



Volume 2, Issue 3, 2004

March 2004

# Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)

Designing the Winter  
Native Garden

Close Look at Sitka Spruce  
Fritillaria--Native Lily is a Work of Art

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



# Northwest Native Plant Journal

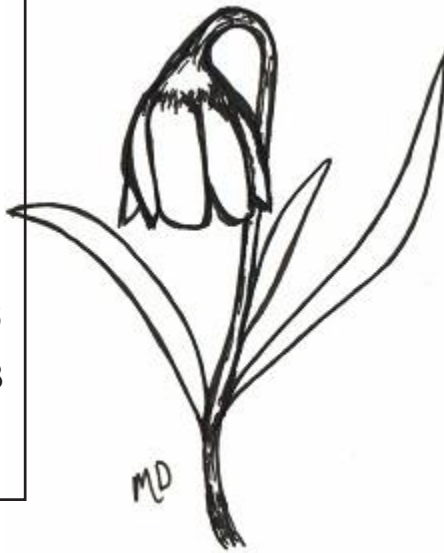
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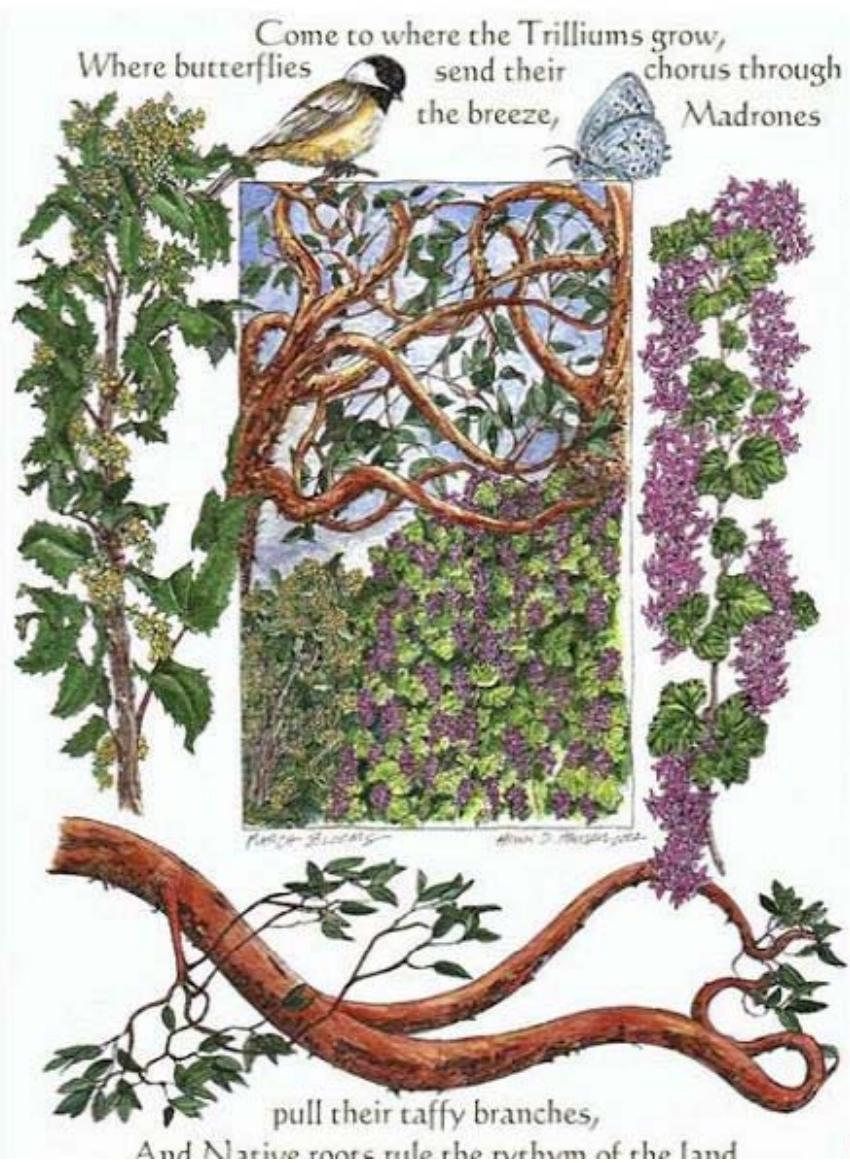
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# About this Monthly Web Magazine



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.).

Watercolor © Heidi Hansen



# On the Cover

## Oregon's State Flower

The Tall Oregon Grape is in full bloom right now in the Willamette Valley in Western Oregon. The vibrant yellow flower clusters against the glossy green leaves almost shouts, "Take my picture!"

A hardy evergreen Northwest Native shrub, *Mahonia aquifolium* quickly grows to 5-10 feet tall, and provides beauty and interest all year.

Photograph © Jennifer Rehm



# Do you know this rare plant?

Correctly identify this plant and win a small prize!

