

Volume 11, Issue 3-2014

May 2014

# NW Native Plant Journal

A Web Magazine

**Dogwoods to fit any yard**

**Labrador ducks: New movie**

**... And more**

Published by The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database

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# About this Journal

This Journal was created under the direction of Wally Hansen – a dedicated Grower, Aficionado and Passionate Lover of Northwest Native Plants.

This Journal is not 'commercial.' Our goals are:

**A —** To generate interest, even passion, concerning the magnificent Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest.

**B —** To help you create your own Native Plant Gardens, large or small, for home or work.

**C —** To help you propagate and "grow on" those species that interest you the most.

**D —** To inform both Home Gardeners and interested Professionals of many disciplines concerning trends and news items from my little corner of the world.

**E —** To help the reader enjoy native plants more by understanding the historical and cultural role of native plants (i.e.—use by Native Americans, pioneers, early botanists, etc.).



*Cercis orbiculata* (Western Redbud)  
Photo by Stan Shebs



# On the Cover:

## Dogwood, *Cornus*

This gorgeous dogwood tree is blooming in my backyard right now. I have had no luck discovering it's proper name. I thought it might be a Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) but there are marked differences between this specimen and the species.

It's 'flowers' consistently have four petals, each with a dimple at the tip. The center is a small cluster of greenish pips. When the flowers are done, they fall to the ground with the pips, and are followed by the leaves.

The autumn leaf color is smashing.





# Garden chores to do now

## Pearly bits of wisdom and just plain common sense



Spring makes its own statement,  
so loud and clear that the gardener  
seems to be only one of the instruments,  
not the composer.

~ Geoffrey B. Charlesworth



**A —** April is traditionally rainy and May brings more sunshine. But trust our Earth to break from the old ways in response to what we've done to our planet. Each day comes with its own maestro, its own blueprint and its own whims. But make no complaints. Instead, appreciate every moment. Dressing in layers for day trips is almost mandatory unless one carries an entire wardrobe along. It's no wonder nature is sometimes unpredictable (sometimes?). May can be a sunny delight but we often hear the weatherman announcing that rain will be coming tomorrow. Good--it will give those new plants an appropriate settling in. Fresh plantings always enjoy a good soaking.

**B —** April's celebrations of Earth Day around the Pacific reminded us of the ways we can care for our planet. Planting a native tree, shrub or perennial in your yard is one of the best. Plant sales help! Green living is easy and economical once you learn how, especially in the garden. By using plants native to your area, you are working with nature rather than against it. You are also not paying for anything the plants need. In fact, you can make additional plants by propagating the ones you buy!

**C —** The environment where plants grow naturally is perfectly suited to each plant:

There is exactly enough rain and sunshine

The natural dirt is just what the plants need

There is a predator for every pest

The necessities for propagation are present and ready to do their jobs

NOTE: The components listed above are applicable only to natural environments. If your landscape has been chemically enhanced and/or artificially boosted it takes a few years of remedial un-treatment to bring it back to its natural state. But you can start now by putting in native plants for great beauty and delicious things to eat for you and wild-life.

**D —** Get rid of invasives--TAKE BACK YOUR YARD!



# So glad you asked!

## Readers speak up: Questions, suggestions, pats and pans

### Creeping Orange Grape:

We have several of the above bushes but they are now taking over the area where we have other bushes, like Roses. Any idea how to prevent them from spreading or is that even possible? --Marianne

*Gleanings from the internet about this plant:*

*"It is difficult to imagine the need to control this unobtrusive species in its native habitat."*

*[www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/pdf/shrubs/Mahonia%20repens.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/pdf/shrubs/Mahonia%20repens.pdf).*

*"If large area is to be covered, 8-12 plants per square yard should be sufficient."*

*[www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=1140](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=1140).*

*"Established plants spread through sprouts from rhizomes--they sucker freely and form quite dense thickets plants."*

*[www.pfaf.org/user/plant.aspx?latinname=Mahonia+repens](http://www.pfaf.org/user/plant.aspx?latinname=Mahonia+repens)*

*So much for research--interesting but not very helpful! I think controlling the spread would be successful by manually cutting out the suckers or setting up a physical barrier around the plants, either individually or by group, similar to the method used to control bamboo. Both of these sound like a whole lot of work, depending on the size of your area. If you find a better way, please let us know!*



Top photo by Matt Lavin,  
Bozeman, Montana

Lower photo by  
Denis.prévôt

[⇒ More ⇒](#)



# So glad you asked!, continued

## Inquiry

I recently ran across your delightful website, hence my writing to you. I am on the hunt for a few plants and wanted to run them by you in case you have them or be able to refer me elsewhere:

Rodgersia pinnata  
Anemonella thalictroides 'Shoaf 's Double'  
Epimedium Grandiflorum  
Anemone quinquefolia

