

Volume 11, Issue 5-2014

Oct - Dec 2014

# NW Native Plant Journal

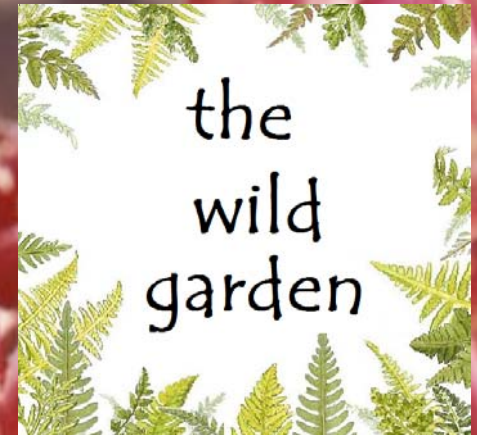
A Web Magazine

Like us on  
Facebook!, p17

Sedums, p45

Walter Siegmund, p18

Autumn leaves, p26



... And more

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

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Editor: Jennifer Rehm  
Webmaster for The Wild Garden:  
Hansen's Northwest Native Plant  
Database  
[www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com)



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# Feature Articles

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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.).



# On the Cover:

## **Sedum laxum ssp. eastwoodiae (Roseflower Stonecrop)**

A perennial herb that is native to southwestern Oregon and northwestern California, found in rocky mountainous habitat. In California, it is known from only four occurrences on Red Mtn. Protected at Red Mtn.

The butterfly, Variegated Fritillary (Euptoieta



claudia), is associated with this plant.

Native people ate the leaves and stems of this stonecrop, rolling them in the palm of the hand with salt grass.

The rarity status of this plant is as follows:

Rare Plant Rank: 1B.2, Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, Fairly endangered in California; Federal Listing Status: FC, Species of Concern; State Rank: S2: Imperiled; Global Rank: G5T2 (T2: Imperiled), G5: (species) Secure, considering populations outside California.



Photo credit: Jennifer Wheeler, BLM



# Wildlife Corner

## Out back with the animals

The neighborhood birds are now habitués at the wildlife cantina in my backyard. They come for food, companionship and for water. They are here before I get out of bed in the morning, perching on the rhodies and the arborvitae, and, of course, the gazebo which is now hosting several feeders of various varieties. Jeff comes almost daily to put out fresh food. We're using a songbird mix, a wildlife mix which has corn, fruit, black oil sunflower seeds and myriad other things, raw peanuts in the shell, dried corn cobs, a couple of suet cakes, and often a few chibbles of whatever fruit I've had for breakfast.

Jeff's favorites are the jays. He places single peanuts in shell in various spots on the feeder roofs, the gazebo frame, just wherever strikes his fancy. They now fly in as soon as he picks up the bag of peanuts, observing closely what he does. One of them, the male I think, snaps up the nuts immediately. He believes this one will take the nuts from his hand eventually.

I have my own fan club--two kinds of small birds I haven't learned to identify yet. They are the bath bunch. When I turn on my patio hose, they can't wait to shower--they flit about in the mist and when the water hits the birdbath in the cantina, they perch on the rim and take turns jumping in the shallow water splashing one another. They have taken a liking to the fountain on the lower deck doing the same routine as in the bath. The other day one of the posse of crows returned to the fountain for a deep, detailed scrub. She tries each tier (it has 3), finally decides to just go for it and hops right into the deep bowl! She struts completely around the circle before taking to the rim for a happy shake-off.

The squirrels are out early, racing up and down the trees (sometimes they chase each other around them). They can get to all of my property without touching the ground. The other day they were throwing fir cones on the roof of my house. They'd snarf up the seeds and then pitch the empties to just past the apex of my roof where they rolled down to the ground. This was such a racket I had to investigate. They cared not a whit that I was watching--they seemed to be showing off. What clowns!



# Garden chores to do now

## Pearly bits of wisdom & just plain common sense



**A — Planting season!** Fall planting season encourages a new living hedge, a cutting garden or wildlife habitat--or a native bulb garden. A little watering must be done when the plants go in the ground but in no time at all nature will take over that chore for us. Our newly planted darlings will spread their roots and become deeply established while we sip a cup of tea and enjoy the warmth of being indoors on a blustery day.

**B — About watering:** Very soon nature will begin taking charge of watering, and gardeners are free to spend time in other ways.

**C — Tidy up**--Is your garden ready for winter? It's time to tidy up:

- Put buckets, shovels, empty pots, wheelbarrows, etc. in a shed or garage or whatever you are using as a home for this sort of stuff.
- Drain hoses and coil them into hose baskets or hose hangers.
- Cover outside faucets.
- Look at plants you put in earlier this year. They may need water or shelter this first winter until they are fully established.
- It's not too late to plant. Some nurseries discount whatever stock they have left right about now.

**D — Compost**--As you clean up the garden, there will likely be quite a bit of trimmings: the garden leftovers. It's tempting to stick this stuff in the garbage or, here in Salem, to fill a garden refuse bin to be picked up with the other leavings of life. But consider starting a compost bin/heap/

barrel of your very own. Build well and reap a rewarding fresh batch of compost in the spring. Find how-to info on our website or copy/paste this link into your browser: <http://www.nwplants.com/information/composting.html>.



# So glad you asked!

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

### Plant ID

While hiking in the gorge with my daughter and some friends we saw a bright pink plant growing off the rock wall on some moss by a waterfall. I'd never seen or heard of anything like it and my internet searches have turned up nothing. It's very beautiful to say the least. Help please! -- Curtis

*What an unusual discovery! I can't see the detail of the plant in the photo, but will speak to what I can see. At first glance, it reminds me of Brewer's Spruce (Picea breweriana) in form, with the sun reflecting through a pink lens coloring the pendant branches. The foliage looks conifer-ish, but with pink parts? That can't be right, I think. Needless to say, this plant is not yet in my vocabulary, so the hunt began. Starting with the pink, I found only one plant with what may be bloom in your pic: an amaranth. Hmm. Clue 1: I did see one of these growing in front of a private home just yesterday. Clue 2: Ameranth has been more common as a food source in the past year or two. Clue 3: Ameranth is considered an introduced plant gone native in the U.S. Pacific northwest. Clue 4: It is not a conifer, has leaves. Clue 5: It will grow in woodland environment though that is not its preference.*

*Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, yielded this:*

*Amaranthus caudatus; commonly known as Love-lies-bleeding, Pendant Amaranth, Tassel Flower, Velvet Flower, Foxtail Amaranth, and Quilete.*

#### *Scientific classification*

Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Core eudicots
Order:	Caryophyllales
Family:	Amaranthaceae
Genus:	Amaranthus
Binomial name:	<i>Amaranthus caudatus</i> L.



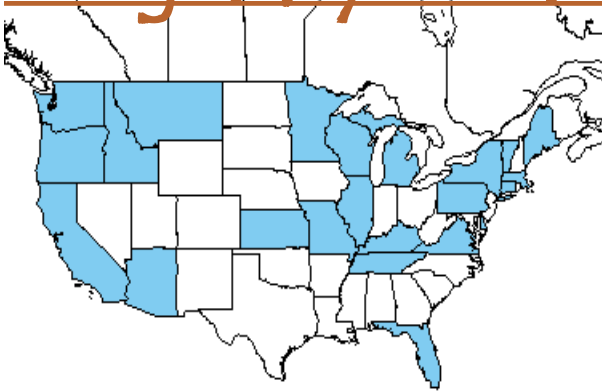
Photo from Curtis



Photo by Tubifex

[⇒More⇒](#)

# So glad you asked, cont'd



Ameranth Native map from PLANTS Database USDA,  
<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=AMCA3>

*Well, my opinion at this juncture is that I don't know the name of the plant in your photo: it eludes me.*

*Anybody out there recognize Curtis' plant? Please share with us all if you can help. --J.*



Amaranth caudatus.  
Photo by Wildfeuer

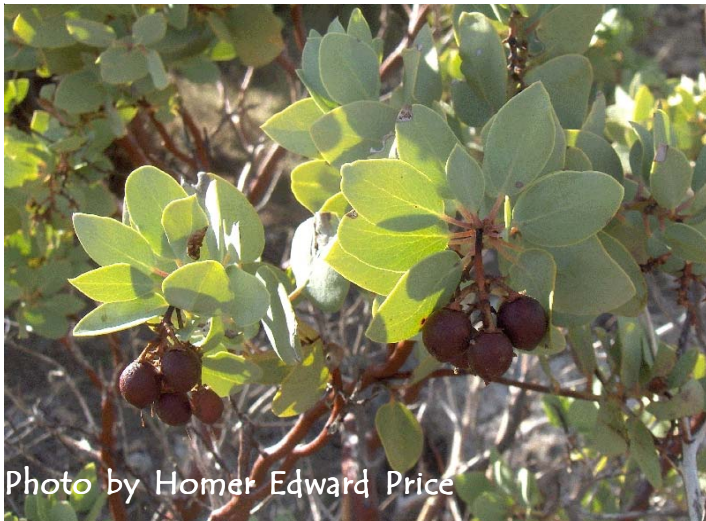


Photo by Homer Edward Price

## Greenleaf Manzanita

Do you know where I can purchase Greenleaf Manzanita plants? -- Ted

*Not offhand, but the "Nurseries with Natives" section of our website may help you find them. Follow this link (also available on our home page) [www.nwplants.com/information/resources/nurseries.html](http://www.nwplants.com/information/resources/nurseries.html).*

*Greenleaf Manzanita (Arctostaphylos patula) is a very nice shrub, low to the ground with some of the lower branches rooting in the soil and others extending more outward than upward. Plentiful white to pink flowers hanging in bunches, edible fruits are dark brown. Btw, hummers are*

*quite fond of the flowers and many birds will come to eat the fruit.*

*This plant can survive even in full sun and with no water once established. --J.*

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# So glad you asked, cont'd

## Subscription

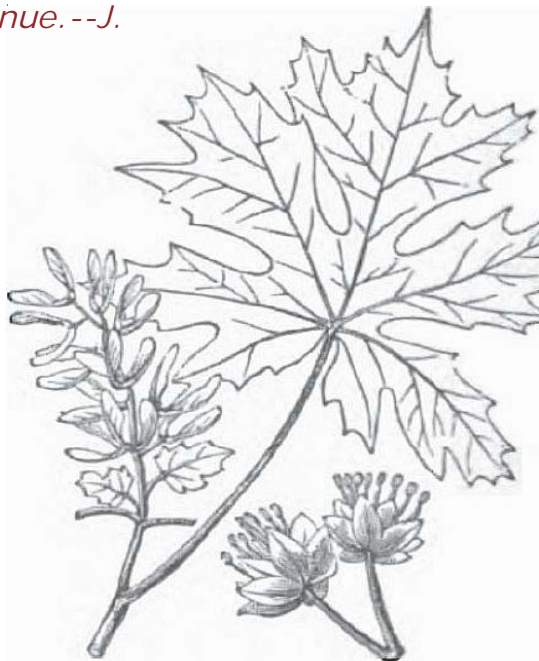
Do you offer subscription notices of the release of each issue? If so please include my email address. Keep up the good work! -- Ken

Do you send an email when a journal gets posted? I would love to be on your mailing list. -- Stacey

