

Volume 4, Issue 10, 2006, December 2006

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine



Special Holiday Issue



Making a Home for Wildlife
Lively Landscaping with Native Reds

Information at your fingertips:

Native Plant Resources on the Web

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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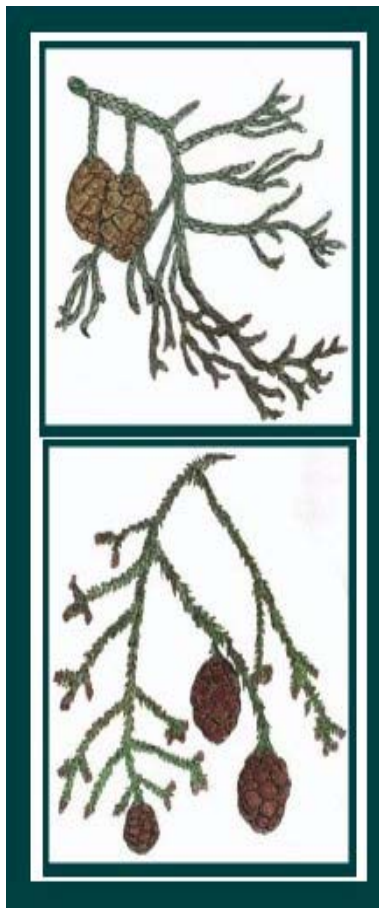
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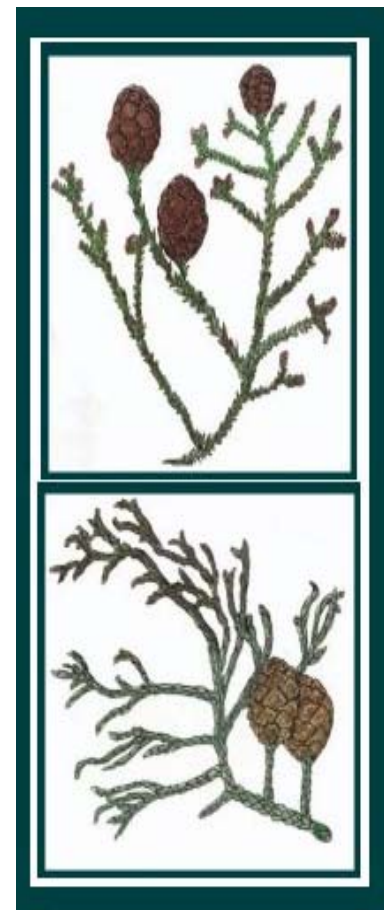
About this Web Magazine



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.).



Paintings by Heidi D. Hansen



On the Cover

Red-Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* [*Stolonifera*])

This particular shrub was photographed just at the time when it was changing from deep green to scarlet crimson. The sheen on some of the leaves gives an almost purple hue in this light. The color combinations JoAnn captured are reminiscent of a Victorian holiday. Elegance and jewel-toned richness so lovely, taking us back to times long ago when every delight was savored and honored for its beauty and grace.



Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Rare plant puzzle



Photo courtesy of
Donald C. Eastman

Name this plant!

A clue to help you on your quest for the correct answer:

“Often I am mistaken for a popular houseplant but I’m quite a different species. If you walk the high road you may find I’m in Scotty’s Junction afore you!”

Send me an email with the correct botanical name of this plant. A small prize to those who correctly identify by November 5, 2006.

Good luck!
Wally

Answer to last Journal’s puzzle:

Castilleja miniata,
(also known as
Castilleja elata)

Congratulations to all who correctly answered!



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden



- 1 – Begin planting bare root shrubs and trees now.
- 2 – Clean and sharpen garden tools. Replace handles if needed, paint sound handles or treat with oil.
- 3 – Take a tip from nature: Leaves have fallen, naturally mulching deciduous plants. Apply mulch to your garden just as nature does.
- 4 – Keep an eye on plants you've added this year. They need a bit of care their first winter. If you get a sudden cold snap you might need to protect them at night. You can use whatever is handy--old lightweight blankets, cardboard, evergreen branches. Plastic is not good unless you rig up a frame to keep the plastic itself from touching the plant.
- 5 – Repair any wind damage on trees and shrubs. Branches that have broken need to be trimmed as close to the trunk or structural stem as possible to minimize danger of pest or disease. Don't paint the cut with anything. The wound will naturally heal itself quickly.
- 6 – You can still plant bulbs until the first hard frost.
- 7 – Water any containers if they have not received sufficient moisture.
- 8 – Go out and walk around your garden every time it's sunny. The air is good for you and helps beat the winter blahs. But when the days are dreary, a little armchair gardening is almost as good. Plan for spring, jot down things to remember next year. Use your gardening journal!



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor

I got a letter last week from a young two-legger asking all kinds of questions about what it's like to be a teenage squirrel, so I thought maybe it's time for a few interesting facts. Now, I can't speak for all squirrels around the whole world but I know a little bit about being a western grey squirrel--after all, that's what I am!



