



### SYCAMORE (*Platanus racemosa*)

Look past the plaque to our own sycamore, famous for being over 400 years old! Native to the United States, it has been extensively planted as a shade tree. It can reach up to 131 feet high and 6.6 feet in diameter.

*Next look for a tree overhanging path with huge seed pods, or in season, spectacular sapphire blooms!*

### POWTON SAPPHIRE DRAGON (*Paulownia kawakamii*)



Native to China, and also referred to as the Princess or Empress tree, it is a symbol of prosperity and wisdom in Chinese mythology. This fast-growing tree is a highly-prized timber source around the world (from the size of a chopstick to a flagpole in three years), and has been featured on the Oprah Winfrey show.

*Ahead on your right, see...*

### SHAMEL ASH (Evergreen Ash) (*Fraxinus undei*)



Native to Mexico, indigenous people have used this tree for tobacco, pipes, canes, and medicine from the roots. When warmed, the sap was used to cure earaches and the wood has been used for bats, shovel handles, and other tools. This tree has been known to cause hay fever and asthma.

*Proceed to Arboretum plaque on left and tree behind... known as...*

### CORK OAK (*Quercus suber*)



Native to Europe and Africa, this tree is a primary source of cork for wine bottle stoppers (a single tree can cork 4,000 bottles), cork flooring, and the cores of cricket balls. This evergreen oak tree is one of the few trees able to regenerate its bark, which is hand harvested.

*Farther along the path on your left you'll see...*

### CHINESE ELM (*Ulmus parvifolia*)



Native to Asia, this semi-deciduous tree produces small but perfect flowers in early autumn. The showy, exfoliating bark reveals mottled patterns of gray, green, orange, and brown, adding great textural and visual interest. The wood is used for tool handles, archer bows, and baseball bats.

*Just before the foot bridge, you'll see this tree...*

### PEACHLEAF WILLOW (*Salix amygdaloides*)



Native to the prairies of Canada and the United States, this tree produces small yellow flowers in spring. This is the common willow across the northern plains, where it is important in protecting riverbanks from erosion.

*Look ahead at the well-known...*

### CALIFORNIA PEPPER (*Schinus molle*)



Native to Peru, this tree has hundreds of clusters of red berries, often sold as 'red peppercorns' and are present year-round. It is also known for its strong wood used for saddles, and for being home to the Pepper-Tree Moth. The custom of sweeping a cluster of branches over a person's body to cleanse or heal (*Una barrida con pirul*), is still practiced.

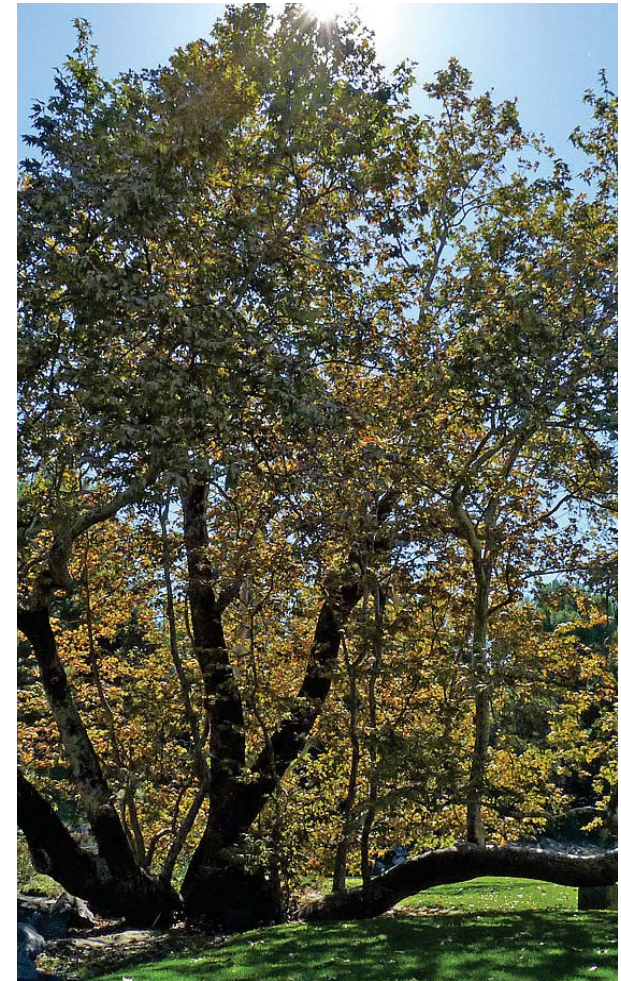
*Proceed up the hill to take a close look at our last tree!*

### COOK PINE (*Araucaris columnaris*)



Native to the southwestern Pacific, and endemic to New Caledonia, this tree was classified on the second Captain Cook voyage. It always leans an average of eight degrees toward the equator, wherever it grows. It's planted in formal gardens due to its unique look, and because of its similarities, is often confused with the Norfolk Island Pine.