*I'm happy to tell you that The Wild Garden is now on Facebook as a 'community cause,' information only, non-profit of course, a place to share experiences, ask questions and learn what other native plant lovers are up to. If you 'like' our page, you can get update notices in your email by following us. About time, yes?*

*The NW Native Plant Journals (our e-zine) will be announced on this new page soon as they are published to the web, as well as updates and new information on the website ([www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com))*

*This is the first public presence I've done on Facebook, so if you see ways to improve, please share. I am by no means an expert in this new venue.--J.*



*A screen shot of the new Facebook page*

# So glad you asked, cont'd

## Serviceberry

I can't tell how much I enjoyed reading about the serviceberry plant. I have one planted in memory of my mom. She lived in Canada as a child and she would pick the berries for her mom to use. -- Gwen

*Glad you liked the article. I learned about them from Wally--he spent much time there as a child. --J.*

Thanks for your informative page on serviceberry. I loved it! Just wanted to let you know that one of the photos actually appears to be of *Oemleria cerassiformis*, or oso berry. It's in the middle of the page, with the hanging peachy fruits. -- Heron

*Thank you for correcting this error. I've replaced the Pigeon Berry photo with the real deal, this photo (lower right) from Walter Siegmund. --J.*



## Ground cover?

This last week we were camped in a campground outside Valdez, Alaska and found this plant growing in several places beside the roads and paths in the campground. I found several other plants that were new to me and found out what they were from books and online. This one will probably turn out very common but I cannot find it listed anywhere that the pictures look like this. Can you help me identify it and tell me some of its characteristics, please? -- rog

*I think I've met this plant before--those sweet leaves. It looks like some sort of Geum, a little baby one. I cruised through the Geum photos in the PLANTS database but didn't find an exact match.*

*That's my best shot. Sorry! --J.*

*P.S. As always, should you crack the code, please share!*



# So glad you asked, cont'd

## Yellowing Oregon Grape

My mahonia grape leaves are yellow in Philadelphia. Help. Please. Too much sun? too little water? Wat do u thnk? -- Bill

*Utah State University's Extension ([http://extension.usu.edu/htm/faq/faq\\_q=2782](http://extension.usu.edu/htm/faq/faq_q=2782)) has this q/a:*

*Q--The leaves on my grape plants have turned yellow. The veins are still green but the rest of the leaf is yellow. I added some iron about a week ago and have not noticed any change as yet. Is there something else I need to do?*

*A--I am assuming that your grape leaves that are yellowing have veins that are a darker green color than the surrounding tissue. This is iron chlorosis and the reason that your iron application did not work is 1)it may not have been chelated iron. Chelated iron works best in our soils 2)it was applied too late in the season. It should be applied in spring just as the leaf buds swell and are starting to open. When applied mid-summer, when all the leaves are full size, it does very little good. There are foliar sprays that work temporarily, but are not long lasting. They could be applied now. Next year, apply chelated iron in the spring at leaf bud swell. Also watch the watering. Overwatering causes chlorosis.*

*Hope this helps! --J.*

How about direct sun? Not too much water this year! Thanks. b

*Direct sun is not usually a problem. Which mahonia are we talking about? --J.*

Grape leaf upright-----5 feet high. Thanks. b

*Tall Oregon Grape (Mahonia aquifolium) can take full sun without a hitch, also will do OK with some shade. Well, I've got no other ideas about the yellowing leaves for this plant. I researched further on the web and in my library—nothing. I'd ask our extension services/master gardeners if it were me. We have these here in Oregon through Oregon State University, and I think Penn State has a similar resource. If you find the answer, please let me know, I'll share your findings on my website. --J.*



➡More➡

# So glad you asked, cont'd



## Plant ID

Can you tell me what this is? It grows next to my burn pile in the middle of my pasture in Damascus, OR. The leaves are at least 12" across and the plant gets about 4' tall. It is perennial and I have never seen flowers. --John

*Don't know offhand your plant's identity, but it may be Paulownia tomentosa (Royal Empress Tree)? Has upright plumes of purple flowers when mature, known as invasive. (a.k.a. Foxglove Tree). New growth has uncharacteristically large leaves. If you like that look, allow seedlings around the tree. --J.*

Oregon agricultural extension service also identified it as an empress or princess tree. --John

*Thanks for the update. Your excellent photo was key to identity. --J.*

## Diseases of Kinnikinnick

Is kinnikinnick susceptible to fireblight? or any other diseases? --jb

*Good question! Fireblight is not known to be a problem for Kinnikinnick. It is a contagious disease affecting apples, pears, loquat, crabapples, quinces, hawthorn, cotoneaster, pyracantha, raspberry and some other rosaceous plants. Under conditions which are optimal for this disease, it can destroy an entire orchard in a single growing season. The name, "fire blight," comes for the appearance of plants ...*

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# So glad you asked, cont'd



## Kinnikinnick...

*affected by the disease where areas appear blackened, shrunken and cracked, as they would if scorched by fire. This disease is believed to be indigenous to North America, from where it has spread to most of the rest of the world.*

*Kinnikinnick (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi) is a tough evergreen native groundcover, drought tolerant once established and is not usually bothered by pests or disease. However it can fall prey to leaf gall due to aphids and fungus diseases, especially if too much moisture is allowed to accumulate. Leaf spot or gall (outgrowth) can occur from aphids, fungi Pestalotia sp. or Exobasidium vaccinii (the same fungus that goes for azalea). Root rot and plant dieback caused by Phytophthora root rot also may occur. Winter burn or leaf spots may present if the plant is overly stressed.*

*To prevent any of these conditions:*

*Plant in soil with excellent drainage*

*Water in the morning so the plant can dry out during the day.*

*Ladybugs and syrphid fly larvae are beneficial insects especially effective against aphids.*

*Avoid overhead irrigation.*

*Rake and destroy fallen leaves.*

*Remove and destroy infected leaves from plants, where practical.*

*Space plantings and prune to improve air circulation.*

*Avoid planting in moist, shady areas if leaf spot is a problem.*

*Pacific Northwest Handbooks, (<http://pnwhandbooks.org/>), offers handbooks on management of weeds, insects and plant diseases for the Pacific Northwest. Sections can be printed and the whole handbooks may be ordered. See the website for details. --J.*



⇒More⇒

# So glad you asked, cont'd

## Distinguishing blackberry and raspberry shoots

Hope you can help me! I live in Newberg, Oregon with some property that backs to a Chehalem stream tributary. I'm working hard to restore this part of my property to native plants, so I've been removing holly, English Ivy, and Himalayan blackberries while also adding back in many native plants. I'm quite sure that some of the berries are trailing blackberries and black raspberries. Since these are native, I'd like to leave them in there, but I can't always tell them apart. I've looked at various descriptions, but there's so much similarity, especially in the young shoots, that I'm not sure always which are which. Basically, what I did is hack everything back in the late winter and as the invasive plants grow up, I try to remove them, digging the Himalayan blackberries out by their root nodes. Anyway, if you can point me to a source that can help me clearly distinguish between the native from invasive berries, I'd appreciate it! -Paul



*Yep, I understand your dilemma. In a similar situation but with perennials. I isolated one example of each different plant and studied them for a year or more until I could make a positive id. I think I can help with some photos of each of the native brambles.*

*Rubus leucodermis*, blackcap raspberry, black raspberry, whitebark raspberry, or blue raspberry



Photo by Stan Shebs

Photo by Stickpen

Photo by Zoya Akulova

[⇒More⇒](#)

# So glad you asked, cont'd

*Rubus parviflorus*,  
Thimbleberry



Photo by Walter Siegmund



Photo by T. Abe Lloyd

*Rubus spectabilis*,  
Salmonberry



Photo by Walter Siegmund



Photo by Walter Siegmund



Photo by Ariasnow

*Rubus ursinus*,  
Trailing,  
California,  
or Pacific  
Blackberry;  
California or  
Pacific  
Dewberry;  
Douglas  
Berry



Photo by Zoya Akulova



Photo by Walter Siegmund



Photo by Jean Pawek

⇒More⇒

# So glad you asked, cont'd

## Oregon Falsebox (*Paxistima myrsinites*) or not?



Photo by Walter Siegmund

Back in June of 2008, I purchased five Oregon Falseboxs (*Paxistima myrsinites*) from your nursery. I have since had some cuttings propagated for our Native Plant sale and a local nursery (Calflora) thinks the plant may not be the falsebox...Do you have any information that would be helpful to solve this mystery? I really like the plant and they are doing well in my garden but I do want to make sure the plants are native. I tried to call but the number on my receipt was disconnected. --Penny

*Unfortunately, I have no way of checking this out for you. The nursery is long gone and I've no idea where the records went. I do know that after Wally passed and the regular staff were let go, plants were sometimes mis-identified for one reason or another. I still, on occasion, get notes from readers pointing out incorrectly labeled photos on the website or in the journal. If you can send photos of the plants in question, I may be able to unravel this issue.*

*I respect Calflora's work, though. Their database is closely checked for errors by professionals who know their stuff. --J.*



*Whew--I will make a concerted effort to keep up with the emails. Some of these have been holding since July! Our new Facebook page will be a much faster way to get answers. Check it out. If you like the page you can see everything there and if you "follow" you can have notifications of new stuff that is put up. Please forgive for lateness!*

*Thanks to you all for writing and for your interest in northwest native plants.*

*Jennifer*



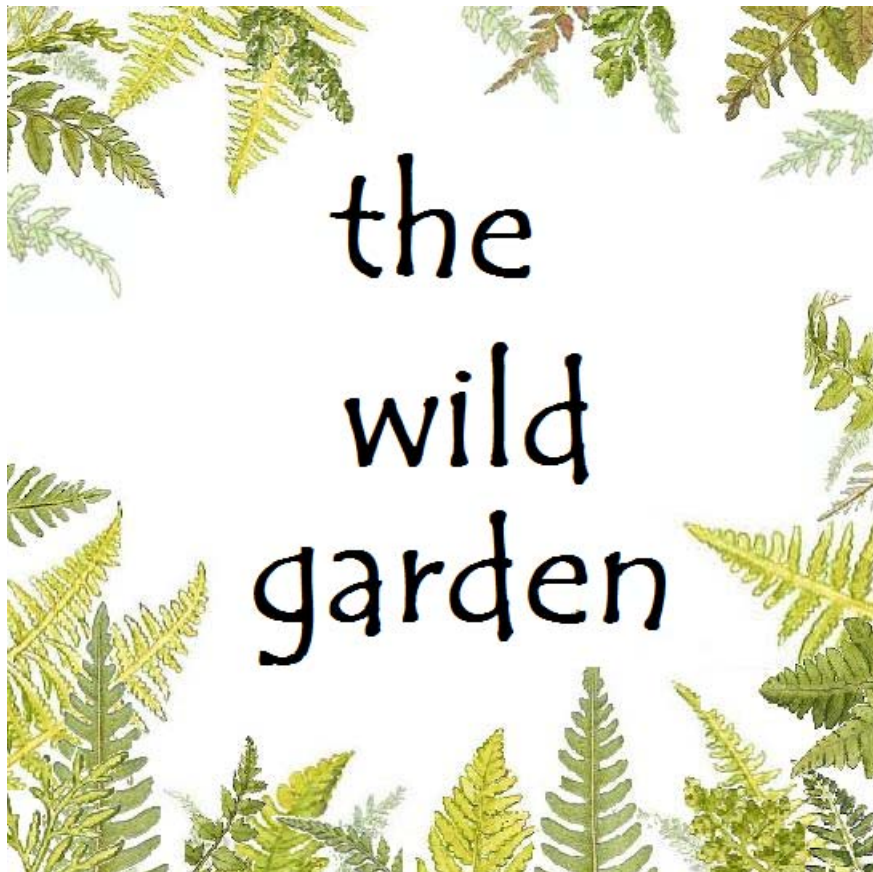
# Staying in touch

## The Wild Garden is on Facebook

Want to know when the next 'Journal' is coming out? Follow The Wild Garden on Facebook!

