Adopt A Tree

The Future Will Thank You

Book II
“As we become more and more city creatures, living in manmade surroundings, perhaps gardens will become even more precious to us, letting us remember that we began in the garden.”

-- Eulalie Wagner

In 1987, Eulalie Wagner donated her estate to the Friends of Lakewold to steward the preservation of Lakewold Gardens.

Trees sustain life. They provide homes for innumerable birds, animals, insects, and organisms while providing resources for humans. They protect us, provide shade, and inspire us with their beauty. Trees began to populate the earth around 360 million years ago, but researchers have only recently learned that, within forests, trees communicate to nurture each other through underground fungi networks. For many of us here on Earth, trees have spiritual connotations. Almost every religion or mythology has a tree associated with it: trees of life, knowledge, immortality, and the granters of wishes. The World Tree in Norse legend symbolizes unity, linking earth, heaven, and the underworld. In trees, spirits dwell; in mythology, trees talk, advise, and create sacred spaces. C.S. Lewis imagined a wood between the worlds, while his contemporary and friend J.R.R. Tolkien’s ENTS protect forests and defeat evil. Trees symbolize stability, longevity, renewal, and connect us to the ancient world. They give us hope and instill peace.

The Trees of Lakewold are an invaluable resource. These trees live on the last undivided property remaining from the era in which what is today the City of Lakewood, WA was known as the Lakes District. There are 250 trees across the ten acres of ornamental gardens that make up Lakewold Gardens. Some are unusual prized specimens such as the magnificent Dawn Redwood, Metasequoia. Trustee Kate Read and Lead Horticulturist Kristine Dillinger selected ten Tier One Trees and ten Tier Two Trees for an annual adoption campaign. The price of adoption reflects the value of preserving Lakewold as the trees’ forever home and underwrites the cost of caring for specific trees.

Each tree brings visitors joy and instills a sense of well-being. Our campaign includes provisions for the planting of a screen of incense cedars for the north side of the property near the quatrefoil pool. There is a place for everyone to donate. Every gift makes a difference and is received with gratitude.

During this live and virtual campaign we will explore the Environmental Impact of Trees, the Ecology of Trees, and the Mythology of Trees through a variety of activities. We will offer activities in the garden and activities for home, and Lakewold will host speakers on tree topics—both in-person and virtual. Trees can be adopted by individuals, families, groups of friends, businesses, and in honor of just about anything!
Mrs. Griggs planted the first wisteria at Lakewold in 1928. Others were planted later when the glass covered veranda was developed. It provided overhead shelter for Mrs. Wagner’s collection of Lewisia and a structure for the wisteria to climb on. The vines are a mix of violet and white flowering plants. Most spiral clockwise, which means they are the Japanese Wisteria, *Wisteria floribunda*. There is an older vine that spirals counterclockwise, however, and that is likely the Chinese species (*W. sinensis*). The American Wisteria (*W. frutescens*) and the Silky Wisteria (*W. brachybotrys*), also twine counterclockwise but are infrequently planted. The flower racemes of the Japanese wisteria are the longest of any species and, reportedly, the most fragrant. Some varieties can reach 3 feet. Its Chinese counterpart produces shorter racemes but in higher quantity. Agents of The East India Company in China first sent cuttings of *Wisteria sinensis* to England in 1816, while the Japanese species made its way to the United States in the 1830’s. Wisteria is in the Pea Family (*Fabaceae*).
Below the Rock Garden you will find a set of steps descending to the historic Alexander Path, a trail built in the 1920’s that meanders along the beach margin. Not ten steps down you will find Lakewold’s very own European Hornbeam. Over the years the buttressed roots have become part of the staircase and the smooth bark seems to be painted in the same charcoal color as the flagstone treads. The leaves are serrate and the flowers are catkins. These features betray its placement in the Birch Family (Betulaceae). Unlike the birches, the fruit is a nutlet with a papery bract. Clustered together these look a bit like hops. Trees in the closely related genus Ostrya are called Hophornbeams for this very reason. The name Hornbeam refers to the hard, tight grained wood that can take a horn-like polish. Historically, the wood was used for tool handles, oxen yolks and other implements that required strength and durability. This fine tree is best appreciated in winter when the rippled muscle of the trunk and the attractive branch architecture stand out against the waters of Gravelly Lake.
Glancing lakeward from the sundial, you will spy ‘Pandora’ flowering in spring with pale flowers aloft strongly ascending trunks and somewhat lazier branches. This combination of upright form and pendent branch tips comes from its mixed parentage. ‘Pandora’ is a cross between the upright Higan Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella* ‘Ascendens’) and the cascading Yoshino Cherry (*Prunus x yedoensis*). Like many of Lakewold’s early plant collections it’s an English variety. It was selected by Waterer Sons and Crisp in England in 1939. It has attractive single pale pink blooms that fade to white. Younger trees have a lustrous sheen to the bark before giving way to a mature plated grey-brown. The doubly serrate leaves become a clear yellow in autumn, glowing under the dark canopy of the firs above. The narrow trunks clamber for the sky, exploding from the fat barrel trunk and then the tips fall repentant, acknowledging the earth below.
Admire this Giant Sequoia as you ascend through the woodlands towards the Peace Garden. This member of the Cypress Family (Cupressaceae) goes by many names including, Big Tree, Sierra Redwood and its old scientific name, Wellingtonia. Giant Sequoias are native to the dry foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Compared to their close relative, the Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), their range is only 2% the size. The red bark color comes from tannins, water-soluble compounds that protect against insect herbivory. Plants send these chemicals to parts they want to protect, like bud scales, bark & seeds. Tannins also color your tea and add flavor to your whisky. The thickness and fibrousness of the bark helps ward against fire. It’s thicker than the Coast Redwood bark because the Sierra is drier and more fire prone than the foggy coast. Delayed seed release is another survival strategy. Cones can remain green and unopened on trees for decades. They may slowly release the seeds when conditions are unfavorable or shed them all at once after a forest fire.
Pair of Fragrant Snowbells

