

GINKGO (FEMALE TREE) (*Ginkgo biloba*) a.k.a. maidenhair tree



Native of China (its national tree) and the oldest tree on earth. It co-existed with dinosaurs and survived Japan's 1945 atom bomb blast. Note the unique, two-lobed, fan-like leaves, which turn a brilliant gold in the fall. Female ginkgo trees produce smelly fruits; the male produces little cones. This tree has a long history for healing properties and is popular as a bonsai. A long-lived tree, temple specimens range up to 1,500 years old.



Note: On the left hand corner of the path is the 1966 Wilson Plaque. Across from the plaque is Manor 21 with two of these trees in front...

BOTTLE TREE (*Brachychiton populneus*) a.k.a. Kurrajong



Native of Australia, it is a hardy, evergreen shade tree with an attractive upright form and bright-green leaves that enhance any landscape. It requires little to no water once it is established. Aborigines could bore a hole in the heavy, moisture-storing trunk and squeeze out water. Its foliage was used for livestock during drought, the wood was used for making shields and the bark provided fiber. The fiber was used for fish nets and twine, as well as eaten. The seeds are eaten and made into a coffee-like drink by Europeans. Leaves flutter and shimmer in the breeze, Aspen-like.

Walk ahead to this large tree on your left, poised on the edge of the bluff across from Manor 22...

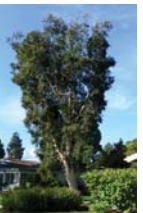
SHAMEL EVERGREEN ASH (*Fraxinus uhdei*)



Native to Mexico and very popular in Southern California, this fast-growing, (semi) evergreen tree can reach heights of 80 feet. The tree is notorious for developing v-shaped croches in its main trunk. Indians used this tree for tobacco, pipes, canes and medicine from the roots. The sap, when warmed, help cure earaches. However, this tree has been known to cause hay fever and asthma. The wood is used for bats, shovel handles and other tools.

Walk past Manor 22, look right into the side yard and see this tall tree with its light-colored bark...

CAJEPUT TREE (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) a.k.a. white bottle-brush tree



Native to Australia, and a member of the myrtle family, this medium-sized tree (70 feet) is commonly known as the broad-leaved paperbark. The Aborigines used the bark for shields, canoes and timber. Today, the oil is extracted from the leaves and twigs. Considered an essential oil in Southern Asia, it is used mainly for aromatherapy. Australian trees contain higher amounts of anti-infectious properties, making that oil popular with health professionals.

Look ahead to where the sidewalk makes a sharp right. Notice this tree on the right-hand corner...

SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA (*Magnolia grandiflora*)



Native to the Southeastern U.S., this tree has become a southern landscape tradition. They can grow to 80 feet with large, showy and very fragrant lemon-scented white flowers, which can grow to 12 inches wide. Fuzzy brown cones follow these blooms, ripening in fall and winter to reveal bright red seeds. Squirrels, opossums, quail and turkey are known to eat the seeds. Here in Laguna Woods, a resident found a whole seed pod buried in a porch planter... squirreled away!

Look across the path to Manor #384 and see this glorious tree...

CHINESE ELM (*Ulmus parvifolia*) a.k.a. lacebark elm



Native to Asia, this semi deciduous tree produces small but perfect flowers in early autumn. Its abundant seeds are eaten by birds and the leaves are favored by butterfly larvae. The showy, exfoliating bark adds great textural and visual interest. The wood is used for tool handles, bows and baseball bats. Highly resistant to insect and disease, it is called "one of the toughest and adaptable of all trees." It's also popular as a bonsai.

Walk to Manor 24 on your right (Manor 383-A is directly across from this manor). Notice the imposing tree at the corner of Manor 24...

COOK PINE (*Araucaria columnaris*)



Native to South West Pacific and endemic to New Caledonia, it was classified on the second Captain Cook voyage. They can grow up to 197 feet, and due to their short branches, they have a characteristic narrow appearance. This tree always leans an average eight degrees toward the equator wherever it grows. Scientists think that gravity and even Earth's magnetic field might play a role in the constant tilt of this tree. It's planted in parks and formal gardens due to its unique look. Often confused with the Norfolk Island pine due to similarities.

Now turn toward Manor 383-A. Between 383-A and 383-C see this large specimen...

JACARANDA (*Jacaranda mimosafolia*) a.k.a. fern tree



Native to South America and grown worldwide, it is valued for the intense fragrant flower displays of lavender blue blooms in the late spring and summer. Flowers cover the ground for several weeks after they drop from the tree. Propagation is by softwood cuttings, grafting or by seed. No pests are of major concern. The tree wood is called logwood, used in dyeing and in medicine. Huell Howser assured us jacarandas are "very much a part of California's Gold."

On the left, at corner of 383-C, see this tree...

