

Volume 2, Issue 4, 2004

April 2004

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)

Special Issue:
Trilliums!



Trilliums!
The Original Easter Flower
Shines This Spring

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

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A Monthly Web Magazine

(formerly NW Native Plant Newsletter)

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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.).



Western Trillium
(*t. ovatum*)

Watercolor © Heidi Hansen



On the Cover

Northwest Native Trillium Ovatum

Wally has a special affinity for our NW native trillium and it's no wonder. How can one see this precious native gem and not wax poetic?

Three petals over three leaves, pure white blooms, exquisite yet modest and unassuming, no shrinking violet but no shouting rhodie either. Just simplicity and grace in the woodland. What a delight and wonder. We gaze in awe whenever we meet our Trillium whether along a footpath, a highway or planted in a garden. A gift of spring.



Photograph © Jennifer Rehm



Do you know this rare plant?

Correctly identify this plant and win a small prize!



Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

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 and he’ll send you a small prize!

Here is a special clue about this month’s puzzler:

OR is fine and CA too
But I can never go with you
I need this wondrous serpentine
Right here is where I’m really Queen!

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



To Do List for Native Plants

April rain is a fact of life in the Northwest but gardeners know it's really drops of life that are giving our gardens a deep drink before the summer comes. This moisture will sustain our native plants through all but the longest dry spells once the plants are firmly established.



Watercolor © Heidi Hansen

--Watch for standing water in your landscape. Bog plants and aquatics thrive with wet roots but landscape plants do not. Their roots will simply rot out from under them. If you have pools that do not drain, you might try spraying the area with 2 tablespoons of baby shampoo mixed with one quart of water. This often will let the water drain off. Depending on the severity of the problem, you may have to install a French drain or other drainage solution. Or you can turn the area into a bog garden. Just make sure you have a healthy bog or you'll end up with a mosquito breeding ground.

--Weed control is a great rainy season chore. While the soil is wet it will relinquish those roots much easier than later in the year. Don your rainhat and clogs and go out a-weeding. I always enjoy taking a close look at the shrubs and trees when the leaves are new. The air smells so good when it's raining! (See the next page for special notes about invasive alien ivy and blackberries.)

--It is safe to pull back the mulch from trees and shrubs to allow the sun and rain to freshen their bases. Spread the mulch gently around the beds to control weeds. It will amend the soil as it composts. Take care you don't disturb emerging perennials. Sometimes they'll show up where you least expect them if the birds or small wildlife have moved the roots or seeds around. Most years I find a new plant or two, usually a Western Hazelnut or native Oak but sometimes I get a mystery plant that takes a month or more to identify.

--Cut flowers and branches to enjoy inside. Bring a breath of spring into your home.

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To Do List for Native Plants, Continued

What about Invasive English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberries?

Most of these ideas are specifically aimed at English ivy but will work for Himalayan blackberries where appropriate.

Burning: There's a propane-fueled "tool" on the market now that actually burns weeds. You aim it at the weeds, press the trigger and it cooks them. If used on alien blackberries, cook them well. However, if you burn ivy it goes on the defense and starts trying to reproduce itself. So if you use this apparatus, just wilt the ivy.

Smothering: Put down a barrier (there are specially made mats for this but an old tarp or other non-breathable material will do). Regular landscape fabric is too delicate for these tough thugs.

Pulling: Most toilsome but works really well. Watch for "good" plants among the ivy or blackberries.

Disposal - Smaller amounts of ivy may be disposed of as yard waste. For larger amounts, pile the ivy and let it sit and dry out or decompose. Covering the pile will speed the decomposition process.

Prevention - Besides the beneficial attributes of mulch, it helps prevent invasive plants from seeding. Mulch the ground where invasives have been removed. Use six inches of mulch; it will compact to much less. Keep the mulch at least 3 inches away from the base of woody shrubs.

Maintenance - You need to go back every year to pull anything missed the first time, and to remove new sprouts. The second year will require only about 10% the effort of the initial removal and the third and subsequent years only about 10% effort of the second year.

See some terrific "no holds barred" ideas for removing ivy on the web at:

No Ivy League, <http://www.noivyleague.com/>

Bainbridge Island Land Trust, <http://www.bi-landtrust.org/landtrust/news/ivy.htm>

Walama Restoration Project, <http://www.walamarestoration.org/resources/englishivy.html>

Ivy is like bullies everywhere: runs away when you punch it in the nose.



English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberries:
Deadly companions attack a Doug Fir





Trillium in Spring Sun
Photograph © Jennifer Rehm

Trillium

All along this hill: trillium
white as Christ's robes when
He ascended into heaven,
rinsing the breeze free of impediment
on slender stems that stretch below
the moss into the rich, dark dirt.
What was His stem when
He went to prepare a place for us?
Heaven used to be a strip across
the top of my crayoned page,
with never any stairs to get there.
All at once, the bottom drops out.
The trillium draws light from millions
of miles away and streams it down
to even the most secluded root.
A child learns to color the whole
sky.