Thank you so much. --Peggy

*None of these plants appear to be native to the Pacific northwest, though two are native to the eastern part of the continent. It is possible a NW native would work as well for your garden. I've noted the nativity of each plant in your list in case you want to pursue further.*

*Rodgersia pinnata native to the Sichuan and Yunnan provinces of China.*

*Anemonella thalictroides Thalicttrum thalictroides native to woodland in eastern North America*

*Epimedium Grandiflorum native to China, Japan and Korea*

*Anemone quinquefolia Eastern N. America - Nova Scotia to Georgia, western Ontario, Minnesota and Tennessee.*

Serviceberry  
(Amelanchier  
alnifolia)



## ID plant?

I'm looking for a place I can get a plant ID'd. It's growing in my yard and I know what it is. Can you do that if I send you pictures? --bb

*You betcha! I'll be glad to help. If I can't ID the plant, I can put it up on my website to see if any of our gardening friends can name it.*

[⇒ More ⇒](#)



# So glad you asked!, continued



Oregon Iris (*Iris tenax*) As the name suggests, this native perennial is at home in Oregon's Willamette Valley. You may also find it scattered across western Washington and northern California. It can be successfully grown outside of this range, as it is hardy in USDA zones 5-9.

## Biology project

I have a question about a biology project a group of us are looking into at Seattle Central College.

We want to do an experiment to test whether spitting out toothpaste while camping is bad for native plants. We suspect it probably is.

We are looking for a fast, easy growing, northwest native species that likes to be outside in full sun (at least as much sun as we get in Seattle) and is easy to find seeds for. We only have about 5-6 weeks of growing time.

Any suggestions would be great. -- Jeremy

*What a wonderful thing to do. I've never given this a thought. Thank you for raising my awareness of how I interact with the earth. Most excited to hear how your project progresses.*

*Our list of sources for native plants should give you some contact information for places where you can buy the seeds, and there are many other resources available. Here's a link: <http://www.nwplants.com/information/resources/nurseries.html>*

*Washington Native Plant Society's list of native plant and seed sources is "bangerang!" as they say. (<http://www.wnps.org/landscaping/nurserylist.html>)*

*Good luck--keep that imagination and concern for the planet alive!*



Poet's Shooting Star, Narcissus Shooting Star, Poet's Shootingstar (*Dodecatheon poeticum*). Photo by Walter Siegmund

[➡ More ➡](#)



# So glad you asked!, continued

## ID plant?

I have found a plant that has just "arrived" this year on our property on Long Bay (Port Graves), Gambier Island. I can't figure out what it is - the leaves look like my Japanese Anemone, but the stems are hairy and the flowers are coming up differently.

The plants have situated themselves on a rock face in tiny bits of soil. They're very lovely, but just want to make sure they're not something invasive or nasty. --Patty



*Well, my dear, that's a Fringecup, or Tellima grandiflora.*

*It's the first native plant I learned to identify all by myself and I still adore it. It's wonderful in bouquets, the flowers last forever almost.*

*Checkout this page on my website: [http://www.nwplants.com/business/catalog/tel\\_gra.html](http://www.nwplants.com/business/catalog/tel_gra.html). I'm attaching some photos showing mature plants and flowers as they start out and after their fringe turns to pink.*



Photos at right fromm Patty. Those at left are in my library. The closeup of bloom was taken by Walter Siegmund, a lifetime photographer of plants native to the Pacific northwest.



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# So glad you asked!, continued

These trilliums are growing in Juneau, Alaska. A gardener friend purchased them some years back from Wally while the nursery was in its heyday.

Guess why he wrote?> He wants more trilliums! I am looking for someone in the area who can fill this order. When I find one, I'll let you all know.

Thanks to Mark for this beautiful photo.



## Finding plants

I get anywhere from 5 to 20 emails in a week asking for help finding a native plant. Here are a couple of examples:

From a fellow gardener:

Is there a phone number we can call to order native plants? We have to purchase 20 certain types of native plants to place along a creek we live on.

From Becky:

Where in the seattle area can I get a ceanothus blueblossom / victoria?

The answer:

*Check the 'Nurseries with Natives' in the 'Resources' section of my home page. Here's a link: <http://www.nwplants.com/information/resources/nurseries.html>*





# Wildlife Corner

## Out back with the animals

The big wooden feeder I found at a thrift store this spring has been well used by birds and squirrels. It's hanging from a 'shepherd's hook' and provides a bounce whenever a squirrel jumps onto the platform, much like a trampoline. The squirrels seem to enjoy the effect--sometimes they hop on without eating anything! The backyard denizens don't mind sharing. It is not unusual to see a squirrel and bird munching away harmoniously.

