

Contents

The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database www.nwplants.com Editor: Jennifer Rehm, Webmaster





Feature Articles



About those monarchs
A butterfly tale....19

Anatomy of a leaf A primer...27





Gardener's hangouts
Where the gardeners go...14

NW native milkweeds Players in a peaceful garden..9



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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.).

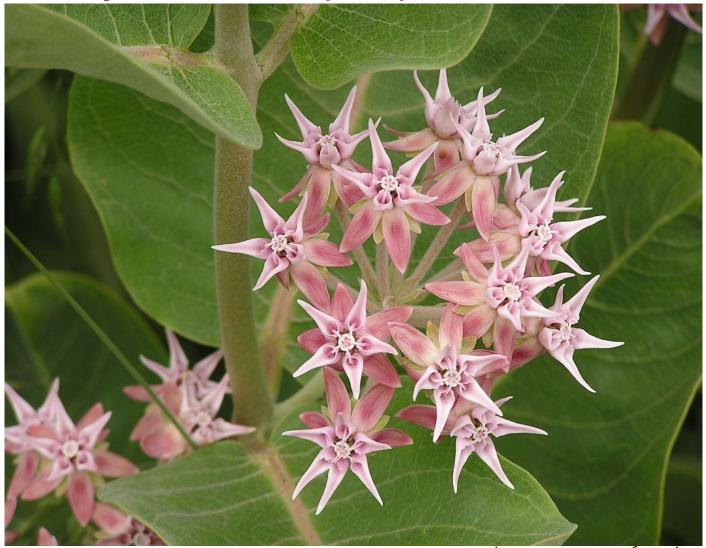


Asclepias californica (California Milkweed)
Photo credit: Marshal Hedin



On the Cover:

Showy Milkweed, Asclepias speciosa



MILKWEED

Remember how unimportant they seemed, growing loosely in the open fields we crossed on the way to school. We would carve wooden swords and slash at the luscious trunks until the white milk started and then flowed. Then we'd go on to the long day after day of the History of History or the tables of numbers and order as the clock slowly paid out the moments. The windows went dark first with rain and then snow, and then the days, then the years ran together and not one mattered more than another, and not one mattered.

Two days ago I walked the empty woods, bent over, crunching through oak leaves, asking myself questions without answers. From somewhere a froth of seeds drifted by touched with gold in the last light of a lost day, going with the wind as they always did.

Philip Levine



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 our website (www.nwplants.com).

Send me an email anytime: nwplants@gmail.com





Wildlife Corner

Out back with the animals

This morning, there was snow on the ground--a little bit, but enough. Excellent viewing in the garden. The nectar feeder was frozen. It alarmed me, the little Anna girl that has apparently adopted me will be getting pretty alarmed herself. A quick check of the other watering holes, frozen every one.

First things first. I grabbed her favorite feeder, made up a batch of nectar (packet premeasured but has to dissolve), filled her vessel and carried it immediately out the door which I had left open. She was waiting for me right outside the door frame, jumped on the feeder and rode it until I got it hung back up. She sat on one of the perches and drank for about 5 minutes, seemed like.

I wonder--would she come inside to watch her food being readied?

Her very favorite vessel. It's an Audobon Hummingbird Feeder with 6 ports and perches. Simple design is far more functional than any other I think. I highly recommend it.

Wildlife Corner, cont'd

After her feeder was hung, she watched me--we were almost nose to nose when she was in observing mode (between drinks). It was a breathless moment.

I made cooing, gentle babble. Figured she might as well get used to the sound of my voice in our new relationship. I talk to whomever is enjoying the hospitality. They learn who I am by my sounds, actions, and what they percieve. When they talk to me, it shows they are ready to expand our roles, that this way of communicating is working. We are becomming friends.

Jeff was excited with the humming meeting when I called him. He's very hands-on. He has been working to get some of the birds to perch on his finger. He has a way with animals, they are comfortable in his presence as he is in theirs. He said he'd come over and feed the horde some extra protein in honor of the cold.

This is the commitment we have made for the wildlife habitat. They will find the elements here that they need and desire, whether that is provided by nature or by us. So far it is mostly human-created, although the native plant additions are coming along.

