

Vashon-Maury Island

Trees



Walnut tree planted by Harriet Fuller circa 1890 & Fuller's Store

Including 100 Trees of the Vashon-Maury Audubon's **Landmark Tree Program** and
Their Historic Yards and Owners~~ *Plus*, Tree-IDs on Vashon-Maury's main roads, with
Miscellaneous facts and observations~~

by Nancy Ewer

Photos by Nancy Ewer, Rayna Holtz & Jay Holtz

For Arthur Lee Jacobson
for your decades of encouragement

In the Language of Flowers

You Are

Tree Expert cv. **'Imperialis'**

Copyright © January 2018 by Nancy Ewer

All rights reserved

Contact: nanlingo@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction- 4

GLO Map- 10

Key- 11

Trees Accounts,
alphabetical- 12

Vashon-Maury Street Map- 61

Index- 62

Endnotes- 63

Epilogue- 64



Larry Burt and Greg Rectin with 155 ft+ tall Bigleaf Maple in Green Valley Creek

Vashon-Maury Island Trees

Welcome to another book about regional trees, *Vashon-Maury Island Trees*. We began exploring and measuring significant trees in the spring of 1991 as part of the Conservation Committee of the young Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society. Having wanted to start a commemorative tree program, I and my program co-chair Rayna Holtz were inspired by Gene Smith, who planted a bug in our ears about “the Bike Tree.” Other trees like the historic Therkelsen Walnuts (facing Vashon *Center for the Arts* across Vashon Hwy) had been suggested

during the celebration of Earth Day 1990. The large mulberry then standing beside U.S. Bank had been recommended for its size and beauty. We decided our program should “give recognition to significant Island trees and encourage their preservation and care. A wide range of selection criteria could qualify a tree, including beauty, age, size, historical value, and uniqueness.” So, we finally set out to go looking at The Bike Tree, a Yew and Bigleaf Maple on the West Side, the Coast Redwood by (then) Yates Travel, a big Dogwood on Beall Road, and the Elisha Morgan Grove south of 216th at SW Elisha Lane.

Once we got going we next were inspired and guided by the local Tree Trifecta: local Nursery owner Mike Lee of Colvos Creek Nursery (on Maury Island but since closed), Arborist/ Consultant/Tree Expert/Author Arthur Lee Jacobson, and Professor/Author Big Tree Coordinator Robert Van Pelt. These three wonderful Seattle resource people rode along with us up and down the island and pointed out trees, about which, at that time, we hadn’t a clue, spoke before groups, went on field trips, and created incredible

groundbreaking reference materials that we use often. ((And not only are they all ultra-experts but all are fabulous artists!)) See page 9 for a list of their many works.

In the decades which have passed since we began this compilation, much has changed in both the natural and human landscape. And so what follows is both a general guide to current tree viewing as well as historical information.



Arthur Jacobson, Marshall Sohl, Jr & Gene Smith

ARBOR HISTORY ON VASHON

The demand for cut timber erupted in Puget Sound in 1851, first to shelter Seattle's founders then to provide building material for the California gold rush and to rebuild San Francisco wharves following a fire, also in 1851. Lumber brigs cruised along the Sound, then anchored in bays and coves to haul aboard tons of spars cut directly at and rolled down to the beach. Vashon's Quartermaster Harbor was no exception to these operations and the brig *Leonesa* must have contained much Vashon Douglas Fir and Redcedar as it sailed south.

When the first loggers arrived on Vashon there were still eight villages of SwebabS natives. Much earlier, in 1792, longhouses made of cedar were observed by Vancouver. Several Vancouver expedition members' reports opined "the forested shore could provide spars and masts for all the navies of the world."¹ The Treaty of Medicine Creek of 1854, followed by an Indian War in 1855-56, led to removal of the indigenous folk and burning of their longhouses. The first permanent white settlers arrived in the same harbor in the 1870s and started clearing for farms.

The SwebabS had practiced burning some areas to encourage plants they gathered for food, such as berries and bracken ferns. The General Land Office surveys of Vashon, done in 1856 show a swath of 'missing' trees (as written notes state that rock piles, rather than witness trees, were then used to mark section corners) possibly owing to lightning-started fires or 'controlled' burning. By the time logging and farming led to routine clearcutting, much open non-forested land already existed. In 1922, in Tacoma alone, 37 sawmills were operating.² On Vashon, the Steen Mill, founded in 1902, was joined by the Fuller, Pankratz, Covey, and Vashon Island mill companies. Logging combined with fires— one in 1922 blazed the width of the south end and from Tahlequah to two miles north— gave the island a clearcut look. Yet, a few large trees were spared and can still be seen today in the deepest ravines.

¹ Morgan, Murray, *South on the Sound*. Winsor Publications, 1984, p 17.

² Morgan, p 111.

The Alaskan gold rush and the Alaska-Yukon Exposition of 1909 created demand for large produce-growing operations and greenhouses, and the island's strategic location made for quick transport to Seattle and Tacoma. As white settlement continued, favorite deciduous species from Eastern hometowns and those provided by traveling salesmen were planted in cultivated yards. In addition to 'exotic' species, naturalized additions such as Mountain Ash and Black Locust joined the natives. (Modeled on Van Pelt's first NW Big Trees book, each tree here is noted as a native, non-native, or exotic.)



1915: Glen Acres area & Van Olinda Home. Note mostly snags and unobstructed view to east. University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, Van Olinda photographer, UW19228.



The SWIFT group advocated for more salt-water-island-specific state forestry laws; some did already exist at the start of their efforts.

Property tax exemptions through King County programs such as Forestland and Timber Land provide inducement for 'raising' native trees. A Forestry Committee within the Community Council worked through the 1990s toward changes regarding Washington Dept of Natural Resources Forest Practices laws. The first WSU Coop Extension Forest Stewardship class was held on the island in 1994 and the consensus then was that 60%+ of the island was re-

A Forestry Coop was the precursor to the establishment of the Vashon Forest Stewards and the Forest Stewards Mill Yard



forested. The Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust has furthered tree planting trends with its annual Native Plant Sale. The newly active Vashon Island Fruit Club researches climate-appropriate fruit tree crops. The Vashon Forest Stewards provide expertise for forest 'maintenance', health, and landowner goals such as wildlife presence and old growth characteristics and a portable on-island sawmill! With our ideal climate and gentrification, exotics now compete with volunteer native (trees and shrubs) and the island has become a landscaping showplace exemplified in ferry overloads on Garden Tour weekends and yards of grottoes and granite-framed waterfalls.

This is growing country and an ideal place for getting to know a Special Tree!

LANDMARK TREE PROGRAM



With ideas from friends and roadside dendrology outings, we wrote letters and made phone calls to property owners to arrange to view their trees. We



learned about tree measurements—circumference, (or “dbh”, diameter at breast-height, or 4½ feet above ground)

height, and crown spread-- and studied the national *Big Trees Program* information. We dug out our old trig tables bought a 100-foot tape measure (be sure to get a cloth one in this climate), and eventually invested in our own manufactured clinometer. Especially for trees viewable only by entering private property, we drew up permission-to-view forms and then also transcribed anecdotal info. Certificates were designed by Judith Pearce and given to owners at presentations at the Land Trust building. In the mid-90s graphic artist Bryan Cordell contributed a wonderful 11x17” brochure of the current trees and map of locales. Outdoor tree markers of some kind were always in the works, but the limitations of funding, and most of all, vandal-proof requirements, have been deterring. Trees viewable from Vashon Highway and a few blocks east and west, are listed on the Audubon website, click on ‘Conservation’ then ‘Road Trees.’

ADDRESSES IN THIS BOOK

Since the permission-to-view information we have is quite old, the addresses listed are provided for you to view the trees from the nearest road. If you desire additional access please email me at nanlingo@gmail.com. Please respect private residences and do not enter any yards without prior permission.



old Vashon Bicycles business logo shows our Tree Ambassador

WHAT IS THE BIG TREES PROGRAM?

In 1940 American Forests, a non-profit conservation group, began a program to list the largest tree of each species growing in the US. Twenty-five years ago, Davey Tree Company joined in co-sponsorship. A registry is kept and updated twice a year (see it online). In 1987 there was no Washington state coordinator, here in the land of some of the most lush growing conditions and massive forests. Fortunately, Bob Van Pelt of the UW stepped forward to take the lead in Washington. He went on to publish a fantastic volume of INCREDIBLE pen and ink drawings of Big Trees throughout the west measured by lasers. (*Forest Giants of the Pacific Coast*, 2001, 200 pages!!) When Van Pelt started this effort there were 13 National Champions in our state.



Measuring, measuring... Rayna and Joy Nelsen; Gene (L)

By 1994 there were 44. So, in 1994 he wrote a third edition of the Washington (only) information and in it are 14 on VM alone! Alas, several have fallen but they are denoted in the text here as (94BT). The Big Trees Program utilizes a formula to award points to each tree in order to rate them,

derived from the circumference, height and spread. Why measure trees, everyone asks Van Pelt. He writes in *Forest Giants*, seeing a thriving, largest tree of its kind is “an unmatched experience.”

<http://www.americanforests.org/explore-forests/americas-biggest-trees/>



ACTIVITIES



Jessica Lisovsky and Sarah Washington at the “Traveling Tree Panel”;
Chautauqua kids visit the Loveness’ Bigleaf Maple.

Lynn Ameling’s student folders of trees, next page.



In addition to running across the morning dew on the wet grass in peoples’ yards for over ten years, we invited Jacobson and Van Pelt back to give presentations and walks. We also gave programs at the Land Trust building, led Tree Walks, collaborated with local schools’ curriculum during Artists in the Schools projects at Chautauqua Elementary and for a Connections Program offering during which a student and mentor



visited a tree then created a panel used for public events, here for an Arbor Day seedling giveaway.

WHAT TREES AND PHOTOS ARE IN THIS BOOK? I've tried one of each tree species we documented or were given information about. They are arranged in alphabetical order by name. Though over 100 trees were documented by us not every shown due to space constraints and to avoid duplication. A the photos— Except for just a few old prints and recent digital



Viewing the Bank Rd Vine Maple; Upper Right, Gene viewing a spruce.

examples of bark or leaves, all the from projected then re-shot color slides. I slide scanner but the images became too With the improvement of an adjustable 'swinging' back-of-camera-screen (which I discovered is termed Vari-angle monitor and enabled me to position myself in a variety of distances and also be able to preview the image while leaning over my slide projector but not blocking the light) I managed to shoot a 2nd image using a Canon G-12 focused manually aimed at the projector screen. (This breakthrough has led to much enjoyment of old slides & re-use, you should try it.)



to include background common single tree is word about shots of photos are tried using a contrasty.

FURTHER EXPLORATION-- The Tree Experts Trifecta's many items include:

- **MICHAEL LEE:** Landscaping & garden design; incredible posters at Good Nature

Co: NW Conifers, Old Growth, Broadleaf Trees, Woodland Wildflowers; Website: www.mllandscapes.com



- **ARTHUR LEE JACOBSON:** *Trees of Seattle*, 2006, *Trees of the Locks*, *Wild Plants of Greater Seattle*, *North American Landscape Trees*, *UW Tree Tour*, *Purpleleaf Plums*, *Trees of the Bloedel Reserve*, *Trees of Greenlake*, *Trees of Seattle*, 1989; gives tours and horticultural consulting; Website: www.arthurleej.com

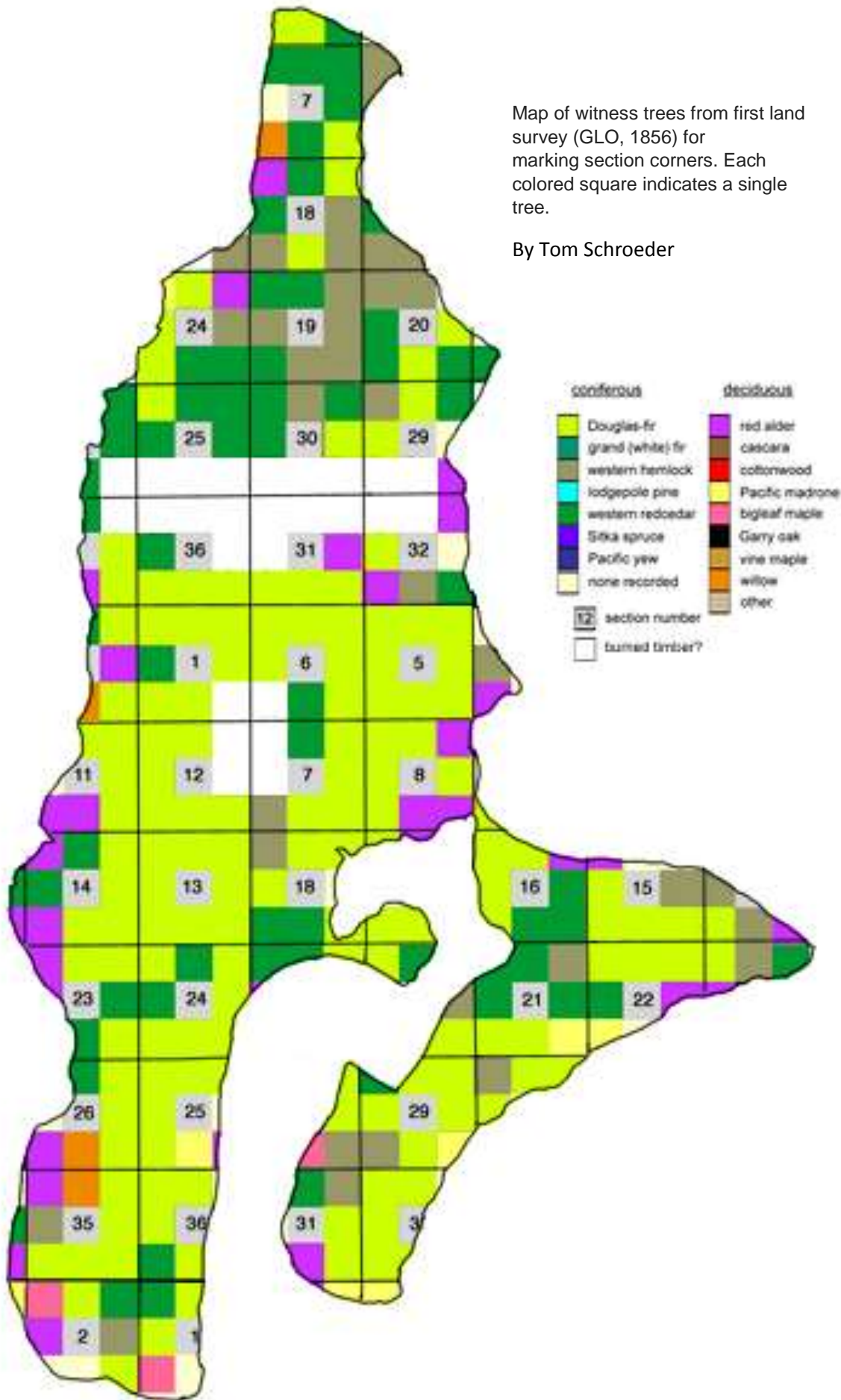


- **DR ROBERT VAN PELT:** *Washington Big Trees*

Program 1994, *Forest Giants of the Pacific Coast*, 2001, *Identifying Old Tree and Forests in Eastern Washington*, 2007, WA DNR pdf, *Champion Trees of Washington State*, 2003; 2nd edition due out Jan 2018. Email: abies2@uw.edu Jacobson, above, estimates there are 350 species of trees on Vashon

Map of witness trees from first land survey (GLO, 1856) for marking section corners. Each colored square indicates a single tree.