Squirrels are fast! We look really speedy with our lean shape and quick movements and in fact we are pretty quick for our size and weight. There's a story old Mr. Snorters tells about being timed at 20 miles an hour by a state trooper's radar. He said this happened when he was a teenager.



Squirrels can jump! If we're on the ground we hop more than a foot every step and if we're racing through trees we can jump 6 feet and even more.



Squirrels live in nests that we build in hollow trees or other places up high where we can be safe from bullies. Two-leggers call our nests "dreys." We make them out of sticks and then put in a bunch of soft moss or other materials to keep us cozy and warm.



Western grey squirrels do not hibernate. We keep to our nests when it's cold or nasty outside, sometimes all day long. We'll zip out to get a bite to eat and then go right back into our nests. If it's really cold, we snuggle up with our buds to share body heat.



To protect ourselves when bullies come around, we bark really loud and swish our tails and stamp our feet. We sound so ferocious we scare away the bad guys.

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Sparky's Corner, continued



About feeding squirrels, it's OK to feed us, we like to sample good stuff but there are a couple of things to remember:

1. **NEVER EVER** hold out a nut with your fingers for us to eat. We can't see what's straight ahead of us because our eyes are on the sides of our heads (more about this in a minute) so we might chomp down on your finger instead of the nut. We don't mean to bite but we sometimes do it by accident. So if you want to feed us, put the food down on the ground and you can watch us pick it up.
2. Peanuts are good but **ONLY UNSALTED!** If we get too much salt it makes our hearts beat too fast and we can even die!



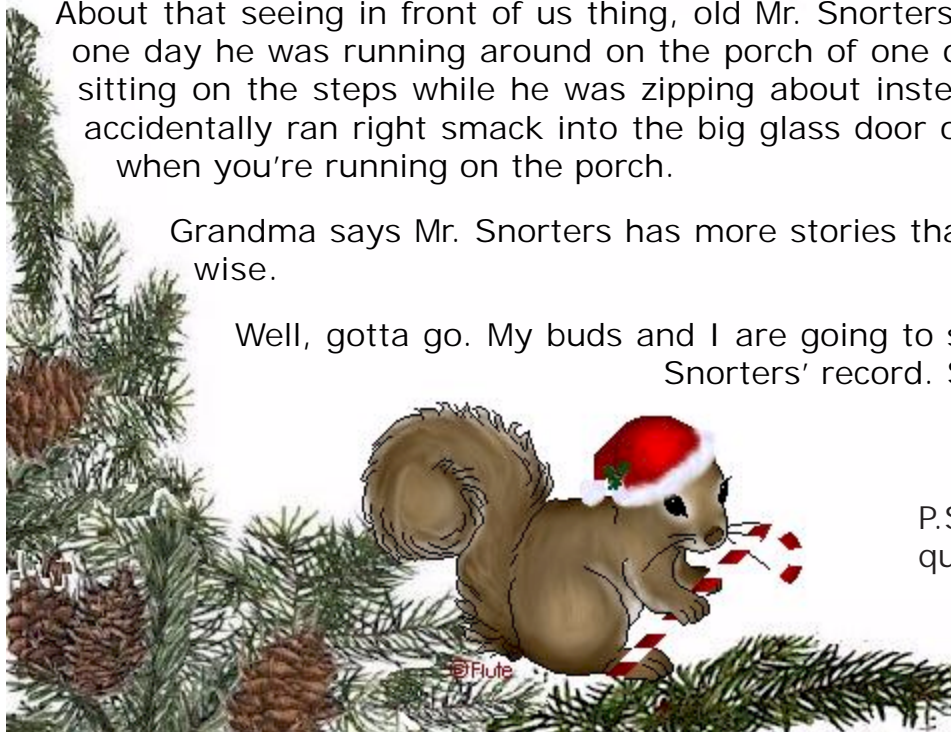
About that seeing in front of us thing, old Mr. Snorters used to live down by the capitol building in Salem and one day he was running around on the porch of one of those big old marble buildings. He was watching a lady sitting on the steps while he was zipping about instead of paying attention to where he was going and accidentally ran right smack into the big glass door of the building! So Mr. Snorters says don't watch ladies when you're running on the porch.

Grandma says Mr. Snorters has more stories than he has years, whatever that means. Grandma is very wise.

Well, gotta go. My buds and I are going to see if we can run 25 miles an hour. We want to break Mr. Snorters' record. See you next time!

Sparky

P.S. Lucy, thank you for writing! I hope I answered all your questions. Your friend, S.



This little holiday squirrel was painted by Angela Adams. Cute!



NW Native Reds

Sometimes Red Native Trees, Shrubs & Perennials

At almost any time of year you can find something red in your NW Native garden. Some are bright red, some are sultry scarlet, some are deep wine. There are red berries and red leaves and red flowers. A plant may be bronze in spring, green in summer and red in winter.

In this photographic essay, you may find some surprises. You're sure to find beauty. The little pictures are vintage holiday greeting cards.



Douglas Hawthorn
(*Crataegus douglasii*). The
blooms of this
native tree are rose-
like and rose pink
but the fall color is
a deep wine. A
bonus: the fruit,
called haws, are
black and delicious
in pies or preserves.