*Enjoy your return to the bridge by taking another look at all these wonderful trees we are so lucky to have!*



## Laguna Woods Village® TREE WALK GUIDE

- Aliso Creek Park -

I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees.

- Henry David Thoreau

[www.LagunaWoodsVillage.com](http://www.LagunaWoodsVillage.com)

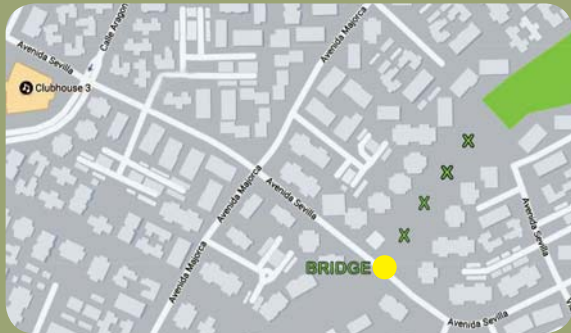
Tree Walk Planning & Research - Jean Lustig  
Photography & Booklet - Pat Wilkinson

Enjoy other tree walk guides at the History Center!

This guide is compliments of the  
History Center of Laguna Woods Village  
[LagunaWoodsHistory.org](http://LagunaWoodsHistory.org)



## THE ALISO CREEK PARK TREE WALK BEGINS HERE...



Beauty and adventure await on this lovely tree discovery walk. This walk is easy, takes less than an hour to stroll, to absorb the beauty of it all. Simply park on Avenida Sevilla near the bridge. Look for entrance shown in photo below. Have fun!



**Bringing water is suggested**



**Wear comfy shoes and perhaps a hat**



**Take photos and notes. Look for wildlife too—birds, squirrels, butterflies and more!**



*Look to your left to the stand of large pines...*



### ALEPPO PINE (*Pinus halepensis*)

Native to the Mediterranean, the bark is thick and orange-red. Paul Cezanne had an Aleppo in his garden which was the model for his painting, “The Big Trees,” and it is supposedly still there. It is popular as a bonsai and attracts birds and squirrels. The Greeks use the resin to make Retsina Wine.



As you continue walking, notice the common juniper and yucca plants on your left, and the various water-loving vegetation along Aliso Creek on your right.

*Continue along the path until you reach the Bridge. Look left to view the next tree...*

### COAST REDWOOD (*California Redwood*) (*Sequoia sempervirens*)



Native to the Pacific coast of North America, this tree is an evergreen in the cypress family. Living up to 1,800 years, it can grow to more than 300 feet. This species includes the tallest living trees on earth. Almost as old as the dinosaurs, Redwoods have been around for 240 million years.

*Continue along walking between the Willows...*

### AUSTRALIAN WILLOW (*Geijera parviflora*)



Native to Australia, these trees are used for shade and fodder in agricultural areas. Sheep particularly enjoy grazing on the lower branches. Aboriginals chew the aromatic leaves for alleviating toothaches, and the small white petals of the flowers attract insects.

*Look ahead on your left and see...*

### COAST LIVE OAK (*Quercus agrifolia*)



Native to California, this evergreen oak can live more than 150 years. It attracts birds, squirrels, and deer. The Oak Moth caterpillar subsists entirely on the living or fallen leaves of the oak. Acorns were a dietary staple for native American cultures throughout Southern California.

*Continue walking for some distance to...*

### BALD CYPRESS (*Taxodium distichum*)



Native to the southeastern and southern United States, this is the classic tree of southern swamps, where its roots develop above-water shoots (or knees) for support. This deciduous, slow-growing, long-living tree can grow as high as 120 feet. The oldest known specimen, located in North Carolina, is over 1,620 years old. In 2012 scuba divers discovered an underwater forest off the coast of Alabama in 60 feet of water.

*See on your right a view of the ‘Peace Grove’, a beautiful place to sit, relax and enjoy nature...*

### GOLDEN RAIN TREE (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)



Native to northern China, this tree produces bright yellow blooms. Known as our Village Tree, Ross Cortese, the founder of the Village, loved this tree and named his foundation after it. The seeds and leaves can be eaten, and the seeds are also used as beads in making jewelry.

*They flank an amazing tree...*

### MONKEY PUZZLE (*Araucaria araucana*)

Native of Chile, and on its endangered list, it reaches heights of 130 feet. Fossils tell us this tree lived millions of years ago during the time of the dinosaurs. The comment, “It would puzzle a monkey to climb that,” led to the unusual name.

*With your back to the restroom, another view of the ‘Peace Grove’...*

### SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA (*Magnolia grandiflora*)



Native to the United States, the large, showy, and very fragrant lemon-scented flowers are white, and can measure up to 12 inches wide. Squirrels, opossums, quail, and turkey are known to eat the seeds.

*To the left of the post...*

### JACARANDA (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)

Native to South America (although it grows world-wide) it is valued for the intense fragrant flower displays of blue/purple blooms in late spring and summer. The tree wood is called Logwood, and used in dyeing and in medicine.

*Proceed to the stone with the plaque on the right of the path...*