We've made the wild things dependent on us for their food here in this clearing I call the Bodega. That song about if you build it they will come--it's all true. There are very few times I see the bodega empty, but with this coldness it has been the really cool spot (pardon the pun) since their little motors need more fuel in this weather so they can stay warm. Today they brought their friends.

Happy to oblige!

Until next time,

Jennifer







Garden chores to do now

Pearly bits of wisdom & just plain common sense

We are now in the first of the garden's sweet spots. Aside from daily walks through the gardens, there are usually little requirements that are demanded of us. That means we must devote some part of the day to dreaming and planning.

Open up your garden journal to review the past year's activities:

What was done?

What was skipped?

What worked?

What didn't?

What you loved?

What you hated?

What was a bargain?

What was a dud?

What kind of feedback did visitors to the garden share?

What did you hope for? Why?

Take a look at the photos from the past year. Sometimes a photo is, as the saying goes, worth a thousand words. Especially notice the notes you made. You may find some real eye-openers--lost dreams or amazing rainbows.

Now while the year is new and the slate is clean, get your garden journal for 2016 ready. Note carry-overs from 2015, reminders to yourself and ideas you canned but now may want to try out.

And take some photos! You won't regret it.

No journal? Get a binder and some paper and set it up just the way you want it.

Photo credit: Peppergrass





NW Native Milkweeds

Players in the peaceful garden

Came upon a small community of perennial natives a few years back, knew we'd met before but the details were vague.

It was Milkweed. Furry soft celadon leaves and tight flower clusters of delicate pink--almost the same shade of pink the Beauty Bush in my old back yard flowered for a little while in late spring, as I recall.

This was a first personal meeting with "Asclepias speciosa, a milky-sapped perennial plant in the Dogbane Family (Apocynaceae), known commonly as the Showy Milkweed." (Wikipedia)

Next day I took their pictures (See one of these on page 13).

This, then, is a sampling of our native Milkweeds.

Asclepias linaria Cav. Pineneedle Milkweed

Native to Mojave and Sonoran deserts. 3-6 ft. Blooms March through September. Heat and drought tolerant. Full sun to afternoon shade. Well drained soil in open woodland, limestone ridges, rocky hills, canyons, arroyos, dry abandoned pastures.

Photo credit: Michael Wolf, Botanischen Garten Dresden





Asclepias fascicularis Decne.

Mexican Whorled Milkweed, Narrow-Leaf Milkweed

Asclepias mexicana auct. non Cav.

Native to Western United States.

Very drought tolerant, often used in gardens and natural landscaping projects.

Blooms June to September in clusters of lavender, pale pink, purple, white, to greenish.

Needs sunlight, dry to moist soils.

1-21/2 ft tall.

It is found in numerous habitats, including deserts, chaparral and woodlands.

Photo by Nature Shutterbug, Flickr Creative Commons



Asclepias asperula (Decne.) Woodson Spider Milkweed, Antelope horns

Asclepias asperula (Decne.) Woodson ssp. asperula Spider Milkweed

Native to American southwest and northern Mexico. Semi-desert, foothills. Woodlands, openings, washes. Blooms April -June. Moist, sandy or rocky soil.

A clump-forming, 1-2 ft. perennial with an upright or sprawling habit. The shape of the seed follicles are said to resemble antelope horns, one of its vernacular names.

Milkweed species are the food source for Monarch butterfly caterpillars.

The flowers are striking!

Photo credit: Lunch



Asclepias curassavica L.

Bloodflower, Scarlet Milkweed, Tropical Milkweed, Bastard Ipecacuanha

Native to the American tropics, introduced to other continents.

Typical plants are evergreen perennial subshrubs that grow up to 3.3 ft tall.

Grown as an ornamental, it is a source of food for butterflies, especially members of the Danainae subfamily, such as the Monarch and the Queen.

Photo credit: Dohduhdah



Asclepias speciosa Torr. Showy Milkweed Asclepias giffordii Eastw.

Native to western United States and Canada.