— Pat Campbell Carlson

Trillium

Northwest Native Wildflower Photographs by Donald C. Eastman

Giant White Trillium, Sweet Trillium

(*Trillium albidum*)

Lily Family (Liliaceae).

Trillium albidum is native to Southern Oregon to San Francisco Bay. Large and showy, it's strongly rose-scented white blooms are rounded and ruffy in appearance. Leaves are large, often with purple blotches, radiating off stout 10-inch stems above the ground.

Prefers shady, moist areas, often grows as understory to shrubs. Forms large clumps of many plants, though these clumps are slow to form. Blooms February - March.



Giant White Trillium
(*Trillium albidum*)

Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

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Trillium, Continued

Giant Purple Trillium

(*Trillium kurbayashii* Freeman)

(*Trillium angustipetalum*)

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

This rare trillium of southwest Oregon is known only from the Rogue, Pistol and Chetco river drainages of Curry County and adjacent California. It grows in moist woods and near streams. It is named for a Japanese scientist who spent much time studying the trillium of Oregon. It was at one time considered to be the same species as the white sessile trillium, *Trillium chloropetalum* [Torr.] Howell; it has only recently been described as separate. It has been placed on review lists in both Oregon and California where it has been seen in Del Norte County. More information is needed to determine its rarity status.

Trillium kurbayashii, reaching twelve to twenty inches in height, is one of the largest trilliums in Oregon. At the top of a stout stem, there is a whorl of three large dark green, mottled leaves, up to six inches long and nearly as wide. The sepals, about one-half the length of the petals, are narrowly elliptic, pointed and purplish-green. The petals are sessile, from two to nearly four inches long, and about one-third as wide. They are a rich purple color, widest toward the tip, and often twisted. The six large anthers are dark purple. It blooms in March and April.



Giant Purple Trillium
(*Trillium kurbayashii* or *angustipetalum*)
Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

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Trillium, Continued

Oregon Sessile Trillium

(*Trillium oregonum*, Dusec.)

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

Not as yet an accepted species in the botanical world, this trillium is believed by some to be the result of hybridization between Trillium albidum of southern Oregon and Trillium parviflorum of northern Oregon. A study by Edith Dusec of Graham, Washington, in conjunction with the work of Dr. Soukup, suggests this possibility.

This plant of western Oregon is found between Polk and Marion counties in the north and Roseburg in the south. It seems to be a complete compromise between the two species and apparently reproduces itself.



Oregon Sessile Trillium
(*Trillium oregonum*)

Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

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Trillium, Continued

Smallflower Sessile Trillium

(*Trillium parviflorum*)

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

A newly named species resulting from the studies of northwest trillium by Dr. Soukup of Cincinnati, Ohio. This sessile trillium is found only west of the Cascades, north of Marion and Polk counties in Oregon, and north into western Washington. It grows in moist, shady woods. They are seen in few sites in Oregon, and in Washington they are described as being vulnerable and declining in numbers.

The flower of *Trillium parviflorum* is white and does not have a stem. The three ascending petals are very narrow in comparison to their length, about one and three-quarters of an inch long, and three-eighths of an inch wide. They are almost straight-sided instead of widening in the middle. The three styles are purple on the outside, white on the inner stigmatic side. The stamens have a short filament with long, broad anthers that are curved in cross-section. The leaves are large, rounded, green and somewhat blotched with a darker green color. They grow nine to twelve inches tall. They bloom in April and May.



Smallflower Sessile Trillium
(*Trillium parviflorum*)
Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

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Trillium, Continued

Roundleaf Trillium

(*Trillium petiolatum*)

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

This trillium sometimes has several partially subterranean stems, but usually only one arising 5-18 cm. The uniformly green leaves have long petioles which range from one-third to twice as long as the broadly ovate to orbicular leaf blades, measuring from 6-15 cm long and nearly as wide. Individual blades have rounded to obtuse tips and range from rounded to slightly cordate at the base.

The flower is sessile, inconspicuous, and is found directly atop the union of the 3 leaf petioles. The 3 green sepals are narrowly oblong-elliptic and range from 2.5-6 cm long. The 3 petals are usually maroon or purplish, but may occasionally be green, brown, or yellowish in color. They are narrowly oblanceolate in shape and measure from 3-4.5 cm long. The anthers are dark purple and measure from 10-30 mm long.

Round-leaved wake-robin is found on moist ground in woods and in thickets at moderate elevation east of the Cascades from Washington to northeastern Oregon and western Idaho.



Roundleaf Trillium
(*Trillium petiolatum*)

Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

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Trillium, Continued

Brook Trillium or Woodlily

(*Trillium rivale*)

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

Trillium rivale is a tiny trillium, up to six inches, that grows in the Siskiyou Mountains on both sides of the Oregon/California state line. Grows erect with pointed, ovate, stemmed, medium green leaves. Flowers are erect, pale pink or white and spotted purple, diamond-shaped petals.

Prefers shady location with rich, humousy, moist soil. Blooms in April.