Each month in our Journal we show a photo of a “mystery” plant. If you can identify it correctly, send an email to Wally at [plants@nwplants.com](mailto:plants@nwplants.com) and he'll send you a small prize!

Here are clues about this month's puzzler:

- ❖ The power of this pink bloom once caused blowup over local power.
- ❖ Her sisters are common but she is not.



Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

If you know this plant, send me an email with the correct answer and I will send you a small prize!

Good luck!

*Wally*

[plants@nwplants.com](mailto:plants@nwplants.com)





# To Do List for Native Plants

The coldest part of the year is gone but there may be some chilly mornings still to come. Enjoy the sunshine and the spring rains but don't jump ahead, it's not summer! We are officially in spring now. The Indian Plums are fading and the trillium are just starting to bloom.

--Finish trimming off shrubs and trees damaged by winter's snow and cold but wait to trim flowering plants. If you're careful you can cut blooming branches to enjoy indoors as you remove those broken places. Watch for bird nests! Better to wait until the babies have flown away than disturb their homes.

**NOTE:** If you find a baby bird fallen from the nest, carefully pick it up and put it back inside the nest. Contrary to popular myth, the mother will not normally abandon a baby if a human has touched it. I learned this last year from the Audobon Society.



--Bare root season is nearly over but if you can find the plants, it's still good timing to put them in the ground.

--Pull early weeds while they are young and their roots are not deep. You'll save much work later in the year. Be sure you aren't pulling out something good though. Many plants look a lot alike when they're tiny.

--Take your time and ease into the more energetic gardening chores. Chances are you've been more sedentary during the winter and your body needs stretching and adjusting before you jump into those heavy jobs.

--Watch out for slugs! They're waking up just as the plants are. Put down a slug hotel (see instructions on next page) or lay a barrier of oak leaves, crushed egg shells, talcum powder, Diatomaceous Earth or a circling of copper strips are said to be earth-friendly deterrents. You'll have to replenish the talcum powder or Diatomaceous Earth after each rain. We don't guarantee success of any of these methods

but they may be worth trying.

Natural predators of slugs are ground beetles, turtles, toads, frogs, lizards, salamanders and garter snakes. Many birds will dine on slugs if given the chance. Chickens, blackbirds, crows, ducks, jays, owls, robins, seagulls, starlings and thrushes are rumored to eat all the slugsthey can find.

There are some new non-poison slug control products out now that are safe around pets (and people). Check your local feed store to see if they have any of them yet.

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# To Do List for Native Plants, continued

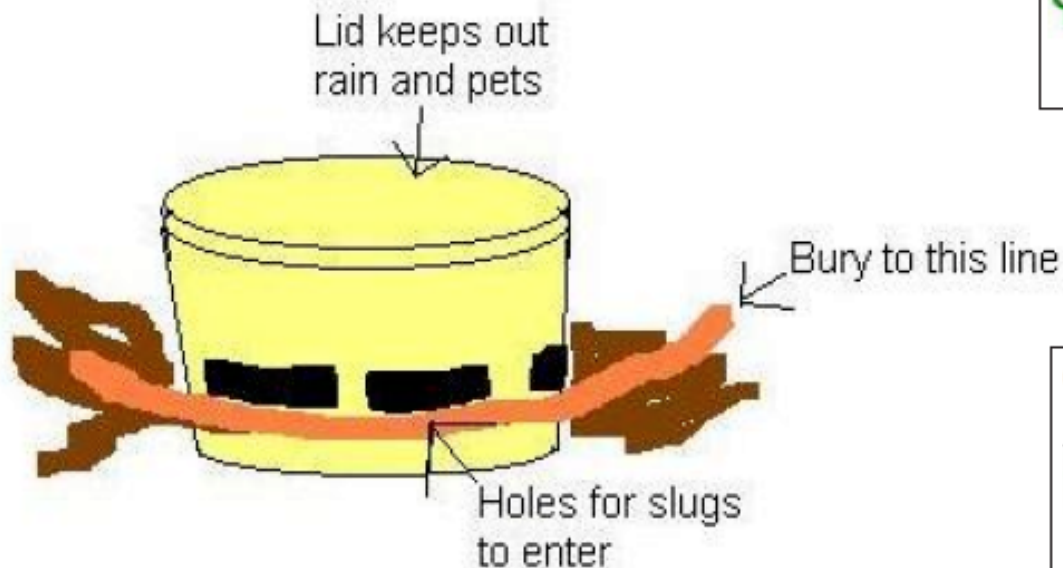
## Slug Hotel

A plastic tub with lid, a box cutter, knife or scissors and some liquid are all you need to make a slug trap that will not harm the earth or any of it's creatures except slugs.

- With box cutter, knife or scissors, cut slots around the sides of the tub large enough for slugs to get in.
- Bury the tub near target plants up to the slots (but no deeper) so the slugs have a nice path to enter.
- Pour in liquid (see favorites below) just up to the slots.
- Snap on the lid and that's it.