A hairy, erect perennial with eye-catching, hirsute, pale pink through pinkish-purple flowers. fragrant flowers from May through September.

Native Americans used fiber in the stems for rope, basketry, and nets. Some Native Americans believed the milky sap had medicinal qualities, however, most species of milkweed are toxic.

The Orioles use the dead stems for nests the next spring.

Photo by me!



Gardener's hangouts

Where the gardeners go

Winter is a golden opportunity to broaden your horizons. Meet other gardeners. See what they have been doing, what they have discovered. Hear ideas and gain another person's viewpoint. Here are a few gardening groups to investigate.



About NPSO

Enjoyment, Conservation, & Study

Oregonians live in a state with exceptional natural beauty and diversity that includes alpine lava fields to coastal sand dunes.

For nearly 50 years, members of the Native Plant Society of Oregon have been visiting the wild places of Oregon to enjoy, conserve, and study its natural vegetation. Founded in Portland in 1961, NPSO has grown to a statewide network of 13 chapters with nearly 1000 members. We invite you to join us!

What We Do

NPSO works tirelessly for plant and habitat conservation. Oregon would not have an Endangered Species Act if, in the mid-80s, NPSO members had not sought out farsighted legislators, attended endless committee meetings, testified at hearings, and educated legislative staff in order to explain the importance of plant protection.

Today, NPSO state conservation chairs track major issues and chapters are involved in local efforts to protect and conserve threatened and endangered species. We carry out rare plant surveys and monitoring programs; we have developed guidelines and policy regarding native plant gardening, ethics, grazing, mining, and forest management; and we are involved in plant salvage and re-introduction.

From NPSO's website: http://www.npsoregon.org/

	Chapter	Center of Activity
1	Blue Mountain	Pendleton
2	Cheahmill	McMinnville
3	<u>Corvallis</u>	Corvallis
4	<u>Emerald</u>	Eugene
5	<u>High Desert</u>	Bend
6	Klamath Basin	Klamath Falls
7	Mid-Columbia	Mosier
8	North Coast	Tillamook
9	<u>Portland</u>	Portland
10	Siskiyou	Ashland/Medford
11	Umpqua Valley	Roseburg
12	Willamette Valley	Salem
13	William Cusick	La Grande

NPSO Chapters sponsor field trips and work parties, involving our members in conservation of Oregon's diverse plant heritage.

NPSO is pleased to offer a yearly college scholarship for study within the State, as well as field research grants for botany students, giving many young people the opportunity for hands-on experience in plant research and conservation.

NPSO is proud to be helping the Oregon Flora Project in its efforts to produce a modern Flora, an online Atlas of Oregon Plants, and up-to-date Plant Checklists.

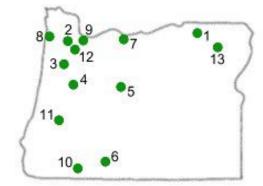
Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open to all.

We Need You!

What benefits can NPSO membership offer you? Monthly chapter meetings with interesting speakers, programs, and workshops; field trips to see unusual land forms and uncommon plants; and the Annual Meeting at a beautiful location to celebrate the blooming of the wildflowers.

Your membership also includes the Bulletin, our monthly newsletter which provides news of meetings, field trips, and special events, and a subscription to our yearly journal, Kalmiopsis. You will also have the opportunity to purchase NPSO Occasional Papers.

Further information: http://www.npsoregon.org/membership.html
NPSO is a member of Earth Share.



From NPSO's website: http://www.npsoregon.org/

Kalmiopsis Online

Volume 1 of Kalmiopsis, the journal of NPSO, was published in 1991. The journal has been issued yearly since then, but with a hiatus of four years, 1997-2000, and two issues in 2001. The text of Volumes 1-6 is available only in printed copies in libraries or privately held. The tables of contents for those issues are shown here.



Kalmiopsis is a small genus of flowering plants in the heath family. It contains two species endemic to Oregon in the United States. This was a monotypic genus containing only Kalmiopsis leachiana until 2007, when a form of it was elevated to species status, Kalmiopsis fragrans.