Brook Trillium
(*Trillium rivale*)

Photograph © Donald C. Eastman

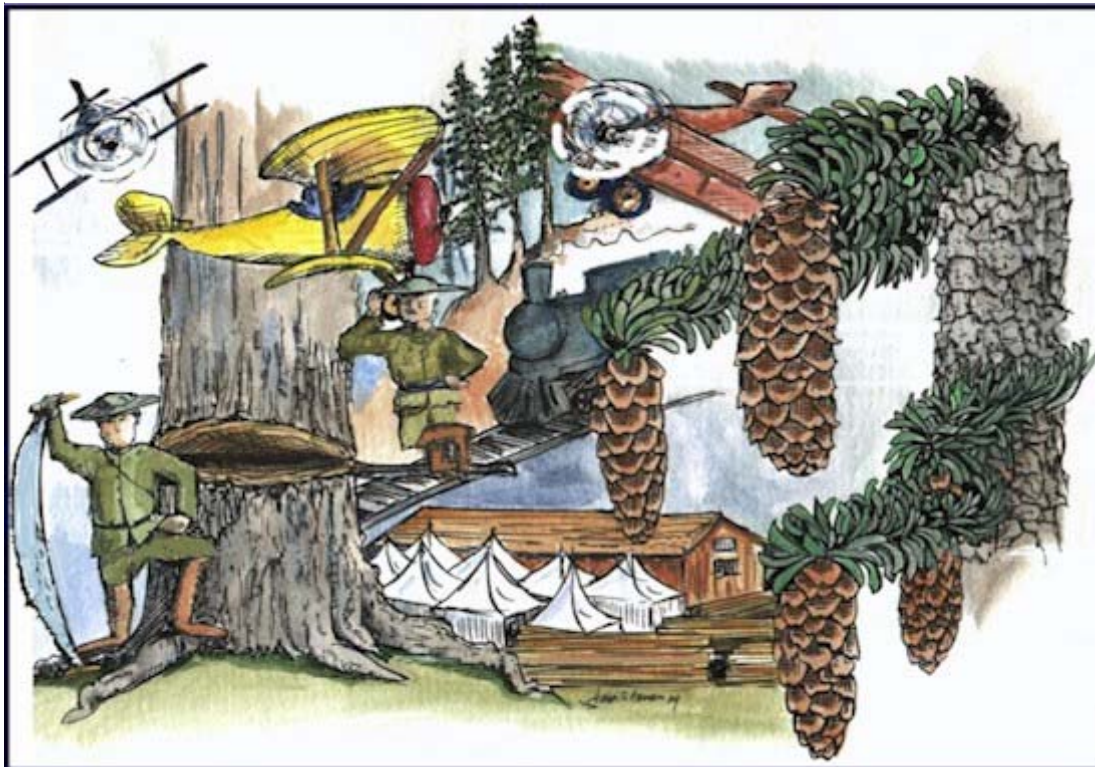


The Role of Sitka Spruce, continued from March Journal

By Heidi Hansen

6. The Role of the Northwest's Sitka Spruce in World War I

Sgt. Joyce Kilmer's lilting poem, "Trees," should have been written after a picnic on a sweet summer's day, not during a terrible trench war fought in cold, hungry foreign lands. Sgt. Kilmer's war, the First World War, combined old cavalry military technique with untested advances in machine technology. The result of this engineering "crossing the bar" was an uncommonly bloody war. It also forced an uncommon speed onto the process of innovation, invention and modernization. The trees of which Sgt. Kilmer spoke played a vital part in this new age of machines, and helped the Allied Forces to win World War I. Namely the Sitka Spruce from the Northwest, and the production of a new war tool: The biplane



SITKA SPRUCE, *Picea sitchensis*, has a noble history in the Allied Air Campaign of World War I

Trees have always turned the imagination of bipedal man to the sky when fancying the buoyant lifestyle of his feathered counterparts. When Otto and Gustav Lilienthal were boys in 1873, running down hills with artificial wings strapped to their arms, they imagined themselves as birds lifting off from the tree tops. When they stopped to catch a breath under the shade of a tree, looking up the long tree trunks and into the leafy branches, they wondered what it would take to fly effortlessly above the trees, lakes and mountains. Would they ever be able to soar as high as the trees could reach?

When the Lilienthals were boys, "lighter than air" vehicles were common. Dirigibles and a variety of airships carried the mail and touted a few brave passengers. In 1891, Otto Lilienthal went to work designing a "heavier-than-air" flight craft. Many mechanical and engineering problems needed to be solved. Some still had to be asked, such as "wing-warping," which was asked and answered by Orville and Wilbur Wright.

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The Role of Sitka Spruce, continued

In 1903 the Wright Flyer made its first successful air-borne, controlled flight. Its ribs were constructed of Spruce and Ash. The “floating” ribs were covered with fabric. One Hundred years after Lewis and Clark used Western Red Cedar canoes to open the west, the Wrights used Spruce and Ash to open the skies.