Slugs will slime their way inside, attracted by the delicious recipe and drown. You do have to dump them out as they collect but you don't have to touch them.

Cheap, easy and usually effective.



Favorite slug beverages:



beer  
grape juice  
soapy water



Any plastic tub-type container will do.  
Clear deli containers may look nicer and you can see how many slugs you've caught!



Check often.  
Dump the victims in the garbage--they smell!--and add fresh liquid.



# Fritillaria, Part 2

## Northwest Native Wildflowers

This is the second of a 2-part article on Fritillaria, a most unusual and intriguing Northwest Native perennial wildflower.

Please so not sample these plants in the wild – they are incredibly rare, both in the wild and commercially. Fritillaria lanceolata (Mission Bells or Chocolate Lily) is the only Fritillaria we currently carry in the nursery, grown for sale to home gardeners. See page 10 for description and photo.

### Gentner's fritillaria

(*Fritillaria gentneri* Gilkey).

Lily Family (Liliaceae).

This fritillary of Jackson and Josephine counties in southwest Oregon grows at lower elevations in dry, open fir and oak woodlands. It is rare throughout its range.

*Fritillaria gentneri* may reach two feet in height. The stout stem has several whorls of leaves in the middle portion. The flowers are nodding, are dull reddish-purple with yellow streaks within and without, and are up to one and one-half inches long. The petals may flare out at the tips, but are not recurved. It blooms in April and May.

*Fritillaria gentneri*  
(Gentner's fritillaria)

Photograph © Donald C. Eastman



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# Fritillaria, continued

## **Siskiyou fritillaria**

(*Fritillaria glauca* Greene).

Lily Family (Liliaceae).

Found on dry, rocky serpentine slopes in Curry, Douglas, and Josephine counties in Oregon, this species is rare in Oregon but more common in California.

*Fritillaria glauca* grows only four to five inches tall. It has flowers up to an inch in length, which can be purple marked with yellow, or yellowish marked with purple and green. The alternate leaves are broadly-lanceolate, usually folded along the mid-line. The herbage is covered with a whitish "bloom". It Blooms from April to June.

*Fritillaria glauca*  
(Siskiyou Fritillaria)

Photograph © Donald C. Eastman



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# Fritillaria, continued

## **Scarlet fritillary**

(*Fritillaria recurva* Benth.).

Lily Family (Liliaceae).

This species once listed as threatened on Oregon due to habitat destruction and collecting is found in the woods from southern Douglas County through Josephine and Jackson counties into California.

*Fritillaria recurva* is a striking plant which grows to nearly two feet tall, and has flowers one and one-quarter inches long. The bright scarlet, nodding bells are spotted with yellow; their petals and sepals are curved back sharply at the tips. The stamens are nearly the length of the petals. The leaves are lance-shaped, one-quarter to three-quarters of an inch wide, two to three inches long, and are scattered or in whorls about the middle of the rather stout stem. It blooms from March into July.

*Fritillaria recurva*  
(Scarlet Fritillary)

Photograph © Donald C. Eastman



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# Fritillaria, continued

## **Mission Bells, Chocolate Lily or Rice-Root**

(*Fritillaria lanceolata*)

Lily Family (Liliaceae).

This beautiful *Fritillaria* has whorled leaves and very unusual flowers which are dark purple to chocolate brown, mottled with green-yellow. The patterns on the bell-shaped, nodding flowers are intriguing. Underground, the scaly bulb has many rice-like bulblets that Original Peoples have eaten for centuries as we eat rice today.

Like many of our wildflowers, the spectacular display of beauty comes only after many years of maturation and effort. Found from British Columbia down to California and East to Idaho (USDA 5-10), this is a meadow species, favoring a dry, sunny site with excellent drainage. Chocolate Lilies need water in the Winter and Spring--natural conditions in many parts of the Northwestern United States, but tolerate drought in summer. They do well in rock gardens.



*Fritillaria lanceolata*  
(Mission Bells)

Photograph © Wallace W .Hansen





# The Role of Sitka Spruce

By Heidi Hansen

## 1. An important native tree

Sitka Spruce is different than any other spruce. First of all, you can tell it apart from other Spruces by grabbing a branch — you will be painfully reminded that Sitka Spruce has sharp, stiff needles extending straight out on the sides. Needles are four-sided but have a flat appearance. Sitka's cones are the most lovely, with delicate, paper-thin scales in a light sienna color. Although some of the most poignant nature photographs of Sitka show its characteristic horizontal branches reaching like scraggly arms out into the wind, perhaps as a silhouette on a lonely bluff, most Sitkas grow in dense old-growth forests. This is a slow-growing tree, which makes its wood highly valuable and uniquely suited for a narrow band of expert uses.

Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) can reach 300 feet, or 95 meters tall. Sitka is the tallest of the spruces, and has the highest density - to - strength ratio of all the major conifers, in part due to its slow growth. It can establish growth rings at 16 - 50 lines per inch, giving it superb strength without too much weight. Its soft pulp gives it flexibility. It is this precision balance between strength and grace that makes Sitka Spruce the wood of choice for airplanes, boats, acoustic guitars, piano soundboards and turbine blades. Oak is too heavy for airplanes, while Pine is too brittle. The Sitka Spruce was the perfect choice for early aircraft, and still is today, among glider and experimental aircraft pilots.

Sitka Spruce grows as far south as California and as far north as Kodiak and the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. Sitka Spruce grows especially well in the low plateaus near floodplains or glacier-carved mountains. Although it raises the acidity of the soil, Sitka Spruce supports a wide range of shrubs and flowers under its canopy, making it a favorite grandparent to diversity in the ecosystem. The success of salmon-run restoration is due, in part, to the attraction of birds and insects to the Nootka Rose, Red-Osier Dogwood, Big Leaf Maple, Salmon and Thimbleberry to which Sitka Spruce plays host. The extensive root system of mature Sitkas keeps the soil in place and aerates the water flow to get oxygen to the salmon's eggs. ➡More➡



Original Watercolor © Heidi Hansen

# The Role of Sitka Spruce, continued

## 2. Native American Uses of Sitka Spruce

Among some early Native American tribes, the sharp needles of Sitka were believed to hold defensive powers, such as warding off evil thoughts. Sitka boughs were used in ceremonial dances as a prop for inducing fear. Its boughs were believed to give protection to the dancer.

The Tlingits used the under-bark as a food source, mashing it down and drying the pulp into cakes. The pitch was used as a chewing gum and used as a medicine for salving burns and rashes. The roots of the Sitkas were woven tightly together to make water-tight baskets and clothing, collected in summer, treated for preservation, and stored for later use.

(Reference; **"Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast,"** Pojar and Mackinnon; *Lone Pine Publishing, 1994*).

## 3. A David Douglas and Lewis Favorite

In the early 1800's the Southwest corner of the Columbia River, now Vancouver, Washington, was a busy hub for those with vision, daring, and a love of trees. In the 1830's David Douglas explored and collected seeds from the trees he found in the area now known as Pearson Air Field. His efforts, over time, established the great Sitka Spruce forests in Britain and Scotland. Mass lumbering during both World Wars caused widespread deforestation in Great Britain, and Sitka Spruce had to be re-introduced with imports from Scandinavia.



Sitka Spruce boasts to be the tallest of all the trees in Scotland today. There is some controversy, however, in Scotland as to whether the takeover of Sitka Spruce (approximately 69% of trees are said to be Sitka Spruce) has negatively altered the native Scottish ecosystem. Many there are pushing for more deciduous forests that can bring back the original constellation of Scotland's native birds, fish and mammal populations.

David Douglas, along with several other key explorer-botanists like John Muir and John James Audubon, based his explorations at the Hudson's Bay Company trading post, Fort Vancouver. Pearson Air Field came to be built only a stone's throw away from the fort. This little corner of the Columbia seemed to be destined from the beginning as a foundation for innovation in commerce and culture.

Meriwether Lewis, the botanical predecessor to David Douglas, made notes on the Sitka Spruce found in this region. In 1806, on his way back east, long before Pearson or even Hudson's Bay Co., Meriwether Lewis wrote about this particular corner of the Columbia. It is "the only desired situation for settlement west of the Rocky Mountains," he wrote. Certainly the beautiful and commerce-friendly river, surrounded by a wealth of forests and wildlife made this the "Eden" William Clark referred to earlier in the expedition. Vancouver today remains an "Eden" of botanical and cultural history.

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# The Role of Sitka Spruce, continued

## 4.Planting Your Own Sitka Garden for Arbor Day and Earth Day

When you plant a Sitka Garden, by nature of its character, you are planting a history garden. It will take years for your Sitka Spruce to mature in the context of your garden, but then, that is what history is all about. The Sitka in your garden will carry your family's stories through time.



The role of the Sitka in your garden will be to help support the surrounding plant and animal life in the years to come, so your garden should be landscaped into three tiers (canopy, understory, and floor). Use at least one evergreen plant at each tier to provide not only enjoyment but to keep the garden industrious year-round. Wally Hansen recommends the following Sitka History Garden plant list to plant beneath the canopy of your Sitka Spruce:

1. Red - Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* [stolonifera])--understory, bird attraction
2. Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*)--understory, bird-butterfly attraction
3. Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflora*)--bird attraction, locks in floor moisture
4. Cascade Oregon Grape (*Mahonia nervosa*)--understory evergreen
5. Blue Blossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*) or Salal (*Galtheria shallon*)--understory evergreens
6. Fairy Slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*)--floor, lives on decay
7. Sessile Trillium (t. *parviflorum*), Giant Purple Trillium (t. *kurbayashi*), or Western Trillium (t. *ovatum*)--floor
8. Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) or Licorice Fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza* [vulgare])--evergreen floor, recycling debris year-round

In celebration of spring and early summer “green” holidays Arbor Day (June 5, 2004) and Earth Day (March 19 - 20, 2004), what better way to contribute to our generation's legacy than to use the Sitka in a living history garden?