Styrax obassia

In the Shade Garden Mrs. Wagner planted two Fragrant Snowbells. It is said that she tied one in a knot in order to fit it in the car. The contortion can still be seen today and the tree seems none the worse for the experience. This elegant species is native to Japan, Korea and Northeastern China. It’s a 30’ tree in the Snowbell Family (Styracaceae), with smooth grey bark and round leaves that are slightly downy beneath. The plant is deciduous and the autumn color is a fine yellow. Fragrant white bell-shaped flowers with yellow stamens cascade from the branches in 8” long strings during early summer. The ½” brown seeds that follow are extremely fertile. The Japanese name, Hakuunboku or “white cloud tree”, poetically describes the abundant flowers that smother the tree. Its other name, Oobajicha, meaning “big leaf lettuce”, refers to the large leaves. The scientific species name, obassia, is a derivation of this. The wood is used to make Japanese chess (shogi) pieces and the indigenous Ainu people of Hokkaido once used the leaves as a tobacco substitute.
Garry Oak

Quercus garryana

Lakewold has several Garry Oaks, or Oregon White Oaks, if you prefer. It's the only oak species native to Washington. This one is below the Rock Garden. It leans out over the shoreline with a majestic, contorted silhouette in the winter and, in summer, the green undulating leaves interplay with the reflected light from the lake behind. These trees can live for several hundred years and exceptionally old specimens of 500 years can be found on Sauvie Island just north of Portland, OR. Garry Oaks, like Lakewold’s, are usually large, broad-crowned trees to 80 feet but, in the fire prone ecosystems of California and Southwestern Oregon, there are two varieties that form suckering shrubs to only 6 feet (var. semota and var. breweri). The capacity to stump sprout allows them to regenerate after fires. The regular tree form, var. garryana, has similar abilities to root where branches touch the soil. In rare instances, this has led to large clonal stands. The largest known clone is located on a steep ocean-facing slope near Larrabee State Park in Bellingham, WA.
Tricolor European Beech

Fagus sylvatica ‘Tricolor’