A few weeks ago the hook began to bend over until the feeder was actually on the ground. Too much bouncing I think. We planned to devise a stronger hanger, and in the meantime we hung it onto a sturdy hook attached to the porch. All seemed fine with the new location and it was perfect for photo ops.

But then a new type of wildlife appeared in the neighborhood, apparently nesting in the porch rafters: a mouse! He came for the corn that dropped off the feeder, of which there was plenty. Now, my love of wildlife might include mice provided they select a homestead away from me. I will not welcome mice at my house.



I am reluctant to use poison so I bought a new-fangled plastic mouse trap, 2 of them in fact. I baited them with peanut butter, placed them behind some flower pots and hoped for the best.

*Dark Eyed Junco common across much of temperate North America and in summer ranges far into the Arctic.*

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# Wildlife Corner, continued

Next morning, one trap still stood ready to receive and the other one was missing. Couldn't find that trap anywhere, so another trip to the feed store for a bigger trap. This one was viscious! Baited and carefully placed where friendly wild things and my little Maggie would not accidentally trip the trap, we thought this trap would stay put.

For two nights, no sighting and no trap action. Last night when we went out for the last hurrah, all hell broke loose. In one split second, a neighbor's cat jumped off the deck towards the rose garden, a rat dove southward and a little mouse raced along the rafter and up to the roof. Maggie kenned the situation lickety split but, alas, was not quick enough to catch anyone so she contented herself by glaring through the porch rail at the fleeing cat.

This was entirely too much for me. Now I have a problem that I will not allow to continue. The rodents must go, whether they are mouse or rats. Both are stinky spreaders of pestilence.

My first action this morning was to have the feeder moved back to the wildlife bordega: remove the source.

Now what? Bait the traps again? I will not use poison, but what alternatives are there? Anybody got an answer? Help will be much appreciated!



*Oemleria cerasiformis*



*Rattus norvegicus*, the Brown Rat.  
Photo by National Park Service





# Name that bird!

## A new mystery for you

With the success of our wildlife cafe, the assortment of birds bellying up to the vittles gets larger every day--most are unknown to me but a little mystery breeds interest. We thought you might like to test your birding skills. Our first candidate is this recent visitor to the backyard sanctuary. He/she may be very common in the Willamette Valley. Then again, he may be a stellar discovery. Whichever, the ball is in your court. Can you name this bird?

Send me an email ([nwplants@gmail.com](mailto:nwplants@gmail.com)). I'll put your response(s) in the next newsletter.

### Official Plant Detectives

Jerry Murray  
Sabrina Kis  
Carol Hiler  
Mike Burns  
Nancy Whitehead  
Pat Opdyke  
Luke Kishpaugh  
Dave Whitehead  
Elaine Sawyer  
Jacki  
Skip Cadman  
Claudia @ the  
gardener's choice

*Our latest list of  
native plant de-  
tectives. Super  
sleuths in the  
botanical world!  
This mystery  
challenge is not  
active right now,  
but these winners  
will remain on the  
list for posterity.*



# When things go awry

## New Film, 'A Birder's Guide to Everything', Puts Teens in the Extinction Spotlight

*Avian expert and Audubon field editor Kenn Kaufman on vetting the screenplay and visiting the set.*

The plot of *A Birder's Guide to Everything* centers on four kids trying to confirm a possible sighting of a Labrador duck, considered extinct since 1875. I'd been asked to check over a draft screenplay to vet its bird content. The movie's premise—chasing a long-gone duck—might seem preposterous. But I was happy to oblige: It isn't every day that someone decides to film a drama built around teenaged birders.

From Audubon's newsletter, March-April 2014, <http://mag.audubon.org/articles/living/new-film-birders-guide-everything-puts-teens-spotlight>  
<http://www.abirdersguidetoeverything.com/>



Painting by  
John Gerrard  
Keulemans



Painting by  
John James  
Audubon

*Katie Chang, Alex Wolff, and Kodi Smit-McPhee hunt for the Labrador Duck. (Photo courtesy of Screen Media/ Focus World)*





# Dogwoods

Native trees, shrubs, perennials

*There's a dogwood to fit any yard!*

**Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)**, also called Dwarf Dogwood or Pigeonberry, is slow and low growing (only 2-8 inches tall). It has the true dogwood flowers of four white bracts surrounding the tiny flowerets, each with a perfect circle of six leaves. A wonderful deciduous groundcover, Bunchberry's fruits are bright red.