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# The Role of Sitka Spruce, continued

## 5. The Best Sitka Spruce Hikes

To see the tallest, oldest, most outstanding Sitkas in the Northwest, Wally Hansen recommends the Hoh Rain Forest in the Olympic National Park. The Olympic mountains rise steeply enough to trap incoming coastal precipitation. Up to fourteen feet of rain is corralled and dumped into the Hoh region (Hoh River Trail is 18 1/2 miles long) each year, created a dense rain forest with all the unique variables in plant and wildlife character that comes with the package. This is where the Sitkas grow to their most impressive sizes, and play their most key roles in supporting the diverse life which surrounds them.

The **Hoh Rain Forest** is open to visitors all year and can be reached by Hwy 101 (Olympic National Park, 600 E. Park Avenue, Port Angeles, Washington 98362).

### Other best picks for Sitka Hikes:

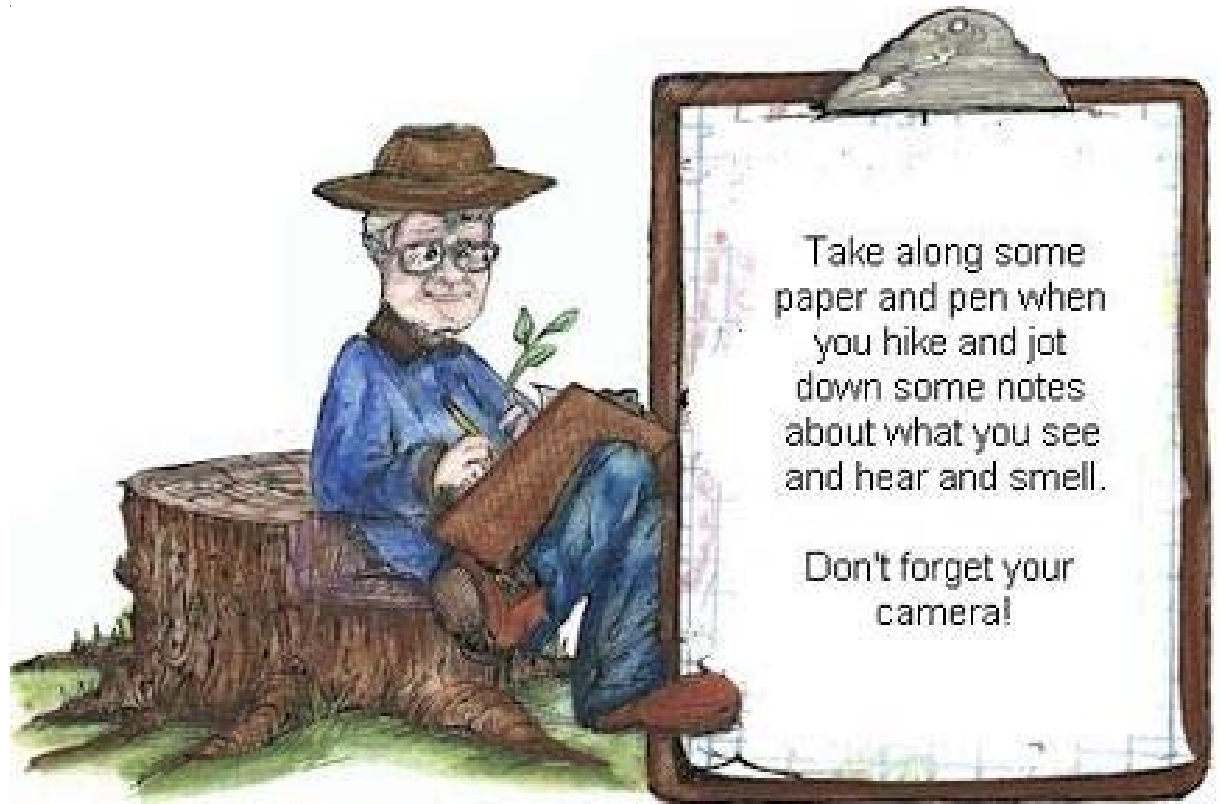
**Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge** in Colville, Washington (Little Pend Oreille N.W.R., 1310 Bear Creek Road, Colville, Washington 99114, North of Spokane on Hwy. 395);

**Silver Falls Park** off Hwy. 22, east, near Silverton, Oregon;

**Camana Pacific Park** in Vancouver Island;

The old growth forests along the **Kenai Peninsula** and around **Kodiak**, Alaska are unbeatable for stunning Sitka scenery.