**Share comments, ask questions, stay in touch.**

Get the latest news about The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database ([www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com))



# Walter Siegmund

## A man of vision

Many years ago Wally Hansen and I worked as partners on the then-nursery website, [www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com) (now an online, non-profit, non-commercial information repository about native plants). A regular and continuous search for photographs of the plants I was writing about was just part of the daily research into these plants. I updated the home page at least weekly, so finding fresh photos to pique the interest of our readers was, to my mind, very important--even critical to the task at hand.

Somehow, I stumbled upon Wikimedia Commons, the companion to Wikipedia, which is the free encyclopedia on the internet.

*"Wikimedia Commons is an online repository of free-use images, sound, and other media files. It is a project of the Wikimedia Foundation.*

*"Files ... can be used across all Wikimedia projects in all languages ... or downloaded for offsite use. The repository contains over 23 million media files. In July 2013, the number of edits on Commons reached 100,000,000."*

I was over the moon, using the photos voraciously, and one name was prominent in the files I selected: Walter Siegmund. There were other regular choices to illustrate my articles, but Dr. Siegmund's work was most often used.

A brilliant mind kept him lively and in tune with his surroundings and the topics to which he devoted himself--a wide ranging array of fascinating subjects, some of which are:



Todd-AO 6 channel high fidelity magnetic sound, plus the TODD-AO "all purpose" 70mm projector and the great arched TODD-AO screen equal the most revolutionary of all screen inventions, with clarity of perspective, detail and color reproduction never before achieved. Walter's tasks in this project were the design of the curved Todd-AO screen and the Distortion Correcting Printing Process.

[⇒More⇒](#)



Photo from Walter Siegmund Remembered by  
Thomas Hauerslev, Mark Lyndon, <http://www.in70mm.com/news/2012/siegmund/index.htm>  
Photo credit: Thomas Hauerslev,  
"One of my favorite images of Walt sitting next to  
the DP70 Todd-AO projector in Karlsruhe"

# Walter Siegmund, cont'd



SCInet (Solar Cookers International Network) website on needed research:

*"Whether you're planning a science project or are just a solar cooking enthusiast, the Solar Cookers International Network (SCInet) wants you to know that your research can help extend the world's knowledge of solar cooking and be of great help to people around the world. You should be aware that it's easy to build a high-performance solar cooker if you have access to modern materials. However, the more than a billion poor people in the world, who could really benefit from having a solar cooker, don't have access to such materials. This means that your research will be most useful if it concentrates on the simplification of cooker design or on the use of low-tech, local materials."*



Students experiment with a solar cooker built out of an umbrella. Photo by PSHS2012



Solar Cookers International Network

*"Water pasteurization, a heating process, can prevent waterborne diseases that are responsible for approximately 80% of all illnesses and deaths in the developing world."* Walter Siegmund on his talk page, 16 March 2007.



Walter served as a Wikipedia administrator, was a member of WikiProject Protected Areas (*"Wikipedians in this category are participants in WikiProject Protected areas, a WikiProject related to national parks and other protected areas worldwide"*), member of WikiProject Lepidoptera (*"The aim of this WikiProject is to set out broad suggestions about how to organize data in the articles relating to the insect order Lepidoptera, which comprises the Butterflies and Moths"*), and a birder. He wrote this introduction on his Wiki user page:

*"A retired male, I've spent most of my life in the Pacific Northwest, but have lived briefly in Texas, New Mexico and Hawaii. My interests are the natural and physical sciences, the Washington region, and occasionally current events. My education is in physics (BS) and astronomy (MS), but my professional experience has been in mechanical, optical and electrical engineering. I started editing in 2005 and have more than 10,000 edits on Wikipedia. I have added more than 6600 images to Wikimedia Commons including photographs of almost 700 species of biota."*

[➡More➡](#)

# Walter Siegmund, cont'd

Walter's Wikimedia legacy includes, but is not limited to:

## Featured articles to which he contributed:

- Shoshone National Forest, which appeared as Today's Featured Article on January 14, 2007.
- Retreat of glaciers since 1850, which appeared as Today's Featured Article on April 18, 2006.
- Yellowstone fires of 1988, appeared as Today's Featured Article on September 8, 2008.

## Articles started:

- Kipuka
- Steam exploded fiber
- Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
- Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges Complex
- Goat Rocks Wilderness
- Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge
- Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (DYK)
- Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge
- Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge
- Niagara County Park
- Boulder Glacier
- Hoary Comma
- California tortoiseshell
- Ribes bracteosum
- Ribes lacustre
- Streptopus amplexifolius
- Mitella caulescens
- Hydrophyllum tenuipes
- Moneses uniflora
- Bombus melanopygus
- Variable Checkerspot
- Sorbus sitchensis
- Luetkea
- Monadenia fidelis
- Anacortes Community Forest Lands (DYK)
- Fir Island (Washington) (DYK)
- Black Grace (DYK)
- Phyllodoce empetriformis
- Phacelia sericea (DYK)
- Central bank liquidity swap
- Wenas Wildlife Area
- Viola flettii

**Parnassius  
smintheus (Rocky  
Mountain  
Parnassian)  
Photo by Walter  
Siegmund**



# Walter Siegmund, cont'd

## Photo contributions:



*Rhododendron occidentale* (Western Azalia)

Photo by Walter Siegmund

Aspen, Douglas Squirrel, Red deer, Hoary Marmot, Western fence lizard, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Bittern, Bushtit, Cascades Frog, Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, Long-toed Salamander, Sara's Orangetip, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Caltha leptosepala*, *Iris missouriensis*, *Veronica arvensis*, *Thalictrum occidentale*

## Odds and ends

Retreat of glaciers since 1850, Serac, Boulder Glacier, Easton Glacier, Ok Tedi, Ok Tedi Mine, Freedom of speech, Effect of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans, Edmonds, Washington, Chimera, Art car, Annie Easley, Ravenna Park (Seattle), Niagara County Park, Union Bay Natural Area, Pineapple Express, Nisqually River, Skokomish River, Skykomish River, Snohomish River, Robert Friedland, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, Glacial striation, Tidewater glacier cycle (DYK)

[⇒More⇒](#)

## National Parks and Monuments

Olympic National Park (Hoh Rain Forest), Mount Rushmore, Navajo National Monument, Lassen Volcanic National Park (Chaos Crags), Mount Rainier National Park (Mount Rainier), Lava Beds National Monument, Devils Tower National Monument, Bandelier National Monument, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Halema'uma'u crater, North Cascades National Park (Mount Triumph DYK)

## National Forests and Wildernesses

Okanogan National Forest, Wenatchee National Forest, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Shoshone National Forest, Mount Baker Wilderness (Mount Baker), Norse Peak Wilderness, Glacier Peak Wilderness, Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, Alpine Lakes Wilderness

## Plants and animals

Grand Fir, Subalpine Fir, Western Redcedar, Yellow-cedar, Sitka spruce, Mountain Hemlock, Lodgepole Pine, Whitebark Pine, Bigleaf Maple, Vine Maple, Red Alder,

# Walter Siegmund, cont'd



Violet-Green Swallow by Walter Siegmund on 10,000 Birds: Birding, nature, conservation and the wide, wide world, [www.10000birds.com](http://www.10000birds.com)

There was much, much more to Dr. Siegmund's life and his accomplishments, but my aim here is simply to honor his talent for photography and his caring heart that allowed us to see through his eyes.

**Walter P. Siegmund**

**August 26, 1925 - June 26, 2012**

**Excerpts from a "Brief Bio," written by: Walter P. Siegmund**

*"I was born in Bremen, Germany in 1925 and had one older brother and no sisters. My father left Germany in 1929 to find work in America and the rest of us left for New York just after my fifth birthday. We arrived on September 13, 1930 in Rochester, New York, a center for optical manufacturing and the home of Eastman Kodak Co. I went to public school and upon graduation from high school entered the University of Rochester for the course in optics.*

*A fellow (female) student entered in our "homeroom" attracted my attention (we were seated about 5 meters apart) and when we both took the optics course at the university, we started dating and fell in love at 17! We have been married for 58 years!"*

He tells us about his service in the US Navy, receiving his PhD, and his work for Dr. Brian O'Brien which lead him to many other projects such as developing "a new motion picture system," Fiber Optics, devices for improved night vision, "flexible imaging cables for space optics and military applications, fiber optic endoscopes, fiber optic magnifiers and medical x-ray imaging components. One of the last programs I worked on was a remarkable flight simulator for the F-16 Air Force fighter aircraft."



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# Walter Siegmund, cont'd

Speaking of projects after he retired, he describes some admirable achievements:

*"I went into business with a partner developing and manufacturing fiber optic magnifiers for persons with macular degeneration. These were the best of their type ever produced!*

*"Finally, when we were unable to create a strong market for these magnifiers in the U.S. (but had excellent reception in Germany, Holland and Japan), we ceased production at the end of 1999.*

*"Immediately thereafter I set up a new corporation to produce so called "capillary arrays" for neutron imaging devices primarily for the French Atomic Energy Commission. The basic program for which these were required was the production of energy by controlled fusion, the ultimate source energy in the universe! To the best of my knowledge, I was the only one in the world producing these arrays! (in my barn behind our house). When we moved to a new house the entire process was transferred to a small company in Massachusetts and the barn is now filled with horses!"*



Dr. and Mrs. Siegmund at the Widescreen Weekend in Bradford. Photo by Thomas Hauerslev, from [Walter Siegmund Remembered](#) by Thomas Hauerslev, Mark Lyndon

Dr. Siegmund was affiliated with the Washington Native Plant Society, and with The Nature Conservancy. He contributed many of his photographs to the University of Washington's Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle, Washington. His photos appear in The Rock Creek Partnership's website; in the Plants at Lewis Creek Park brochure for Bellevue, Washington; Bird Note's Plants for Bird-friendly Yard in the Northwest. He served as a reviewer for CalPhotos, University of California at Berkeley, helping to identify vascular plants. These works attest to his love of plants native to the Pacific Northwest--only those who understand the importance of native plants to good earth-keeping would devote so much time, energy and dedication to helping us all see their point of view.

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# Walter Siegmund, cont'd

It is with great thanks to Dr. Siegmund and all the photogs who contribute their work to Wikimedia Commons that I write this article, knowing that when a photograph is needed to illustrate a native plant, I can turn to this remarkable “database of 23,059,531 media files” to find just the right image. The Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license is genius, a great service to us all. The Wiki body of work is a profusion of riches.