Kalmiopsis Wilderness is a wilderness area in the Klamath Mountains of southwestern Oregon, within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. It was designated wilderness by the United States Congress in 1964 and now comprises a total of 179,755 acres. There are approximately 153 miles of trails on 24 established hiking trails in the area.

The Kalmiopsis Wilderness was named for Kalmiopsis leachiana, a slow-growing plant related to the rhododendron, which was discovered in the area in 1930.

From NPSO's website: http://www.npsoregon.org/



NPSO is on Facebook! You can pick your favorite news sources such as NPSO chapters, Oregon Wild, Oregon State Parks Foundation and the Xerces Society

Oregon Flora Project

http://www.oregonflora.org/

Project Goal

Now available-Flora of Oregon Volume 1! See http://www.oregonflord.org/ The mission of the Oregon Flora Project is to serve as a comprehensive resource for the vascular plants of Oregon that grow without cultivation, and to foster effective use of this knowledge by all citizens. The information we present spans the topics

shown below.

The Oregon Plant Atlas an interactive mapping program which draws from a database of over 540,000 records to display plant distributions and the data behind each mappable point.

Photo Gallery — a collection of photographs for each plant featuring its habitat, general

features, and details, as well as images of herbarium specimens and line drawings.

The Rare Plant Guide — a searchable database and field-oriented fact sheets about some of Oregon's rare and threatened species.

The Vascular Plant Checklist — provides the taxonomic foundation for the complete project, listing accepted scientific names, common names, and synonyms for all Oregon vascular plants.

A Flora of Oregon — the definitive reference for plant identification, offering both directed-choice (dichotomous) and free-choice (multiple entry) keys.

Oregon Flora Newsletter — published twice each year, the Newsletter features articles about Oregon plants, places, and people. ⇒More⇒





One environment. One simple way to care for it."

EarthShare http://www.earthshare.org/
What we do

EarthShare is a national non-profit organization with more than 25 years of experience in connecting people and workplaces with effective ways to support critical environmental causes. Together we've raised more than \$300 million for programs that care for our air, land, water, wildlife and public health — in your community, across the U.S. and around the world.

Each year EarthShare connects hundreds of thousands of individuals with environmental and conservation charities through EarthShare @ Work, an employee engagement and philanthropy program offered at hundreds of public and private sector workplaces across the country. EarthShare @ Work gives employees meaningful opportunities to connect, contribute, and volunteer, helping to embed sustainability awareness into decision making and actions at work and at home.

EarthShare represents dozens of national organizations and hundreds of state-based groups in 21 states. Our mission: To engage individuals and organizations in building a healthy and sustainable environment. EarthShare also manages workplace charity campaigns for employers, including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of the National Capital Area, offering workplace giving opportunities to federal and military employees. Other campaign management includes the CFC for New York City and the State of Georgia campaign.

Our goal

EarthShare's goal is to be your trusted and proven way to support America's most respected environmental and conservation charities, whether it's through your workplace or on your own!

We've worked hard to earn your trust! EarthShare consistently receives high ratings for sound fiscal management from independent charity evaluators and is a Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance Accredited Charity.

Our Annual Report, Conflict of Interest Policy, Guidestar financial profile, and financial reports and 990 are available online for your review.

About those monarchs

A butterfly tale

Children very often learn to recognize a monarch butterfly as their first bug. The brilliant orange and black patterns on their wings seem pleasing to the youngsters and who can resist their swooping gentle flight as they pause a moment to savor a flower's nectar before heading for the next one.

Monarchs are among those birds and butterflies who migrate to far corners to fulfill the role they are preordained to do.





Photo credit: Hagerty Ryan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Left, Adult monarch laying eggs on the bottom of that milkweed leaf. Photo credit: Derek Ramsey (Ram-Man)

Each monarch butterfly undergoes a complete makeover during the first month of its life.

They begin as an egg--a ridged sphere 1/8th of an inch. The mother attaches each egg it to the underside of a milkweed leaf using a superglue she secretes along with the egg. In 3 to 5 days, a tiny larva is born.