**Read next month's Journal for the conclusion of this exciting article by botanical artist and author, Heidi Hansen.**



# Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden

By Jennifer Rehm

Last Month we looked at Color, Texture and Form. This month we'll explore the various faces of winter native garden styles.

## Winter Habitat

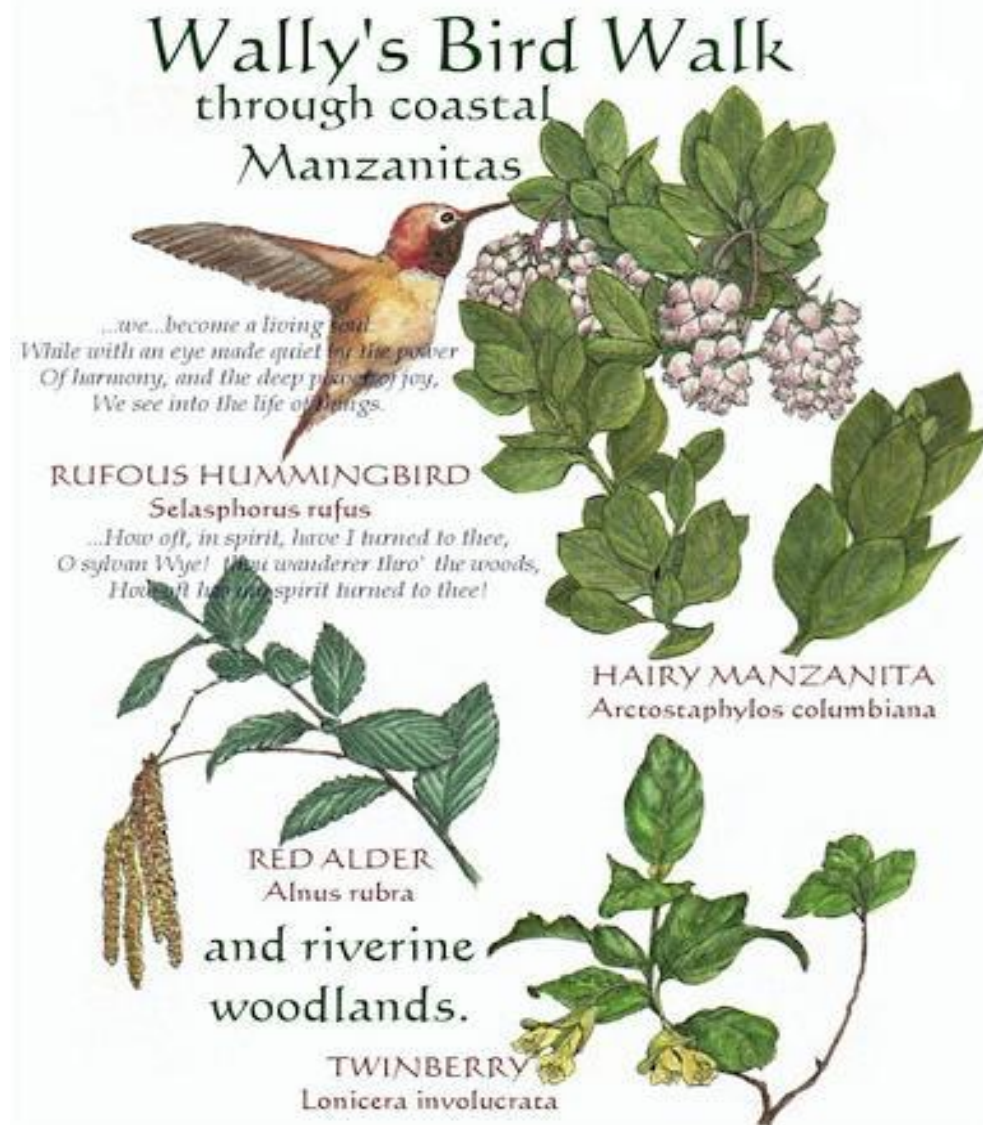
What a joy to have a beautiful, well-planned winter garden that is attractive to both human and wildlife! The rose hips and berries many native plants carry through the winter will bring four-footed and winged friends to visit on many a December day. The feast you provide with Northwest native plants will set your landscape alive with the song of birds and curious whimsical antics of squirrels, rabbits, and chipmunks. You may be host to deer and raccoon if you plant food to attract them. Evergreen shrubs and trees provide shelter to small creatures, protection from weather and foe alike.

## The Self-Sufficient Garden

Because native plants have for centuries adapted themselves to the environment, if you plant trees, shrubs and perennials that grow naturally in your climate they will require little or no care during the winter. In our ever-shrinking world, we know that climactic conditions in Western Oregon are almost identical to those in many other parts of the globe. Japan and parts of France are notably like our Willamette Valley, for instance. And it is logical to assume that plants that are native here will grow well in those lands quite distant from Oregon. Working with nature, selecting plants that are suited to your area allows the earth to do the work while you reap the rewards of a lovely yard without the labor.