When Diana Hansen-Young agreed to allow me to conserve the former nursery’s website as an educational resource, she expressed a desire to make our huge library of photographs available through this license. That was done, and at the bottom of each plant page on the website are thumbnails of photos we share in this manner.

Thanks, Diana, for a most excellent suggestion!



*Acer macrophyllum* (Bigleaf Maple flowers) by Walter Siegmund for Radical Botany: Restoring the connection between native plants and humans, The 12 most important deciduous native trees in the Cascadian Bio-region by Ellen O'Shea

[⇒More⇒](#)

# Walter Siegmund, cont'd



## References

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*Ribes sanguineum* (Red-Flowering Currant)

Photo by Walter Siegmund



# Lights! Camera! Action!



## Leaves in autumn

It's my favorite time of year. Of autumn, Wally said, "This is the start of the annual 'show' that nature puts on - a new show every day!"

*Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth. They do not preach learning and precepts, they preach, undeterred by particulars, the ancient law of life.*

*- Hermann Hesse, Trees: reflections and poems*

Red Maple (*Acer rubra*)  
Photo by Jeff Dean

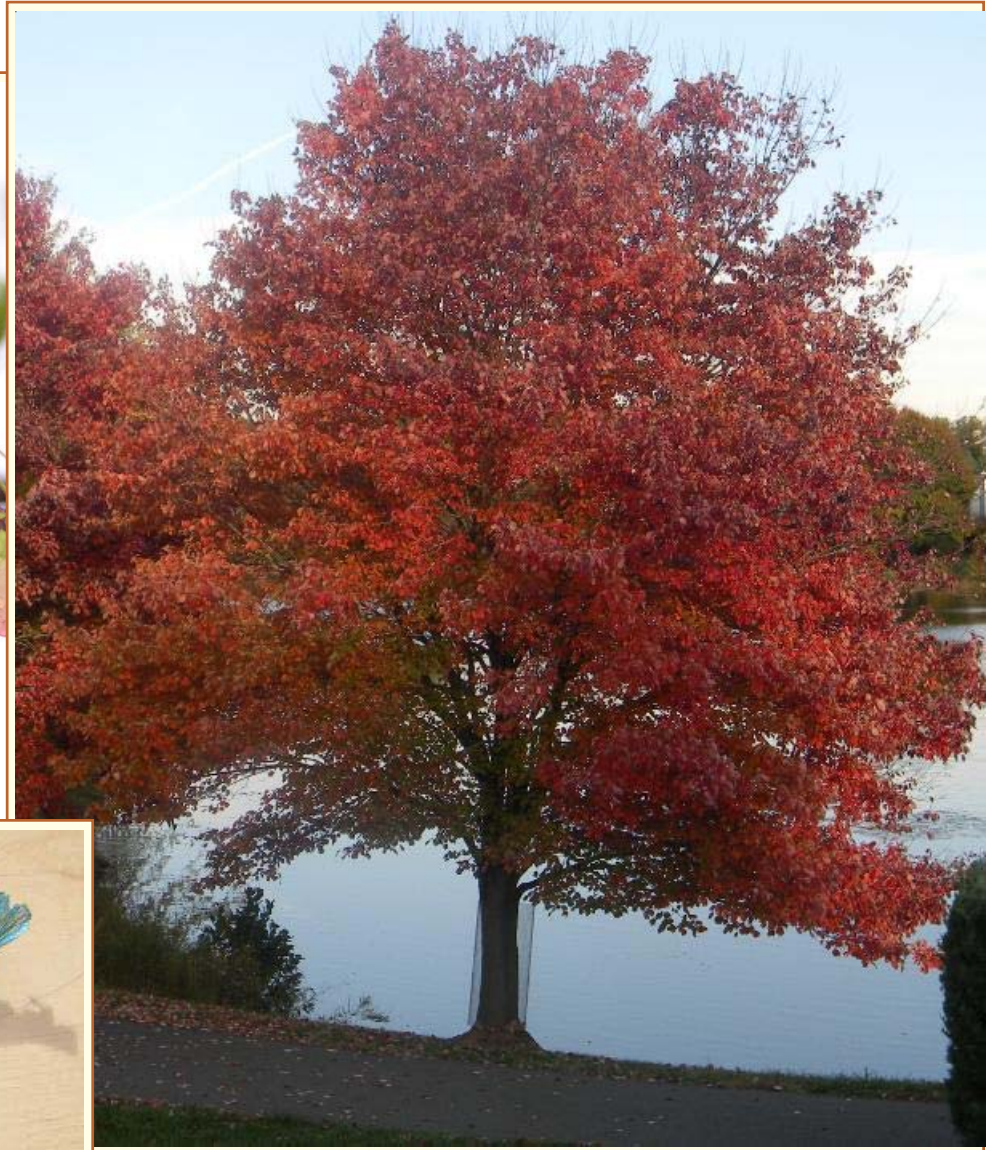
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# Lights!, cont'd



Photo by Maplekeys

Crafts by Amanda  
Maple Seeds Dragonfly  
[www.filthwizardry.com/  
2012/10/autumn-  
woodland-treasure-  
sculpture.html](http://www.filthwizardry.com/2012/10/autumn-woodland-treasure-sculpture.html)



Red Maple (*Acer rubra*) Photo by Ftombardo

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# Lights!, cont'd

## Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)

### The Seed- Samara

A favorite wild seed – called a “whirly-gig” by children and more playful adults. The fruit is a paired winged seed called a samara. Each seed is approximately 1–1.5 centimeters (0.39–0.59 in) in diameter with a 4–5 centimeters (1.6–2.0 in) wing. Wings help to disperse the seeds throughout the forest. The whirly-seeds or double-winged samara, as well as spring’s leaf-buds, are a major food source for squirrels, birds, & other wildlife. The First Peoples of the Salish Coast ate the young sprouted seeds as food.

“No spring nor summer beauty  
hath such grace as I have seen  
in one autumnal face.”

[The Autumnal]”  
? John Donne, *The Complete  
Poetry and Selected Prose*

Big-Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)  
Photo by Sarah McD from Portland OR



⇒More⇒

# Lights!, cont'd

## **Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)**

In many coast Salish languages, its name actually means “paddle tree” because the people are able to carve paddles out of its wood due to its great size. Some other helpful tools fashioned from the Big-Leaf Maple include dishes, spoons, hairpins, combs, and scouring pads. The inner bark was eaten in small quantity as it was constipating. The inner bark was also used to make baskets, rope and whisks for whipping soopolalie berries. Some First Peoples ate young maple shoots raw, and also boiled and ate the sprouts when they were about 3 cm tall. The leaves, like Skunk Cabbage leaves, were used as a base for drying berries. The large leaves were also used for storing food during the winter or burned in steaming pits to add flavor to food.

The wood was used for spindle whorls and various other implements such as combs, fish/duck spearheads, and fish clubs. The ends of branches and strips of bark were used in basketry. The wood was used to make masks and rattles used in ceremony.

The sap was boiled and made into sweet maple syrup and sugar by some First Nations.

**Big-Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)**



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# Lights!, cont'd

## Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)

The Name- before the Europeans came and renamed everything, this tree was called many things. It was a protector, a habitat creator, a source of food, shelter, medicine and tools. It was a wood used to make canoe paddles and ceremonial masks and rattles. It was a sacred being in the forest; it was much revered. Here are a few of the names that the First Peoples of Cascadia used to identify this tree.

sqY leIKY x = Salish = Any large Tree

K'u'lawi = Chehalis

Cuk'ums = Cowlitz

Stsla'act = Klallam

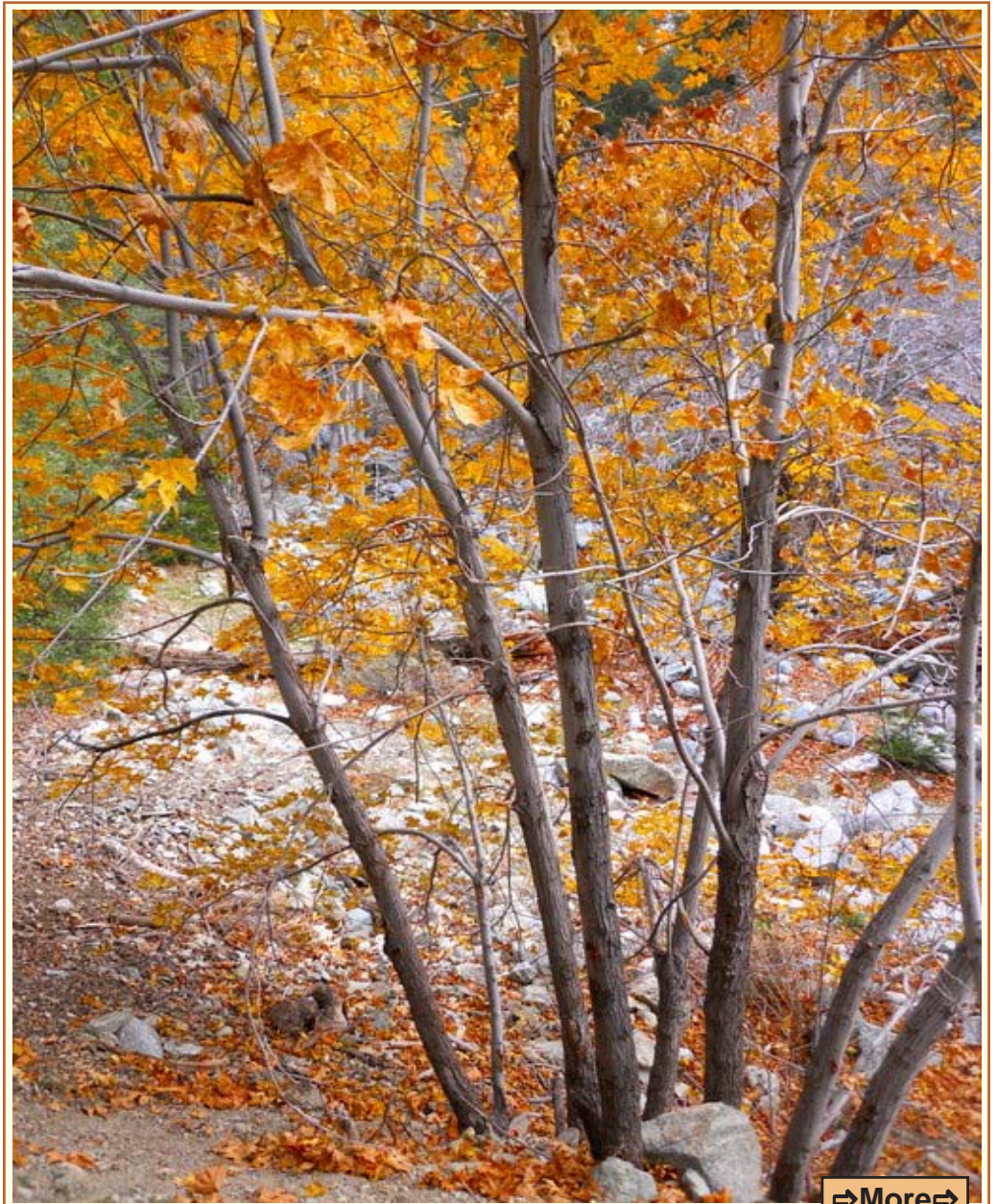
K!amali'tc = Lummi

K!o'luwe = Skokomish

The Big Leaf Maple is the "mother tree" of the forest. Much like the Western Red Cedar in the conifer forest, the Big Leaf Maple attracts the conditions, the plants and fungi that create a healthy viable eco-system.