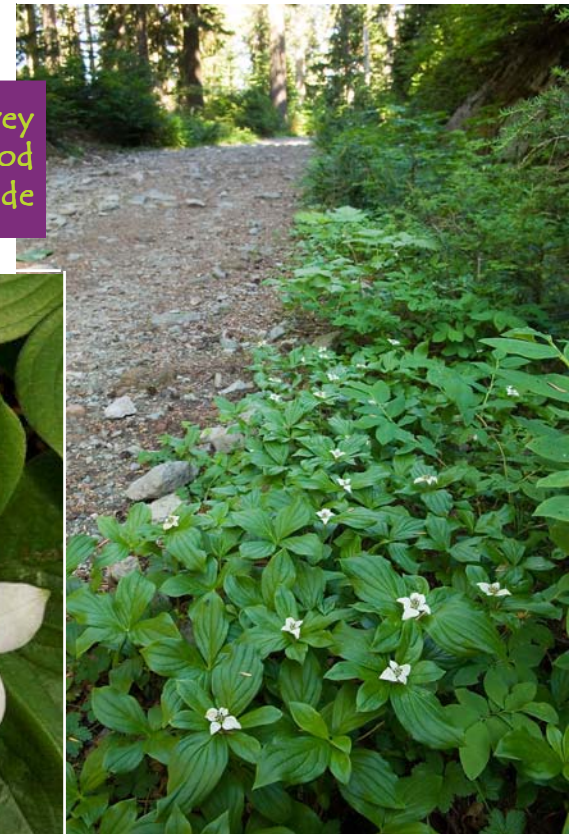
As is often the case with north-west native dogwoods, this one will give a second bloom in the fall some years before the leaves turn scarlet/wine.

The brilliant red berries are a favorite of wildlife. They stay firm and plump until someone eats them or they fall to the ground.



BUNCHBERRY  
*Cornus canadensis* L.  
DOGWOOD FAMILY

Photo by John Harvey  
Canadian Dogwood  
Growing Trail Side



Fall color. photo  
Arthur Chapman

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# Dogwoods, continued

**Lapland cornel (*Cornus suecica*)** is an herbaceous perennial dogwood, native to cool temperate and subarctic regions of Europe and Asia, and also locally in extreme northwestern North America (Alaska and Canada's British Columbia), and northeastern North America (Labrador, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Quebec), as well as Greenland. This dogwood is absent in the area between these two regions.



Photo by Norppa



Photo by Sten Porse

This perennial grows only 6 inches tall, with typical dogwood leaves. The flowers are small dark purple, tightly clustered, backed by four sparkling white dogwood "flowers," followed by bright red fruit.

In the wild, this native enjoys woodlands with moisture--rocky soil is fine--pretty much throughout the conifer woods.

Where *Cornus canadensis*, a forest species, and *Cornus suecica*, a bog species, grow near each other in their overlapping ranges in Alaska, Labrador, and Greenland, they can hybridize by cross-pollination.

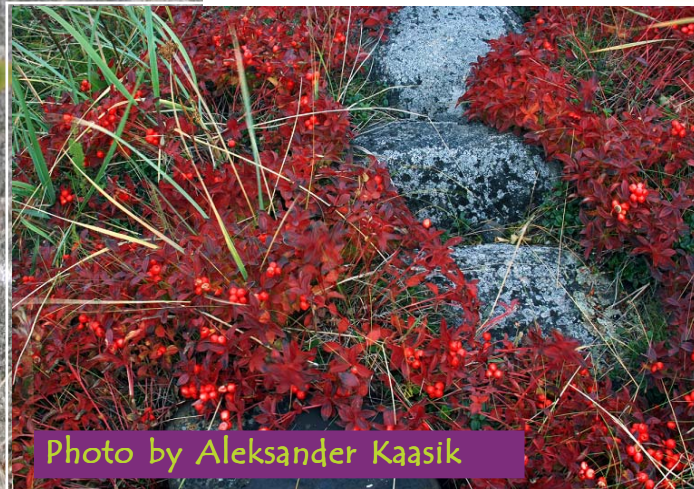


Photo by Aleksander Kaasik



Painting by Carl Axel Magnus Lindman

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HÖNSBÄR, CORNUS SUECICA L.