CARROTWOOD (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) a.k.a. tuckeroo



Native of Australia, this tree is an ornamental shade tree popular in Southern California. It's a prolific seed producer with three-lobed, bright-orange to yellow capsules that split to reveal a few black seeds. This fruit is the favorite food of many birds, and also supplies food for the larval stages of many butterfly species. The carrotwood tree is considered an ecological threat in some places. In the state of Florida, it is on the state's Noxious Weed List.



Due to Roland Wilson's sustained efforts to see to the creation of the Friendship Walk, we have this delightful way to stay fit and enjoy our beautiful trees.

"The return trip gives you a different perspective on the eastern skyline and rewards you with spectacular glimpses of Mount Baldy and its neighbors, framed as if in a series of snapshots between the trees of Friendship Walk."

- Quote from Naturalist Club (disbanded in 1985) announcement of their first Walk of the Month beginning with Friendship Walk, c. 1977

Enjoy other Tree Walk Guides at the History Center!

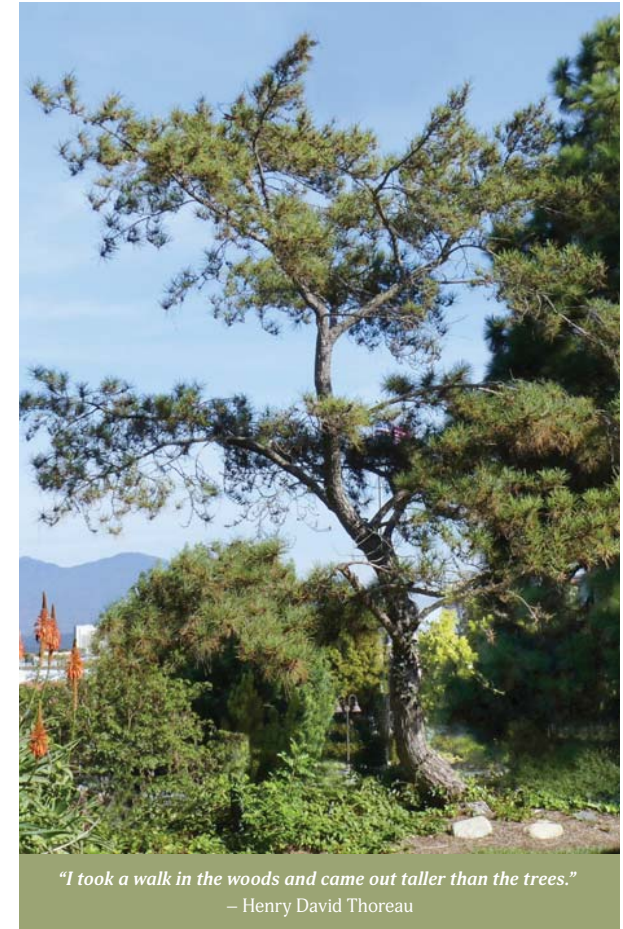
Please note the images were taken in late fall and winter so the trees may look somewhat different than pictured. Thanks to Arbor Day Foundation for much of the information on our trees.

Photography and Brochure:
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Tree Walk Planning and Research:
Jean Lustig
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This guide is compliments of the
**History Center of
Laguna Woods Village**
LagunaWoodsHistory.org



Friendship Walk



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

- Henry David Thoreau

TREE WALK GUIDE



From GATE 1:

On Ave Sevilla, go to the stop sign at Calle Aragon. Cross Calle Aragon, turn left at the first street on your left, Avenida Castilla. (Note Manor 3 on the left-hand corner.)

Park on the left side of Avenida Castilla in front of Manor 2 or Manor 3. If there is no room on the street, go left into cul-de-sac 41, named Via Castilla, and park.



Walk straight ahead between Manor 2 and Manor 3 to a fire hydrant at the far end. Take a few steps right to the end of the carport; make a sharp left at the carport and see a stately row of Canary Island pines welcoming you to the Friendship Walk.



The oldest of our Village Walks, beauty and adventure await on this lovely tree discovery walk. This walk is easy, taking less than an hour to stroll and take it all in.



Be sure to bring a bottle of water.



Wear good walking shoes and a hat.



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

CANARY ISLAND PINE (*Pinus canariensis*)



Native to Canary Islands. One of the most fire-resistant conifers in the world. Deep roots make it desirable for lawns. Long needles trap condensation that drips down into the soil. The trunk has tiny branches and tufts of needles (epicormic growth) usually associated with abnormal stress in other trees but seems to be normal for the Canary Island pine. These pines are a common border along the path of this walk.

As the sidewalk turns right, parallel to the bluff, notice a bench on the left. At its right side see...

SPANISH BAYONET (*Yucca aloifolia*) a.k.a. Spanish dagger



Native to the Southeastern United States and Mexico, it is drought resistant. It has an attractive white bloom stalk; rarely branches, instead produces clusters of trunks. Needle-like tips on two-foot leaves make it a good "security" plant when used as a protective fence or under windows. Used for centuries by native people for basket making, clothing and footwear. Be careful of close encounters with this formidable yucca.