Big-Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)

Photo by Daniel Passarini



[⇒More⇒](#)

# Lights!, cont'd



"I enjoy the spring more than the autumn now. One does, I think, as one gets older."

-- Virginia Woolf,  
Jacob's Room

Big-Leaf Maple  
(*Acer macrophyllum*)

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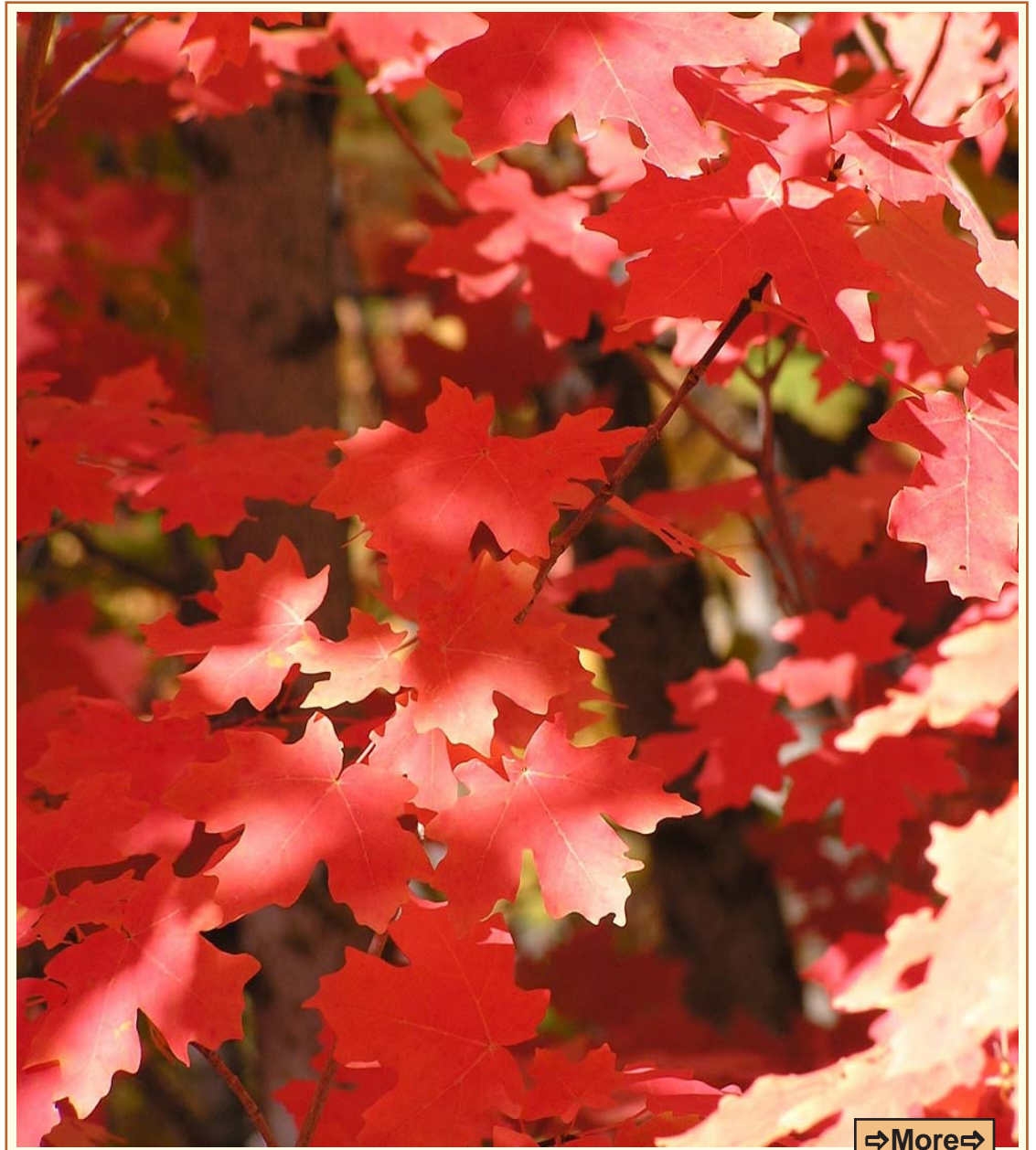
# Lights!, cont'd

## A Seed

by William Allingham

See how a Seed, which Autumn flung down,  
And through the Winter neglected lay,  
Uncoils two little green leaves and two brown,  
With tiny root taking hold on the clay  
As, lifting and strengthening day by day,  
It pushes red branchless, sprouts new leaves,  
And cell after cell the Power in it weaves  
Out of the storehouse of soil and clime,  
To fashion a Tree in due course of time;  
Tree with rough bark and boughs' expansion,  
Where the Crow can build his mansion,  
Or a Man, in some new May,  
Lie under whispering leaves and say,  
"Are the ills of one's life so very bad  
When a Green Tree makes me deliciously glad?"  
As I do now. But where shall I be  
When this little Seed is a tall green Tree?

Big Tooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*)  
Photo credit: Scott Catron



[⇒More⇨](#)

# Lights!, cont'd

## Autumn Song

by Katherine Mansfield

Now's the time when children's noses  
All become as red as roses  
And the colour of their faces  
Makes me think of orchard places  
Where the juicy apples grow,  
And tomatoes in a row.

And to-day the hardened sinner  
Never could be late for dinner,  
But will jump up to the table  
Just as soon as he is able,  
Ask for three times hot roast mutton—  
Oh! the shocking little glutton.

Come then, find your ball and racket,  
Pop into your winter jacket,  
With the lovely bear-skin lining.  
While the sun is brightly shining,  
Let us run and play together  
And just love the autumn weather.

Big Tooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) Photo  
by Leaves at 4th of July Canyon New Mexico



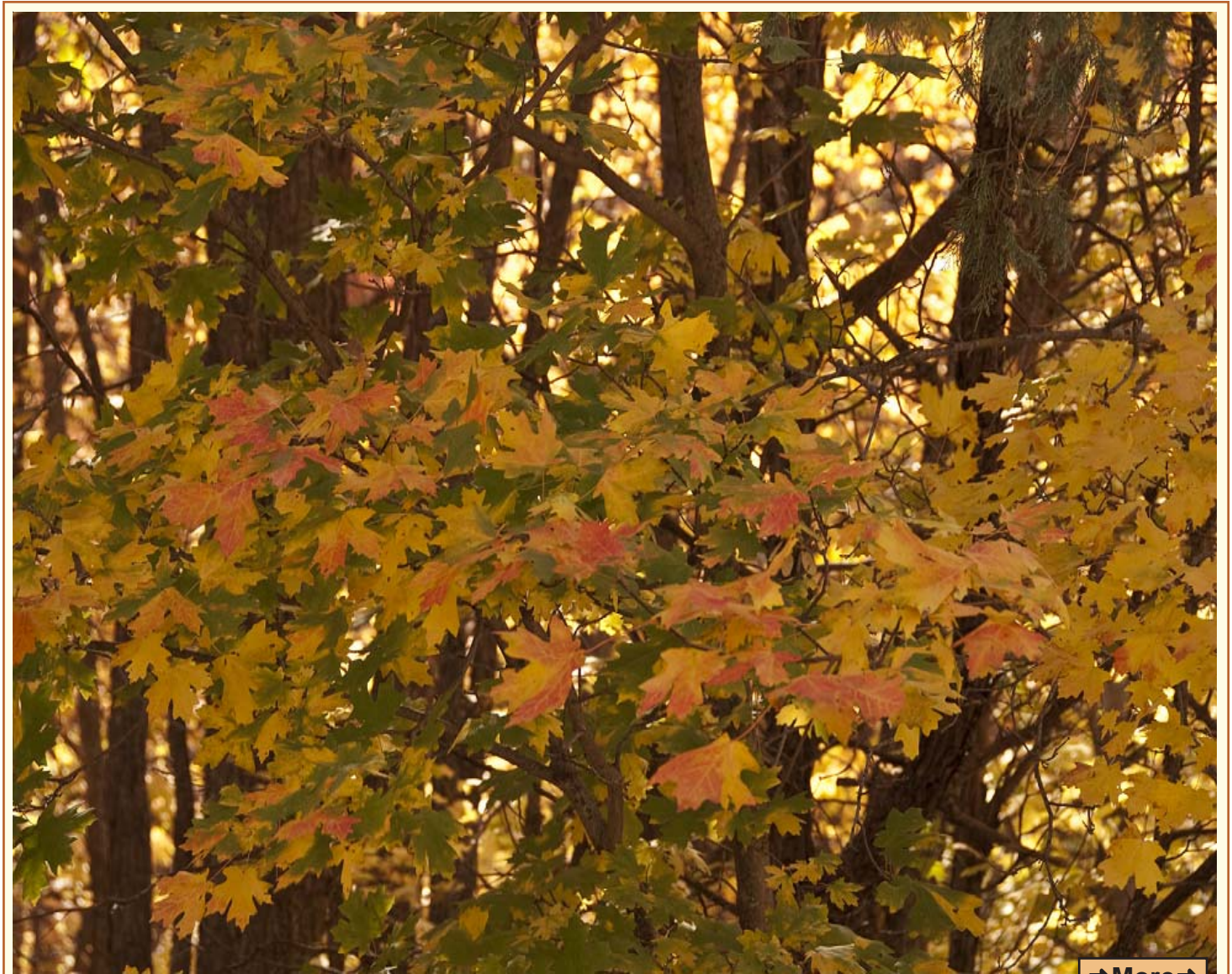
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# Lights!, cont'd

"I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion."

-- Henry David Thoreau

Big Tooth Maple  
(*Acer grandidentatum*)  
Photo at 4th of July  
Canyon New Mexico



[⇒More⇒](#)

# Lights!, cont'd

## Autumn Song

*by Dante Gabriel Rossetti*

Know'st thou not at the fall of the leaf  
How the heart feels a languid grief  
Laid on it for a covering,  
And how sleep seems a goodly thing  
In Autumn at the fall of the leaf?

And how the swift beat of the brain  
Falters because it is in vain,  
In Autumn at the fall of the leaf  
Knowest thou not? and how the chief  
Of joys seems—not to suffer pain?

Know'st thou not at the fall of the leaf  
How the soul feels like a dried sheaf  
Bound up at length for harvesting,  
And how death seems a comely thing  
In Autumn at the fall of the leaf?

*Acer glabrum* (Douglas Maple,  
Rocky Mountain Maple) Photo  
by Walter Siegmund

⇒More⇒



# Lights!, cont'd



"Autumn is leaving its mellowness behind for its spiky, rotted stage. Don't remember summer even saying goodbye."