# Dogwoods, continued

Photo by Anthony Valois  
National Park Service

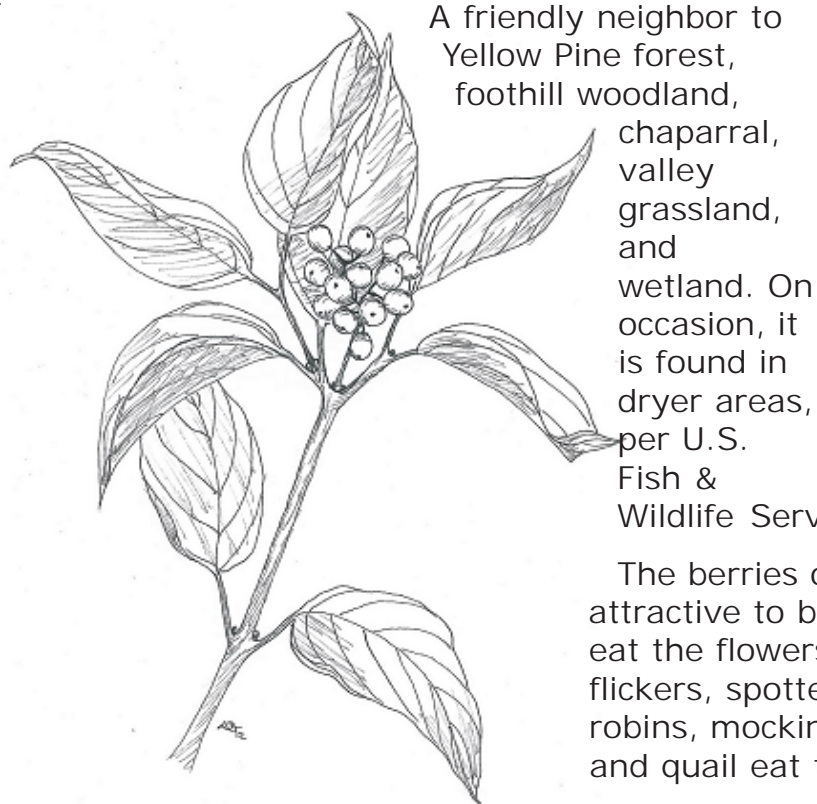
**Brown Dogwood (*Cornus glabrata*)** is native to California and Oregon and known by the common names Brown Dogwood, Smooth Dogwood, and Western Cornel. This is a large shrub or thicket-forming bush with bright green leaves which turn red in fall. The twigs of this plant are brown, sometimes with a purple tinge. Very attractive in winter after the leaves are gone. It bears plentiful clusters of fuzzy white flowers and bluish-white berries. It prefers to live near water, especially on the banks of creeks, ponds, lakes or rivers.



Photo by Vernon Smith



Photo by J.E. and Bonnie McClellan  
@ California Academy of Sciences



A friendly neighbor to Yellow Pine forest, foothill woodland, chaparral, valley grassland, and wetland. On occasion, it is found in dryer areas, per U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The berries of this species are especially attractive to birds. Western tanager and warblers eat the flowers. Grosbeak, Northern oriole, flickers, spotted towhee, Western bluebird, robins, mockingbirds, bandtailed pigeon, waxwing and quail eat the fruits.



Photo by Vernon Smith

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# Dogwoods, continued

Photo by David Hofmann

**Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *occidentalis*)**, a handsome shrub very similar to Red-Osier but does not have the underground stolons that enable Red-Osier to spread. Both *Cornus sericea* varieties like sun or shade.

A quick grower, reaches 15-18 ft. at maturity. The dark green leaves with grayish undersides are heavily veined and change to spectacular shades of red and scarlet in autumn. When the leaves have gone by, the reddish bark is attractive in winter. Springtime brings generous clusters of creamy white flowers which are succeeded by plentious berries of blue/white.

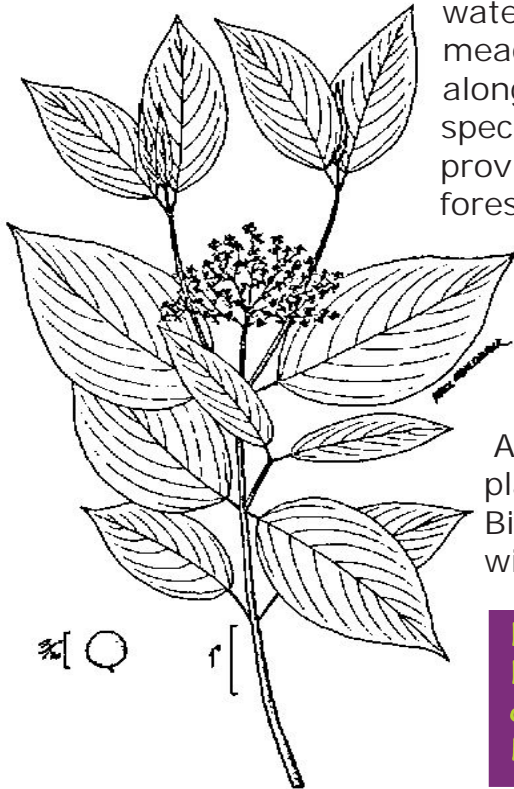
In general, this dogwood will choose areas which collect

water such as low places in meadows, swamps or alongside creeks. Other specimens find themselves providing coverage beneath forest trees, especially the edges where there is more sunlight.

However, drainage is important else root-rot may occur.

An excellent community plant for wildlife habitats.

Birds eat the fruits and the flowers are hits with hummers and pollinating insects.