The leaves of this cultivar have pink variegated margins that become white as the season progresses. This variety appears to be several clones that have been mixed together in the nursery trade under one name. ‘Purpurea Tricolor’ and ‘Roseomarginata’ have purple leaves maturing to green. They may actually be the same plant. The true ‘Tricolor’ originated in France in the 1870’s and its leaves emerge green from the start. Regardless of name, the variegated leaves are a fantastic sight. Beech trees are in their own family, the Fagaceae. There are roughly a dozen species, ranging from North America to Europe and eastern Asia. All of them are deciduous trees to 60’ or so with grey bark like elephant skin, edible triangular seeds and cigar-shaped pointed buds. They can live to 120 years old. Given an open exposed setting, beech trees will branch low to protect their thin bark from sunburn but in a densely shaded woodland, like the path to Picinic Point, their trunk forms a striking uninterrupted silver-grey pillar.
Japanese Maple
at Circle Drive

Acer palmatum

Mrs. Wagner once wrote “I realize some people are uncontrollable collectors, for I am one of them.” She collected many plants, most obviously rhododendrons, then roses and herbs but eventually she turned to maples. There are all kinds on the property, many variegated or exotic in texture and some are even state champions, valued for their size and stature. There’s one particular maple where Circle Drive meets the Dog Path, however, that stands out just for its character and delicacy. Like other maples, it’s in the Soapberry Family (Sapindaceae). Its leaning trunk rises to an open canopy of petite green leaves nestled tightly together on willowy twigs. It has the character of a parasol whose weave casts shade but also lets the warmth of the filtered sunlight trickle through. Its greatest feature is its flexibility though. On any dry day the lowest branches may dangle six feet above passersby but when it rains each little leaf gathers droplets of water. The tree bows under the weight and the once distant branches may hang low enough that you too must bow to avoid them.
Traveling from the house to Picnic Point there’s a unique Douglas Fir just before you enter the woodland. It has been struck by lightning and it has two large scars on the trunk. When lightning strikes a tree the sap boils and steam is rapidly generated. This causes the wood and bark to explode. Large strips of bare wood open the tree to pathogens and the wound itself can cause structural compromise. These lightning strike trees often require corrective pruning to help them recover. This tree was put through rigorous examination, by a certified arborist, and surprisingly enough, it didn’t need any corrective help. The tree had produced its own structural repairs by reinforcing itself with new wood in a spiral pattern. The resiliency and engineering genius that has evolved over millions of years in these Pine Family (Pinaceae) conifers is impressive. They add wood in response to their needs: to correct a lean, defend against pathogens or create resilience against a prevailing wind. Douglas fir is especially blessed; the wood has one of the highest strength-to-weight ratios in the world.
Persian Ironwood

*Parrotia persica*

Not many people notice that there’s a Persian Ironwood tucked into the corner of the South Border. During the growing season one’s eye is usually drawn to the nearby rock garden or the profusion of Rhododendrons in bloom. Visit in February, however, and you will find constellations of little red stars peeking from the dark corner of the wooded border. Persian Ironwood is in the Witch Hazel family (*Hamamelidaceae*) and is native to the mountainous regions of northern Iran. It bears tiny flowers without petals, an adaption to wind pollination. The vibrant red stamens are subtle little enchantments you may notice while the rest of the garden sleeps. The rest of the time you can enjoy its mottled bark which exfoliates into a patchwork of green, grey & tan. It’s an adaptable tree that tolerates wind and cold as well as drought and heat. Its wavy margined leaves display vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red in the fall. It was once considered a lone species till genetic tests revealed that it had a sister, the highly endangered Chinese Ironwood (*Parrotia subaequalis*).
Monroe Vine Maple
*Acer circinatum ‘Monroe’*
This maple can be seen by the pool in the woodland but it can also be spied from the lookout above in the Peace Garden. ‘Monroe’ is a unique form of our native Vine Maple with deeply dissected leaves. It has green bark, purplish stems and yellow fall color. The original plant was found in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon by Warner Monroe of Portland. Vine Maples are members of the Soapberry Family (*Sapindaceae*) and the only North American member of the “Moon Maples”. This group includes well known garden plants like *Acer palmatum* and its kin, *A. japonicum*, *A. shirasawanum* and *A. sieboldianum*.

Goshiki Shidare Japanese Maple
*Acer palmatum ‘Goshiki Shidare’*
Goshiki Shidare means “five colors weeping” in Japanese. It’s an apt description for a variegated weeping Japanese maple. The dissected foliage emerges pink-red with splotches of white variegation. This matures to a vibrant green with cream and white areas. The fall color is yellow and orange with flashes of red. Once the tree is bare, the twisted architecture provides another season of enjoyment. In Lakewold: A Magnificent Northwest Garden, Ron Fields says this maple was given to Mrs. Wagner by her sister, Virginia Bloedel, so she had it planted in the Shade Garden where she could view it from her bedroom. A member of the Soapberry Family (*Sapindaceae*).