It wasn't all fun and games, however. Many persons died in experimental flights. The US Army wasn't confident in airplanes as a concept or practice, and did not purchase the Wright Brother's plans. The British government discouraged the pursuit of airplane engineering, warning that if pursued to its fullest capability, airplanes could be used someday as instruments of war.

Two years later, 1905, on the opposite coast of those sandy dunes at Kitty Hawk, a Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition was held at Pearson Air Field in Vancouver, Washington. As part of the Expo show, a Tom Baldwin dirigible (“*The Gelatin*”) made its first successful landing at Pearson, on the banks of the Columbia River. *The Gelatin* was piloted by Lincoln Beachey. But why fly balloons when you can have a plane?



By 1911 the Curtiss Pusher biplane, made from spruce, had become the popular choice among pilots. At Pearson Air Field, Charles Walsh and Silas Christofferson were giving lessons. Christofferson made the first air crossing of the Columbia River. In 1912, he took off from the rooftop of the Multnomah Hotel in Portland and landed at Pearson field with a load of mail. Having no bridges across the river at that time, flying the mail across was a novel idea.

In the beginning of World War I, biplanes were used for the same purpose as dirigibles: observation and scouting of enemy movement, boundaries, and mapping terrain. Dirigibles were preferred over planes, however, because they seemed more stable and did not scare the cavalry horses. In 1913, the US Army had only 6 pilots and 170 servicemen assigned to manage the aircraft detail. None were designed for fighting. The enemy, too, had a few planes. When two enemy scout planes came into proximity of one another, pilots quickly improvised. Map-making was put aside and they shot at each other with their side pistols. Sometimes they threw bricks and boots at each other, trying to put holes in the wings. Within a short amount of time the biplane was re-designed to carry guns and ammunition.

It was during this time that our Sitka Spruce of the Pacific Northwest, which covered the hills around Olympia, Vancouver, and Pearson Air Field, became a pivotal player in the Allied Command. The US Army Signal Corps was assigned to build and run what became the world's largest spruce-cutting mill at Pearson. The Army sent its servicemen — along with hired civilian union workers who were on strike at the time

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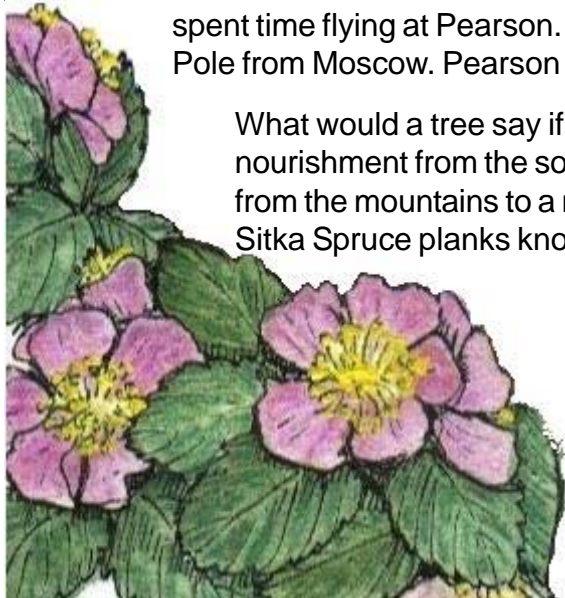
The Role of Sitka Spruce, continued

— to log the volumous Sitka Spruce from mountains and transport the logs to Pearson via truck and rail. During World War I, Pearson Air Field produced 71 million board feet of aircraft spruce, which was shipped down the Columbia River to airplane factories throughout the states. Then, from the factories to the Allied Forces air units fighting throughout Europe.

Pearson Air Field today still sits on the banks of the Columbia River, next to Ft. Vancouver (Hudson's Bay Company trading post), and historic Officer's Row and Army Barracks. Few trees are left. Lovely grassy fields separate these historic sites, framed by split-log fences. These buildings represent an impressive confluence of history sitting right here in this corner of the Columbia.

The United State's oldest existing wooden hangar, built at Pearson in 1918, still stands there today and houses restoration projects for the museum. The hangar was built by the US Army Spruce Division, and was used as both a hangar and later to house Italian P.O.W.'s in World War II. Many of the restoration projects in this hangar (now called the John P. Wulle Restoration Hangar) employ the original techniques of wood and fabric airplane construction. The hangar itself is not built from Sitka Spruce because at the time of its construction, spruce was too valuable a commodity and all available wood was saved for the Allied planes.

Aviation history shows that many notable pilots spent time at Pearson, including Oakley Kelly, who made the first transcontinental flight in 1924. The West Coast airmail service was based at Pearson. Charles Lindbergh, Tex Rankin, Jimmy Doolittle, Eddie Rickenbacker spent time flying at Pearson. The Soviet crew headed by Chkalov landed there after making their historic flight over the North Pole from Moscow. Pearson was the last stop in the Army's "Round-The -World" flight in 1924.