By Tom Schroeder



KEY	Trees in this book are arranged alphabetically by common name.
△	Native to this area, ie Puget Sound environs
⊙	Non-native, native to all other areas of North America
⊗	Exotic, native to other continents, or cultivated & unable to self-generate
VM	Vashon-Maury
cv.	Cultivar. In short, a hybrid or cultivated 'variant'
F	Tree has fallen; mentioned primarily for single trees which were the only specimen of the species here
np/imp	No Permission/Impractical =owner did not grant permission-to- view and/or it is not practical to view/not accessible from public road; please be mindful.
Parenthesis, numbers in parenthesis	Certificate Numbers given to trees the committee has documented. The master binder of this compilation is housed with Vashon Maury Island Audubon Society.
sp, spp	sp=species (singular) spp=species (plural) Used for lumping cultivars that are unable to be identified here without more expertise or for groups of common use names e.g. cedar, ash, cypress
WPA	Washington Park Arboretum (Seattle)
(94BT)	Listed in Washington Big Tree Program, 1994, book by Bob Van Pelt
Address Numbering System Info for our county; Addresses ending with 'oo'	Even Addresses=N or E side of street; Odd addresses=S or W side of street (a mnemonic is the word 'even' contains both an 'E' and an 'N'); Vashon-Maury is contained in the "SW" quadrant of the King County grid system. Zero block is Main St and 1 st Ave in Seattle. If an address ends in 'oo' = indicates tree located on that block, but likely no addressed structures are adjacent for a more precise address. O's are used instead of zeroes to indicate this is not an actual assigned address but a block number.
(Y_)	Yard of Trees, my term for yards with more than a handful of species. These are mostly 'commemorative' and/or historic-- rather than for touring per se. Numbers derive from north to south.
Yard of Tree Numberings & page numbers	(1) Dean Miller-15 (2) Walter Reid-59 (3) Old Ramquist Estate-24 (4) The Johnsons-35 (5) Fisher Pond-44 (6) Mukai Farm & Garden-25 (7) Old Cherry Hill Inn-53 (8) Country Store & Farm-33 (9) Shane Bros Nut Orchard-42 (10) Vashon Cemetery-49 (11) Highland Park Poultry/Morgan Hill Farm-30 (12) Green Valley Creek-54



Red alder sprouts zooming up

ALDER

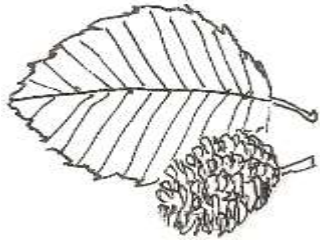
▲ Red, *Alnus rubra*

At nearly 12 feet, the largest circumference alder we found (of measured,

documented Landmark Trees) –last we checked, did grow on a wet west hillside of Paradise Valley. (#60)

Probably Vashon’s most numerous tree, (possibly second to Bigleaf Maple) as they are among the first sprouts in disturbed soil. See huge, huge specimens in all the Land Trust sites and/or Agren Park, Burton Acres, or nearly any wooded patch.

Alders are interesting in that they bear cones but are not coniferous.¹ Their nitrogen fixing capacity is



good for the soil but may be detrimental to drinking water. Trees also are hazardous in middle age. Fast growth makes for weak fibers so that they rarely live to 100. Red

in the name is from the color cut wood turns when exposed to air.



Great blue heron nests in Red Alder trees at the Maury Island Heronry



In the 24400 Vashon Hwy block that tree hanging over the water visible south of Burton is a Red Alder, who would guess?

From the News-Record:

September 1, 1938

Island Alder Being Cut For Furniture

Manufacture – About ten years ago Professor B.P. Kirkland of the University of Washington staff prophesied that some day Vashon Island alders would be looked upon as material for furniture, rather than a source of supply for firewood. That prophecy is materializing.

W.H. Cox has purchased or leased a considerable amount of alder land, more than 200 acres, on the West Side and a crew of 22 men are engaged in cutting the alder into eight foot lengths. The inaccessibility of the land upon which the trees are growing prohibited trucking the wood out. Mr. Cox secured a contract with a Seattle concern for three thousand cords of alder and fir. Barges which will carry 80,000 feet of logs are being used to transport the timber from the Island to the city. A chute carries the logs from the bank down to the barge upon which they are loaded eight deep, 1200 logs to a load

www.vashonhistory.com/Vashon%20History/Newspaper/newspaper_1938

✿ Cutleaf, *Alnus glutinosa* ‘Laciniata’

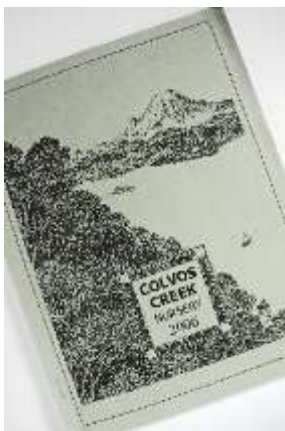
◦ 20211 Vashon Hwy SW by foot bridge, The Country Store (Y8)



▲ Sitka, *Alnus sinuata*

Sitka Alder at old Colvos Creek Nursery

Coincidentally, on the site Mike Lee’s business Colvos Creek Nursery, which he founded in 1987, (since closed) this Sitka Alder thicket held the record for largest of this species in the US at



37/30-feet tall, and 39/29-foot spreads; is found north up to the Arctic.

◦ 24029 59th Ave SW, Old Colvos Nursery, Maury Island (#52, 94BT) F

Lee offered 40 oak spp, 32 maple spp, 37 pine spp.²

An extremely important tree to the Tlingit, this sign is at Glacier Bay National Park



🌸 APPLE, *Malus* spp.

Apples are the top fruit producing trees worldwide. Apples and cherries are the two top choices for ornamental planting worldwide. Six wild apple species are native to North America.³

“Orchard apple” plots were widespread here and many obvious remnant yards-full remain. Most are mishmash undocumented cultivars and no single tree was known to be outstanding historically. But recent examination of apple trees here has shown some to be around 90-years old. A yard on the

south end contains King, Yellow Transparent, Northern Spy, and Red Astrakhan apples. Probably no wild fruit trees had established themselves on VM before white settlers arrived, though Pete Svinth felt, of any fruit tree here, plums might have. Marshall Sohl, Jr stated the first seeds were brought to VM in 1868 by Jim Tuttle.⁴ As early as 1883 strawberry fields were being planted. The same year an article in the *Tacoma News* reported that islander Reverend Banfield had planted 400 trees including cherries, plums, pears, apples, and quince.



Though a significant “orchard presence” has existed here for over a century, with more and more subscription farms and with the newly active Vashon Fruit

Club and horticulturist Dr. Bob Norton’s mentorship, ‘organized’ fruit-tree growing is back! The Fruit Club holds monthly meetings, and annual



The first Apple-ID event of recent times, at the Grange in the 1990s (above); Sunrise Ridge Fruit Club espalier (R)

events, and has acquired a growing plot atop Sunrise Ridge. It is one of the fastest growing chapters of the Cascade Fruit Society with over 150 members.

Wax Orchards:

Here Robert and Betsy Sestrap ran their Vashon staple business.



◦ 22736 Wax Orchards Rd SW

Betsy's dad, August, planted most of the fruit trees in the 1930s. From their once 250-acre orchard of cherries, currants, and apples, the Waxes originated fruit-sweetened (or apple puree) products. Wax Orchards Co was founded in 1981. It was sold in 2008 but the product line continues off-island.

"ARBORVITAE"

Arborvitae's tree of life name fame stems from the Cartier expedition to Montreal in 1535. Reputedly, expedition members made tea from the twigs and foliage which contained disease-preventing Vitamin C, hence the "tree of life" in French. It is native to the Eastern US. (Another famous "vitae" tree is Lignum vitae, found in the Caribbean and is the origin of a lasting natural oil used in precision time pieces.)



✳ Eastern, *Thuja occidentalis* 'Fastigata'

Widespread landscaping use as screens, accents, easily spotted.

◦ 19631 Singer Rd SW, Vashon Cemetery, four large trees along west edge (seen L) (Y10)

and half split, along Shinglemill Creek, but was over 150-feet tall! (#47) (shown above)

◦ 10721 111th Pl SW, 85-feet tall (#34)

◦ Two behind the VIGA/Sat Market booth



Vashon's logging history is still evident in huge cut Western Redcedar stumps.



Western Redcedar at I-5 Arlington rest stop, killed by a fire then cut in 1916, 200-ft tall, 20-ft circumference, believed to be 1,000 years old

△ THUGA, Western Redcedar or Giant



Redcedar, *Thuja plicata* (Giant Arborvitae is the old usage)

The quintessential northwest species revered by NW native peoples, for its many uses, ie from transportation and tools, to clothing and shelter; very common here. ("Cedar" isn't a genus but common usage.)

The largest we measured on the Island, was not doing well



"ASH"

Genus *Fraxinus* and *Sorbus*:

Both are distinctive for their multi-leaf fans of 7-10 leaflets. The WPA devotes a large area to *Sorbus* very worth viewing.

In Seattle, you may view Green, Manma Mountain, and White Ash but only Oregon Ash is native here. Lately, Ash trees are succumbing to many spreading fungi and bacterial infestations which greatly impact homogenous plantings such as is common with sidewalk (mostly Fraxinus) street trees.



△ Oregon Ash, *Fraxinus latifolia*



Our Native ash and extremely common on VM. Several are in this scene at the Judd Creek Land Trust trail.



⊗ Raywood Ash, *Fraxinus angustifolia*

Street trees on Bank Road in town are Raywood Ash



⊗ Common European Mountain Ash, *Sorbus aucuparia*, or Rowan



The beautiful red berry clusters are loved by birds and in autumn the orange leaves add great fall color. The mountain in the name is from its affinity to growing conditions in the 'mountains' of the Scottish Highlands.⁵

*Venerable Yard
of Trees 1*



Dean Miller pictured above, tied this Mountain Ash tree which is no longer extant, along Vashon Hwy SW into a knot. The yard is near the 11900 block of Vashon Hwy SW. (np/imp)

English Oaks, Black Oaks, Water Oaks, Port Orford Cedar, Boxwood, Deodar Cedar, European Mountain Ash, Red Kousa Dogwood, Sawara Cypress, Colorado Spruce, Sweetgum, American Elm, Bitternut, Pin Oak, Black Gum, Norway Spruce, Sassafras, and Hickory.

Dean Miller arrived on Vashon around 1936 after being invited to relocate from Minnesota by the owner of the Falcon's Nest to caretake there (about a mile south down Vashon Hwy). A May 18, 1978 *Beachcomber* reported Miller planted the trees listed above as well as distributing/planting Water Oaks in town and Paradise Valley. He also owned the then-15-acre Doretha Park which he named in honor of his wife. It was recently acquired by the Land Trust and is just west of the Singer Ranch. At its heyday this Vashon Heights property was termed an "arboretum-like home site."

BEECH, ☼ Eurasian or Common, *Fagus sylvatica*, ☼ American, *Fagus grandifolia*

Beech bark is thin, easily (detrimentally) carved on the living tree, smooth and grey to silver, the trunks are stout. The Eurasian Beech may have been one of the first trees exported to North America for its lumber.⁶ In Europe, beech forests were important for pigs; in the new world, passenger pigeons relied on beech forests for food and roosting. The Eurasian/Common Beech is more popular now.

☼ Copper, *Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea*

Two Copper Beeches are along the highway — one at 188th in a yard of several notable trees, and one just north of the Judd Creek Bridge. They add much to their yards with their contrasting non-green, coppery-leaf coloration

Two quite large beeches also grow facing the East Passage but are impractical to view. If you are their neighbors, you must know who they are.



Base of a very tall beech here

° 9915 SW 188th St (#36,Y7) old Cherry Creek Inn

° 20400 Vashon Hwy SW, Judd Creek Ranch

☼ **BIRCH**, *Betula spp.*

Birches are trees wholly of the Northern hemisphere, with 60 species to choose from. Most have toothed leaves.



▲ Paper, *Betula papyrifera*

Yes, really, paper-- for the sheets you can peel and re-use or use to make a canoe as

shown here. Jacobson believes Paper Birch may be native here.



☼ Jacquemont, *Betula utilis Jacquemontii*

°17312 Vashon Hwy SW, Fair Isle Animal Clinic, (two) directly in front of business; from the Himalayas.



☼ Silver, *Betula pendula*

°17525 100th Ave SW, behind four mailboxes



Swedish, *Betula pendula cv. 'Dalecarlica'*

Very very common on VM. Leaves are cut into finely toothed lobes.

- South edge of Chase Bank, 9922 SW 178th St
- 9636 SW Elisha Ln (#2,Y11)



Birch catkins



⌘ **BUCKEYE**, or
Horsechestnut,
Aesculus
Hippocastanum

Technically,
horsechestnut
refers to European-

native trees. You probably know of the California, Ohio, and Common Buckeye trees, each with five to seven leaflets and large upright panicles. The 'buckeye' nuts are contained inside the thick fruit husks which form at the faded panicle. Horsechestnuts are one of the few temperate trees that are insect-pollinated (also with Tulip Trees).

- 20400 107th Ave SW, a row of alternating pink and white-panicled trees
- 22924 Vashon Hwy SW, behind post
- 10400 SW 232nd St

ASPEN OR BIRCH	ASPEN	BIRCH
Leaves	More rounded & finely toothed or barely toothed	Pointy, more deeply toothed
Bark	Chalky white but can become dark and fissured near base; much fainter horizontal streaks	Furrows form & darken with age, are more homogenous. Some species can be peeled. Horizontal lines are thin, & dark.
Habitat	Usually not in floodplains, found in higher elevations	Likes lowlands and floodplains
Distribution	More widespread & grows throughout Rocky Mt states	Though both found in nearly all of Canada & Alaska, does not grow as far south



Husks formed after the blooming of panicle



Bark of Aspen (L), Birch (R)

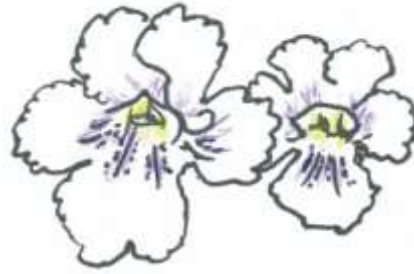




Alternating pink and white Buckeyes on 107th & Cemetery Rd

Tree for the 'cigar' like pods. Northern seed pods are up to 23", Southern to 16".

Pretty white tube-shaped purple-centered flowers blossom in the spring and make this one of a very few North American natives with large showy



flowers. A large tree grows by Frisco Freeze on Division & N 'L' St in Tacoma and two huge specimens can be seen at the Canadian Pacific Depot in Vancouver BC. The largest catalpa on the US Big Trees list is in Walla Walla!

BUTTERNUT, See Walnut

✿ **CATALPA**



Northern, or Western Catalpa, *Catalpa speciosa*

AND

Southern, or Indian Bean Tree, or Indian Smoke Tree, *Catalpa bignonioides*

Go Catalpa spotting in the winter when the long seed pods dangle so conspicuously. The leaves are quite large (12 x 9 inches) and somewhat heart-shaped (L above). Native to Eastern US with the southern species native further south to the Gulf Coast area. Called Indian Bean or Indian Smoke



Catalpa at Vancouver BC train depot

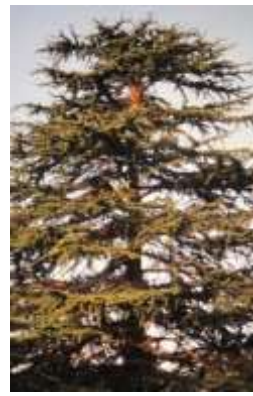


13609 SW 220th St on L (#55), Peter Ray photos, L & next page

° 10421 SW Bank Rd, Co-housing entry

° 21700 Vashon Hwy SW, W side of road edge

° 9906 SW Burton Dr, old Van Devanter Home (L column, R side)



Deodars in Burton on 107th and at Edson Inn

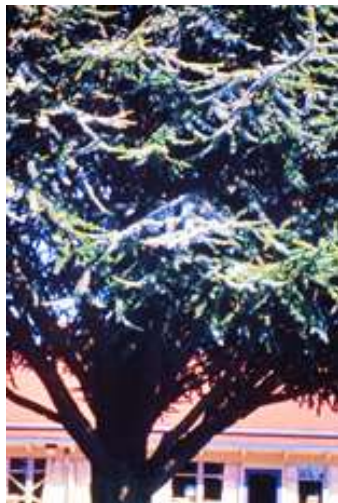
“CEDAR”

Cedar is not a genus. Below are genera *Chamaecyparis*, *Cedrus*, and *Cryptomeria* “Cedars”. For Western Redcedar, see *Arborvitae*.