Grannies’ Ringlets Japanese cedar
*Cryptomeria japonica ‘Spiralis’*
This semi-dwarf form of Japanese Cedar has needles that twist and spiral around the twigs, hence the common name. It grows about 8 feet per decade. Young plants are globe-like but can develop a strong leader and an upright pyramidal habit with age. Lakewold’s specimen, on the western edge of the conifer collections, has attained this vertical form. This cultivar was introduced to western cultivation when it was imported to Holland from Japan in 1860. Cryptomeria is monotypic, meaning there is only one species. It is in the Cypress Family (*Cupressaceae*) and is closely related to Bald Cypress trees (*Taxodium*).

Japanese dogwood
*Cornus kousa*
Train your eye to the left of the teahouse in spring to spy this flowering powerhouse. It smothers itself with masses of white blooms. Like all members of the Dogwood Family (*Cornaceae*), the flowers are insignificant, and what we think of as petals, are actually modified leaves (bracts). Unlike other dogwoods, the flowers emerge with the leaves instead of before them. Another unusual feature is the exfoliating multi-toned bark. The Japanese word kousa means “many lines intersecting at one point”. This may refer to the deeply impressed parallel veins of the leaf that converge where the petiole attaches. This tree is native to China, Korea and Japan.
Oyama Magnolia
Magnolia sieboldii

This focal point of the South Border is a coarsely textured large shrub of 12 feet with multiple trunks and deciduous leaves with chalky undersides. Oyama Magnolia flowers nod downward rather than sit upright. For this reason it is best viewed from beneath. It also blooms in summer rather than spring. The white blooms are fragrant and have brilliant red stamens. The fruit is a group of fused follicles that birth fleshy orange seeds. The full Japanese name is Ooyamarenge, meaning “big mountain lotus blossom”. This magnolia grows on the “big mountain”, sacred Mt. Omine in Nara Prefecture and the blooms do resemble lotus blossoms.

Saucer Magnolia
Magnolia x soulangeana

The Shade Garden is home to yet another wonderful plant. Saucer Magnolias are a hybrids of the white flowered Yulan Magnolia (M. denudata) and the purple flowered Lily Magnolia (M. liliflora). This cross bears intoxicatingly fragrant white flowers with deep purple blushing. Magnolias are primeval flowering plants and their pollinators are beetles. Bees did not exist yet when they evolved. The flowers are receptive to pollination on the first morning they open. They close at night, trapping the beetles and showering them with pollen. The next morning the beetles are freed to pollinate other flowers. Magnolias have their own family, the Magnoliaceae.

Peanut Butter Tree
Clerodendrum trichotomum

This large deciduous shrub in the Mint Family (Lamiaceae) is the showpiece of the Keyhole Bed. It’s known as Peanut Butter Tree because the bruised leaves produce a scent similar to that favorite of spreads. It also goes by the name Harlequin Glorybower. In summer it produces masses of white flowers that perfume the area with the scent of jasmine. Green flower parts turn fuchsia colored as the blooms fade. When the fruit is mature, the tree looks like it’s full of little red starfish holding turquoise beads. Clerodendrum trichotomum var. fargesii has won The Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit.

Japanese Maple
Acer palmatum ‘Suminagashi’

The Fern Garden hosts one of the most refined varieties of Japanese Maple, a member of the Soapberry Family (Sapindaceae). The 7-lobed leaves emerge purple-red and darken over the summer to a deep maroon before turning vibrant red in the autumn. Suminagashi means “floating ink”. It is a Japanese technique for marbling paper, dating to the 12th century. The ever-changing color, slightly different on each leaf, recalls this marbled effect. Another shade of red is added in spring. Small flowers, the color of cherries, play hide-and-seek amongst the darker tones. Winged fruit rustle in the autumn breezes.

