

# Walk with us!



We invite you to tour the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden and experience

the history and natural beauty of this urban oasis.

## 1. BACK FROM THE BRINK

The Garden's Dawn Redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) are a reminder of how easily nature's wonders could be lost to us. This lovely deciduous conifer was thought extinct only 70 years ago -- prehistoric fossils show it was once native to the Pacific Northwest. Then, during World War II, a forester stumbled upon a grove of Dawn Redwoods in a remote valley of central China. The discovery set off a frenzy of botanical expeditions to the area and the introduction of seedlings at botanical gardens around the United States. You will walk under the boughs of a Dawn Redwood soon after passing through the Garden's front gate. **[Stake No. 283]**

## 2. WILD AND MUTANT TANOAKS

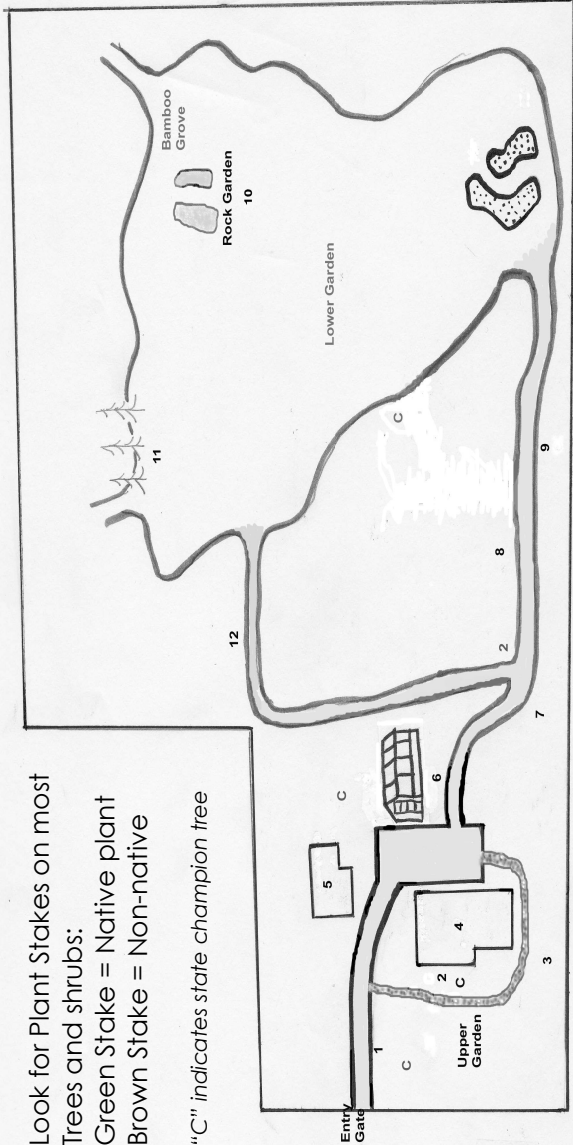
The Garden boasts four specimens of Tanbark Oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*), so named for the tannins in the bark once used for tanning leather. Two of the specimens are typical of the species; two are mutants, descendants of a mystery tree found in the western Sierra Nevada. The mutants, also called Cutleaf Tanbark (*L. densiflorus* f. *attenuato-dentatus*), have long, narrow, sharply toothed leaves, unlike the smooth oval leaves of the typical tanbark. They are extremely rare.

## KRUCKEBERG BOTANIC GARDEN WALKING TOUR

Look for Plant Stakes on most Trees and shrubs:

Green Stake = Native plant  
Brown Stake = Non-native

"C" indicates state champion tree



## 4. THE FARMHOUSE

The Kruckeberg house is an integral part of the Garden. Here they raised five children and planned the garden and nursery. A room for plant propagation was added to the south side. Once a farmhouse, the two-story structure was built about 1904; it was remodeled in 1938 and again in the early 1960s. Legend has it that the Kruckebergs agreed to purchase the property without even looking inside the house, so smitten were they by the landscape possibilities. They moved here in 1958. Dr. Kruckeberg continues to live here. Please respect his privacy.

## 5. THE COTTAGE

Once a garage, this structure was remodeled into a cozy cottage in 1960 by Mareen Kruckeberg's father, Arthur William Schultz. Grandpa Schultz lived there until his death in 1975. Today it is the caretaker's cottage.