Drawing courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database USDA NRCS Wetland flora Field office illustrated guide to plant species USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



[⇒ More ⇒](#)



# Dogwoods, continued



Bloom,  
berry,  
fall color



**Red-Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*)** wins a blue ribbon for year-round landscape beauty. The summer clusters of blue-white berries give rich contrast to the deeply veined leaves-- while they last--wildlife find them quite delicious and rely on them for summer food.

By autumn, the berries will all be gone and the Red-Osier's leaves go crimson before they fall to the ground

revealing showy red branches which lend a colorful element to the winter landscape. When springtime arrives, the new leaves are bright green and are accompanied by white flowers in flat-topped clusters.

Photo at left by Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database USDA SCS. 1989. Midwest wetland flora Field office illustrated guide to plant species. Midwest National Technical Center, Lincoln.



HÄRDVED, *CORNUS SANGUINEA* L.

⇒ More ⇒



## Dogwoods, continued

**Blackfruit Dogwood (*Cornus sessilis*)**, a very nice variety, rare and native only to California and southern Oregon. This tree prefers moist shade and acidic soil.

The flowers of Blackfruit Dogwood are discreet but intriguing. The fruit which will follow are white and change to orange and then black as they age. They are a total bird magnet.

This dogwood lives mostly among the redwood understory, carving a space for its 16 ft. frame. Because it is deciduous, once its flashy red/orange autumn leaves fall, plant life beneath receives necessary light throughout winter. Come spring, newborn growth will again be sheltered by the dogwood's leaves.

Far right: unripe fruit.  
Photo by Julie  
Kierstead Nelson,  
USDA Forest Service



[⇒ More ⇒](#)



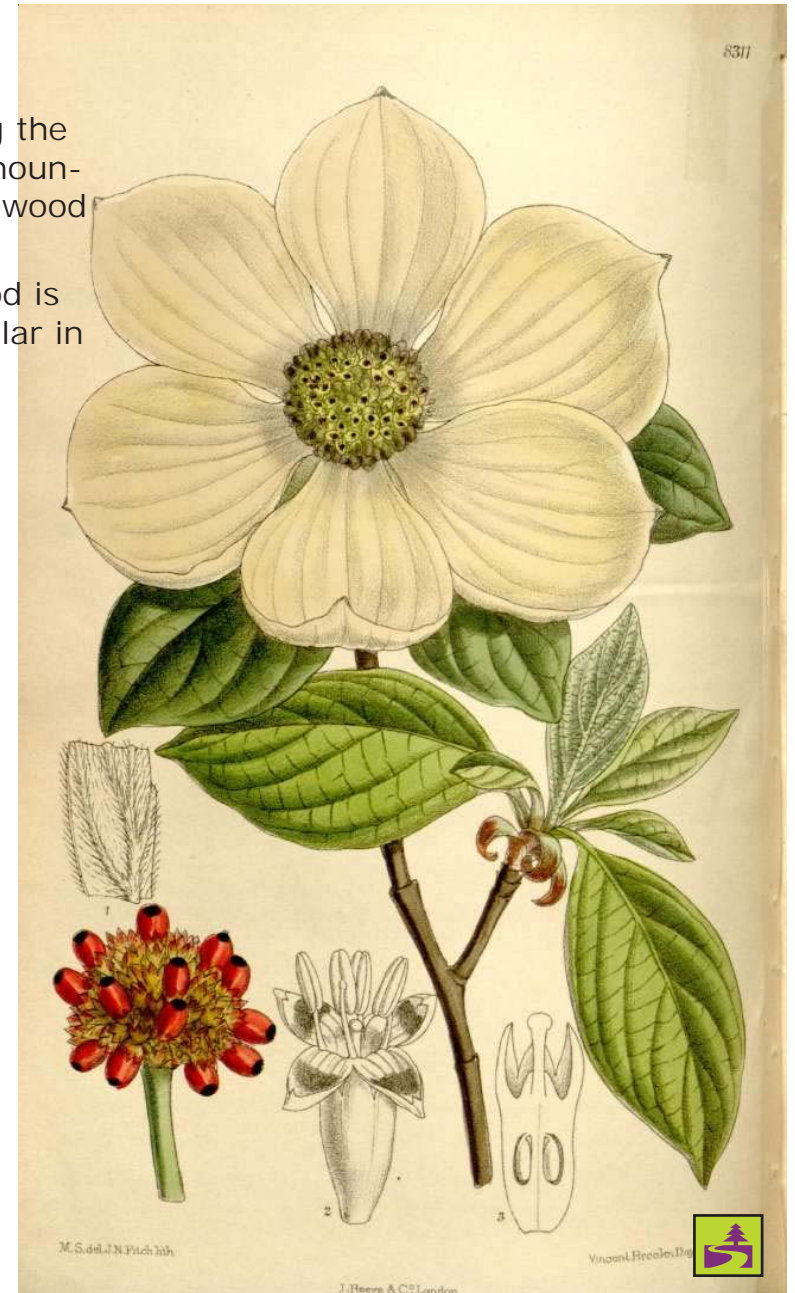
# Dogwoods, continued

**Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)** is the dogwood tree seen along the coast line from BC to California as well as in the western side of the mountain range. Standing 32 - 82 ft. at maturity, it is the tallest native dogwood in the Pacific Northwest.