♣ Alaskan Yellow, *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*

Foliage is yellow-green and branches are droopy, bark is shaggy. Wood is aromatic and durable and used by NW Natives for canoe paddles.

- 23026 Vashon Hwy SW, E side behind red garage
- 9901 SW Burton Dr, SW lot



♣ Atlas, *Cedrus atlantica*

Many in Seattle and often mis-identified as Lebanons.

Blue Atlas cedar, cv. ‘*Glauca*’

- 15920 Vashon Hwy SW, Harbor School parking island

♣ Deodar, *Cedrus Deodara*



An important timber tree in the Himalayas and seen in many UK estates. Males produce pollen and females produce cones. Some books say, to learn the difference between these similar *Cedrus* remember: Atlantis-branches Ascend, Deodar-branches Droop, Lebanon-branches Level.

- 16315 115th Ave SW
- 23009 107th Ave SW (#25)
- 107th Ave SW at SW 238th St, NE corner
- 23819 Vashon Hwy SW, Edson House, probably planted by Edson (#50)
- 8800 SW 204th St, several, NE corner high school

♣ Lebanon, *Cedrus libani*

Uncommon in Seattle and none known here, though the next news article claims otherwise. Famous for mention in the Bible and the cool image on the Lebanese flag. (The US once had our own tree-flag depicting a White Fir.) Horticulturist Luther Burbank is buried under a Cedar of Lebanon (in California).



♣ Japanese, *Cryptomeria japonica*

A timber-yielding tree in Japan, called Sugi. The cones resemble China- fir cones, are small, round and spiky.

The needles of cv. ‘*Elegans*’ turn a pretty rust color

In the winter but don't eventually drop. In Tacoma, a very large specimen west of the Pt Defiance Park Rose Garden is very worth seeing.

° 23818 97TH Ave SW

✿ Port Orford, *Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana*, or Lawson Cypress

There are over 100 cultivars. The leading shoot nods. Crushed needles smell like parsley. Not native to Washington, but as the name suggests range from Oregon to N California.

° 18800 Vashon Hwy SW, on lawn, N corner of old K2 building



VISD website (top R). Mention is made of a 104-foot tall Bitter Cherry tree in the first ever *Washington State Big Trees*

inventory reported in 1985 that included Vashon! This year I found the finders, Joel Skok and Ron Sheadel who were UW students in the 80s. They had a photo and vague locale, somewhere near Soper Rd, but I was unable to pinpoint the tree which may still grow here. See Joel Skok, below, in the crook of the tree. *Photo by Joel Skok.*

From the News-Record:

March 23, 1928

Bible Tree – Dr. Preston plants Palestinian tree, Cedar of Lebanon, on Methodist Episcopal Church property at Vashon. This tree was presented to the Pastor of the Church, by the Narron Nursery, which is located between Richmond Highlands and Edmonds-on-the-Sound, north of Seattle. In many respects, it differs from the two common varieties of cedar known on the Pacific coast. It will be remembered that King Solomon employed the material of this particular "cedar" in the construction of the Temple at Jerusalem. There are few of these on the Island.



Where's Joel?

Possibly, this is a Mazzard cherry rather than a Bitter.

See a 1930s photo of the then biggest cherry tree in WA, p 7 of "The Past Remembered III"

✿ CHERRY, *Prunus spp.*

A vast array abounds from former orchards to historic high school planting to a mystery giant. Most early orchard plantings were Rainiers. A 1925 article claims Knute Polson was growing a 60-foot tall, 11-foot circumference Black Tartarian Cherry tree. Two Nishiyori donation trees (see next page) still grew in the 1990s behind the kindergarten building (ie the far SE of high school campus) and three trees still grow on the entry lawn seen in the



Yoshino Cherry from the Nishiyori donation still grows on the east edge of campus but the Shirofugen has fallen.

From the News-Record:

July 13, 1928

Cherry trees by the thousands - On another page we are publishing the prospectus of the Pacific Cherry Growers Incorporated, a company capitalized for \$50,000 and organized with the purpose of setting out to Montmorency cherry trees at least 1000 acres of Vashon Island land, 700 acres of which has already been acquired or options taken. This property will be set to Montmorency cherry trees with gooseberry and current bushes set between the tree rows to provide for immediate income. As approximately 108 trees are required to the acre, this will give an initial setting of more than 75,000 trees, which work will be in charge of Elmer Harmeling, well-known Island orchardist. A cannery is to be provided to care for the production of this acreage and also other fruits of the island. The property will be cut into 5 acre tracks and sold on the payment down and the balance in 10 years plan which will give an opportunity to the small investor or farmer. The operating trustees of the company are C.H. Dunn, President of Dunn Motors, Seattle, and E.H. Miller and H.O. Zwarg of Vashon island. H.O. Zwarg has charge of the publicity and stock campaign which will be carried out in eastern markets as well as at home.

From the News-Record:

March 31, 1932

Local Japanese Society Present Cherry Trees To Island High School – Last Thursday afternoon at the high school a simple, yet impressive ceremony marked the formal presentation, acceptance and planting of the 100 cherry trees given by the local Japanese society to the high school...

...Proclaimed Mr Nishiyori, "The trees, which we present today, are our gift to a community, which has treated us and our children as neighbors and friends rather than people of another race and country. It is our hope that in the years to come these trees, symbol of the land of our birth, may grow and flourish, making more lovely our Vashon Island. In the same manner we trust that our beautiful friendship may continue to grow as our children work side by side in our splendid Island schools."



CHESTNUT

✿ American,

Castanea dentata

Both species shown, leaves can be very similar in length but Spanish (on R) are slightly proportionately (to their length) wider.

(*Chestnut con't*): Though most eastern trees, and all of any size, were wiped out by blight, western states have some survivors, though in Seattle they are not numerous. The blight did affect some Seattle trees and it could return. We should be particularly thankful for any VM American Chestnut trees. Before 1900, American Chestnut was one of the four largest-size tree species in the Eastern US.



Maury Spanish Chestnut on SW 260th St

⌘ Spanish, *Castanea sativa*



° 18810 Vashon Hwy SW, next to the sequoia which is known to have been planted by Bert Kirkland. It is likely he also planted this chestnut, seen above.

The 2nd largest in the state (above, L tree) was at 17205 Vashon Hwy SW (94BT), just south of the Dr Ellis home but chopped down in 2002 to make room for a new office. I counted the rings-- there were 92. It was hoped the wood could be used for the new construction but when milled, the wood was unusable. The lot was originally Livesly's (b 1841) so it is likely circa 1910 that he was the planter. Europe can boast of truly *ancient* Spanish Chestnuts. One in Gloucestershire, UK has a 36-foot circumference and it is believed to be 1,000-years-old.⁷

° 9910 SW 260th St (#61) Dockton, 45-feet tall

° 14000 SW 220th St, N side

° 27600 block 99th Ave SW, Maury Is

TWO CHESTNUTS DISCUSSED HERE	AMERICAN	SPANISH
Leaves	6 - 12¼" long, 1-½ - 3" wide, not fuzzy	5 - 9-¾" long, 2 - 4¼" wide, can be fuzzy
Vein pairs	15-29 (20)	14-22 (18)
Nuts	Small but sweetest	A bit larger
Maximum Height	140 feet	160 feet

❁ CHINA-FIR, *Cunninghamia lanceolata*



The same China-fir over the years, (mine) also fallen (sigh) due to ownership change; R photo inclds a Redwood on R of photo.

I might never have become acquainted with China-fir had not two established Vashon families, the Ramquists and the Shrides, each had a China-fir when the Landmark Tree group got going. I found them so unique I rushed to the UW Arboretum nursery and bought a seedling. The Shrides tree has fallen and the Ramquists lot has changed owners. But three other younger specimens here are easily viewed. In China they are a significant timber source. The branches contain super spikey needles and sometimes fall off in long pieces. The cones also are very spikey, small orbs, see below.

◦ 9915 SW 188th St, Old Cherry Creek Inn (#36,Y7)

◦ 23723 97th Ave SW, on Burton Peninsula neck, several trunks



From the News-Record:

Sept 19, 1929

West Side of Island Has been Greatly Developed-

Of course one hears often of the beauties that Mr. and Mrs. Ramquist have developed out of what eleven years ago was raw land, but if you have not already visited their home, do so at once, and see for yourself. You will be perfectly welcome. An abundance of water has made possible a large swimming pool from the surplus from the reservoir. There is also another pool, just for good measure, then on the lawn is still another fountain which feeds the lily pool, with its lovely lilies in bloom, its gold fish, and the setting of ornamental plants and shrubs. And flowers, vines, shrubs, and ornamental trees no matter in what direction one may look. Mrs. Ramquist says that when they moved to the place eleven years ago they brought with them a scow load of nursery stock, and now the effect is that it would take several to carry away what has developed from the original stock, and each plant is growing where its beauty shows to best advantage. We travel elsewhere to see many of the rare plants that are growing in the garden not far from our very doors. Many pass this place, not realizing the beauty that is hidden by the hedge of trees along the road, but the next time you pass the Ramquist home, take a few minutes to see for yourself what these trees look like.



Young China-fir crown & foliage detail

Cottonwood, see Poplar

Venerable Yard of Trees 3



Old Ramquist Estate

Several have had to be removed: Deodar, Two China-firs--one over 90-feet tall, Poplar, Monkey Tree, Port Orford Cedar, Goldenchain, Madrona, Bigleaf Maple, two Trees of Heaven (*Alianthus altissima*), Shore Pine, an extremely large Dotted hawthorn. (np/imp)

This 1916 home was built by Oscar Edward Ramquist or 'OE', for his wife Lydia and himself. They met and married in Nebraska then moved to Vashon via Seattle then Alki. The site is still referred to as "Rain Gauge 3" in hydrologic reports for OE's many volunteer years of weather records. Daughter Mayreld's wedding was held here. By diverting hillside springs, they created pools and a fountain to adorn the many plantings. See article, previous page, stating they brought "a scow-load of nursery stock" when moving in.



OE &
Lydia,
1946

"CYPRESS"

✿ Bald, *Taxodium distichum*

None are known on VM. I mention this species here just to point out how one can often confuse it with Dawn Redwood, which, with larches, are uniquely cone-bearing deciduous trees. This is the tree of the Everglades, with its wide swamp-hardy buttresses, called Cypress Knees. It is called 'bald' due to no low branches. All three trees have the same "soft fine foliage".⁸

✿ Hinoki, *Chamaecyparis obtusa*

Very similar to Lawson Cypress, crushed needles smell resinous.

◦ 19631 Singer Rd SW, Vashon Cemetery (Y10)

◦ 18017 107th Ave SW, Mukai Farm (Y6)



✿ Italian, *Cupressus sempervirens*

Common in Seattle. This one is moderately tall, at 35 feet. The Vatican doors are made of this wood.

◦ 17722 Vashon Hwy SW, behind redwood tree N of Perry's Burgers (#53, 94BT)

✿ Sawara, *Chamaecyparis pisifera*

◦ 17722 Vashon Hwy, two just S of Perry's Burgers

✿ Moss, *Chamaecyparis pisifera* f. *squarrosa*



◦ 17500 Vashon Hwy SW, VIGA booth, south of, has outgrown its encircling bench

Sylvan Bch Sawara (#48)
(seen L) has fallen, F

Venerable Yard of Trees 6



Mukai Farm & Garden 18017 107th Ave SW

Japanese Maples & Cherries, Deodar Cedar, Cork Oak, Sawara Cypress, *Thread branch or string cultivar*, Hinoki Cypress

This National Register and King County Landmark property contains a unique garden designed around 1925 by Kuni Mukai (b 1881). For her times, as an Issei Japanese woman, she was a true pioneer, combining traditional Japanese gardening principles with suburban lawn. The Mukais were fortunate in not being interned in 1942. They lived in Idaho while friends care took. Next door was a cold freeze fruit barreling plant developed by her husband BD & run by son Masa (b 1911) through the 80s.

Open for public presentations and tours.



⌘ STRING, cv. f. *filifera*

◦ 18017 107th Ave SW,
Mukai Farm (Y6)

DOGWOOD, ⚠ Pacific, *Cornus nuttallii*



A gorgeous favorite tree of the Northwest for its large floating white-petaled blossoms but many of the species are succumbing to anthracnose. This tree growing on Beall Rd was measured at 12-foot circumference and 50-foot crown (#6).

Luckily, though this tree is gone, several new beautiful healthy dogwoods including pink *Cornus florida*, and *Kousa* adorn many yards.

- E of library parking lot, traffic island on 97th Pl
- 17900 E side, Vashon Hwy, two pink at fence
- 23900 W side, corner of 99th Ave, pink
- 10414 SW 238, Tricolor



Pacific Dogwood blossoms. Technically, the white petals are leaves.

⌘ **Kousa**, *Cornus Kousa*. Native to Japan.



Kousa Dogwood, pointy leaves and resistant to anthracnose.

◦ 23700 107th Ave SW, Kousa



△ DOUGLAS FIR,
Pseudotsuga Menziesii

Douglas was a Scottish botanist who visited the Northwest in the 1830s. He was honored with

the common name of this important tree. He tramped thousands of miles through North American, collecting hundreds of new specimens (sent to England) then died in Hawaii in 1834. (Douglas was not the first white to encounter the species. Menzies described them on the Vancouver expedition.) This quintessential tree species has fired the economies of WA, OR, and Canada for 150 years.⁹ It is the 2nd in lumber production in the US,

next to Loblolly pine. A three-part series about Doug Fir ran in the Seattle Weekly in 1992 entitled "God's Greatest Hit." The author, Paul Roberts, states, "though shade intolerant, Doug Fir has evolved to thrive across the broadest range of any tree, in all of the Western US states."¹⁰ Around 1820 The Hudson Bay Company built the first saw mill in the NW powered by water and located near Fort Vancouver. Salmon Sherman, who first set foot on Vashon in 1877, ran a mill east of the current Vashon cemetery beginning about 1905. Some of the lumber from his mill was used to build Luna Park in West Seattle.



Pretty immature cones on branch tips seen in the early summer; pine cones are female, at their base the seeds are produced



You can view furrowed forest giant Doug Firs in most of the parks here.

A handful of quite old tall Doug Firs still stand on the Island, probably due to their inaccessibility, ie in ravines.

In Green Valley Creek and Christensen Creek two are known to be 20-feet around and nearly or over 200-feet tall. Locals called one pair there *The Grandfather and Grandmother Trees*.¹¹ Two other Doug Firs, impractical to view, but which we measured, were both 140-feet tall, including *The Owl Tree*.



Doug Firs in Christensen Creek and a 100-ft-tall Doug Fir at Camp Sealth

Read on to marvel at the many personalities of the Island's Doug Firs:

The Octopus Tree This massive Doug Fir, known as *the Octopus Tree*, has been the site of several weddings and the reason one purchaser



bought the adjacent home. Several of its limbs are two to three feet across. The two adjoining trunks are some of the biggest here at over 15-feet around and the tree is over 120-feet tall.