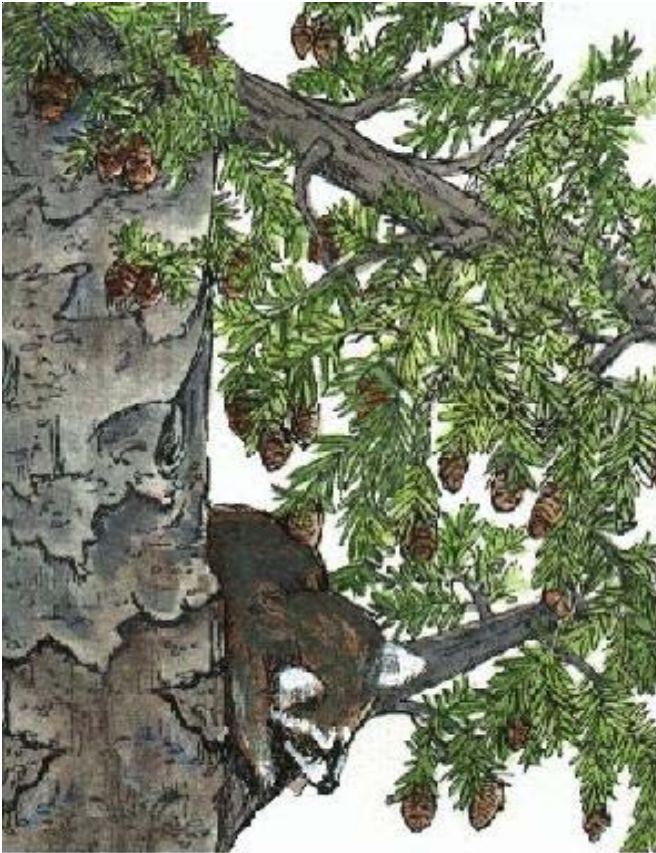
What would a tree say if it could talk? Let's imagine the stories the Sitka Spruce could tell. Trees are living things, taking nourishment from the soil and extending their reach into the sky where man cannot easily go. Having made their journey from the mountains to a mill, then fashioned into airplanes that can fly over the very mountains where they once grew, the Sitka Spruce planks know the secrets of their pilots no one else can know.

Let's imagine the biplane of Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, America's top flying ace, who shot down twenty-six enemy planes in eight months of combat. Painted over the wood on the slats of Rickenbacker's biplane was Uncle Sam's hat with red, white and blue stripes and stars, set inside of a bright red ring. This was the symbol of the American 94th Aero Squadron. What would the spruce planks under that painted emblem say about Rickenbacker's twenty-six dogfights?

Nootka Rose, good understory for Sitka Spruce

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The Role of Sitka Spruce, continued



The United States sent troops into the war in 1917, so many of the great pilot stories came from the Allied, and even the enemy, pilots. Whether German or English, these first pilots shared a common bond, a universal language of pilots that transcended country and king. Planes were a new invention, dangerous and unpredictable and highly romantic. Those who took on the challenge to test its limits were a certain breed of man. Whether enemy or Ally, these pilots respected their own kind.

The organic nature of wood itself seems at times to create bonds between people who might otherwise be enemies, because, isn't a tree universal? Does one country own more of Sitka Spruce than another? The same spruce that fashioned Rickenbacker's plane can tell stories of a German ace, Ernst Udet. Udet shot down an American pilot named Lieutenant Walter Wanamaker in 1918. Wanamaker was forced to crash-land behind enemy lines and was badly wounded. Udet landed his plane next to the downed American. He assisted Wanamaker out of his crashed biplane. Udet tended to Wanamaker's wounds until German medics arrived. These two pilots, united by the imagination of flight and vulnerability of their wooden biplanes, remained friends throughout their lives long after the war.

The spruce has mysteries to tell, too. A French flying ace, Captain Georges Guynemer shot down fifty - four planes. After he achieved his fifty-fourth dogfight victory he was reported to have flown off into the skies, never to be seen nor heard of again. Just Guynemer and his plane and a story without an ending. What would the spruce of his biplane say if it could talk?

The pilots of World War I, in the heart of battle and out of sheer necessity, effectively tested and achieved quality control for the biplane. The knowledge they gathered from their successes and failures in dogfight battle hurtled the mechanics and engineering of the airplane into maturity. The airplane quickly lost its hobby status, became perfected to its purpose, and lost its need for spruce.

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The Role of Sitka Spruce, continued

After the war, Henry Kaiser built a mill of a different type near Pearson. The spruce mill at Pearson was shut down. Planes were being made from metals. The heroic days of biplanes with the goggled heads of their pilots visible from the cockpit rim were over.

In seasons of nature and seasons of man we bridge meaning to experience using imagery from the earth. Whether in poetry or in engineering, trees elevate the mind and take the human spirit to new heights. Victory over opposition, restoration and protection of habitat, and imagination for innovation is found both in the story of the Sitka, and in the stories of history.

TREES

Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, killed in battle, Ourcy, France, July 30, 1918.

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.