-- David Mitchell,  
Cloud Atlas

*Acer glabrum*  
(Douglas Maple,  
Rocky Mountain  
Maple)

[⇒More⇒](#)

# Lights!, cont'd

## Autumn River Song

by *Li Po*

The moon shimmers in  
green water.  
White herons fly through  
the moonlight.

The young man hears a  
girl gathering water-  
chestnuts:  
into the night, singing,  
they paddle home  
together.

Li T'ai-po  
tr. Hamil

Garry Oak  
Autumn color  
(*Quercus*  
*garryana* var.  
*garryana*)  
Photo by Nona



[⇒More⇒](#)

# Lights!, cont'd



"Autumn is a  
second spring  
when every leaf is  
a flower."

-- Albert Camus

Garry Oak  
Autumn color  
(*Quercus*  
*garryana* var.  
*garryana*)  
Photo by Nona

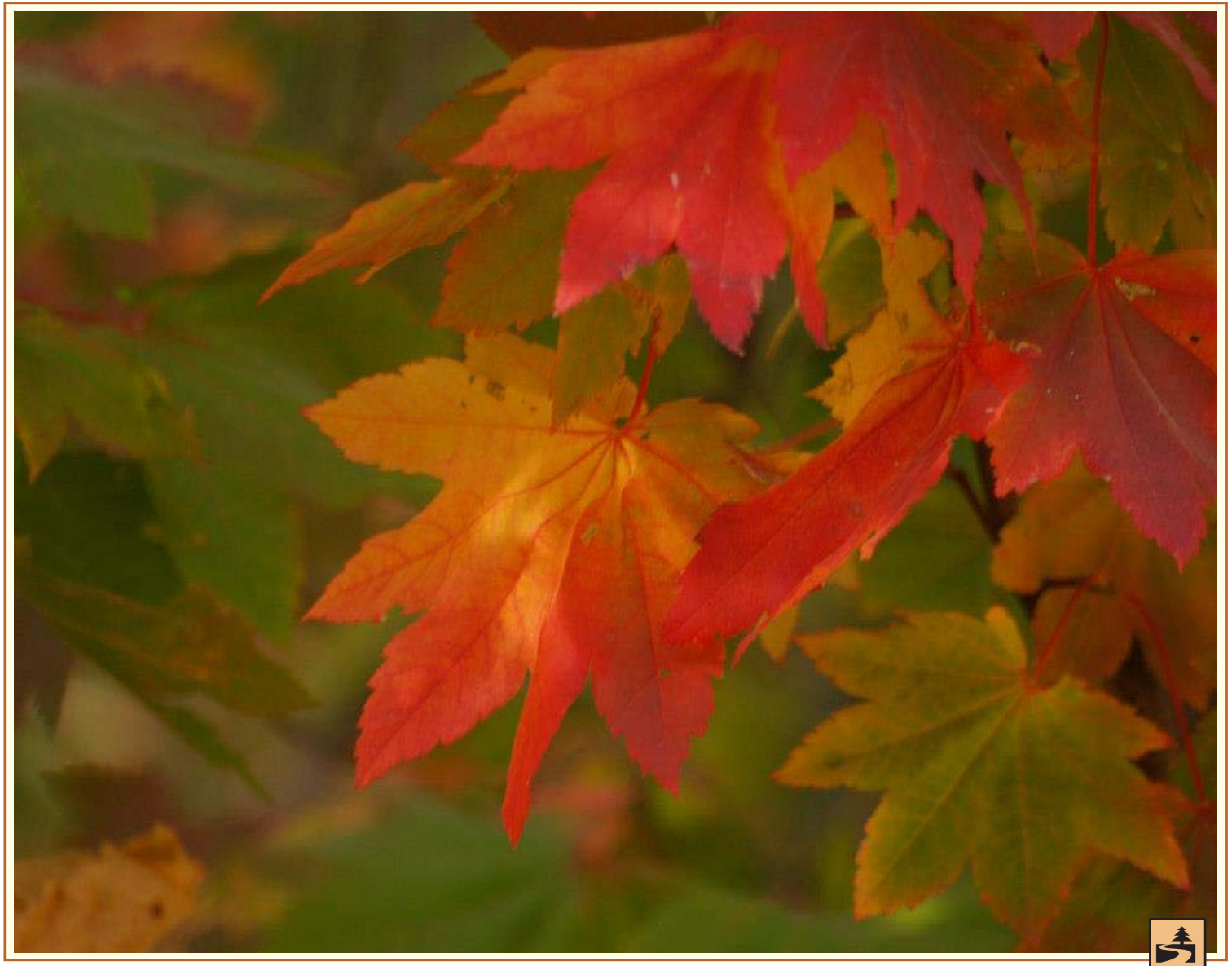
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# Lights!, cont'd

"Joy - in the fall,  
winter, and always  
in the mountains  
where people are  
few, wildlife is  
abundant and there  
is peace in the  
quiet."

-- Donna Lynn Hope

Vine Maple  
Autumn color  
(*Acer  
circinatum*)  
Photo by Nona



# Deadly beauty

## Poison Oak

At its most appealing right now, Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) is making a grand stand before its leaves fall during the next month or two. The stunning, cunning red and orange foliage of this tough shrub will soon be gone, but it's trying its best to attract the unsuspecting gatherer of autumn glory.

Spring color  
Pacific Poison Oak  
(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)



Fall color  
Pacific Poison Oak  
(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)  
Photo by Gregg Erickson



[⇒More⇒](#)

# Beauty, cont'd

Fall color  
Pacific Poison Oak  
(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)



Winter berries  
Pacific Poison Oak  
(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)  
Photo credit: Noah Elhardt

⇒More⇒

# Beauty, cont'd

Fall color  
mass of mature shrubs  
Pacific Poison Oak  
(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)

Summer flowers  
Pacific Poison Oak  
(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)



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# Beauty, cont'd

The smoke from a pile of burning Poison Oak is more dangerous than any other contact with this native shrub for a couple of reasons:

- The smoke carrying the oils can enter the nose and mouth and cause severe infection in the lungs
- The smoke from burning Poison Oak is indistinguishable from any other burning brush to the unsuspecting.



Burning pile  
Pacific Poison Oak  
(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)  
Photo credit: Adam Waymire



Fall color  
Pacific Poison Oak  
(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)

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# Beauty, cont'd

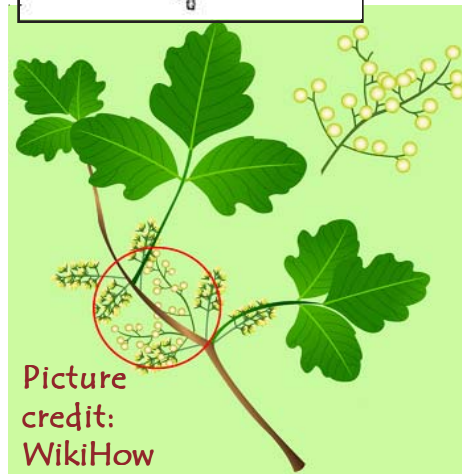
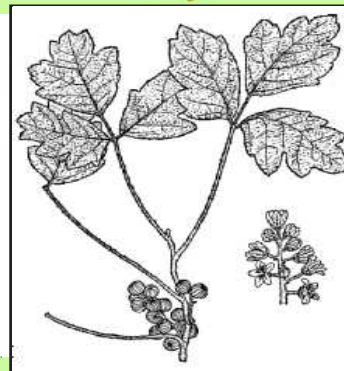
*"Airborne contact from burning these plants, which releases particles of urushiol into the air that can penetrate the skin, eyes, nose, throat, or respiratory system."*

WebMD. WebMD provides valuable health information, tools for managing your health, and support to those who seek information. You can trust that our content is timely and credible. <http://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/guide/understanding-poison-ivy-oak-sumac-basics>

*I cannot stress how important it is to avoid exposure to this plant. A reaction is absolutely miserable and difficult to treat.*

*"Smoke from burning these plants [Poison Oak, Poison Ivy or Poison Sumac] can cause the same reaction." (See website for details.)*

MedlinePlus is the United States National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health's Web site for patients and their families and friends. Produced by the National Library of Medicine, it brings you information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues in language you can understand. MedlinePlus offers reliable, up-to-date health information, anytime, anywhere, for free. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000027.htm>



*"In addition to direct contact with the plant, transmission of the allergen can occur by touching contaminated clothing, gloves, tools, or animals, particularly pets. When poison oak is burned, the oils can disperse via the smoke particles. Breathing this smoke can cause severe respiratory irritation."*

University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program. Integrated pest management, or IPM, is a process you can use to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. IPM can be used to manage all kinds of pests anywhere—in urban, agricultural, and wildland or natural areas. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7431.html>

*Take extreme care to avoid the smoke from burning of brush, even if you cannot identify what material is burning. Any brush smoke is dangerous, Poison Oak is even more so.*

*"Burning these poisonous plants can be very dangerous because the allergens can be inhaled, causing lung irritation."*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People. The CDC is one of the major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services. As the nation's health protection agency, CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/plants/>



# Sedums

## Darlings of drought in the garden

If your grandmother loved her garden, she was probably fond of Hens and Chicks. These old fashioned succulents are but a small part of the genus *Sedum*, perennials with thick, succulent leaves, fleshy stems, and clusters of star-shaped flowers. They are practical, efficient, and drought resistant. An article by Ed Snodgrass for *Fine Gardening* magazine begins:

*"If you're looking for a beautiful plant that thrives with virtual neglect, a creeping sedum just might fit the bill. Sedums strut their stuff where many other plants dare not venture. They make themselves at home, for example, in the cracks of a garden wall or walkway, on roofs or the tops of gently sloping birdhouses, or even under massive trees where enormous roots monopolize most of the soil's moisture. They also perform well in rock gardens, borders, and containers."*

### Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae  
(unranked): Angiosperms  
(unranked): Eudicots  
(unranked): Core eudicots  
Order: Saxifragales  
Family: Crassulaceae  
Subfamily: Sedoideae  
Tribe: Sedeae  
Subtribe: Sedinae  
Genus: *Sedum*  
Common Name: Stonecrop

Here in the Pacific northwest, there are 29 different native species of *Sedum*. We do not often see these delights in ordinary nurseries, but in the native plant trade, they are more abundant. And so beautiful!

We will look at a nice sampling today, just a bit of eye candy to spark a healthy interest in this often-overlooked genus of easy-care perennials.



*Sedum acre* (Goldmoss Stonecrop). Photo credit: Sannse

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# Sedums, cont'd

Alongside the pinups, we'll look into Sedum details to become well acquainted with the family.

**Found In:** Depending on species, native Sedum can be found along the coasts from low elevation to alpine, and on both sides of the Cascades. There are approximately fourteen species native to the northwestern region. With many varieties and sub-species, the grand total over 50 different plants.

*Note: The northwest region for our purposes here includes California, Oregon, Washington and some Canadian provinces.*

**Characteristics:** Perennial. Low-growing, often mat-forming, fleshy thick small leaves, either broad or narrow, common to groundcover sedums. Flowers are clusters of bright yellow stars held above the foliage, blooming off and on throughout the summer months.