It is also well known throughout the Willamette Valley. Pacific Dogwood is a very rewarding specimen tree, its signature white bloom is spectacular in a group as well.



At left,  
mature specimen.  
Photo by  
Stan Shebs



# Nature's nectar

## Water--gotta have it!

**WHY:** Nova's article titled "Life's Little Essential" written by Peter Tyson delves into exactly why water is so necessary for life. It's well worth reading. When we understand the importance of water in our lives it is easier to work toward treating water with the respect it needs. See <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/evolution/liquid-of-life.html>.

**HOW:** Clean Water Services (PDF, 201KB) is a water resources management utility in the Tualatin River Watershed. More than 542,000 customers enjoy clean water and healthy rivers and streams through innovative wastewater and stormwater services, flood management projects, water quality and stream enhancement projects, fish habitat protection, and more. [http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/](http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/?u=e26397dd01ce5ac05c2475a33&id=ce3d495add&e=5cb3a15ef2)



?u=e26397dd01ce5ac05c2475a33&id=ce3d495add&e=5cb3a15ef2

The Native Plant Finder utility on their website is an excellent tool for finding just the right northwest native plant for your garden. It also has a list of invasives to avoid. Very useful! <http://www.cleanwaterservices.org/>

### Native Plant Finder

Check the appropriate boxes under each category and click "Find My Plants!" for a list of native plants suitable for your landscape.

				
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Flowering	<input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry Soil	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Sun
<input type="checkbox"/> Shrub		<input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	<input type="checkbox"/> Moist Soil	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Sun
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cover			<input type="checkbox"/> Wet Soil	<input type="checkbox"/> Shade
<input type="checkbox"/> Fern				
<input type="checkbox"/> Grass				
<input type="button" value="Find my plants!"/>				

Keep the spirit of Earth Day all year. Remember to conserve water in your home, landscape with native plants in your yard and recycle or compost your trash.