On the right between Manor 5 and 6 is this tree...

BRAZILIAN PEPPER (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)



Native to South America. Not a true pepper but its fruit is sold as pink peppercorns (berries should not be eaten). Contact with "sap" can cause dermatitis. It is regulated as an invasive weed in Florida, Texas, and parts of Australia and South Africa. However, the tree has a long history of medicinal use by indigenous peoples. Recent studies of the fruit show promise for its use as a treatment for MRSA. It appears in ancient religious artifacts and on idols in Chilean history.

To your left and directly across from Manor 6-C find...

DRAGON TREE (*Dracaena draco*)



Native to the Canary Islands where it is protected as an endangered species. When cut, it exudes red sap. Used in Ancient Rome as a colorant, in Europe as a varnish and anti-oxidant for iron tools, as well as by native people in mummification. Its name comes from Greek mythology where Hercules slays a hundred-headed dragon. Wherever blood spilled, Dragon trees sprang up. Dragon's blood is often used in traditional Chinese medicine. Supposedly Stradivarius violins were dyed with this substance.

Continue walking past next bench, note that the manor on the right is Manor 9. Directly across from its front entrance is...

JAPANESE BLACK PINE (*Pinus thunbergii*)



Native to Japan, it is the dominant pine along its coast. It likes a dense habitat and has very dark green needles. Also, one of the most important species used in Japanese architecture for centuries. A popular horticultural tree that resists pollution and salt. Widely used in landscaping. In Japan, it is used as a garden tree as well as for timber. Slow growing, it tends toward nice shapes, amenable to much pruning. Popular for bonsai, often called the "King of Bonsai."

Walk past the next bench, notice a clump of large Spanish bayonet ahead on the left, across from Manor 11. Just beyond it, still on your left is...

EDIBLE FIG (*Ficus carica*) a.k.a. common fig



Indigenous to western Asia and distributed by man throughout the Mediterranean, this tree probably bears the oldest cultivated fruit in the world. Evidence suggests figs were planted outside of caves 10,000 years ago. The fruit is a good source of dietary fiber and many nutritional elements. Led by Junipero Serra, missionaries brought the first figs to California. Many references to the fig can be found in religion and mythology.

As you slowly pass Manor 11, on the right notice this tree at the front corner of the side yard...

HONG KONG ORCHID TREE (*Bauhinia blakeana*)



Discovered in the ruins of an old house on a remote coast of Hong Kong in 1880s. It lacks seed pods and is sterile. Propagation is by grafting, cuttings and air-layering. The double-lobed leaf, shaped like a heart or butterfly, is regarded in Hong Kong as the "clever leaf." Used to make bookmarks, hoping they will bring good luck to studies. The blooms are large, showy purple-pink blossoms in fall, winter and spring; it loses almost all its leaves in spring, but new leaves come back quickly. It is fast-growing and may reach full growth of 40 feet in as little as 10 years.

On the left, directly across from Manor 13-A see two of these trees...

QUEEN PALM (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*)



Native to South America, a fast-growing feather palm, popular as an ornamental for its graceful appearance. Requiring full sun, it grows to 50 feet or more. It is a solitary palm with a canopy of 15 leaves. Fruit is edible to wildlife. Leaves and inflorescences (flowering stems) are used as cattle fodder. Snails and caterpillars like the base of pruned fronds for breeding places. Florida lists this palm as an invasive species.

Follow walk ahead to where sidewalk makes a sharp right turn. After making the turn, find this tree on the left across from Manor 14-G...

PONYTAIL PALM (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) a.k.a. elephant's foot



Native of Mexico, the ponytail palm is a plant with a confused identity. It is actually a succulent, mistakenly called a palm because of its single trunk with leaves at the top. The bottom of the stem is usually bulbous (stores water). Slow-growing and drought tolerant, in their natural habitat, they can live to be hundreds of years old and as high as 30 feet. Sometimes called an elephant's foot due to the shape of its base and the gray surface of crackles on its trunk. It is also grown as a nontraditional bonsai, with only the roots pruned.

Continue walking until you see this tree on the right in front of Manor 15...

HOLLYWOOD JUNIPER (*Juniperus chinensis*) a.k.a. Chinese juniper, twisted juniper



Native to Asia. Drought resistant, suitable for "xeriscaping." It is naturally flamboyant (perhaps where name "Hollywood" came from), irregularly twisted in sculptural forms. No two are alike. It is among the most pest-resistant of all evergreens. Hollywood juniper attracts birds, which enjoy nesting in its branches and eating its blue berries in winter. The blue berries are good for flavoring olive oil. Brush up against it and be rewarded with pine scent.

The companion tree to the left of the Hollywood juniper is the...