**Habitat:** Not all Sedum require full sun and dry conditions, but that being said, they all require some sun and good drainage in order to thrive. I inherited a hexagonal raised bed rose garden at the north end of my lot. The outside perimeter of that area has 6 or 7 Paper Birches, many rhodies, azaleas and ferns. Last year a neighbor gave me a whole bunch of sedums which I planted just inside the edge of the raised bed. This year they have come together to form a necklace around the roses. Quite lovely. The voice of that section is peaceful, sheltered, serene with a warm afternoon sun. It seems to just the right mash of shade vs. light, and the raised bed provides perfect drainage. The hummers love to perch in those trees and they fly in to dance in the sprinkler when it's running.

[⇒More⇒](#)

*Sedum dendroideum (Tree Stonecrop). Photo credit: Stan Shebs*



# Sedums, cont'd

**Pests/Diseases:** In general, Sedum are not much bothered by pests or diseases. They are only prone to some fungal diseases if not given good enough drainage, and sufficient air circulation is also required. You know how those close areas tend to get when the air is still. Moisture + warmth = fungus.

Native Sedum are quite fascinating. One can get up close to them and observe their cunning forms, their pleasing colors that develop when their lives are interesting. Their bright flowers are mostly yellows, not my personal favorite color and absolutely worthless for cutting. I generally break them off and compost whenever I see them. The plants are much prettier without them.

There are about 29 species of Stonecrop native to the Pacific northwest; not all are readily available in local nurseries, but there is a native Sedum for nearly every garden setting and they are worth seeking out. Nurseries specializing in native plants usually have a larger variety than ordinary ones. Your local nursery (or section of a retail establishment such as hardware stores, one-stop-shopping spots, even grocery stores!) will probably have *S. oreganum* (Oregon Stonecrop), *S. spathulifolium* (Broadleaf Stonecrop) and *S. stenopetalum* (Wormleaf Stonecrop), while other native species. Nurseries in high desert regions such as eastern Oregon usually carry species that thrive there, and some will ship plants to you. Since this family of plants are naturally tough, a little time in transport should not phase them.

Many native Sedums are evergreen; those that are native west of the Cascades tend to be mat-forming (sometimes aggressively—you can tell by their structure which might carry this trait: close, fleshy, rounded leaves

*Sedum reflexum* (Jenny's Stonecrop) Photo credit: Burschik



*Sedums are bee and butterfly favorites, and deer and rabbits aren't very interested in them!*

⇒More⇒

# Sedums, cont'd

*Sedum spathulifolium* (Broadleaf Stonecrop) Photo credit: Kurt Stüber

stick together; longer stems that stretch out are seeking someplace to root, and once they achieve that, they do the same thing again, always reaching for closeness to the earth). Sedums in the wild at higher-elevation, especially in rocky, sandy areas, tuck themselves into crevices between rocks as though they are trying to get out of the summer sun and winter cold. In a rock garden, they want to duplicate these conditions; perfect for rock gardens with good drainage.

All native Sedum flower in various shades of yellow, in similar starry-clusters held a bit above the foliage. Some have pink flowers which I personally prefer. All are self-reliant if given occasional water and good drainage. Those that want to wander are just right for taking starts to share or to establish in new areas of the garden.

Some may question whether or not succulents will work in the rainy northwest, but studying their native environment shows that premise is a mistake. Besides surviving drought, these guys take well to being ignored. They are superior for container gardens. I put them in the holes in my "strawberry pot" and they actually did a happy dance (well, maybe. I'm pretty sure I've heard some "yay-yippee-yahhooing" out there). *Sedum oreganum* is often used in rooftop gardens because it does the matting thing on its own, it is self-sufficient and looks tidy even if it hasn't been groomed by a human. Remember, this is the natural habit of lots of native sedums.

Succulents have many tricks up their sleeves so they can shrug off too much moisture once their necessary water storage is filled. Their leaves shrink up somewhat when that reservoir is drained. At that point, they go dormant to wait for the next rainfall. This behavior is their natural life. To find the best species for your little corner of the world, look where they grow wild. Wherever nature plants them is their home spot. Since many of us cannot trot out to find Sedums in the desert or the woods or the coastal regions, I try to use photos showing the neighborhood where each plant lives. This applies to all natives, not just succulents.



⇒More⇒

# Sedums, cont'd

*Sedum stenopetalum* (Wormleaf Stonecrop) Photo credit: Kurt Stüber



## Particular applications:

**Green roofs** (aka eco-roofs, oikosteges, vegetated roofs, living roofs, greenroofs and VCV<sub>H</sub> (Horizontal Vegetated Complex Walls) are natural partners for this category. This is a movement gaining popularity in our ever-increasing green consciousness.

Types are intensive roofs (thicker, with a minimum depth of 12.8 cm, and can support a wider variety of plants but are heavier and require more maintenance); and extensive roofs (shallow, ranging in depth from 2 cm to 12.7 cm, lighter than intensive green roofs, and require minimal maintenance).

Benefits are--

- absorbing rainwater
- providing insulation
- creating a habitat for wildlife
- increasing benevolence and decreasing stress of the people around the roof by providing a more aesthetically pleasing landscape
- helping to lower urban air temperatures and mitigate the heat island effect
- work with solar thermal collectors/photovoltaic panels

Note: The City of Portland now had an Ecoroof Program, a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Office of Sustainable Development. This program researches the technologies and shares findings with members of the community. The program promotes ecoroofs by researching ecoroof technologies and providing information and technical assistance to community members. For more info, see <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/BES/44422>

This is not a new notion. Until the late 19th century, it was the most common roof on rural log houses in large parts of Scandinavia. Sod roofs on top of several layers of birch bark on gently sloping wooden roof boards.

⇒More⇒

# Sedums, cont'd

**Ground covers.** Native groundcover for pathways, especially those that can be walked on is not an option for Sedums, but they are an excellent choice for filling in spaces between bricks or stones or other hardscape. For that use, the slow growing matting type of Stonecrop will send its stems out and, when they find dirt, will root themselves. In a relatively short time, you'll have lovely borders edging your pavers.

If you want to be able to walk on the pathway plants, forget about Sedums. Mosses are the way to go. They are soft, close growing, and you'll see tiny flowers in spring. Adorable, very pleasing, even soothing to the eye. And, if you take off your shoes, they will cool your tootsies in summer. See "Encouraging Mosses" from Oregon State University, based on the writing of George Schenk at <http://bryophytes.science.oregonstate.edu/page30.htm>

BTW, broken pieces of sidewalks or driveways are great for paths and their irregularity makes a charmingly meandering pathway with flowing spaces between them.

For general groundcover use aside from paths, Sedums are a joy, and cunningly addictive. Quick as a wink, you will be drawn to the succulent section of any plant place, looking for more. The University of Washington Botanic Gardens Elisabeth C. Miller Library's Gardening Answers section says it well:

*"These plants are the great problem solvers of the gardening scene. These lovelies dare to grow where few other plants survive – and they look spectacular doing it!"*

The low growers are best for desert, taller ones are usually more hardy for cold weather. Choose those that work best in your space rather than picking whatever strikes your fancy and modifying the environment to match.

That way, everything can be natural and, guess what?--easier to maintain!

*Sedum lanceolatum* (Spearleaf Stonecrop) Photo credit: Wallace Keck, Park Superintendent, City of Rocks National Reserve



⇒More⇒

# Sedums, cont'd

**Rock gardens** and Sedum are a natural fit. Observe the surroundings of the photos I chose for this article--for the most part, they're the natural environments. The rigid forms of the rocks contrast beautifully with the rounded, flowing habit of these succulents. The coloration of the rocks is enhanced, brightened, elevated by the ever-changing shades of the living sedums, just as nature intended.

As the hardscape shifts and settles, the plants embrace them, each one unique, never duplicated, and never the same any two days in a row.

**Impossible spots** like around the mailbox or a lamp pole or the little strip surrounding the patio--all those hard to reach, troublesome to care for but that need a little neatening are all candidates for a Stonecrop planting.

**Beneath shrubs** that lose their leaves in fall, a Sedum



underplanting is an easy match. The autumn leaves make a thin blanket to shelter the succulents. As the winter winds take the shattered leaves away, the foundation of Sedum show to advantage in the starkness. When spring comes, the Sedum awaken as the shrub's leaves and early flowers sprout on the branches. As spring turns to summer and the temperatures rise, the shrub is cloaked in brilliant green foliage giving a bit of shade and making life easier for the Sedum below, the partnership conserves water for both sides. This is not a good design for evergreen shrubs, though, especially the denser ones. The year-round leaves create too thick a shade for friend, Sedum, and fresh air cannot circulate. That is a recipe for fungus. Oh, I remember now, that's where the mushrooms bloom!

*Sedum spathulifolium* (Broadleaf Stonecrop with spring dusted leaves)

*Sedum divergens* (Pacific Stonecrop) Photo credit: brewbooks



⇒More⇒

# Sedums, cont'd

**As food** The leaves of most stonecrops are edible, excepting *Sedum rubrotinctum*, (Bean Plant or Pork and Beans) which is native to Mexico, although some other species have been noted as toxic.

Plants with yellow flowers can have a mild toxicity that is negated with cooking. The young leaves and stems are best either cooked or raw. Older plants can tender up by cooking for a short time. Add to salads, stir-fry, soups, etc. Young tubers/roots can be eaten. Ingesting a large amount of raw Sedum, especially raw, may cause an upset stomach. Besides eating fresh, dry the leaves, then grind them to make a spicy seasoning.

Pacific northwestern natives said to be edible are:

*Sedum reflexum* "Jenny's Stonecrop" is eaten in salad or as an herb in Europe, including England. Its flavor is a bit astringent

*Sedum divergens* (Pacific Stonecrop) was eaten by



*Sedum divergens* (Pacific Stonecrop) Photo credit: Stan Shebs



First Nations

people in Northwest British Columbia. The plant is still used as a salad herb by the Haida and the Nisga'a people. It is often found in the Nass Valley of British Columbia.

*Sedum acre* (Biting Stonecrop) contains "high quantities of piperidine alkaloids (namely (+)-sedridine, (-)-sedamine, sedinone and isopelletierine), which give it a sharp, peppery, acrid taste and make it somewhat toxic."

*Sedum spathulifolium* (Oregon Stonecrop)

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# Sedums, cont'd

*Sedum lanceolatum* (Spearleaf Stonecrop) Photo credit: Walter Siegmund

## Recipes

If you're feeling adventurous, here are a couple of recipes that the authors swear are gastronomic delights. We neither advocate nor discourage eating sedums. They are said to be perfectly fine to eat (and I saw them recently on "Chopped") but use your own judgment.

### **Sedum Relish**

Fry Sedum leaves with slivers of sweet bell peppers and onions at a high heat in olive oil until the onions are browned and bell peppers nearly translucent, then add pepper to taste and use as a relish on hotdogs or gardenburgers. Refrigerate for use as needed.

### **Stonecrop Wild Garlic Dill Pickles**

When picking your stonecrop, try to find smaller, more compact shoots. Personally, I don't like them as much once they've gone to flower (although some prefer the flavor that way, judge for yourself).

Nip off any roots from the stonecrop, then wash. Pack them into sterilized half pint jars, along with a clove of (wild if possible) garlic, and some dill seeds (I used some from my garden, two years ago).