The ferociously hungry larva first eats the egg it came in and then takes on the milk-

weed, eating continuously as it performs its alloted duties. It shimmies out of its old skin as it grows into a new one four times, devouring the outgrown skin each time.

When it's about 2 inches long, it stops eating and searches out a suitable place to pupate.

Monarch larva on a young milkweed pod. This is the piece de resistance of monarch hatchlings' diet;
Photo credit: Derek Ramsey (Ram-Man)

Monarch mother glued this egg to the underside of a milk-weed leaf; Photo credit: Bfpage



The larva/caterpillar now makes its own silken chrysalis in which to await the golden moment when it will finally attain its maturity as a magnificent butterfly. To do this, the caterpillar attaches its hind end to its chosen branch with its homemade silk and the handy hooks it grows for this purpose.

Upside down it hangs for the final molting. The new skin hardens as it dries into the jade green chrysalis form. In the next 10 - 12 days the caterpillar morphs into a butterfly, reorganizing its entire body as decreed by rules from the ages. When it is ready, the chrysalis turns transparent and the damp, newly arrived butterfly takes center stage in this, its finest moment.



Now that its promise has been ful-filled, it sends liquid into the veins in its wings to ready them



intriquing. I wonder what it feels l

for flight. The drying time is fragile for the new butterfly. Its job is to take sustenance through its probiscis and then reproduce.

The cycle runs four times each year in coordination with its migratory life. Each of the four butterflys created during the year's migration only experiences their fourth of the journey.

Chrysalis has gone transparent, the final curtain Photo credit: Bfpage

The monarch diet changes as do its needs. As larva, nature has provided the perfect food and assures that it will be close at hand immediately for the babe: the egg in which the larva grew fills those needs. The caterpillar is born on a milkweed leaf, perfect for its new needs. It crams as much of the plant as its body can hold--a bottomless pit

not even phased by the molted skins it peels off as they are outgrown and eaten immediately. The discarded skins give the strength to grow, but the milkweed's poisonous leaves incorporates the milkweed toxins into the caterpillar bodies in order to poison their predators.

The relationship between Monarchs and milkweeds is incredible, so perfectly for both parties. The food nature provides is precisely the element that makes the monarch poisonous. Any animal that eats a Monarch gets very sick and vomits (but generally does not die). The animal remembers that this brightly-colored butterfly made them very sick and will avoid all Monarchs in the future. All that poisonous milkweed eaten in such great quantity renders the monarch toxic for the rest of its short life.

When the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, it only sips liquid food using a tube-like proboscis, as do other butterflies. The probiscis uncoils to drink, and coils up into a spiral when done. The selected elixir is usually nectar from many flowers, whatever is available.



Milkweed is always in demand, cone flowers, thistles, dogbane, red clover, lantana, lilac, goldenrod, etc.

There are concerns currently about the monarchs, much discussion about their possible demise. In the next journal, we'll look at the issues and some possible solutions.

Male or female?

The male monarch butterfly has a black spot on each hind wing that is made up of specialized scales. In other butterflies, similar spots emit pheromones to attract females, but scientists are not sure what function these spots serve for monarch males.

These black dots are an excellent 'male marker' for sexing purposes.

The monarch female has noticeably thicker wing veins, which give her a darker appearance. The females hind wings are spotless. When you compare them together, the differences become obvious. Unfortunately, most monarchs won't be this cooperative in spreading their wings to let you get a close-up view.



Photo and text credit: The Monarch Butterfly Garden, www.monarchbutterflygarden.net





So how can you sex a closewinged butterfly?

Most of the time, you should be able to see part of the monarch male's black dot bleeding through to the outside wing. In my experience, it's pretty easy to see this outside mark on most males.

Make a mental note of where this dot is located on the outside wing...you'll have a much easier time finding it on future males.



The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database



The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database

Anatomy of a Leaf

A primer

In the interest of simplifying the maze of variety by which we understand the plants we love, there is a whole lot of other stuff you might think you do not need but will wonder how you ever survived without it once you have it.

Really.

Select a leaf to investigate, either a physical leaf, a picture or drawing of a physical leaf. Don't trust a fake leaf. You need the real deal here.