Original Watercolor © Heidi Hansen

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# Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden, continued

Rita Buchanan, author of *The Winter Garden* (Houghton Mifflin, 1997), has a wonderful idea about designing gardens in winter. She relaxes indoors and views the garden outside. Because the leaves are gone from deciduous plants and the perennials are all in hibernation, she sees the garden structure quite clearly. She tells about the first winter she lived in her house when the snow had fallen. She decided it was the perfect easel and would walk around outlining the borders with her footprints, marking the paths and beds. She stood ski poles and branches and tools to mark where she was considering trees or shrubs. Then she'd go back inside and look some more. At the next snowfall, all the markings would be erased and she would start over with a different design. In this way she planned the entire garden with very little work.

It's a good idea to wait one year after moving into a home before making any changes in the landscape unless the land is newly cleared--or even then. Our nesting instincts urge us to cut back (or remove) existing shrubbery or trees, cultivate the dirt, put in patios or plant things. But these very acts may destroy existing treasures that are valuable or rare. Instead, wait to see what might be hiding in the earth.

I once bought a home that had been built in 1910. It had a few shrubs and trees but everything else from the edge of the property on all sides had been mowed for years. Because some of the trees and shrubs were natives and quite old, I wondered what the landscape must have been like in those years long ago. I decided to experiment.

I imagined where the borders probably were and stopped mowing those areas. (I eventually replaced all grass with plantings!) They became my protected spaces. On my knees, I plucked out everything in them that I knew was a dandelion or grass and after a few weeks, plants began to emerge. Some turned out to be chives and garlic (these I kept), some were knotweed, pigweed and carpetweed (these went into the Gettye—a wonderful composter that cooks anything), and some were Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa*), Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), Camas (*Camassia quamash*), and Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria lanceolata*)!



Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)

Photograph © Jennifer Rehm

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# Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden, continued

This experience gave birth to my personal rule of never touching the landscape of a home in the first year. Besides the fantastic surprises I joyfully discovered, I learned about the natural conditions in my particular yard. With this knowledge I was then able to add plants that would grow harmoniously and would not need to be coddled, but simply enjoyed.

After the planning is over, next comes the planting. Assuming you know what your yard looks like in spring, summer and fall, you can add plants that will blend with your existing landscape in those seasons and give a new season of enjoyment: Winter!



Western Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*)  
Photograph © Jennifer Rehm

## **Early bloomers**

These plants are native to the Northwest and bloom in winter or very early spring.

Oemleria erasiformis (Indian Plum)  
Ribes sanguineum (Red Flowering Currant)  
Tall Oregon Grape (Mahonia aquifolium)  
Calypso Bulbosa (Fairy Slipper)  
Erythronium oreganum (Fawn Lily)  
Trillium (Giant Purple [t. kurbayashi], Western [t. ovatum], Sessile [t. parviflorum])  
Corylus cornuta (Western Hazelnut)  
Willows (Columbia River, Hooker's, Pacific, Scouler's, Sitka)

## **Evergreens**

Leaves stay on these natives year-round, and most have fruit and/or flowers that add to their attraction:

Vaccinium ovatum (Evergreen huckleberry)  
Arbutus menziesii (Pacific Madrone)  
Sword ferns (Polystichum munitum)  
Oaks (Tan, Shrub Tan, White, Sadler's, Huckleberry)

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# Natural Beauty in the Winter Garden, continued

## Evergreens, continued

Umbellularia californica (Oregon Myrtle)  
Andromeda polifolia (Bog Rosemary)  
Arctostaphylos columbiana (Hairy Manzanita)  
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (Kinnikinnik)  
Ceanothus thrysiflorus (Blueblossom)  
Ceanothus velutinus (Snowbrush)  
Garrya elliptica (Silk Tassel)  
Garrya fremontii (Fremont Silk Tassel)  
Gaultheria shallon (Salal)  
Ledum glandulosum (Labrador Tea)  
Myrica californica (Pacific Wax Myrtle)  
Pachistima myrsinites (Oregon Box)  
Rhododendron macrophyllum (Pacific Rhododendron)



Pacific Rhododendron

## Conifers

Not to be overlooked, these Northwest natives are evergreen and look about the same all year. Some are huge, some are small, some are formal in appearance and some are dramatic or even comical in their unorthodox style.