Heat up the pickling liquid - one cup cider vinegar, one cup water, 1 tsp. salt, a spoonful of mustard seed (adjust ratio as needed), until at a bare simmer.

Spoon pickling liquid into jars of stonecrop, allowing one inch of head space. Lid, allow to cool, refrigerate.

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Sedums, cont'd

## Medicinal

For at least 5 centuries, Sedum has been grown in the United Kingdom for its medicinal properties. Today, when used in medicinal/herbal quantities, it is still considered to be a useful medicinal plant by some herbalists, though others do not use it because of the violence of its operation when taken internally. The plant contains tannins, rutin (citrus flavonoid glycoside), several alkaloids, sedinon and sedridin and several organic acids. Herbal properties:

- astringent ("causing the contraction of body tissues, typically of the skin)
- hypotensive ("lowering blood pressure)
- laxative ("having the power of relaxing, stimulating evacuation of feces, from Latin laxare, "loosen)
- rubefacient ("reddening the skin by producing an increase in the quantity of blood flow to a body part; engorgement)
- vermifuge ("An agent that destroys or causes the expulsion of parasitic intestinal worms)
- vulnerary ("remedy used in healing or treating wounds)

In *A Modern Herbal*, first published in 1931, by Mrs. M. Grieve, notes that the leaves of White Stonecrop (*Sedum album*) were often used in a soothing application for hemorrhoids while Biting Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*) taken internally got rid of worms. *Sedum telephium* (Orpine Stonecrop) is used as a remedy for diarrhea when the leaves are boiled in milk and taken three or four times a day: this is also good for the kidneys, piles and hemorrhages.

*Sedum obtusatum* (Sierra Stonecrop) Below  
Conness Lakes. Photo credit: Dcrjsr



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# Sedums, cont'd

Ancient Greece herbalists used *S. acre* to treat epilepsy and skin disease, as well as an abortifacient (causing abortion).

Dr. James Duke, in his *CRC Handbook of Medicinal Herbs* published in 1985, cites over 30 uses from treatments for cancers and malaria, to applications for epilepsy and water retention. Most medicinal preparations of Mossy Stonecrop (aka *Sedum acre*) are administered as a powder, ground from the dried plant. This is also the form usually used to add a peppery taste to food. Drying takes quite a while. Gather during the spring and summer. It should be pointed out that using this plant is not recommended for everyone as blisters and skin irritations are widely reported.

## Common uses (Not scientifically proven)

- Corns—As a corn-remover, it is effective and harmless, can use extract or fresh leaves as a poultice
- Boils—To bring boils to a head, but may cause some local irritation
- Wounds and minor burns—Good results but can cause blisters or skin irritations
- Piles and anal irritations—A tincture made from the fresh plant
- Skin irritations—Used topically, extract is local anesthetic, increasing blood flow to the skin for itchy rashes, ulcers and for the topical treatment of warts, pimples, acne dermatitis

*Sedum obtusatum* (Sierra Stonecrop) Photo credit: Eric In SF



### Wordsworth:

*The yellow stone-crop suffered to take root  
Along the window's edge, profusely grew,  
Blinding the lower panes.*

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# Sedums, cont'd

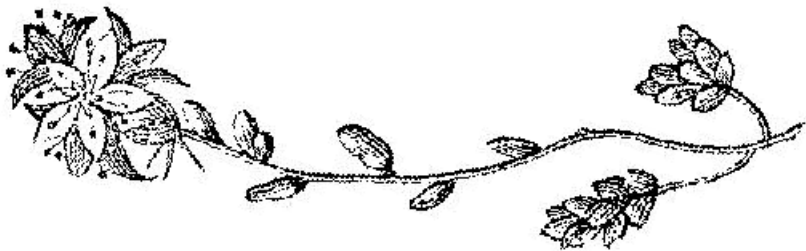
## Potential Side Effects and Interactions of Biting Stonecrop

- Extract of Biting Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*) can cause skin irritation and blistering.
- Direct contact to the eyes the extract can cause permanent eye damage.
- Internal consumption can cause headaches, lethargy and vomiting.
- In skin care products containing this plant extract, levels are regulated and are said to be safe to use.
- In treating wounds, it is recommended to the extract must be diluted with water and used for short periods of time.

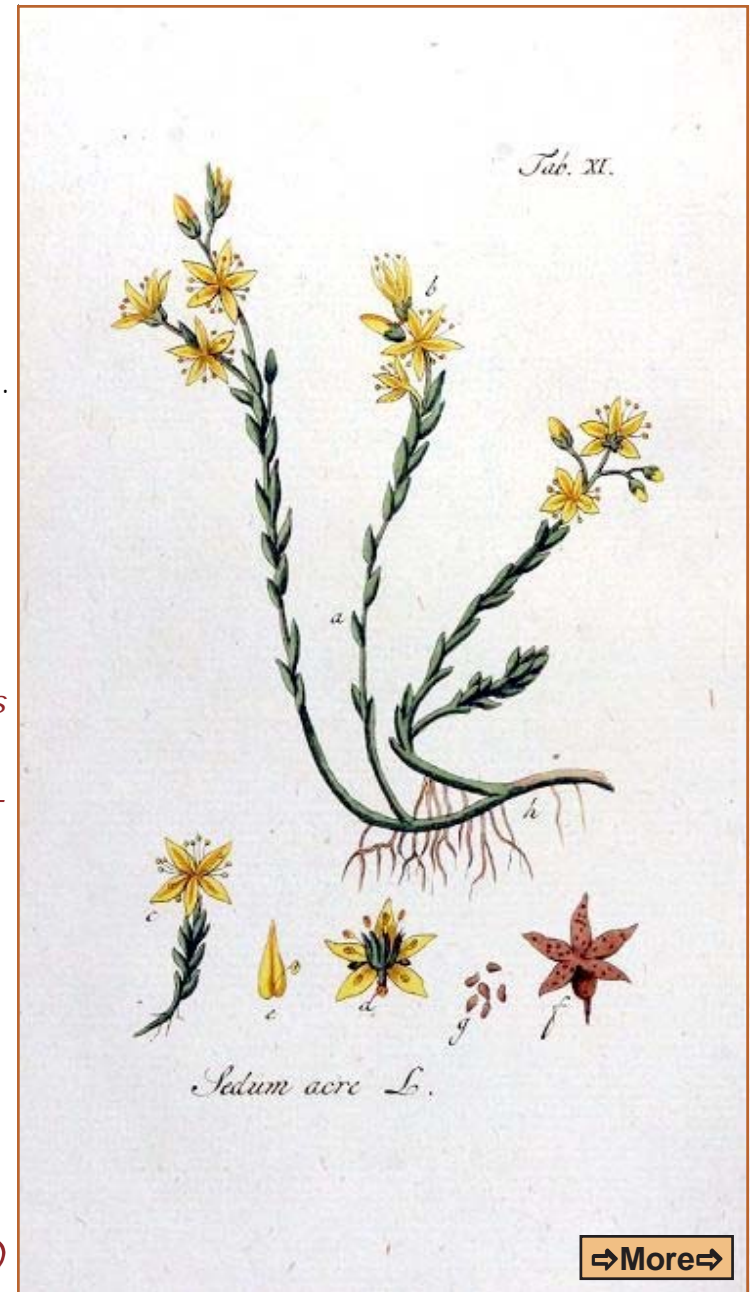
*I am working on a complete write-up of northwest native Sedums: an introduction page with complete list of all Sedums in our area and links to pages of the individual species. There are many photos to be included.*

*This very easy native with its myriad faces and water-wise requirements can find a place in even the tiniest garden.*

*An added bonus--quite simple to propagate, a thoughtful and caring treat to give friends and family and, of course, neighbors!*



*Sedum acre* (Biting Stonecrop)



# Sedums, cont'd

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**Succulents ...Carry the Garden Gracefully Into Fall,** by Sean Hogan, [www.northwestgardennews.com/id200.html](http://www.northwestgardennews.com/id200.html)

**Oregon State Extension Service: Stumped over which succulent to grow? Go native,** by Judy Scott, March 11, 2011. Source: Linda McMahan. [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/stumped-over-which-succulent-grow-go-native](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/stumped-over-which-succulent-grow-go-native)



*Sedum oreganum*  
**Oregon Stonecrop**  
Drawing by Marci Degman

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# Sedums, cont'd

## More References:

**The right choice of succulent** in the Northwest garden brings years of color, interest, by Marci Degman, The Hillsboro Argus on July 09, 2013 at 10:27 AM. [www.oregonlive.com/hillsboro/index.ssf/2013/07/the-right-choice-of-succulent.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/hillsboro/index.ssf/2013/07/the-right-choice-of-succulent.html)

**Drought tolerant plants for the Pacific Northwest**, plus other hot-weather garden tips. "Sedum is one of the plants that tolerates dry weather. It can get by with very few waterings. (Michelle D. Wise/The Oregonian)" by Kris Wetherbee | Special to The Oregonian. Garden writer Kris Wetherbee is the author of "Attracting Birds, Butterflies & Other Winged Wonders to Your Backyard": [wetherbee@centurytel.net](mailto:wetherbee@centurytel.net). [www.oregonlive.com/hg/index.ssf/2013/06/drought-tolerant-plants-for-th.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/hg/index.ssf/2013/06/drought-tolerant-plants-for-th.html)

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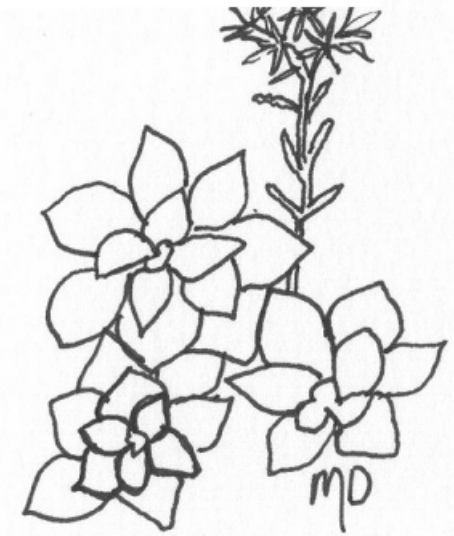
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**Learn2Grow Helping You to Become a More Successful Gardener: Low-Growing Sedums for High-End Results**, by Veronica Lorson Fowler. [www.learn2grow.com/gardeningguides/cactisucculents/featuredplants/LowGrowingSedums.aspx](http://www.learn2grow.com/gardeningguides/cactisucculents/featuredplants/LowGrowingSedums.aspx)

## Recommended reading:

***Plants Of The Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia & Alaska***, by Andy MacKinnon, Jim Pojar

***Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest***, by Russell Link



*Sedum spathulifolium*  
**Broadleaf Stonecrop**  
Drawing by Marci Degman



# This & That

## Notes from Jennifer

I've been thinking of Maya Angelou today. No particular reason, she helps me be quiet enough that I can hear things around me, I 'pose.

*When we come to it  
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body  
Created on this earth, of this earth  
Have the power to fashion for this earth  
A climate where every man and every woman  
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety  
Without crippling fear*

*When we come to it  
We must confess that we are the possible  
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world  
That is when, and only when  
We come to it.*

--Maya Angelou  
from A Brave and Startling Truth

Until next time,  
*Jennifer*