° 9131 SW Gorsuch Rd (#14)

The Town Holiday Tree

The large tree by Santa's Cottage now illuminated on the Town Tree-Lighting Night is also a Doug Fir. A 2015 *Beachcomber* article describes how Islander Gene Peretti came forward to say he had planted the tree. He then went on to add young trees here and there along the highway and in town-- long after helping in his first VHS Earth Day planting, during which trees east of the football field were started and still grow.¹²

From the News-Record:

Dec 25, 1930

Burton Again Has Outdoor Christmas

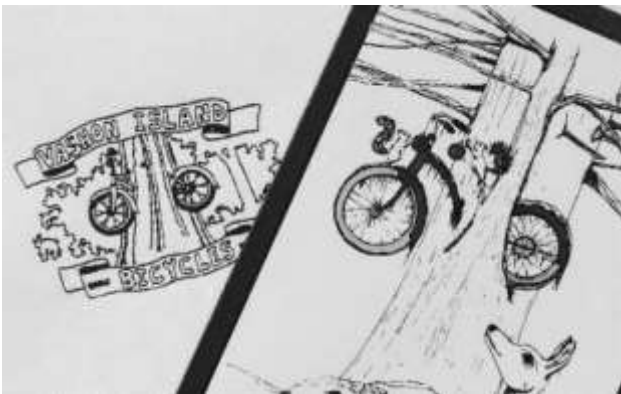
Tree – Again Burton has come to the fore with a huge Christmas tree, to emphasize the fact that that village believes in showing the proper Yuletide spirit. This is the third year that a brilliantly lighted tree has graced the square in Burton. With its multi-colored lights the tree can be seen for a long way, from the hill back of Burton, from the north, and particularly from the dock, as the Tacoma boats land. The tree is a testimonial of the spirit constantly displayed by the Burton Improvement Club who are responsible for its erection and decoration. This club is wide-awake and aggressive and does not overlook any opportunity for keeping Burton in the foreground. It is hoped that next year there may be many such outdoor Christmas trees in the various communities, following the custom that is being almost universally established.

Our Aging Star, The Bike Tree



Now vandalized thoroughly, located just NW of Vashon Hwy and SW 204th St, it hit the Big Time in 1993 when Islander David Hakala's poem won a Washington Mutual travel-themed contest in which he described the tree. Former Islander Don Puz, who lived a block south, left this (his) bike next to this Doug Fir in 1954 or 1955. He doesn't recall lifting the bike onto a branch. The tree was only about six feet tall at the time.

In 2013 Eric Johnson of KOMO news did quite a comprehensive piece on the local news including locating Puz just as he was traveling to Vashon to attend a high school reunion. Thus ended decades of speculation, as well as most of the bike pieces themselves.



A further footnote to this tree—it's *The* tree that was one of the main motivators leading to our very first gathering to document and honor Island trees, in what became the Landmark Tree Program.

The Bike Tree lives on in artistic license glory in the Berkeley Breathed book *Red Ranger Came Calling*. (Breathed lived on Vashon in the 90s and his former home was the first to sell for over a million

dollars. His book also depicts the Hardware Store restaurant.) Ed Frohning's drawing (above) also depicts the tree on a Christmas card that was sold by the Vashon Chamber of Commerce. And who wouldn't use the Bike Tree for a logo for a Vashon bike shop? On the internet, you can view pages and pages of images of this tree.



The Librarian Tree

A Doug Fir support post is installed in the center of the McMurray Jr Hi library. It was cut from the school grounds during some 1993 construction and the architect/builders had it milled for re-use.

Above, a Doug Fir growing in Green Valley Creek (and a librarian)!


ELDERBERRY, Pacific Red, *Sambucus callicarpa*

Are numerous along the main roads, 5-11 leaflets.



ELM

 American and

 English,

Ulmus spp



Distinctive "cross-thatching" seen on some elms

A tree revered in the Eastern US, and, like American Chestnuts, made all the more precious by decimating diseases. While the chestnut isn't the most practical street tree, elms were thought of as one of the finest of Eastern US urban trees and admired for their distinctive urn-shaped silhouette.

Elms have not been popular on VM but the yard at the Elisha Morgan home/Highland Park Poultry Ranch does contain one of each, planted around 1920 by Morgan, an Illinois transplant. (Y11) Dutch Elm Disease arrived in Seattle in the 90s. Disease resistant specimens have been developed. You *can* view numerous American and English Elms on the tree-lined boulevards near the Frye Art Museum, UW's WP Arboretum and at Woodland Park Zoo.



Above, see the corky look of the ridged twigs of the English Elm, sometimes called Cork Elm, though English Elm is not actually the Cork Elm.¹³



Elm seeds with their fried eggs motif, also called samaras



❁ Camperdown Elm, *Ulmus glabra* cv 'Camperdownii'

Jacobson terms the form "mop-head",

radiating thin branches bend downward to the ground; most in Seattle average 15-feet tall.¹⁴

° 19631 Singer Rd SW, Vashon Cemetery, (Y10)

❁ Siberian or Chinese, *Ulmus pumila*



° 23009 107th Ave SW, south of house (above)

An enormous Chinese Elm grows in NW VM but no

permission to view. The Siberian Elm is very common in Seattle.

Highland Park property Elm tree



Venerable Yard of Trees 11



Highland Park Poultry Ranch / Morgan Hill Farm

Swedish Birch, Red Oak, Western White Pine, Western Redcedar, Eastern White pine, English Elm, American Elm, Norway Maple, Black Walnut, Limber Pine, Green Ash.

Elisha Morgan Sr--a Civil War Captain who attended Northwestern University and Cornell--and his wife, Mary, moved from Highland Park IL, and began a farm here on the former Clarke homestead next to this 1920 house. Morgan, Sr's poultry breeding operation was internationally sought after and once included a 54-page catalogue (1927) showcasing



his Morgan Tancred strain of white leghorns. Morgan Jr 1907-1997, raised Leghorn chickens and Rochester peaches here for 25 years. The trees were planted between 1918 to 1923.

⌘ EMPRESS TREE, *Paulownia tomentosa*, or Princess Tree

Don't mix these up with Catalpa trees; both are known for big globs of upright showy blossoms. Very fast growing. Please plant one now! Named for Anna Paulowna, Princess of the Netherlands 1795-1865.



- 13614 Vashon Hwy SW, tree nearest house fell but sapling grows on south yard
- 20211 Vashon Hwy SW, The Country Store (Y8)



⌘ EUCALYPTUS

Surprisingly, many hardy varieties grow on Vashon and are propagated for re-sale. Plant people call the trees "Eucs".

Spinning Gum, *Eucalyptus Perriniana*

- 17519 Vashon Hwy SW, in front of VIGA booth

Another grew in the pocket park south of the Pharmacy but was removed in 2011. See Peter Ray's article, *Vashon Loop* 10/11/11, or video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VFKR1nPyI4>



Historic fruit box label attests to Burton's Banana Belt

Both fig labels from webshots.com

⌘ FIG, *Ficus Carica*

Vashon was once a fig hotspot! Several fig businesses existed in 1920s complete with their own classic fruit box labels. Van House's figs were

From the News-Record:

March 15, 1929

Strange Fruits Grown On Island – The greenhouses which I visited yesterday are 11 in number and at present are being used for the raising of tomatoes. There was one house that had more interest to me than any of the others because it has a lemon tree, an orange tree, and a fig tree. The orange tree, although 16 years old had never blossomed or borne fruit. – A.H.S. Pupil

located on the Burton Peninsula. The number of fig trees throughout Island yards could be in the hundreds. Pete Svinth believed those figs were probably Asiatic.¹⁵ Currently, a "Gene's Vashon Figs" variety is listed on the Seattle Grow website.



- 24103 Vashon Hwy SW, across from the beach
- 20614 Chautauqua Beach Rd SW

FIR

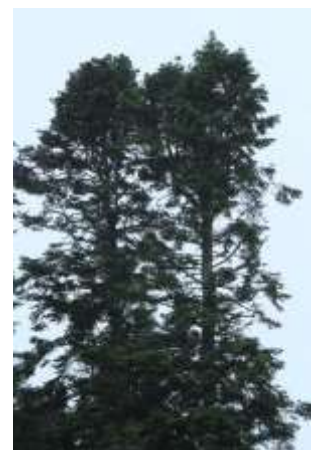
▲ Grand, *Abies grandis*



Young specimens are distinctive for their bark with horizontal bands. Crushed needles smell of orange. "Hybrid Swarms" of interbreeding White and Grand

Firs are found in California. Native to our region all the way to Puget Sound shoreline.

- 11730 98th Ave SW
- 16605 Vashon Hwy SW
- 18126 Vashon Hwy SW down Eagles driveway
- Jensen Pt Park, Burton Peninsula, entrance driveway, south side, two, huge, pictured below and next page





◦ 21601 111th Ave SW, 120 feet tall (imp)

◦ 7400 SW Maury Park Rd

✿ Noble, *Abies procera*



Noble Fir
cones are
4-6" while
Grand fir
are 2-4"

Up, up, up go each characteristic of this tree—the cones and needles grow on the upper sides of branches and in Washington a handful of the tallest in the world in the genus *Abies* are Noble Firs.

◦ Vashon Hwy SW at 145th Pl

◦ 20133 SW Cemetery Rd

◦ 10419 SW Burton Dr, S side

◦ 19631 Singer Rd SW, Vashon Cemetery (Y10)



✿ FIRE TREE,
Chilean or Fire Bush,
Embothrium coccineum

Country Store (Y8) and
in private yards

Ciscoe Morris, Seattle U
gardener, suggested
one wear a helmet near
this tree when it's in
bloom, to protect
yourself from
hummingbirds. It's

happy down to ten degrees and can do well once
established.



GINKGOES- planted in
the Chase Bank beds,
but killed in an auto
accident

✿ GINKGO, *Ginkgo biloba*

Trees are easily spotted from afar with a 'spikey' silhouette. The leaves are famous, distinctive and



pretty fan
shapes,
renown for
being
seemingly
unchanged
from fossil
specimens.
Female trees
are very

messy, seed pods are smelly, so buy a male tree.
Edible seeds (for cooking) are sold in Asian grocers.

Though the Chase Bank trees are gone, we can now
enjoy a row of seven pretty Ginkgoes along Vashon
Village across from the county library.



Ginkgo at the
Washington Park
Arboretum
shown in yellow
fall color



✿ HACKBERRY,
Northern, *Celtis occidentalis*

Not very well-known but
amazingly widespread, 50
species spread across

the globe, seven are native to North America. The trees are somewhat “elm-like” but the bark is smoother and the leaves pointy with asymmetric bases. In the 2016 non-fiction book *Lab Girl*, the narrator scientist reports her discovery that the internal berry (or drupes) structure is made of opal.¹⁶ Also called Nettle tree. Northern Hackberry is native to the Eastern US, Netleaf Hackberry is native to a small portion of Eastern Washington and Oregon and into the Southwest.



° 9800 SW 192nd St; SE corner; (adjacent to Bert Kirkland’s Sequoia) with a 45-foot crown, the largest in the state. (94BT)



✿ HAWTHORN,

Crataegus spp.

The term ‘Haw’ comes from the Old English for berry. The trees are quite thorny but full of beautiful pink, red, or white-blossomed boughs so profuse they resemble snow, but also very popular with

bees. In San Francisco the trees are also very popular with The City’s famous parrots!¹⁷ Several large trees grow throughout VM. Only Black Hawthorns are native here.¹⁸

HAZEL

The small tree of the hazel/filbert nut, terms are interchangeable.

△ California, or Beaked, *Corylus cornuta var. californica*

° Old Colvos Nursery, largest crown in state, 56 feet (94BT) F

✿ European, *Corylus Avellana*

° 20211 Vashon Hwy SW, The Country Store (Y8). The 49-foot crown, was the largest in the state and listed in the Big Tree Program. (94BT)

✿ Turkish, *Corylus Colurna*

(Shown on top right)

Venerable Yard of Trees 8



The Country Store & Farm 20211 Vashon Hwy SW

Corkscrew Willow, Chilean Flame Tree, Paulownia, Cutleaf Alder, European Hazelnut, White Forsythia, Fairy Rose, unique Hydrangeas, Hellebores, an historical Filbert Tree, and Asian Pear Tree.

The Country Store business was founded in 1964 and relocated here in 1978 by Vy Biel with sons Jim and Mike. A U-pick area is in the works; a nursery stocks shrubs & trees.



▲ **HEMLOCK**, Western, *Tsuga heterophylla*

Numerous grow here and in Seattle and it is the Washington State tree. We haven't

measured any or discovered an unusually huge specimen, mainly for lack of trying. Burton Acres and Agren Park have many. The largest in the US is in Olympic National Park. They are native to our coast up to 7,500 feet. Earlier, the outer bark was used for tanning and the inner bark chewed. They are wispy-shaped and easy to spot by their fragile dainty tops that droop (above). You can even spot them along Interstate 5 at 60 mph. The drooping may be to thwart snow build up. The *Mountain Hemlock, Tsuga Mertensiana*, grows to timberline. John Muir wrote that the Mountain Hemlock was the most singularly beautiful of any California conifer.



Amazing upright nurse log-based Hemlock tree on Cowan Rd

⚙ **HICKORY**, *Carya spp.*

Shagbark, Shellbark, & Pecan are various species that surely must be planted here but we have measured none.

⌘ **HOLLY**, English, *Ilex Aquifolium*



Notable holly operations here once produced custom and mail order goods, such as beautiful holiday wreaths. A large plot still grows on

the main highway, east side, just north of town, once run by Tjomsland and another on Maury Island was run by Bill and Helen Reuter. Holly wood is very useful but the numerous trees here are not native and difficult to remove.

Augie Takatsuka ran Augie's U-Cut/U-Pick on the Tjomsland 27 acres plot beginning in 1974. In addition to holly he grew Noble, Dakota, Fraser, and Grand Firs & Blue Spruce.



Perry's Silver Weeping, *Ilex Aquifolium* 'Argentea Marginata Pendula'

◦ 19631 Singer Road SW, Vashon Cemetery, seen above, largest in state, (94BT,Y10)

Golden King Highclere, *Ilex x altaclerensis* 'Golden King'

◦ 22024 Monument Rd SW, (94BT)

From the News-Record:

Oct 19, 1928

Prof. Kirkland addresses Club - Friday afternoon of last week, the Camulos Club had the pleasure of listening to a talk on "Reforestation" by Prof. B.P. Kirkland of the University of Washington. Prof. Kirkland gave many interesting and instructive facts concerning this great problem. The plan of reforestation is beneficial both from the standpoint of commercial utility and also scenic beauty. The logged off land can be restored to a mass of fine evergreen trees within 20 years or less. These trees can be utilized by the pulp industry even before this time. Prof. Kirkland urged that great care be exercised to prevent forest fires as these do irreparable damage to the young trees.



⚙️ **HONEY LOCUST**, *Gleditsia tricanthos*

° 12321 Ober Beach Rd, 65-feet tall (#51)

We were drawn to investigate this tree because of its elegant profile. The fall leaves are yellow and curved pods ripen in September -October.



⚙️ **KATSURA**, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

Very attractive bronzy yellow medium-sized leaves, this tree can grow quite tall-- around 70-100 feet, from both Japan and China. The leaves release maltose in the fall, smelling like caramel sugar. In its family, it is the only genus.¹⁹ The name comes



from a river and a palace in Japan.

° 17021 115th Ave SW (#57,Y4) (above photo)

° 22916 107th Ave SW, installed in my 19-ft circumference Bigleaf Maple stump after tree rotted; a '98 gift from a friend, tree is happy. (Next column, top.)



Venerable Yard of Trees 4



The Johnsons 115th Ave SW

Katsura, Ponderosa Pine, English Walnut, Flowering Plum, Doug Fir, Wisteria, a former orchard, and a cement mushroom.

Dorothy & David Johnson moved here in 1953. The deciduous trees by the residence were planted in the 50s. This is where I first marveled at a beautiful golden Katsura.

⚙️ **KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE**,

Gymnocladus dioica None known on Vashon but you can see two trees on SW 106th St west of 35th Ave SW in Seattle enroute to Seatac.²⁰ The 3-7 branchlets contain 70 leaflets!