Western Trillium (*t. ovatum*), good companion planted beneath Sitka Spruce

Photograph © Jennifer Rehm



The Botanical Art of Heidi Hansen

All paintings shown are Original Watercolor © Heidi D. Hansen

Heidi Hansen is an Oregon artist whose skill in watercolor botanicals is well known. She often paints in the style of 19th century artists with true-to-life detail of plants. But she gives a fresh approach to this work showing a

modern woman's eye to the timeless beauty of our Northwest Native plants. Heidi and dad Wally share a love of native plants, their history and poetry.

We are pleased to show Heidi's grouping of trillium botanical paintings on these pages, paired with her artist's depiction of the same plants. We know you'll enjoy them as much as we do.

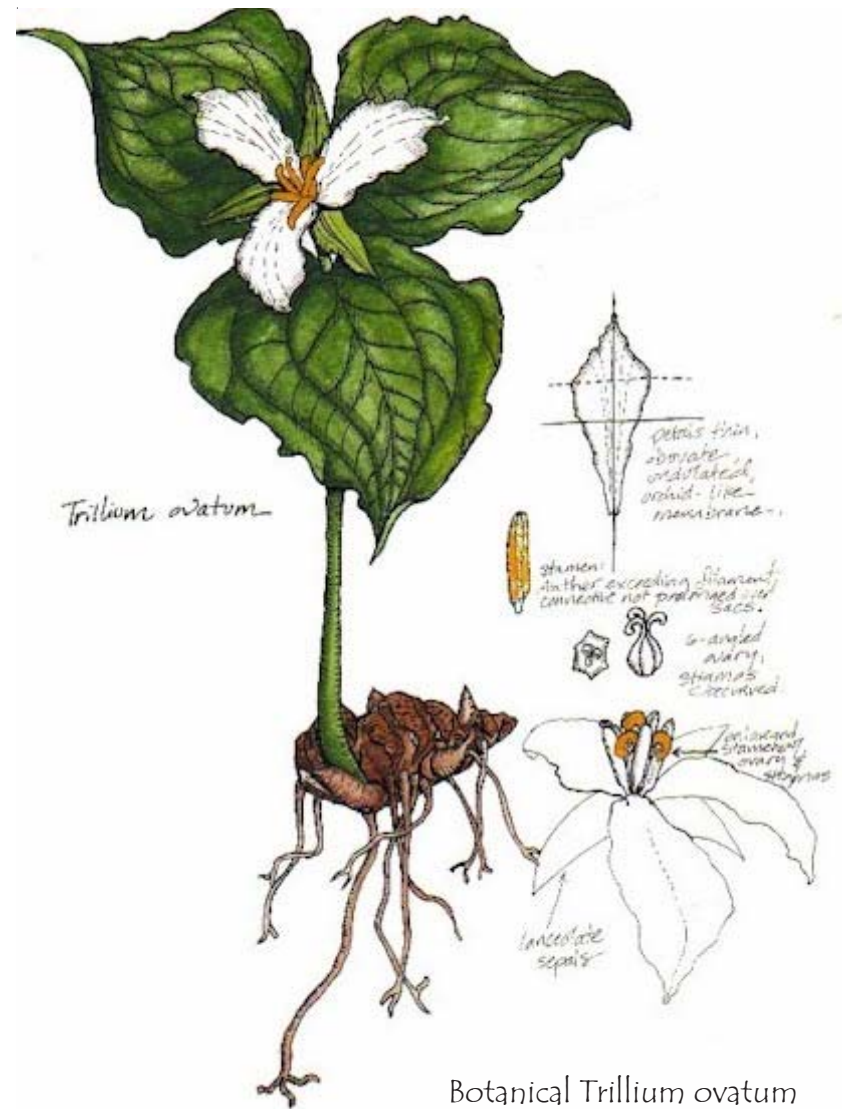
Trillium Ovatum, Western Trillium

We begin with Western Trillium, *t. ovatum*. This is the trillium most often seen in Western Oregon. It's a beautiful plant with the traditional trillium shape of leaf and bloom.

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The romantic Trillium ovatum



