicky Tyree
Enid Kruckeberg	Bors Vesterby
Christy Mackey	Margery Ziff and Al Snapp
Mike Marsh	

## 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 260 or so names on our newsletter mailing list (members and non-members), we have email addresses for only about 160. 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.

## 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

## Garden Tours

The first scheduled tour of the spring will be on Saturday April 5. This tour is offered via the Shoreline Parks & Recreation Department. For more information see their quarterly catalog or call 206-546-5041. The fee is \$20 per person, of which the City forwards \$15 to KBGF. The City of Edmonds also offers tours of the Garden in its Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services catalog, "CRAZE" (Winter-Spring 2003). The first Edmonds-coordinated tour is scheduled for Saturday May 3. For more information call 425-771-0230. More Saturday tours will be offered later by Shoreline (May 24 and July 12) and Edmonds (June 21 and September 13).

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.

## Propagation Class

KBGF will host a propagation-by-cuttings class at the Garden on Saturday, June 14th. Start time is 10 am, and the class should last three hours. The fee is \$40 for members (\$50 for non-members). Class size is limited to 10 people. Please bring pruners and a single-edge razor blade (or a very sharp knife); all other supplies will be provided.

Participants will learn the techniques of starting plants from softwood cuttings. The focus will be on a choice selection of deciduous and evergreen shrubs, trees, and vines from the Kruckeberg Garden. You will take home your KBG cuttings in a small, portable "cold frame" (greenhouse) to continue the propagation process. Enrollment is first-come, first-served. Contact us by email or phone to sign up.

## Annual Richmond Beach Garden Tour

Saturday June 7th is the date for the annual "Richmond Beach Garden Tour." Details are not yet available, but last year the RB Community Council sold tickets for \$2 (or two cans of food). The ticket entitled the buyer to visit any or all of 18 gardens that day, from noon-4 pm. All the proceeds benefited Food Lifeline, in Shoreline.

KBG again will be one of the gardens on the list. The event is to be an "open garden," not a guided tour. Visitors can use our plant list for a self-guided tour. Several members have volunteered to help us make the event go smoothly. Contact us if you want more information.

## 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.

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