⚙️ LARCH or Tamarack or Larix

Western Larch- *Larix occidentalis*, grows to 7,000 ft elevation; Tamarack- *Larix laricina*, grows to Arctic treeline, native to Eastern Canada, far NE US

This is the 3rd-mentioned here deciduous conifer which sheds its needles over winter, then re-grows them in spring. The needles are spirally arranged in bunches of 14-30. The needles are short, up to only 1¾ inches. The trunks are extremely straight and trees can grow to about 150-feet tall. The world record Western Larch is 153-feet tall and named Gus, for a forest service employee of the nearby Seeley Lake, MT office.



Larch cone and dainty profile



The fall color is outstanding. Check out Hiway 97 and the east side of Table Mountain, Washington for beautiful whole mountainsides of backlit yellow and gold vistas. The word *tamarack* is from the [Algonquian](#) name for the species 'akemantak' and means "wood used for snowshoes."²¹

- 14901 Westside Hwy SW, six along driveway
- 10907 SW 232nd St, down driveway (np/imp)



⚙️ LAUREL

Bay, *Laurus nobilis*, or Sweet bay

A broadleaf evergreen, this is the laurel of bay leaves and a natural choice of the adventurous Shane Brothers. (more Shane info, pages 31-32)

- 10325 SW Cemetery Rd (#33,Y10)

Portugal, *Prunus lusitanica*

- 18800 Vashon Hwy SW, lawn in a row along flagpole, old K2 Co building

⚙️ LINDEN, *Tilia spp*, no precise IDs



Also called Basswood in America and Lime in Europe. The leaves are wide tear-shapes and the seeds are borne on distinctive "sail-wings" that attach to the very center of the bract. As the flowers fade they drop tiny star-shaped sections covering the ground, exuding their rich sugar, wax, and oil. The trees are very bee-friendly.

Linden in Vashon Cemetery, street tree Lindens in Finland





It is an extremely popular street tree in Europe and has been for hundreds of years, some are 80-100' tall and 1,000 years old. Sixty thousand were planted in France in 1792 to honor the founding of the republic. Berlin's town square is called "Unter den Linden".

- 19631 SW Singer Rd, Vashon Cemetery, the best example on VM, brilliant in the fall (Y10)
- 10325 SW Cemetery Rd (Y9)
- 20110 Vashon Hwy SW, 1 block east at VHS teachers' parking lot, N edge, several

☼ **LOCUST**, Black Locust, *Robinia Pseudoacacia*



- 18400-18430 Vashon Hwy SW (#11) F

Related to Honey Locust but has white flowers, shorter seedpods, and rough bark. Both loved for their elegant wispy crown of leaflets.

This row of what was once nine trees was planted by Mr Doane in 1884, according to the next landowner's daughter, Esther Tilton. Esther's dad was John T Blackburn, the first Vashonite to serve in the Washington state legislature. Orchardists Harmelings

built next to Blackburn's original residence on Bank Rd. The two tallest trees were



85' and 105' tall. All have now succumbed to old age and modernization. One stump had 100 rings.

From the News-Record:

Oct 19, 1933

Old Trees Go – Two trees in front of the News-Record were recently cut down. Rings on the stump of the largest, a cherry tree, showed it to be at least fifty years old. The other, an apricot, must have been equally old. Practically all of the fruit trees in the neighboring yards were planted at the same time as the trees just cut down, and constituted the orchard of the Livesley homestead which extended from the bank corner to the Cove road and west from the pavement to the first road beyond. Like his trees, Mr. Livesley was sturdy, living to more than 90 years of age, and in possession of his faculties to the last. At the time of his death he was engaged in building a house in West Seattle, having found life at the Veterans' Home at Retsil too sedentary. It does not take much imagination to envision the changes that have been wrought in the Island since the old trees were planted by Mr. Livesley, and it is a sad sight to see them one by one disappearing.

▲ **MADRONA**, Pacific, *Arbutus Menziesii*

Madrona on Vashon are regionally very significant and are some of the few remaining pure stands in Puget Sound. A 1999 evaluation by the state DNR states that the Maury Park Douglas Fir-Pacific Madrona-salal plant community is one of the best remaining examples in the state.

Madrona love dry, south-facing slopes but are very fussy, liking only marginal soil with iron but not lime. Gnarled, twisted branches have striking



peeling reddish bark They are our only native broadleaf evergreen. The berries are an important food for Band-tailed pigeons (*Columba fasciata*).

Gene Smith measures a Madrona branch with unique growing habits at Whispering Firs Bog



The largest US Madrona grew near Big Sur, California (125' tall, 125' crown) but succumbed to a

forest fire in 2016. Madrona is a relative of the Strawberry tree, *Arbutus unedo* and called in Spanish Madrono. ...it's just the *Arbutus* rustling" sings Joni Mitchell in "For the Roses."

◦ 12300 Vashon Hwy SW, one block west, this tree at the Sylvan Beach intersection is so big you can see it from the ferry to Southworth. It's 12'/80'/80', ie main trunk circumference, height, spread.

◦ Tons of Madrona also at Maury Island Marine Park & along south-facing outer Quartermaster

◦ 9618 SW Burton Dr, a quite old tree that first graduating class member of Burton High (1909), Estelle McDonald, cited growing then. The tree stood at the head of a former trail across the peninsula east to Jensen Point remembered by SwebabS native Lucy Gerand (b 1836). 70-foot tall, (#18)



◦ 21511 Vashon Hwy SW, 95-foot tall, in the yard of the old Quartermaster School, now turned residence, seen below & at top (#44)



MAPLE



▲ Bigleaf, *Acer macrophyllum*

A favorite native and a species for which many people have one favorite.²² (A Bigleaf of One's Own, as three young boys attest, above.) Bigleaf Maple tree leaves can be two feet wide. Jacobson also says he's found leaves as wide as 32 inches. Many trees here are nearly 20 feet in circumference. A Seattle City Ordinance prohibits its use as a street tree due to the root/sidewalk upheaval.

Dozens of quite large Bigleaf Maples grow throughout VM, try the Shinglemill Creek trail. Two huge, measured specimens are impractical to view but four below are along roadways:

- SW 236th and Old Mill Rd SW
- SW Bank Rd just east of Beall Rd, N side
- 11300 block SW 238th St, N side
- 25919 99th Ave SW, 23-ft circmfr, (#59)





A Bigleaf Maple in Green Valley Creek, another tree spared from cutting probably owing to growing in a ravine, was measured at over 155-feet tall! For scale, see the two people to R of tree base.

Below, L, a Bigleaf Maple near Fern Cove, in Green Valley Creek, R.



⌘ Norway, *Acer platanoides*



We called these The Lovre Norway Maples for the adjacent owners, Odell and Beverly

Lovre. Her dad was Walt Steen. The house was built in 1888 and the trees were probably planted by Walt. The trees are at least 60-years-old and in the fall the bright yellows greet highway travelers.

° 16218 Vashon Hwy SW (#27)



Purpleleaf, cv. 'Crimson King,' and similar kinds



These deep dark reddish-leaved maples number about a dozen on the Island. Next to the Cove Road trees, Mable Matson's German

immigrant father homesteaded the south property and built a house there in 1899. This variety and similar purple-leaved trees were imported to the US circa 1900.²³

° 12119 SW Cove Rd. & opposite side, 12122 up driveway (#9 & 10)

° 20711 Vashon Hwy SW

° 10009 SW 260th St, lot of former Dockton Hotel

⌘ Japanese. Due to the huge variety (325+ says Jacobson) and that most of these are in private, landscaped yards, I am unable to cover here.



⌘ Sugar, *Acer saccharum*



This is the tree of the syrup and of beautiful multi-colored fall displays.

° 16300 Vashon Hwy south of Harbor School

⌘ Sunset, *Acer rubrum* 'Franksred'



Three-lobed and excellent fall color. Alas, a row grew along the library's south boundary but have been removed. See the blanket of lovely colors once

formed in the parking lot, photo to left.

° 18215 Vashon Hwy SW, Puget Sound Energy driveway, six along the highway

⌘ Sycamore, *Acer Pseudoplatanus*

° 16402 Columbia Ave SW, on the lawn of the former Columbia School (#54), This was the first of this species we've come across.



A row of alternating Purple-leaved & 'plain' Norway Maples makes for a lovely street planting

⌘ Trident, *Acer Buergerianum*



° 19631 SW Cemetery Rd, Vashon Cemetery, planted by the Beall family (Y8), above



⚠ Vine, *Acer circinatum*

° 10801 SW Bank Rd (#22,94BT) F

The owner Buckland's children called it *The Spying Tree*, for it provided a perfect fort-like leafy screen a half-block wide right on Bank Rd. They would pack a lunch and stay for hours. It was once the largest WA Vine Maple and 2nd in size only to a Vine Maple in Stanley Park, but considering the

shrubby nature of the structure, it did not last. This is the only maple with roundish leaves and many (7-9) lobes. *Circinatum* means circular.

MIMOSA, See Silk Tree



⌘ **MONKEY PUZZLE**, *Araucaria*

araucariana (so called because monkeys can't climb it)

Though native of South America, Monkey Puzzles are very happy in the NW and several teenaged trees grow on Vashon. Two of what were probably the first planted in Vashon town were cut by 2010. (one is known to have been planted by Fred Eernisse and his dad Arie) In Seattle, some are around 60 feet. In Chile there is a Monkey Puzzle Biosphere Reserve and additional private preserves where it is, of course, illegal to harvest Monkey Puzzles. They are closely related to Bunya Bunya from Australia, and Parana Pine from Argentina and Brazil. The large 5-8" cones are on the female trees. The edible seeds which are only produced after the tree is 40 years old, are gathered by the Chilean Araucano people. Archibald Menzies brought five seeds back to England in 1795 after pocketing them, rather than eating them at a banquet with the governor of Chile. You've heard of Muir Glacier? How about Muir's Monkey Puzzle Tree Trip—in 1911 he traveled to South America and expressly searched for Monkey Puzzles, which he did succeed in visiting. See the 2001 book *John Muir's Last Journey* by Michael Branch.



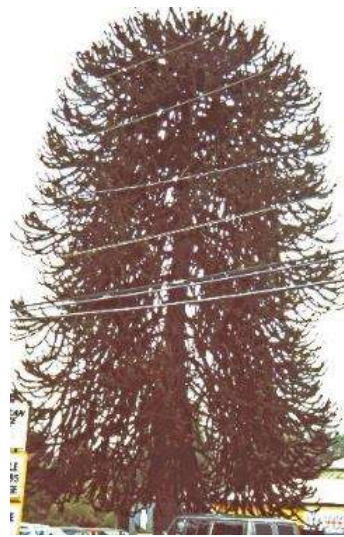
Monkey
Puzzle female
cone

- 16620 Vashon Hwy SW
- 17526 107th Ave SW
- Bank Rd at 105th, Peter Lake CPA lawn
- 12320 Cemetery Rd
- 16820 McIntyre Rd SW



The Monkey Tree Tree

This tree tried to be as famous as The Bike Tree but fame eluded it, for the tree was damaged, removed, and the restaurant changed its name and owners. Alas, after The Monkey Tree Restaurant (YUM!) opened in Dec 2006, only three months later the namesake tree was damaged in the Hanukkah Eve Storm of Dec 17, 2006 and had to be taken down the next month. It was estimated to be 75-years-old.



The namesake Monkey Puzzle tree adjacent to the café

Famous Relative: Known only in fossils, another member of the Araucaria family, was found in 1994 in Australia, the Wollemi Pine, *Wollemia nobilis*. (It isn't really a PINE.) Wollemi comes from the national park name where it was discovered. National Geographic sold them in 2006. Wish I had ordered one--they're no longer supplying them. Now they're only available in Australia and the UK. A specimen is exhibited in the National Arboretum in DC (L). Araucaria is the family which also contains Norfolk Island pines (below R).



⌘ MULBERRY

Black, *Morus nigra*

Has tasty blackberry-like red fruit, fruits are slightly larger than white berries. Another Shane Brothers Pick, both in the same yard at: ◦ 10325 SW Cemetery Rd, largest in state. (#33,Y9,94BT)

White, *Morus alba*

From China, this is the species silkworms require. Has become very common and naturalized here in the US, fruit is white, red, purple, or black; trees are male or female. White berries are not as preferred as black. With less branch spread than some species, in some countries trees can be planted compactly and parts used for cattle feed. Another White Mulberry grew behind US Bank but fell around 2005.

OAK

☼ Cork, *Quercus Suber*

This exotic species native to the Mediterranean is used for 'cork' but these are ornamental with their interesting spongy furrowed bark.

◦ 18017 107th Ave SW, Mukai Farm & Garden (Y6)



☼
Daimyo,
*Quercus
dentata*

Native to
Asia and
namesake
of land-



holding lords, the leaves are so big they are used as rice-cake wrappers in Japanese cuisine. Very rare but check out the huge specimen by the

Kobe Bell at Seattle Center nearly 70 feet tall.²⁴



◦ 10325 SW
Cemetery Rd, in
front of barn (in
photo above)
(#33,Y9,94BT)

Venerable Yard of Trees 9



Shane Bros Nut Orchard 10325 SW Cemetery Rd

Daimyo Oak, White & Black Mulberry, Golden Milkmaid Holly, Deodar Cedar, Linden, Pawpaw, Turkish Hazelnut, English Walnut, & across the street, Sassafras (below)

Brothers Art & Charles Shane (page 32) acquired this lot around 1925. The house along the road was built in 1903.

Trendsetting crop-raising here next shifted in 1987 to the Gregsons' Island Meadow Farms—one of Vashon's first subscription farms. See the Gregson's '96 book *Rebirth of the Small Family Farm*.

Such exotic and novel horticultural specimens are to be treasured! For closer viewing, spend the night —it's now an Airbnb.



From the News-Record:

Nov 2, 1933

Shane Bros. Buy New Nursery Stock – Leaving here Friday afternoon the two Shane brothers, Art and Charles, made a flying trip to Oregon, visiting nurseries at Portland, Salem, Corvallis, Gervais and other places enroute. They returned home on the early boat Sunday morning. At Corvallis they purchased from the Schmidt nurseries 300 Turkish filbert roots for grafting. These trees are of the newest and finest varieties and often reach 30 feet in height instead of bushing out, as does the ordinary filbert tree. At Gervais they visited the Brixny nursery. Mr. Brixny, owner, has developed the "Brixnut," a type of filbert which is a leader of its kind for size and growth. It brings two cents more per pound than do the other older varieties. Mr. Brixny is also the propagator of the largest walnut now grown. These nuts, with as soft a shell as the franquettes, grow to 5 ½ to 6 ¼ inches in circumference. The meat is firm and white. There are only six of these trees in existence and the Shanes purchased five of them to bring back to their farm at Center. They also brought back several other trees of outstanding varieties and merit for propagation in their own orchards, which now consist of more than thirty varieties of nut trees a few of which are coming into bearing this fall.



⌘ English oak,
Quercus robur

° 9714 SW 174th St,
nice prominent tree
by Ace Service Ctr

▲ Garry or White, *Quercus Garryana*

Garry Oaks range the furthest north of any North American oak. They are very slow to get started but then pick up the pace. Huge swaths of them grow at Fort Lewis, Lakeview, and along the Columbia River. A preserve is set aside near Wakiakum and the Nature Conservancy maintains the Cowichan Preserve of Garry oaks on Vancouver Island.



Vashon Center for Arts Oak Desk

It's heartening to see about a dozen newish Garry Oaks along our roads and several in private yards. Most heartening of all, on my recent visit, I accidentally bumped into a beautiful desk in the lobby of the new VCA made from the Garry Oak removed from the very spot on which the building now stands. I am *very* pleased about this as I believe they found my letter in their files stating I would chain myself to the tree if they cut it down (written Oct 2002) and realized that the tree *was* priceless.