Botanical Trillium ovatum

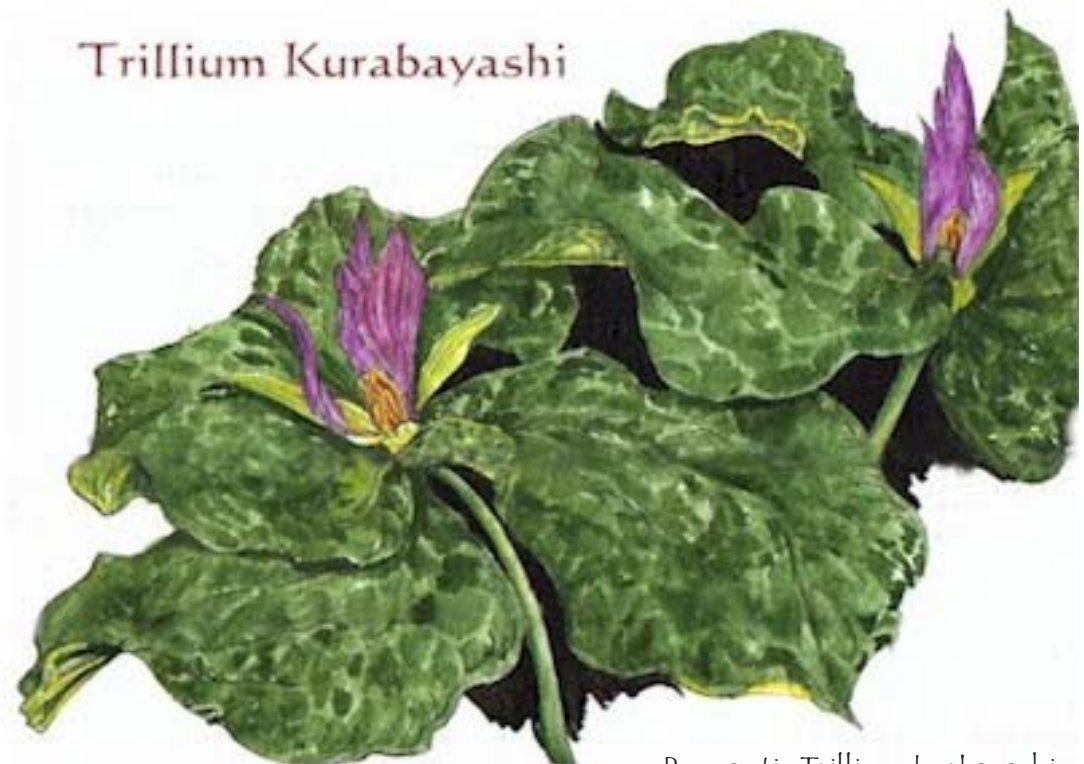
The Botanical Art of Heidi Hansen, continued

Trillium Kurbayashi, Giant Purple Trillium

The most colorful of native trillium, Kurbayashi is also the most rare. Reaching upwards of 20 inches, it's 3 inch long petals are deep purple. Though the white trillium blooms of Sessile and Western turn purple just before they go by, Kurbayashi flaunts these royal blooms as their natural color--a stunning sight against the dark green leaves. Said to be widely cultivated in England, we are working towards building up enough stock to offer for sale but it's a long process.



Botanical Trillium kurbayashi



Romantic Trillium kurbayashi

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The Botanical Art of Heidi Hansen, continued

Trillium Parviflorum, Sessile Trillium

The bloom of the Sessile Trillium sits directly on the leaves, creating a natural nosegay. No florist could arrange a more pleasing silhouette.

The petals of the white blossom reach up towards the sky with the three sepals filling the space between leaf and flower.

Also known as Small-flowered Wakerobin, Trillium parviflorum has a gentle, clove-like fragrance, but we think it's the bright white bloom that calls "Wake up!" to Mr. Redbreast each spring.



Romantic Trillium parviflorum



Botanical Trillium parviflorum

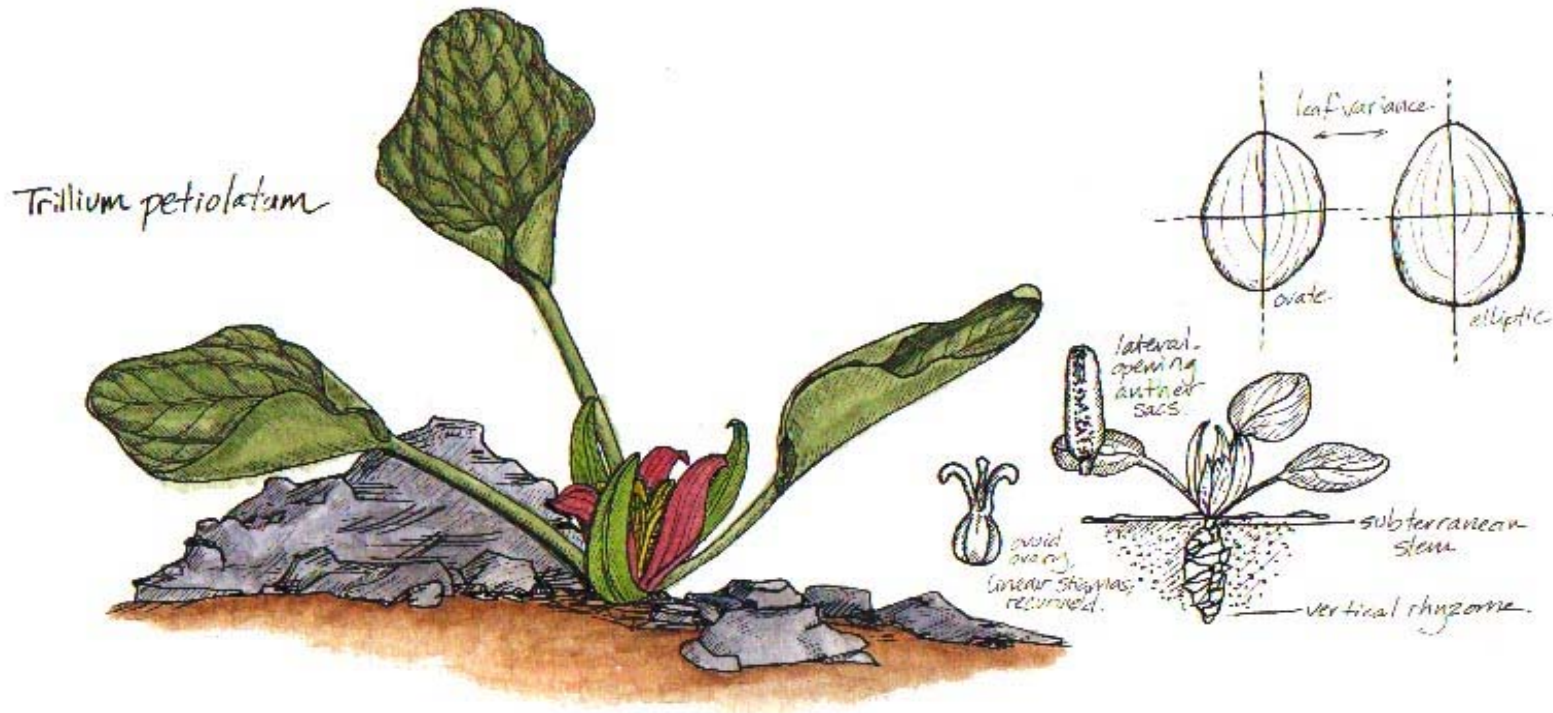
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The Botanical Art of Heidi Hansen, continued