Firs (Pacific Silver [*Abies amabilis*], White [*a. concolor*], Grand [*a. grandis*], Sub-Alpine [*a. lasiocarpa*], Noble [*a. procura*], Douglas [*pseudotsuga menziesii*])  
Taxus brevifolia (Western Yew)  
Cedars (Incense [*Calocedrus decurrens*], Port Orford [*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*], Alaska [*c. nootkatensis*], Leland Cypress [*Cupressocyparis leylandii*], Baker's Cypress [*c. bakeri*], Western Red [*Thuja plicata*])  
Spruce (Brewer's [*Picea breweriana*], Engelmann [*p. engelmannii*], Sitka [*p. sitchensis*])  
Larix occidentalis (Western Larch)  
Sequoia (Giant [*Sequoia giganteum*], Coast Redwood [*s. sempervirens*])  
Hemlocks (Western [*Tsuga heterophylla*], Mountain [*t. martensiana*])  
Pines (Bristle Cone [*Pinus aristata*], Shore [*p. contorta* v. *contorta*], Lodgepole [*p. contorta* v. *latifolia*], Western White [*p. monticola*], Ponderosa [*p. ponderosa*])



# Useful Plant Databases on the Web

Here is a good collection of web data bases that will be useful to professional growers and all native plant gardeners. This list is from a larger list compiled by Lawyer Nursery in 2002 and published in one of their flyers. I wish to thank them for this public service.

*Wally*

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## **American Bonsai Society**

[http://www.absbonsai.org/abs\\_home.html](http://www.absbonsai.org/abs_home.html)

## **Bonsai web**

<http://www.bonsaiweb.com>

Portal of links to educate about the art of bonsai.

## **CalPhotos**

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/>

Over 33,000 plant images from the University of California, Berkley

## **Cornell University online grafting course**

<http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html>

## **Fire effects on plant species**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>

USDA, Forest Service site.

## **Flora of North America Web Site**

<http://hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/>

Taxonomic relationships, distributions, and morphological characteristics of all plants native and naturalized found in North America.

⇒ More ⇒



# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

## **Bonsai web**

<http://www.bonsaiweb.com>

Portal of links to educate about the art of bonsai.

## **Fire effects on plant species**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>

USDA, Forest Service site.

## **Forest Types of the United States**

<http://forestry.about.com/library/tree/bltypdex.htm>

Maps of the most common forest types.

## **Forestry index**

<http://forestryindex.net/>

Links to news & info on the forestry industry.

## **Cornell University online grafting course**

<http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html>

## **Growit.com Rooting Database**

<http://www.growit.com/Know/Rooting.htm>

“Extensive information on rooting cuttings of woody plants, organized by botanical name. Developed for commercial growers.”

## **The Native Plant Network**

<http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu/network/>

Information on how to propagate native plants of North America.

⇒ More ⇒

# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

## **Woody Plant Seed Manual**

<http://www.wpsm.net/>

Manual by the US Forest Service covering seed biology, genetic Improvement of forest trees, seed testing, certification of tree seeds and other woody plant materials, and nursery practices.

## **River Corridor and Wetland Restoration**

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

## **Soils**

<http://homepages.which.net/~fred.moor/soil/links/10102.htm>

A website about soil fertility, chemistry, and pH with many interesting links.

## **Soil Science Society of America**

<http://www.soils.org/>

Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.



# Coming next month:

April showers bring May flowers, but in the Northwest, our blooms have already started. A few of the items you will see in April's Northwest Native Plant Journal:

- ❖ New article by Wally: "Is the Native Garry Oak (*Quercus Garryana*) disappearing from the NW?"
- ❖ Fresh photos of native plants spotted around the Willamette Valley
- ❖ Invasive alien plants are killing our Northwest natives! What can you do to help?



The good (Indian Plum, *Oemleria erasiformis*) and the very bad (invasive ivy)--  
guess which one will die first?  
Photograph © Jennifer Rehm



# Personal notes from Wally

Gardeners have always sensed calming, healing “good” feelings in their gardens. Have you noticed the many articles lately that confirm what you have always known? Trees and gardens are “healthy” and “healing” – especially large trees. Scenes of forests and outdoor green panorama do the same thing! Studies indicate faster healing for hospital patients when green scenes are available from a room – even pictures of green scenes are helpful.

While this appears as a new medical “discovery,” Gardeners and Poets have always known this about Gardens and Trees. Sergeant Joyce Kilmer did; he is a favorite Poet of mine – he was killed in action in World War 1 near Ourcy on July 30, 1918. Here is his masterpiece “Trees.”

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray:  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of Robins in her hair:  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain:  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

Large trees and Native Plant Gardens certainly increase the value of your property. Which to choose? Certainly the native Doug Fir first and then others. My personal observation is that healthy Madrone trees sharply increase the value of property These are sometimes hard to get started and will not survive in areas with poor drainage.

Footnote - Large, green lawns are delightful but do not have the healing effect of Trees and Gardens. Trees and Gardens First - Lawns Second.



Giant Sequoia Photograph © Rory



**NOTICE: NURSERY IS CLOSED**

In November 2010,  
Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plants  
Native Plant Nursery and Gardens  
closed permanently.

Many thanks to all our gardening friends for your interest in the native plants of the Pacific northwest. It has been our pleasure to serve you.

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

Our website,  
[www.nwplants.com](http://www.nwplants.com), is no longer commercial. Our goal is to continue Wally's legacy of generating interest, even passion, in the magnificent native plants of the Pacific Northwest through information and illustration.

**Good luck! Good gardening!**