See the desk at: ° 19704 Vashon Hwy SW!

Garry Oak locations:

- 11303 98th Ave SW
- 97th Pl SW, several north of Bank Rd
- 10500 Vashon Hwy SW, facing outer harbor
- 22916 107th Ave SW, S line, east of garage, two

The Broccoli Tree



The large Burton Peninsula tree is one of the most outstanding here. Called by neighbors, The Broccoli Tree, it may be *very* old, as they grow very slowly. It's 75+ feet tall, though it could attain 150 feet.

- 23828 99th Ave SW (#16)

☼ Pin, *Quercus palustris*



Distinctive "narrow-waisted" leaves but which also remain on the tree well into late winter looking worn and brown. Several on VM. Very numerous along University Ave in the U-district. Trees look similar

to Scarlet Oak but Pin Oak leaves are skinnier.

- 15333 Vashon Hwy SW, lawn of Vashon Community Care
- 19715 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon Dental lawn
- Sunrise Ridge, along north edge of drive



☼ Red, *Quercus rubra*

◦ 20500 Block Vashon Hwy SW, W side, so many trees the highway is covered in the fall. Most likely this large planting was done by Peter Erickson, noted horticulturalist connected to Himalayan blackberries. Does well here and popular



with Eastern transplants longing for color.

- 17130 Vashon Hwy along Park'n'Ride lot
- 9915 SW 188th St, huge (Y7)
- 9636 SW Elisha Ln (#2, Y11)

From the News-Record:

Nov 28, 1924

Ellisport – A wild cherry tree that had stood on the lawn of one of Mr. Wigmore’s cottages for more than thirty years was so badly broken by the high wind a short time ago it was found necessary to cut down the whole tree. It seemed like the passing of an old friend to see it go.

From the News-Record:

March 18, 1927

Sponsored by the Camp Fire Girls of Seattle, but largely done by the Boy Scouts of Burton and Vashon, last Saturday marked the beginning of an undertaking to plant a row of shade trees along the highway from the north end of the island to the south end.- A professor from the U.W. was present to supervise the work.

☼ Water, *Quercus nigra*

° 11915 Vashon Hwy SW planted by Miller, (Y1)
np/imp

Swamp White Oaks, *Quercus bicolor*, closely related, were used for the memorial grove at the World Trade Center, for they prefer poorly drained bottomlands and swamp edges; ideal for sites with heavy clay, mineral-rich soil.

☼ PALM

Dwarf Palmetto, *Sabal minor*

° 10419 SW Burton Dr

Windmill Palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*

Global warming is certainly evident in the proliferation of this species now used as a common sidewalk tree in Vashon town, native to Asia.

See them by the Giraffe Gallery Building and north of the movie theater on either side of the street.



South Carolina’s flag
is a Cabbage
Palmetto tree!

☼ PAWPAW, *Asimina trilobal*



Very rare and fruit does not mature here very successfully, leaves 6-15 inches, fruit reaching 7½ inches. This Pawpaw, probably planted by the nut growers, the Shane brothers, had the largest crown in the state but a taller tree grows in Walla Walla. Many dozens grow in Seattle. Other names: Nebraska Banana, Custard Apple, Hoosier Banana.²⁵



◦ 10325 SW Cemetery Rd (#33,Y9,94BT)

From the News-Record:

February 16, 1923

No Peach Crop Failure In Fourteen Years –

One of the veteran peach growers on the island is Peter Erickson, located at the Center district near the town of Vashon, at the north end of the island. He has raised peaches for 14 years and never had a crop failure. The first planting on this place was a five-acre tract put in as fillers for apple and pear trees in order to bring in a cash crop until the main orchard was old enough to bear a commercial crop.

✿ **PEACH**, *Prunus persica*

Rochester peaches are known to have been a profitable crop here at both Highland Park Poultry Ranch and at the Mukai Farm; not aware of specific locations currently. Q. How did peach trees get here? A. Via China, Persia, France, Spain, then on to Florida.²⁶

PINE



✿ Bristlecone, *Pinus aristata*

◦ 19631 Singer Rd SW, Vashon Cemetery (Y10)

The cones are *quite* bristle-y. Their native range is the southern Rockies. Also called Foxtail pine. The white-resin-y cones attach at the ends of the decidedly bushy

limbs. The oldest Bristlecone is dated to 4,000 years old and is located in Inyo County, California.



✿ Coulter or Big Cone, *Pinus Coulteri*

As the *Sunset Western Garden* book states, cones of this tree “can damage parked cars.” The cones can grow to 14 inches and weigh up to five pounds. The 198th St tree is about 70-feet tall. The Vashon Highway tree is much younger. Named by David Douglas, species is native only to California.

◦ 8810 SW 198th St (#63)

◦ SW Cemetery Rd at 107th Ave SW, SW corner lot

◦ SW 161 St & Vashon Hwy, NW lot

✿ Eastern white, *Pinus Strobus*

The *Doggone Vashonable Tree*, was at 16606 Vashon Hwy SW, seen next page, now gone (94BT) F



This multi-branched iconic tree was nearly 20-feet around, named for the adjacent business.

✿ Ponderosa, *Pinus ponderosa*



Ponderosa Pine, or Yellow Pine (for, at 125 years+ the bark turns a luminous gold) is the most common and widespread conifer of

The West. (Doug Fir is the most utilized for timber.) Ponderosa Pine is the only three-bunched long-needled pine. The bark resembles jigsaw puzzle pieces. The trees prefer sunny sites. A specimen of 130-feet tall on the hill east of Fisher Pond is the only one we've ever documented. A row of Ponderosa grows along a large parking lot near 9500 SW 198th St. Jacobson says the nearest native stand is near Fort Lewis.²⁷



△ Shore, or Lodgepole, *Pinus contorta*

(For exact terminology of the four 'races' of this species please consult a more detailed tree book.)



This tree's appearance differs with different habitats with four recognized variants but is considered "one polymorphous species," per George Sudworth, former chief dendrologist for the USFS. *Pinus contorta* can be found across the Western US from the shoreline to 11,000-foot Rocky Mountain summits. The cones average two inches and have sharp prickles and are often asymmetric. In the mountains the Lodgepole 'race' has straight trunks up to 200 feet and thin, flakey bark. Individual trees of the Shore race can be found throughout VM, plus a planted row grows at the Puget Power office. The shore/beach variety has a more rounded top, to 120+ feet, is usually contorted and crooked, with thicker bark.

- 10322 Vashon Hwy SW
- 18125 Vashon Hwy SW, up driveway, N side
- 22916 107th Ave SW, on N driveway loop

△ Western White, *Pinus monticola*

- 17901 Vashon Hwy SW, next to an E White pine
- 22916 107th Ave SW, on S driveway loop

A particularly sappy tree with cones as long as 18 inches. Very similar to Eastern White, but differs in that it is darker, denser, and narrower.²⁸

POPLAR

The Latin *Populus*, nearly every tree book claims, originated from the trees being so often in public squares, so that they are considered 'trees of the people' — very trendy these days in US Governmental circles, I'd say. They are found from

the Arctic circle to N Africa; about half the total grow in North America.

△ Aspen, *Populus tremuloides*



A grove of aspens grows near Island Center Marsh. Aspen has the widest range of any tree of North America.

They quake because the leaf stems are flat and they're attached to the branch at a 90-degree angle.

° Access the Marsh at 19000 115th Ave SW



See page 6 for Birches and Aspens compared



° 16335 Crescent Dr, are 150-foot tall, shown to us by Perry Hansen, relating that his brother planted them around 1945.



(#17) Female trees produce masses of fluff.

Jay Holtz & Perry Hansen at Crescent Dr gazing at the tall poplars



Lombardy, *Populus nigra* cv. 'Italica'

Lombardys are noted for being very upright spires (pyramidal) and grow from suckers so that all the trees are male.



° 10100 SW Burton Dr (above)

Dayl Holst's amazing art imitates life painting of these trees.



⊗ Black, *Populus nigra*

° 23908 Vashon Hwy SW10214 SW Burton Dr: This was among one of the tallest trees here at 139-feet when it blew down in the 1993 Inauguration Day Storm. (#20), shown, both photos above. A sibling to this tree still stands just south of the Burton Post Office, below.



⌘ White,
*Populus
alba*

White fuzzy undersides, downright cottony. Native to N Africa and W Asia.

◦ 23605 Vashon Hwy SW

◦ 23300 107th Ave SW

⌘ Bolleana, *Populus alba* cv.
'Pyramidalis'

A clone of the White Poplar, and a more 'upright' version. The trees on Monument Rd are certainly 'upright', see next page.

Venerable Yard of Trees 10



Vashon Cemetery 19631 Singer Rd SW

Bristlecone Pine, Linden, Eastern Arborvitae, Noble Fir, Trident Maple, Perry's Silver Weeping Holly, Camperdown Elm, Golden Yew, Dwarf Alberta Spruce

Incorporated April 3, 1888, the only Cemetery District in King County. In 1929 DAR built the stone wall along the north edge. Enjoy the varied trees & still permitted upright markers, many VM pioneers laid to rest here.

Did you know? Tree Trivia:	
SPANISH	
Alameda	Poplar grove
Alamitos	Cottonwoods
Abeto	Fir
Alerce	Larch
Arce	Maple
Avellano	Hazel
Corte Madera	Cut wood
Castano	Chestnut
Fresno	Ash
Nogales	Walnuts
Paso Robles	Oak Pass
Picea	Pine
Pino	Spruce
GERMAN	
Baum	Tree
Tannen	Fir
FRENCH	
Bois	Wood
Bois de	Park
Kirsche	Cherry
WOW!	
Coney Island Boardwalk wood	Ipe, <i>Handroanthus</i> genus
Monarch butterflies overwinter in Mexico on	Oyamel fir, <i>Abies religiosa</i>
Blandy Experimental Forest, Virginia	Home to a 300+ Ginkgo grove!



Bolleana Poplars: 10800 SW 236th St & 22024 Monument Rd SW; two are nearly 120-feet tall and 20-feet circumference, (94BT)

⌘ **QUINCE**, *Cydonia oblonga*

Perhaps a holdover of the exotic fruit growers on VM. The fruits are sometimes called Golden Apples. Marjorie Stanley mentions using quince seed oil in her hair in her serial *Search for Laughter*. Maybe she rowed across the Inner Harbor to conduct a harvest (as she lived on Quartermaster Dr). ° 23726 94TH Ave SW

From the News-Record:

Dec 25, 1930

Old Tree Yields Heavily – A remarkable record has been set by a quince tree planted on the McCormick fruit farm some thirty years ago. On ordinary soil this tree would have been past its prime, whereas its yield this fall was 950 pounds, a remarkably heavy yield for a quince tree even in full bearing.



REDWOOD

Compare "Coast" Redwood cone, top, to "Sierra" Redwood, lower



⌘ **REDWOOD** or Coast Redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*

Considered by Jacobson's informal research to be America's Number One Tree (ie most popular and on people's radar). After all, England has the oak. Redwoods hold the world's tallest tree records at about 380 feet, though based on their plumbing structures, their upper limit is believed to be 425 feet. They are native to SW Oregon and coastal California but not native here. In their native range they depend on fog for 30% of their water needs.²⁹



- ° 22916 107th Ave SW, east of garage, Ht 70', (#23)
- ° 17800 Vashon Hwy SW, by Perry's Burgers, Ht-90' (#12)
- ° 24526 59th Ave SW, two groupings of seven total stems, all planted in 1946 from burls

collected by Edith Searle, Ht-50' & 65' (#37) (below)



- ° 10528 SW 238th St-- This is an excellent species 'teaching yard' with a row of redwoods closest to the street, a sequoia behind

them, a few spruce, and one Dawn Redwood in the left front. The owner told me he gathered the tree starts at his family's property in California.

❁ **REDWOOD, DAWN**, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Beautiful reds in the fall and the needles do drop, (as do needles of larch and bald cypress).

°10528 SW 228th St (mentioned just above)

❁ **SASSAFRAS**, *Sassafras albidum*

°10322 SW Cemetery Rd (#21)

Nature's cleverest use of leaf shape, the asymmetry looks like a hand, hence the nickname "mitten-tree". Once popular for flavoring. Happily, our sole VM tree now has offspring!



❁ **SEQUOIA** or Sierra redwood, *Sequoia-dendron giganteum* This tree (above) is *Our Number One*, ie, it is the very first tree we wanted to investigate and was given Certificate Number One of the Landmark Tree Program. It was known to be planted by Don Kirkland's dad Bert who was a UW Professor of Forestry. He planted the tree, now Ht-95', on Mother's Day around 1920. The

property/corner lot area is referred to as "Kirkland's Corner" in a mail route list of 1934.

- ° 15019 & 15915 (two) Vashon Hwy SW
- ° 9915 SW 188th St (#36,Y7)
- ° 9825 SW 186th St (**Number One!**)
- ° 23615 107th Ave SW
- ° 10528 SW 238th St, along with a row of redwoods



Youngish & older (R) Sequoias. (R) is No 1.

Sequoias attain the world's largest bulk of any tree. Their native range is a tiny 38,000 acres worldwide, all of it in California. Primo specimens have a national park of their own. Their seeds are often described as the size and weight of an eyelash. From afar, medium age sequoias are perfect cone shapes. You can easily spot them on the Pt Defiance hillside from the south ferry sailing. In old age they are gnarly, commanding respect for the 1,000-year lifespan. Not recommended for your yard, however. Older trunks can be as big as the average living room.



The General Sherman Sequoia Tree in Sequoia National Park's stats:

	<u>feet</u>
Height above Base	274.9
Circumference at Ground	102.6
Maximum Diameter at Base	36.5
Diameter 60' (18.3 m) above base	17.5
Diameter 180' (54.9 m) above base	14.0
Diameter of Largest Branch	6.8
Height of First Large Branch above the Base	130.0
Average Crown Spread	106.5

www.nps.gov/seki/learn/nature/sherman.htm

⚠ **SERVICEBERRY**, Western, *Amelanchier alnifolia*

Several throughout VM, grow to 25-feet tall. One of the prettiest for fall color but research before buying as some can be more colorful than others. 'Service' berry originates from usage of blossoms for springtime funeral services, as they are one of the few tree blossoms blooming in early spring. (Eastern serviceberry trees are also called Shadberry. Shad refers to the fish that run in Eastern US rivers at the time that region's trees blossom.)

° 15103 Vashon Hwy SW



⚡ **SILK TREE**, or Mimosa, *Albizia Julibrissin*

Exhibits the well-known folding up foliage, pretty puff ball flowers, actually common in Seattle. Two that grew here have left us, no doubt due to missing their subtropical homeland.³⁰ (F)



⚡ **SMOKE TREE**, *Cotinus Coggygria*

(This refers to the shrub or small tree, not the American Smoke Tree, which is larger.) Many good attributes, hardy, beautiful when backlit in the fall, airy pods fly through the air, and gorgeous dotted patterns on the autumn leaves. So much bang for the buck-- color, sound, and motion! None have been measured nor annotated but are easily found.

⚡ **SNOWBELL, JAPANESE**, or Snowdrop, *Styrax japonicus*

Can grow to 50-feet tall, has white, or rarely, pink flowers and felty seeds.

° 17210 Vashon Hwy SW, F Vashon Library front, on entry sidewalk, sadly gone due to remodeling



⚡ **SORREL TREE** or Sourwood, *Oxydendrum arboreum*

☺ **Author's Pick!**

Nothing could be finer than the elegant forms and colors of the sourwood leaves against a dark blue sky. Fall viewing of the huge one on the UW campus is alone worth the trip. Get yours now. This is this writer's favorite tree.