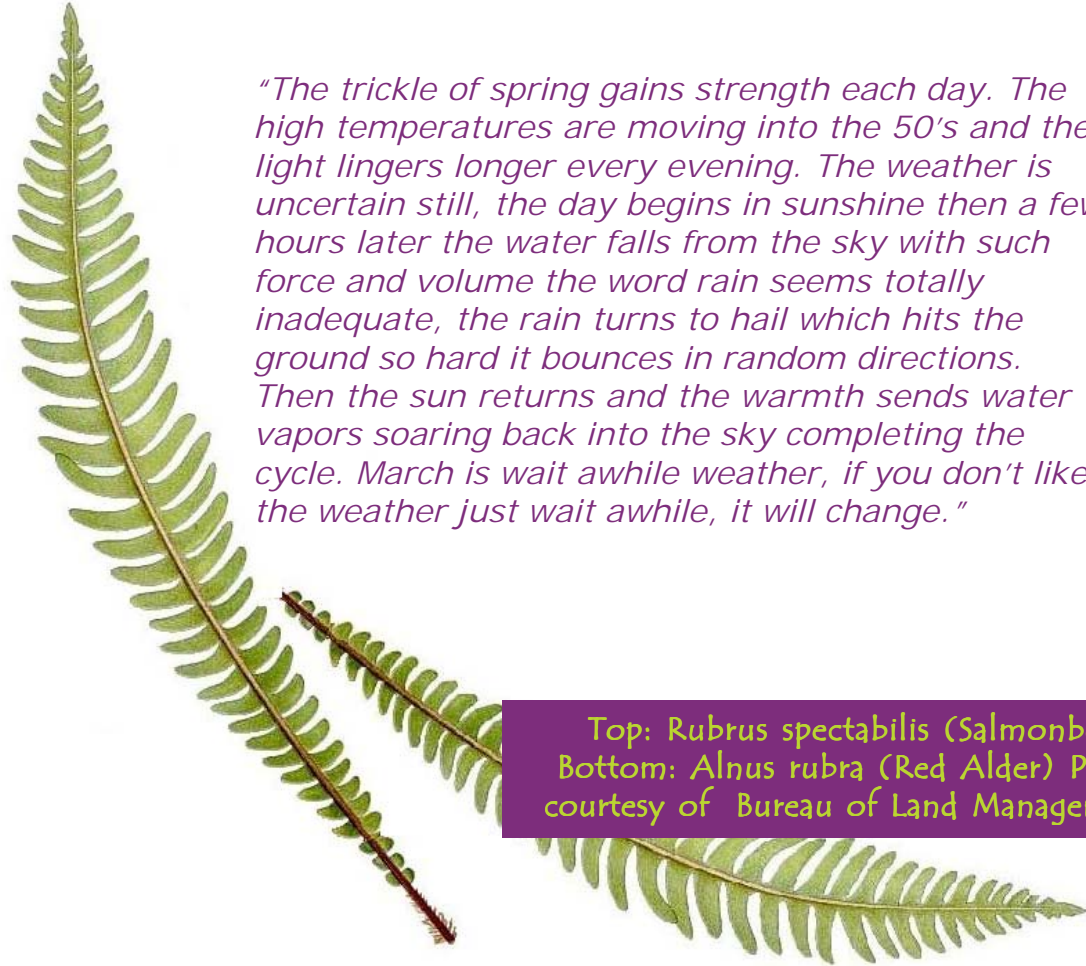




# Rob Sandelin

## Viewing the wilderness with another's eyes

One of my personal nature heroes, Rob Sandelin, paints pictures with his words, each reader visualizes his own individual scene. Here are a couple of excerpts from his March 2014 letter.



*"The trickle of spring gains strength each day. The high temperatures are moving into the 50's and the light lingers longer every evening. The weather is uncertain still, the day begins in sunshine then a few hours later the water falls from the sky with such force and volume the word rain seems totally inadequate, the rain turns to hail which hits the ground so hard it bounces in random directions. Then the sun returns and the warmth sends water vapors soaring back into the sky completing the cycle. March is wait awhile weather, if you don't like the weather just wait awhile, it will change."*

Top: *Rubus spectabilis* (Salmonberry)  
Bottom: *Alnus rubra* (Red Alder) Photo  
courtesy of Bureau of Land Management



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

# Rob Sandelin, continued

A little farther in the letter, is this amusing event:

*At the forest edge where the Alders and Salmonberry mix with Cedars there is a movement under a dark tangle of Sword fern fronds. A small pointed nose appears, vanishes, then near a log another movement. Finally the tiny creature pauses and stands up on its hind legs to sniff the air. It's a Shrew, a small mouse-like insectivore. It is non-stop motion, swinging its head side to side, darting here, poking under there. It wriggles its upper body part way under some fallen bark and then rears back using its hind legs to pull an earthworm twice as long as its body out from under the bark. It spends the next few minutes slurping down this giant meal. When it has eaten about half the worm it suddenly goes still, lays it down and closes its eyes. Is the shrew dead? Did it just die from overeating?*

*Nope, it just took a nap. After a brief six minute siesta it continues to devour the rest of the worm. This particular shrew is active 24 hours a day and so at regular intervals they fall asleep wherever they are. After another nap the shrew is off hunting again. To fuel its incredible metabolism it must consume 2.5 times its body weight. The tiny hunter pauses, turns its head back and forth as if to home in on something then runs full speed towards an opening near the road.*

In the introduction to his website, Rob explains his purpose in writing and sending his writings about "the lives of plants and animals of the Lowland Pacific Northwest...to encourage and inspire people to go outside and discover the treasures and wonders of this fabulous place we live." He offers this invitation:

*"If you find something interesting in your wanderings, or have a comment about these pages, or want to get the email newsletter, you can contact me, Rob Sandelin at [NWnature1@gmail.com](mailto:NWnature1@gmail.com)."*



Visit the website (<http://share2.esd105.org/rsandelin/NWnature/NWNature.htm>) and ask him to send you the newsletter. It is truly inspirational.

Baird's shrew (*Sorex bairdi*) is a species of mammal in the family Soricidae. It is endemic to northwest Oregon.





# This & That

## Notes from Jennifer

What a glorious spring we are having! I love the rain.

We are getting about three to four days of sunshine, then a day or two brings rain, mostly gentle showers, and sometimes with a real spate of heavy pouring.

The wind usually kicks up somewhere among the wetter days. I have a big garden bell out by the birch trees made from an old oxygen tank. It has a purpley hue with a metal maple leaf hanging below that, when the wind caresses it, causes a wooden striker to strike the inside of the bell for the sound. Its voice is deep and sonorous, slowly measured as the wind moves the leaf back and forth. It is a most peaceful sound, so contrasting to the tinkle of the glass wind chimes.



I love to sit in my rocker on the porch, watching the activities of the birds and squirrels and listening to the sounds of my garden. There I find boundless peace.

Until next time,  
*Jennifer*

Allens Hummingbird, Photo by Lee Karney, USFWS