To begin:

1. Determine your leaf's shape and arrangement on the stem by comparing to the chart at right and on the next page.



SHAPE & ARRANGEMENT Acicular Rhomboid Falcate Orbicular needle shaped hooked or sickle shaped circular diamond-shaped Acuminate Flabellate Ovate Rosette tapering to a long point fan shaped egg-shaped, wide at base leaflets in tight circular rings Alternate Hastate Palmate Spatulate leaflets arranged alternately triangular with basal lobes resembles a hand spoon-shaped Aristate Lanceolate Spear-shaped Pedate with a spine-like tip palmate, divided lateral lobes pointed, barbed base pointed at both ends

Peltate

stem attached centrally

Linear

parallel margins, elongate

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons derivativework McSush

Bipinnate

leaflets also pinnate

⇒More**⇒**

Subulate

tapering point, awl-shaped

Anatomy of a Leaf, cont'd

- 2. Then learn the names:
 - a. leaf shape name
 - b. arrangement name

This is the meat and potatoes of this project all the way through.

Learn the names.

It's the language of plants.

It's the way in which we communicate with others about plants. It is a tool necessitated by our human mind.

Once we know the name of something, it belongs to us, in a way.

With just this much, we can effectively describe the leaves of any plant, any size, in the whole wide world. That's plant power!

More next month. In the meantime, go identify a plant!

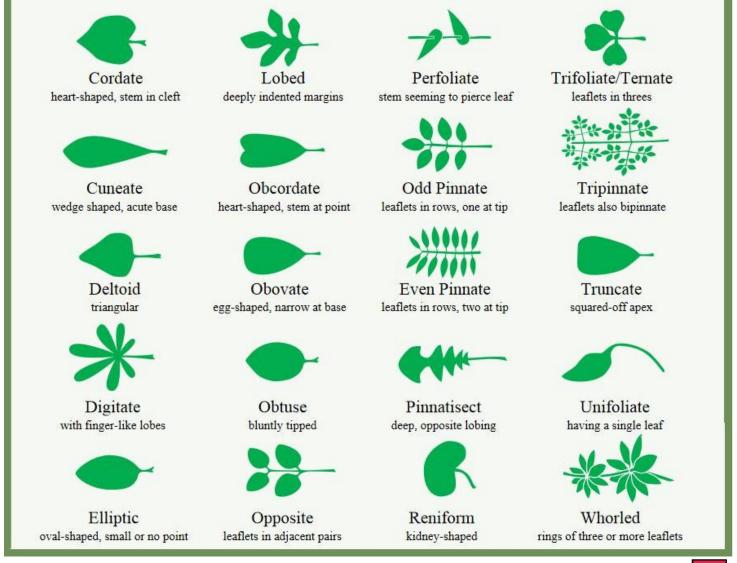


Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons derivativework McSush



This & That

Notes from Jennifer

After saying "so long" to the holidays, I allowed myself a pause of fresh air and an extra cuppa. I call this an 'attitude adjustment.' No tv, no phone, no computer--didn't want this respite to be flavored by any outside influence.

Ah, that's better.

A new year. The 'expert's' predictions of events to come this year vary widely, according to individual lights. Same with resolutions. No two are alike, but leading the list for many is diet/lose weight/get skinny. Even Oprah is on it. She is representing Weight Watchers now, and wants us to have our 'best bodies yet.' One of her catch phrases is "if not now, when?"

I no longer make resolutions for the new year: instead, I make plans. And I am not tied to a calendar. Looking over the garden and all its rooms, there are three areas for my 2016 focus: 1) the wildlife



Photo credit: Tyler Finvold, Toro Peak

bodega; 2) the rose garden; and 3) the north side gazebo. That is enough for me.

My wish for you is simple: Enjoy every single day. Do what you want to do. Bravely turn your face to the sky and be thankful for all your blessings, then hitch up your britches and get going!

Until next time, Jennifer





The feeders waiting to be filled, the birdbath is snowy white, the fodder is safely tucked into the metal containers, even the apples for the squirrels awaits a visitor to come nibbling.

THE BODEGA
au naturel