- 9915 SW 188th St (#36,Y7)
- SW Burton Dr at 105th, NW corner (F?)
- 9300 SW Bayview Dr, Camp Burton
- 19124 Vashon Hwy SW, '76/Deli along Vashon Hwy

Venerable Yard of Trees 7



The Old Cherry Hill Inn/Roberts House 9915 SW 188th St

Red Oak, Copper beech, Sequoia, two China firs, two Sourwoods. A large Deodar Cedar has died.

Designed and built around 1927 for the Roberts, once was a 20-acre lot with plum and other fruit export operations. Mrs. Roberts did volunteer landscaping for Seattle hospital auxiliaries. Perhaps she is the planter of the trees. In its infancy the house was (and still is) a showcase, and was a sought-after meeting place so others could witness the maid's quarters, the laundry chute, and the 14-inch foundation. Teddy Roosevelt is associated with the house and surrounding land (on paper on the original contract).

SPRUCE

☼ Norway, *Picea Abies*



Very numerous here. As a Christmas tree in northern Europe, is the most traditional and widespread there. New green cones are very compact and tightly closed. Put them in a dry spot til they open and string them on garland à la Martha Stewart.



◦ 18515 Beall Rd SW, Highland Hill

property driveway, north of the Beall Greenhouses site, probably planted around the time the house was built in 1893, 100-foot tall. (#15)

◦ 17708 Vashon Hwy SW, Presbyterian Church

◦ 13905 Vashon Hwy SW, Burton Church (two)



L: Diane Adkison, used by permission; Ctr & R: courtesy VMIHA & Burton Church

In the center photo the spruce on the Burton Church front lawn looks about six-feet tall. It is now near 90-feet. This c 1906-1910 photo is the ONLY 'historic' photo I've been able to find of a significant Landmark Tree. There may be others but in all the time I've browsed in the VMIHA library, this is all I've found. When it rains, it pours—there are two other items depicting this very same tree, shown above, a greeting card and the church centennial program.

Venerable Yard of Trees 12



Nancy and Dwight Norsen's
Norsen Trust Land at Green Valley Creek

A gorgeous intact habitat along a creek nurtured with myriad groundcover including oxalis, fringe cup, vinca, Siberian lettuce, vanilla leaf, and yellow violets all which surround enormous Bigleaf Maples, Doug Firs, Grand firs, and Madrona.

In 1991 Nancy enthusiastically hosted our measuring of some of the Island's largest trees. The Norsens purchased this property in 1946 and 1950 and were model stewards in every possible way throughout their West Passage tenancy. For every English ivy vine removed per Nancy's Removal Parties, there is, perhaps, an equal number of oxalis stems growing throughout the island. (np/imp)



△ Sitka, *Picea sitchensis*

The state tree of Alaska, none can rival the Lake Quinault specimen at 58-feet around, which has its own cookie cutter and commemorative mugs at its namesake lodge on the Olympic Peninsula. Cones are papery and 'points' are notched. The tree does grow on VM & its southern range includes California. Airplane parts were made from the wood during both World Wars, usual material for piano sounding boards. Read about the harrowing 1997 elimination of the unique Golden Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis* 'Aurea') in the Queen Charlottes in the non-fiction book, *The Golden Spruce*. It is interesting to note that though largest in area of US states, Alaska has the fewest native trees-- only 33.³¹

✿ STEWARTIA,

Stewartia spp.

Small creamy flowers in the summer, and beautiful mottled bark; is a memorial planting for a founder/board member.



° 20110 Vashon Hwy SW, on lawn of Vashon Youth & Family Services.



Sweetgum
leaf & seed
ball, cont'
next page



☼ **SWEETGUM**, *Liquidambar Styraciflua*

A popular well-known species possessing a cool name, a 'cool' smell, a 'cool' seed, and a 'cool' leaf shape. The seeds are perfect spheres but prickly, the leaves are star-shaped and good smelling when crushed, and fall color is pretty and varied.

- 17530 96th Pl SW, condos east of TW
- 9922 SW 178th St, corner of Chase bank
- 19100 Vashon Hwy SW, '76/Deli parking lot
- 22800 Vashon Hwy SW at SW corner 228th St
- 100th Ave at 238th St, Burton, so big you can spot it from across Inner Quartermaster Harbor.
- 20402 81st Ave SW, one of the prettiest
- 15333 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon Community Church yard (three)

TAMARACK, *see Larch*

☼ **TAMARISK**, Rose, *Tamarix parviflora*



I think I must be in Arizona whenever I see this shrubby tree (as it's ever-more common there but native of Eurasia) with eye-catching fine pink strands. You might know it as Salt cedar which is a larger variety, same genus.

- 9620 SW Bank Rd

Venerable Yard of Trees 5



Fisher Pond 12500 SW Bank Rd

Bill Fisher bought the first lot adjacent to the pond in the 60s. By 1976 he acquired 90 acres, all of which remain intact via his generous bequest to the Land Trust & Park District. In his quiet way, he made a permanent home for many plants and animals Islanders love.





From the News-Record:

May 9, 1933

Nearly 1,000 Trees Planted Along Road

– The planting of trees along the Island highways is progressing at a rapid rate under the enthusiastic direction of Royce Wise, who has used his truck to haul trees as well as workers. Trees are being taken from vacant land so are costing nothing. The Heights residents have completed their section, planting 500 trees from the dock to Fjeld's corner. The section from Fjeld's to the Glen Acres road will be taken care of by workers from the Goodwill Farm, with Mr. Wise furnishing the truck and trees. The Vashon Boy Scouts will take care of a section between the Glen Acres road and Vashon. At the South End, the Burton Improvement Club, with the help of the Burton Scouts have planted 350 trees, coming north to the Judd Creek Bridge.



☼ **TULIP TREE** or Tulip or Yellow Poplar, *Liriodendron Tulipifera*

The Tulip Tree is the tree of *The Wind in the Willows* story—the tree which Ichabod Crane hides behind and is the state tree of Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

The name is doubly appropriate, as the beautiful blossoms are tulip-shaped, as are the leaves. Like sassafras leaves, many are intriguingly asymmetric.



Tulip Trees are numerous here, happily. Or maybe they are just eye-catching and therefore more countable. They can live to 600 years old. A Kew Gardens, UK, Tulip Tree

is over 110 feet tall. Two large Tulip Trees grow along Fauntleroy Way. Jacobson says, "it thrives in Seattle and we have great examples."³² (Careful what you call a Tulip Tree, numerous other species of common-named Tulip Trees grow on other continents.)

- 13434 Vashon Hwy SW
- 16703 Vashon Hwy SW
- 16402 Columbia Ave SW (54)
- 17010 136th Pl SW, 60 feet tall (#32)
- 17700 Thorsen Rd SW
- 18703 Vashon Hwy SW
- 10426 SW 112th St, 50 feet tall (#45)
- 20126 Ridge Rd SW
- Sunrise Ridge, on south lawn of clinic building
- 21318 Vashon Hwy SW, north edge of yard
- 23014 Vashon Hwy SW
- 22916 107th Ave, a variegated leaves



This beautiful variegated-leaf Tulip Tree is at my former residence and was given to me on Valentine's Day 1998

The Eernisse Tulip Tree



By far the most outstanding Tulip Tree here, 75 feet tall, but unfortunately was, first, hacked by the power company, sliced, then, eventually eliminated in March 2009. The Eernisse Tulip Tree, as it was known, once stood along the west edge of the current Vashon Hardware parking

lot. This is the locale of the Eernisse family farm where Fred and his dad, Arie also planted an adjacent Monkey puzzle tree which also was sadly eliminated in the name of progress. (both #58)



☼ WALNUT

Black, *Juglans nigra* & Butternut, *Juglans cinerea*

The Therkelsen Walnuts

Very prominent Vashon trees, as thousands of us drive by them every day, as well as being as historic as it gets here-- with the dates and name of planter known! Kay Therkelsen told us in 1988 that her mother remembers lying under the trees when the road out front was barely built and also having to ask the road department to spare the trees when Vashon Highway was widened.

They were planted by Harriet Fuller, it is believed



around 1890. She purchased them from Phillip McCormick, who was a traveling salesman out of Tacoma, working for a nursery in Woodburn Oregon. McCormick married Harriet's daughter Isabell and they settled on the property now

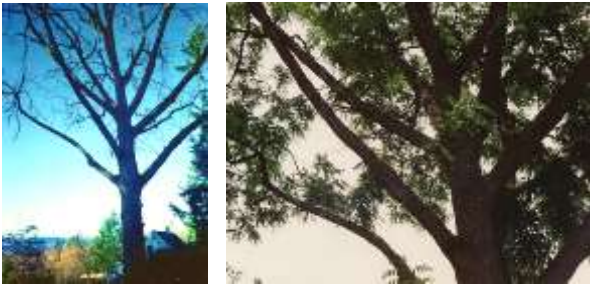
occupied by the old K2 plant. See Van Olinda's photo of this very crossroads also taken in 1890!

° 19603 Vashon Hwy, just south of old Fuller's Store (#3), (North tree=Butternut; South tree=Walnut)

TWO WALNUTS	BUTTERNUT	BLACK
Leaflets	11-15 (9)	13-27
Bark	More gray	More fissured
Husks	1- ³ / ₈ to - 3- ³ / ₈ " , more ovoid	1 1/2 - 2 3/4" , smaller, more rounded
Nuts	Buttery, oily	Delicious
Lifespan	Shorter, weaker	



- 11920 SW 148th St (#28)
- 14709 SW Bethel Ln (#26)
- 17015 115th Ave SW (Y4)
- 9636 SW Elisha Ln (Y10)
- 10325 SW Cemetery Rd (Y9)



This Black Walnut on SW 148th (above photos), Larry Walls reported, was planted by his mom on the day of his sister's wedding in 1934 here at their family's former long-time residence.



The Therkelsen Walnuts at Center and shown depicted in the logo of a business housed in the old Fuller's Store. The trees are also seen to upper right.



WILLOW

⌘ Corkscrew, *Salix Matsudana*

Corkscrew Willows are visually very interesting and easily IDed with twisty curly limbs.

- 19506 Vashon Hwy in front of LS Cedar
- 8518 SW Ellisport Rd, Tramp Harbor Inn; a large tree on the north lawn
- 8811 SW Quartermaster Dr: along with a Corkscrew, on either side of this block are Willow spp's, Thompson on the north side; Sitka, Pacific, and Hooker on the south side.



▲ Scouler, *Salix Scouleriana*

Grows the largest of all Pussy Willows and this tree near Portage also happens to be the largest circumference, (144") specimen in Washington state, 67' ht. (94BT) np/imp

⌘ Weeping, *various spp.* and hybrids

Yikes. There are eight Weeping Willow varieties and 20 non-weeping Willows listed in *Trees of Seattle*. In addition to the Quartermaster Drive Willows, I can't begin to guess what is here but to say you'll find a handful of 'weeping' types with over 50' wide crowns throughout VM. One is next to the '76 Gas station and one is just N off SW Burton Dr up the hill from the Burton Store.

⌘ WINGNUTS, *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*

I mention these, though there are none here, to urge you to go viewing. Their unique character is worth a trip to Ballard. Their seed pods resemble parakeet millet sprays. Some grow on 24th Ave NW between NW 57th and 64th Streets.



YEW

Pacific Yew is the slowest growing tree in the state, according to Jacobson, and one of our region's few natives that reaches record size elsewhere.³³ With their

dark green foliage and their frequent planting in graveyards, in England and America yews are closely associated with grief. But in the 1990s Pacific Yew became suddenly ultra-favorable when cancer-fighting paclitaxel was isolated from it. One gram of Pacific Yew yields 50-70 micrograms of paclitaxel or two tons yields ten grams. Rather than wipe out the species, paclitaxel is now produced synthetically. Throughout the UK there are ancient yews reputed to be 500-1,000- years-old with a circumference of 31-feet .³⁴

⌘ Golden Yew, *Taxus baccata f. aurea*, & Irish Yew, *Taxus cv. 'Fastigiata' 'Hibernica'*

◦ 19631 SW Singer Rd, Vashon Cemetery (Y10)

⌘ English Yew, *Taxus baccata cv. 'Fastigiata'*. Not aware of any on VM but common in Seattle

▲ Pacific Yew, *Taxus brevifolia*

Growing throughout VM in many yards, including (#13), 40-feet tall, which is considerable for measured trees in Puget Sound area of this species.

Venerable Yard of Trees 2

Walter Reid's Amazing Redwood Grove (np/imp)



We discovered this Sequoia grove when measuring a tree next door. By now, the trees must either have been replaced by a mansion or have achieved national park-stature. Yes, Mr Reid (1916-2007) planted over a dozen Sierra Redwoods

along with several Coast Redwoods. His dad John bought this lot in 1922 & founded the U-district *Herald*. Walter was present at the flag-raising of Iwo Jima & founded the U-district Kid's Parade in the 50s. What an amazing, massive legacy!



Run of the Mills:

From the News-Record:

September 7, 1923 **Steen Mill Company Goes To Ellisport** – Preparations Being Made to Produce Lumber for Export Trade – Work was commenced this week by the H. Steen Mill company for the erection of a \$40,000 saw mill on the site of the Fuller mill at Ellisport, and when the plant is completed Vashon island will be on the map as an exporter of lumber for foreign trade. Some months ago Mr. Steen secured a lease on the Fuller mill site at Ellisport covering an area of about 300 water front and 1000 feet in depth. Preparations for the enlarging of the old mill and the purchase of additional machinery have gone on quietly for several months. This week material is being hauled from the present mill and active work will be commenced at once. A pile driver is being constructed for the company at Dockton and on its completion a wharf will be constructed that will permit of deep sea vessels loading at the dock and bids will be made for export trade. Inasmuch as the greater part of the timber of this part of the island has been cut Mr. Steen has been looking about for a new location for some time. Ellisport offered the best inducements, that being of the best protected harbor available and at the same time making it possible to tow logs in from all parts of Puget Sound.

From the News-Record:

November 21, 1924 **Burton** – The Vashon Island Mill Company shipped 60,000 feet of lumber to Los Angeles last week.