Trillium petiolatum, Round Leaved Trillium

A very unusual trillium found on the east side of the Cascades. So different from other Northwest Native Trilliums it's hard to recognize as belonging to the same family but indeed it is sister to the better known *t. ovatum* and *t. parviflorum*, Trinity Lilies all. The harsher climate where this plant grows has taught it to stay close to the ground and it's purple bloom is snuggled down near the base of the plant.

Heidi has painted the botanical details of *Petiolatum*, but alas she has not yet created a romantic version. Something to look forward to when her muse brings the inspiration!



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

American Bonsai Society

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.

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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:

Late spring gardening news for Northwest Native Plant lovers:

- ❖ New article by Wally: "Is the Native Garry Oak (*Quercus Garryana*) disappearing from the NW?" Originally scheduled for April, held over to May Journal--we ran out of space this issue!
- ❖ Dogwoods, Fawn Lilies, Wake Robins. How did these native plants get their names?
- ❖ More native plant photos from master photographer, Donald C. Eastman



Pacific Dogwood
(*Cornus nuttalli*)
Photograph © Jennifer Rehm

Personal notes from Wally

My Hero, Rudyard Kipling, wrote a poem about “Lady Luck” in a paper called “The Wishing Caps.” Here it is.

“Good Luck she is never a lady
But the cursedest quean alive!
Tricksey, wincing and jady,
Kittle to lead or drive.
Greet her—she’s hailing a stranger!
Meet her—she’s busking to leave.
Let her alone for a shrew to the bone,
And the hussy comes plucking your sleeve.”

In my quest to grow difficult Native Plants, I have been disappointed from time to time. Once I did everything to get a flat of native Rose Seeds to germinate. Nothing happened – I coaxed and fussed - Nothing! I tossed the flat in a scrap heap and forgot the stubborn little brats! One year later I saw the seed flat again by accident – it was filled with beautiful little rose seedlings, so healthy, so handsome!

A few years back I had a special nursery area where I struggled several years with one manner of taming and growing Fairy Slipper Native Orchids – *Calypso bulbosa*. False starts and failure - I abandoned that approach two years ago – forget the snooty little brats!

Yesterday, Julie came bursting in the Nursery Office with a tiny prize in her hands – a beautiful brand new, just “born” Fairy Slipper in Bloom!! It was from this abandoned area! It is so beautiful! The petals have a “newborn” look, just like my beautiful children, bringing them home one by one from the hospital!

This new orchid is growing in an old pot, filled with moss (The skilled botanists in Norway grow them in moss!) The sheer beauty and wonder are a miracle – perhaps a dream! – a glimpse of something rare – elusive – intelligent!



⇒ More ⇒

Personal notes from Wally, Continued

Some plants are like Kipling's "Lady Luck."

"Greet her, she's hailing a stranger!
Meet her - she's busking to leave
Let her alone for a shrew to the bone
And the Hussy comes plucking your sleeve!"

Sometimes Plants -

Sometimes Other

Worrisome Things -

Must be let go Awhile!

Wally

Good Luck and Good Gardening

In The Beautiful Season ahead!



Julie's Surprise Fairy Slipper
(*Calypso bulbosa*)

Photo © 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

**Our website, 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!**



Western Trillium (*t. ovatum*)
Photograph © Jennifer Rehm