## 6. THE MSK NURSERY

Mareen Kruckeberg was largely a self-taught horticulturist, who built up a small nursery business selling both native and exotic plants. She earned a reputation in the community as an expert in plant propagation and often taught classes on the subject. In 1971 the Msk Nursery, named with her initials, was granted a business license for the sum of \$1.00. Today the Msk Rare and Native Plant Nursery provides revenue for the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation, the nonprofit organization which runs the Garden.

After Mareen's death in 2003, friends and supporters raised funds for a memorial wall. This lovely water feature, designed by Little and Lewis of Bainbridge Island, was placed outside the greenhouse in 2007.

## 7. DOWN THE GARDEN PATH

Near the top of the path to the Lower Garden stands a 100-foot tall Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). Transplanted here by the Kruckebergs in 1958 as a six-foot sapling, this California native has grown to a 20-foot circumference at the base. **[Stake No. 258]**

## 8. A FEW SNAGS

Mareen Kruckeberg was a bird lover and worked hard to make the garden a bird-friendly habitat. In that spirit, today the garden is pesticide and herbicide free and uses only organic fertilizers. Wood and brush piles, where wrens and towhees may nest, are left undisturbed during spring; and a number of tree snags invite birds to perch, feed, nest, and sing.



9. DRAGON QUEST

Farther down the path, visitors will spot a dragon guarding the base of a hybrid Striped Bark Maple. Garden co-founder Mareen Kruckeberg placed the metal dragon mask here to accentuate the serpent-like bark of this Asian native, sometime called a snakebark maple.

THE MEADOW

The Lower Garden, once a strawberry field, became a meadow fringed with



Douglas firs where the young Kruckeberg children played and rode horses. Over the years it has been transformed into an arboretum of trees and shrubs, many grown from seeds and cuttings provided by botanists and botanic gardens around the world.

10. SERPENTINE ROCKS

Several rock gardens are found in the meadow. Rock garden plants typically come from alpine or arid areas with scarce water, hot sun, and poor soil. These tough plants tend to be small and have special characteristics that help them survive. The Serpentine Soil Bed is a special kind of rock garden with rock and soil that is unusually high in nickel and magnesium, minerals toxic to most plants. Only a few are able to thrive in serpentine soil, found in volcanic areas around the world. Dr. Kruckeberg is an expert on serpentine soils and the plants they support. Be sure to note the uniquely shiny, blue-green serpentine rocks! Can you see why they are called "serpentine?"

11. LARCH GROVE

On the north side of the Meadow, look for a grove of larches: deciduous, needle-leaved conifers that turn from grass-green in spring to golden in fall. The Garden boasts six larch species, including the native western larch (*Larix occidentalis*) [Stake No. 18], *L. kaempferi* from Japan [Stake No. 143], and *L. gmelinii* from northeast China and Siberia. [Stake No. 107]

12. "...SLIPS OF YEW ...

...slivered in the moon's eclipse." Shakespeare placed this poisonous plant in the witches' brew of Macbeth. The English and Irish versions are frequently found in churchyards where many surviving specimens are over 1000 years old. The plant wood of our Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) was used by Native Americans to make bows. Today chemists derive the cancer-fighting drug taxol from its bark. [Stake No. 243]

CHAMPIONS!

Four of our trees are designated as State Champions [C], meaning they are the largest in the state in height and girth. The four, listed in the book *Champion Trees of Washington State* by Robert Van Pelt, are:

- ❖ A Tanbark Oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) [Stake. No. 273]
- ❖ A Mutant Tanbark Oak (*L. densiflorus* f. *attenuato-dentatus*) [Stake No. 241]
- ❖ A Japanese Striped Bark Maple (*Acer capillipes*) [Along western fence, near Dawn Redwood]
- ❖ A Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) [Stake No. 292]

Can you find all four?

A FEW WORDS ON ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility will be an important goal of the master planning process to be undertaken by the City of Shoreline for the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden over the next year.

At present full enjoyment of the garden for tours and individual visitors is limited by meager on-street parking, lack of accessible bathroom facilities, and a moderate-grade dirt and gravel path to the Lower Garden. While the main pathway in the Upper Garden is easily traversed by a wheelchair, there are subsidiary trails that are too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair.

We strongly encourage those with mobility limitations to call the Garden before you come and let us help you plan your visit.



All drawings by Mareen S. Kruckeberg

KRUCKEBERG BOTANIC GARDEN

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Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Walking Tour



The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation is dedicated to the maintenance, curation and enhancement of the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden and the Msk Rare and Native Plant Nursery.

In partnership with the City of Shoreline, the Foundation provides operational and botanical expertise for the educational, cultural and aesthetic enrichment of the community.