Acer palmatum ‘Suminagashi’

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**Group of Five Rhododendron**

Individuals within this group were selected in order to showcase excellent fragrance and foliage, tree-like stature, or rarity in cultivation. *R. ‘Sir Charles Lemon’* is a very large specimen named after its breeder. It has red-spotted white campanulate flowers, lovely warm red indumentum (hairs below the leaf), and white new growth.

*R. ‘Loderi King George’* is one of the first rhododendrons you see when you enter the garden. In early May its fragrant flowers have pink buds that open a pale pink and then fade to white with a green throat. Trusses hold 10-12 flowers.

*R. ‘Fragrantissimum’* is tender and thrives best with some protection, thus its placement in the walled Library Courtyard. This variety is grown for its very dark green crinkled foliage and a tour-stopping honeysuckle-like fragrance. *R. ‘Fragrantissimum’* has been winning awards of merit since the 1860s. Flowers are white with a touch of yellow in the throat and a blush of pink on the outside of the petal.

*R. rothschildii* C. Smith, positioned along a corner on Circle Drive, is a species rhododendron that has not yet flowered for us, thus we do not yet know what color its flowers will be, but it draws the eye nonetheless with its foliage. With glossy, deep green 10-12” leaves, warm tan indumentum, and contrasting lighter green upright new growth, the whole ensemble pairs nicely with the furrowed, brown bark of the Douglas-fir on whose base the shrub is planted. *R. ‘Loderi Pretty Polly’* has the same (fortunei ssp. *Fortunei x griffithianum*) parentage as *R. ‘Loderi King George’* but instead of its flowers fading to white they remain pink. Found along the path to Picnic Point, this specimen has become tree-like in its stature.
What does your one-year adoption come with?

Tier One $10,000 Trees
• A one-year adoption certificate
• Recognition signage for one year in the garden near your tree
• Recognition of adoption in the Trees of Lakewold education booklet
• Seasonal photos of your tree
• A year-long membership to the garden
• Invitations to particular adoptive parents’ events in the gardens
• An invitation to a special Solstice Lights House Concert for the Trees on December 21, 2023 with Rona Yellow Robe
• The Future will Thank You - Tree Ambassador Stickers

Tier Two $5,000 Trees
• A one-year adoption certificate
• Recognition signage for one year in the garden near your tree
• Recognition of adoption in the Trees of Lakewold education booklet
• A year-long membership to the garden
• Invitations to particular adoptive parents’ events in the gardens
• An invitation to a special Solstice Lights House Concert for the Trees on December 21, 2023 with Rona Yellow Robe
• The Future will Thank You - Tree Ambassador Stickers

Help us create a Living Fence

Screen of Incense Cedars | $25 - $5,000 donation levels accepted
With its modest watering needs, a living fence of incense cedars, Calocedrus decurrens, is a part of Lakewold’s overall water conservation plan. Additionally, the privacy and noise reduction provided by a bank of these trees will enhance the intimate feel of the garden. These dense evergreen trees with a narrowly columnar habit are suitable for use as a tall living fence. Needing little if any pruning and once established requires little supplemental water, these trees are a good choice for areas outside the bounds of the garden’s irrigation system.

• For this donation you will receive The Future will Thank You - Tree Ambassador Stickers

To Adopt A Tree today:
Contact Susan Warner
253.584.4106
swarner@lakewoldgardens.org
or
Fill out and return the enclosed envelope
The Future Will Thank You

LIMITS OF ADOPTION - Tree adoptions are symbolic and do not constitute ownership of any tree. The Friends of Lakewold retain all property rights to all trees. Adoption is for a one year period on receipt of funds. Adopted trees cannot be harmed in any way, including removal of branches or foliage and nothing may be attached to the trees. Tree maintenance is the purview of Horticulture staff. Trees may be photographed and said images may be used for business or family promotions that are wholesome and suitable for all audiences. Friends of Lakewold is not responsive for unforeseen and uncontrollable events that might damage a tree such as weather related injury, earthquakes or disease during an adoption period.

The Benefits of Adoption
• Preserve a tree for the future
• Preserve its home garden
• Preserve a place where all can enjoy peace and flourish in harmony with nature
• Preserve a nature sanctuary in the city, state, country, and world
• Preserve a home for creatures of all kind
• Bring joy to you and all
MISSION

Lakewold Gardens provides intentional encounters with the life-changing power of nature, fostering peace, creativity and healing in our communities.

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