From the News-Record:

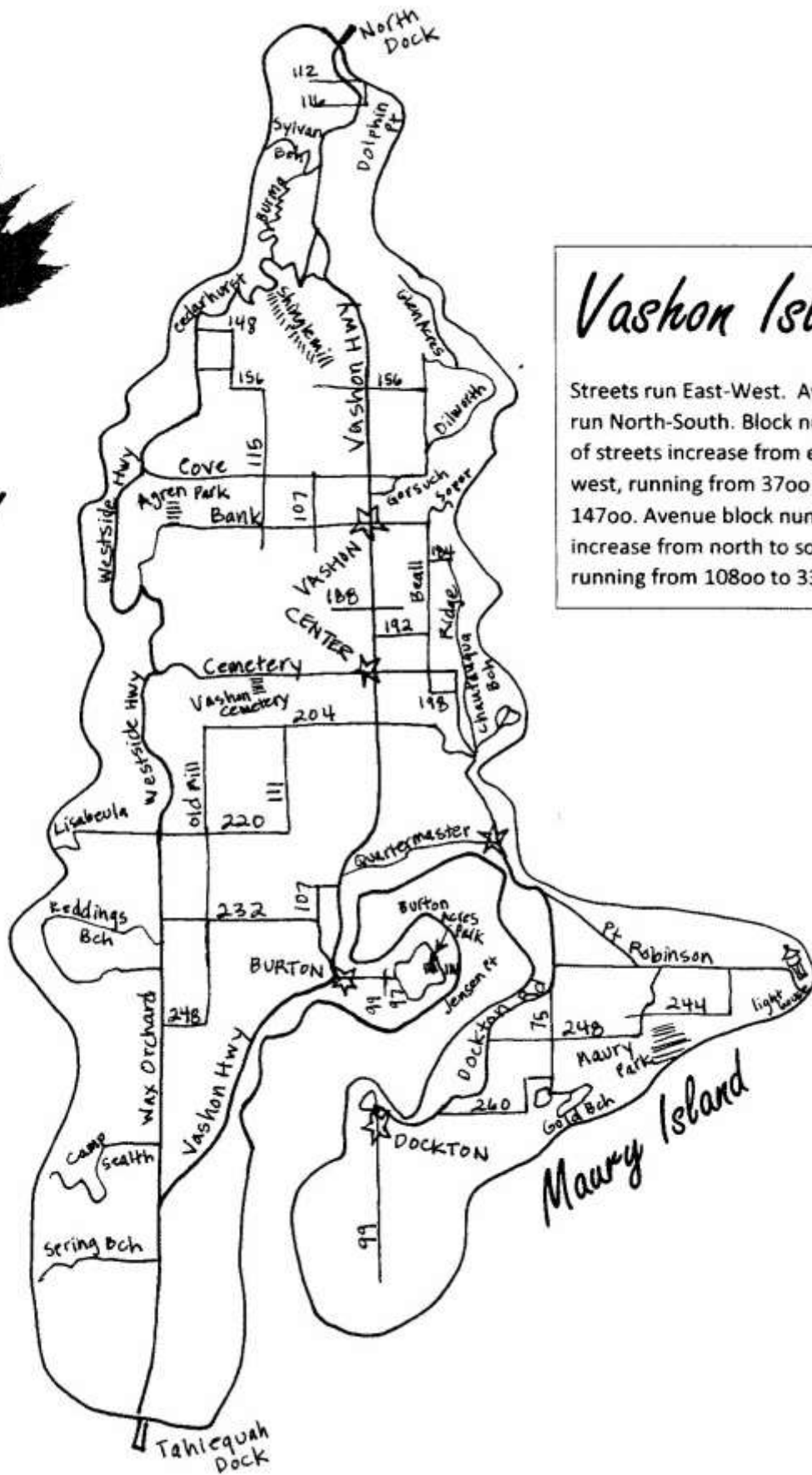
October 12, 1923 **Williams To Move Mill** – J.C. Williams, well known mill man of Burton, this week started to clear a mill site at the mouth of Judd Creek to prepare to move his mill to that point from its present site west of Burton. Mr. Williams will transport his timber by truck and will secure additional supplies from log rafts. With the Steen mill being erected at Ellisport this will make two big mills within two miles of each other along the water front.

From the News-Record:

October 31, 1924 **Local News** – The Steen mill loaded a scow with 100,000 feet of lumber on Thursday for export trade. October 31, 1924 Burton – The Vashon Island Mill company received a good-sized boom of logs last week which will keep the mill running for some time. The company expects to make another shipment of lumber this week – part of their output goes to San Francisco, some to the East Coast, and Japan. Same as above date.

From the News-Record:

November 23, 1923 **Burton** – The foundation for the new mill being built at the mouth of Judd creek by the Vashon Island Mill Co. is laid, and the dock is now being built. C.J. Williams states that it will be completed and ready for business by the first of the year.



Vashon Island

Streets run East-West. Avenues run North-South. Block numbers of streets increase from east to west, running from 3700 to 14700. Avenue block numbers increase from north to south, running from 10800 to 33000.

Note: Common/Entry names in italics indicate more than one genera are found in section

INDEX

- ALDER 12
 Red 12
 Cutleaf 12
 Sitka 12
APPLE 13
ARBORVITAE,
 Eastern 14
 Western Redcedar 14
ASH,
 Oregon 15
 Raywood 15
 Mountain, European 14
BEECH,
 Common/American/
 Eurasian 16
 Copper 16
BIRCH,
 Jaquemont 16
 Paper 16
 Silver 16
 Swedish 16
BUCKEYE 17
CATALPA 18
CEDAR,
 Alaskan Yellow 19
 Atlas 19
 Blue 19
 Deodar 19
 Lebannon 19
 Japanese 19
 Port Orford 20
CHERRY 20
CHESTNUT,
 American 21
 Spanish/Eurasian 22
CHINA-FIR 23
CYPRESS,
 Bald 24
 Hinoki 24
 Italian 24
 Lawson 20
 Sawara 24
 Moss 24
 String or Thread 25
DOGWOOD,
 Kousa 26
 Pacific 25
DOUGLAS FIR 26
ELDERBERRY 28
 Pin 42
 Red 44
 Water 45
PALM
 Palmetto, dwarf 45
 Windmill 45
PAWPAW 45
PEACH 46
PINE,
 Coulter 46
 Eastern White 46
 Ponderosa 47
 Shore/Lodgepole 47
 Western White 47
POPLAR,
 Aspen 48
 Black 48
 Lombardy 48
 White 49
 Bolleana 49
QUINCE 50
REDWOOD,
 Coast 50
 Dawn 51
SASSAFRAS 51
SEQUOIA 51
SERVICEBERRY 52
SILK TREE 52
SMOKE TREE 52
SNOWBALL, JAPANESE 52
SORREL TREE 52
SPRUCE,
 Norway 53
 Sitka 54
STEWARTIA 54
SWEETGUM 55
TAMARISK 55
TULIP TREE 56
WALNUT 57
WILLOW,
 Corkscrew 58
 Scouler 58
 Weeping 59
WINGNUT 59
YEW,
 Golden 59
 Irish 59
 Pacific 59
ELM,
 American & English 28
 Camperdown 29
 Siberian/Chinese 29
EMPRESS TREE 30
EUCALYPTUS 30
FIG 31
FIR,
 Grand 31
 Noble 32
FIRE TREE, CHILEAN 32
GINKGO 33
HACKBERRY 32
HAWTHORN 33
HAZEL 33
HEMLOCK,
 Mountain 34
 Western 34
HICKORY 34
HOLLY
 English 34
 Perry's Silver 34
 Golden King Highclere 34
HONEY LOCUST 35
KATSURA 35
KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE 35
LARCH 36
LAUREL
 Bay 36
 Portugal 36
LINDEN 36
LOCUST, Black 37
MADRONA 37
MAPLE
 Bigleaf 38
 Norway 39
 Japanese 39
 Sugar 39
 Sunset 39
 Sycamore 40
 Trident 40
 Vine 40
MONKEY PUZZLE 40
MULBERRY 41
OAK,
 Cork 42
 Daimyo 42
 English 42
 Garry or White 43

- 1 Jacobson, Arthur, *Trees of Seattle*. Arthur Lee Jacobson, 2006, p 31.
 - 2 Christina Scott, "Colvos Creek Nursery." *The American Gardener*, The American Horticultural Society, 1999.
 - 3 Tekiela, Stan. *Trees of Colorado*. Adventure Publishing, 2007, p 91.
 - 4 Pete Svinth, "Island Fruit Trees," King County, Island Agricultural Roots Lecture Series, Vashon Land Trust, 1996.
 - 5 Jacobson, p 270.
 - 6 Mitchell, Alan. *Trees of North America*. Thunder Bay Press, 2002, p 32.
 - 7 Parkenham, Thomas. *Meetings With Remarkable Trees*. Random House, 1997, p 169.
 - 8 Jacobson, p 614.
 - 9 Van Pelt, Robert. *Forest Giants of the Pacific Coast*. University of Washington Press, 2001. p 42.
 - 10 Hume, Robin. "Consciousness of Streams," *WAVES*, Vol 1, No 1, Jones, Ed. 1992, p 4.
 - 11 Roberts, Paul. "God's Greatest Hits." *Seattle Weekly*, April 29, 1992.
 - 12 Fogt, Anneli, "Vashon town's 45-year-old Christmas tree is courtesy of island Johnny Appleseed," *Vashon Beachcomber*, Dec 2, 2015, p 1.
 - 13 Jacobson, p 144.
 - 14 Jacobson, p 143.
 - 15 Pete Svinth, "Island Fruit Trees," King County, Island Agricultural Roots Lecture Series, Vashon Land Trust, 1996.
 - 16 Jahren, Hope. *Lab Girl*, Vintage Books, 2016, p 71.
 - 17 Sullivan, Mike, *Trees of San Francisco*, Wilderness Press, 2013, p 32.
 - 18 Jacobson, p 175.
 - 19 Jacobson, Arthur, *North American Landscape Trees*, Ten Speed Press, 1996, p 112.
 - 20 Jacobson, Arthur, *Trees of Seattle*. Arthur Lee Jacobson, 2006, p 207.
 - 21 [www.for.gov.ministry/home/tree book](http://www.for.gov.ministry/home/tree%20book)
 - 22 Jacobson, p 246.
 - 23 Jacobson, Arthur, *North American Landscape Trees*, Ten Speed Press, 1996, p 47.
 - 24 Jacobson, Arthur, *Trees of Seattle*. Arthur Lee Jacobson, 2006, p 285.
 - 25 Jacobson, p 303.
 - 26 Jacobson, p 304.
 - 27 Jacobson, p 331.
 - 28 Jacobson, p 335.
 - 29 Bourne, Joel. "Redwoods: Super Trees," *National Geographic*, Oct. 2009, Vol 216, No 4, p 30.
 - 30 Jacobson, p 368.
 - 31 Viereck, Leslie and Little, *Alaska Trees and Shrubs*, University of Alaska, 1991, p 7.
 - 32 Jacobson, p 390.
 - 33 Jacobson, p 412.
 - 34 Parkenham, Thomas. *The Company of Trees*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2015, p 108.
- News Record* articles online courtesy of Vashon Maury Island Heritage Association:
[www.vashonhistory.com/Vashon%20History/ News%20paper/newspaper____\(\(insert year of article\)\)](http://www.vashonhistory.com/Vashon%20History/News%20paper/newspaper____((insert%20year%20of%20article)))



COULDN'T HAVE DONE
IT WITHOUT YOU:
(Owners, Consultants,
Participants, Sherpas,
Friends, & Family)

Phil Maharin
Joy Nelsen
Susan White
Janise Fessenden
Reed Fitzpatrick
Pat Ritzhaupt
Margie Morgan
Barbara Steen
Pete Ray
Dorothy Johnson
Hector Gaxiola

Jay, Morgan & Ariel Holtz
Bryan Cordell
Mary Jo Barrentine
Mary Van Gemert
Ginny Young
Bonnie Harris
Michele Harvey
Carlene Chang
David Ewer
Sharon Munger
Emma Amiad
Stephen Harvey
Katrin Fletter
Colleen Sweeney
Melinda Sontegrath
Fran Brooks
Laurie Tucker

Doug Tuma
Richard & Susan Rogers
Tom DeVries
Jessica Satori
Laura Bienen
Ellen Kritzman
Tom Schroeder
Bruce Haulman
John Browne, Jr
Luke Lukowskie
Nikki Chaplin
Ralph & Sue Lopez
Greg Rectin
Larry Burt
Ward, Webster
& Lowell Silver



*Lowell & Webster
Silver on the stump
of our family's dear
departed Bigleaf
Maple on 107th Ave*

An extra big Thank You to Rayna-- none of this would have been possible to compile without Rayna's diligent reference librarian efforts toward putting names, dates, and places on every photo--amazing!

THEY'RE ISLAND HISTORY

We humans like to overpower the natural world, though in the Northwest, nature often overpowers us. When it comes to trees, some *do* get out of hand; and many are routinely sacrificed in the name of progress. A few 'historical' losses are reminisced about below:

- Tulip Tree south of the Chevron, east side, Sept 1993
- A medium Deodar, died, and had to be cut, at 188th and the Highway
- Silver Maple on south edge of Thriftway Parking Lot/Seafirst, now Wells Fargo, had galls and was sick



*Jacobson, far L,
speaks to Tree
Walk group, Gene
Smith, 3rd from L,
Bill Fisher, far R*

- Mulberry on the north side of US Bank building, damaged in a January storm
- Two small Ginkgos by Chase, run over by vandals
- The Bike Tree's *raison d'etre*, a victim of its own popularity, its bicycle parts nearly all vandalized
- Much thinning has had to be done at the old Ramquist yard and one China-fir top broke



- Both the "Eernisse" Tulip Tree, cut 2009, and the "Eernisse" Monkey Puzzle cut around 2002, on the 17500 block of Bank Rd



*The final days of
the Eernisse Tulip
Tree*



From Editor, Beachcomber:

Monkey tree preserved and preserves memories, reads the caption on the letter from Jakk Corsaw. He goes on to write "I am pleased the Monkey tree, presently growing in front of the surviving house will be preserved in the new (community) plan conception." Corsaw also says Fred Eernisse told him Fred and his dad planted the tree and first called it the Devil Tree. Fred added that they were expensive, being imported from the Orient, and if one could afford it most people purchased two to flank their driveway. April 12, 1990

(Monkey trees are native to South America)



◦ Blue Atlas Cedar by Island Funeral Service and 70- foot tall Port Orford Cedar just to north.

◦ The Monkey Puzzle Restaurant tree, just south of the Chevron gas station, damaged in Dec 2006 windstorm, then cut the following January

◦ Spinning Gum Eucalyptus in the pocket park next to the Pharmacy. Planned and planted by Peter Ray.



◦ Happy Garden Chestnut, cut in 2002 for new realty office and parking lot at the former Dr Ellis home site



◦ A 139-foot Black Poplar across the street from the Burton Store; it was already considered potentially hazardous due just to its growth habit, when it blew down in the Inauguration Day storm in 1993.



◦ Eastern White Pine at 16605 Vashon Hwy, once signed Doggone Vashonable



◦ A 19-foot circumference Bigleaf Maple on Burton Hill, rotted inside, then split, crashed and fell on a tree-service truck on Festival Weekend 1995; happily, a Katsura tree has been planted in its stump.

In Memoriam



*Nancy Norsen,
Marshall Sohl,
Jr (L) and Alan
Huggins (R)*

As we set out in 1991 on the Adventure that became the Landmark Tree Program, many people aided and cheered us on with their enthusiasm, knowledge of Island Lore, dendrology expertise, pride of ownership, and friendship. With, oh, so many years now passed, we mourn the loss of these wonderful friends who welcomed us to their yards, manned the clipboards, held the other end of the tape measure, and loved Island Trees.

Gene Smith, ---Our Founder Who Planted

The Seeds and The Nuts

Nancy & Dwight Norsen

Marshall Sohl, Jr

Mark McCann

Walter Reid

Alan Huggins

Edith Ostrom

Walt Steen

Bonnie Shride

Connie Parker

Elisha Morgan, Jr

Ann Widditsch

Bill Fisher

Candy Dean

Lon Hoover

Bill Palmer

Kurt Bourgault of Island Trees Co.

Vivian & Cyril Conant

Beverly & Odell Lovre

Dean and Doretha Miller

Judith Pearce

WANTED

Hey, Vashon-Maury-ites:

We need YOU!

Help carry forward the Landmark Tree Program

- Run around in the morning dew
- Find new trees
- Explore a rain forest
- Seek pink blossoms

REWARD



Do it for your island. Do it for the trees.

Do it for history. Do it for fun.

Make it Your Project & enlist one of the many outdoor/land protection/gardening groups to join you.



(L) Nancy & Rayna
by the Lewis and
Clark County
Library, Helena MT



(R) Jay & the
Octopus Tree,
Vashon

Nancy Ewer (formerly Silver) lived on VM twenty-five years TO THE DAY! (1983-2008) and now lives in Montana. She is the author of *A History of Vashon-Maury Island Re-Addressed*. The only tree she has planted in her new location is a Ponderosa Pine for the nuthatches.

Rayna Holtz is going on over 40 years on Vashon, was the Vashon King County Reference Librarian until her retirement and is the recipient of Vashon's Emma Award.

Jay Holtz is also going on over 40 years on Vashon. He is an avid gardener, forestland owner, former contract horticulturist, and retired Vashon US Postal Service mail carrier.

A separate 8x8 inch hardcover *Trees of Vashon-Maury, 2017* Shutterfly© book is available also. It has primarily photos (all color) and minimal text. Email Nancy at nanlingo@gmail.com to order a copy.



The presence of specific locations of specific trees cannot be guaranteed.
Please email me with any corrections.