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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

NW Native Reds, continued



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Creeping Oregon Grape (*Mahonia repens*) is a superior ground cover form of our beloved Oregon Grape. It has the same yellow flower clusters and dusky blue fruit as the Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)-Oregon's state flower- and the Cascade Oregon Grape (*Mahonia nervosa*). Unlike the other two with their shiny leaves, *M. repens* leaves are dark matte green. But just like the other grapes, those leaves are fabulously red in the fall.



NW Native Reds, continued

This rose was growing beside a fence out in the country along a gravel road. In early summer the fence was just covered with pink roses and in October they had produced these beautiful rosy-red hips. I don't know what kind of rose it is but I am pretty sure it's a native.



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NW Native Reds, continued

Here are some more of those roses growing on the country road. They are accompanied by snowberry which this year has fruit just as prolific as the roses. I love this combination of the red hips and the white snowberries. Both will persist through the winter providing food for wildlife.



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

NW Native Reds, continued

Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) is a deciduous groundcover in the Dogwood family. It has true dogwood "flowers" and the leaves form whorls along the stems. This rusty-red fall leaf color is smashing with the red berries (not shown). The berries were used as a food source by First Nation people in olden times.



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

NW Native Reds, continued

Now that's a red flower! It's the Leopard Lily (*Lilium pardalinum*), also called the Panther Lily. It blooms in early summer. Imagine a clump of this very dramatic NW Native lily in your garden! The stems can reach 6 feet high and often bear as many as 10 blooms on each stem.



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

NW Native Reds, continued

The False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina racemosa*) is a very hardy NW Native perennial with creamy white flowers followed by these clusters of red berries. You can see the leaves have almost gone by while the berries are very showy. The flowers are fragrant and the leaves (when fresh and green) are said to be edible.



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

NW Native Reds, continued

These plants are in propagation and they seem to be quite delighted with that idea. They are the Giant Purple Trillium (*Trillium kurbayashii*). The blooms of this Trillium can range from deep purple to the bright red we see in these specimens. They are rarely available commercially.



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Photo by Wally Hansen

NW Native Reds, continued

Red is definitely the fall color of the Creek Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* [occidentalis]). The white clusters of flowers (not the expected 4-petal bracts) are very sweet to see but to my mind it's the fall color that makes this NW native shrub a garden standout.



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

NW Native Reds, continued

Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) has leaves so deeply scarlet they almost look painted. This native shrub is exceptionally drought and heat tolerant, just the ticket for a neglected corner of your yard. The branches twist and turn into exotic shapes and the bright red fuzzy seed clusters (not shown here) last almost until spring.



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

NW Native Reds, continued

Squashberry or Moosewood Viburnum (*Viburnum edule*) is a quick growing deciduous shrub. Try these bright red berries for sauce instead of cranberries. They're tart and juicy and stay on the bush through the winter. Of course, you may have to grab some before the birds eat them all!



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

NW Native Reds, continued

Mountain Huck (*Vaccinium membranaceum*)

You may find this on a mountain hike. The little flowers are followed by dark shiny fruit that is absolutely delicious. If you can manage not to eat all of them immediately, put a few in the freezer. Come winter, you will discover they taste just like sunshine!



Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Planning a Wildlife Habitat



A backyard (or front yard!) to remember

There is something so precious about watching a mother bird feed her babies. It's a noisy proposition, no doubt about it.

But the mother bird is so careful to give the little ones all the food they can possibly hold. She prepares the food by chewing it up, swallowing and then regurgitating for the babies.

This process sounds disgusting but by doing it the food is small enough and soft enough so the very young birds can eat it. As the babies get bigger, the mother gives them bigger and bigger pieces until they can eat on their own.

The mother bird keeps the nest clean and makes sure the little ones are warm and dry. She stays near them and always flies to their side if they become alarmed. Such nurturing is a lesson to everyone fortunate enough to witness it.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Watching baby birds is only one reason so many of us are planning and building wildlife habitats in our yards. Other reasons? Oh, so many! Look how the National Wildlife Federation answers this question of why we do it:

1. It's fun! You'll attract beautiful songbirds, cheerful butterflies and other interesting wildlife to your yard. Watching wildlife can be fun for the whole family.
2. It's relaxing! The natural environment of your habitat will provide a peaceful place to relieve stress and unwind, day or night.
3. It makes your yard more attractive! Replacing barren lawn with beautiful wildflowers and other native plants will increase the appeal of your property and will provide a true home for wildlife.
4. It nurtures and supports wildlife all year! Habitat restoration is critical for wildlife where commercial and residential development has eliminated most natural areas. Wildlife especially need your help during the cold winter months.
5. It benefits the environment! Gardening practices that help wildlife, like reducing chemicals and conserving water, also help to improve air, water and soil quality throughout your neighborhood.



An extra reason for building a wildlife habitat:
The birds will eat slugs, aphids, grubs and all
manner of bad bugs! Nature's own pest control!

Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* [latifolia]) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Before you make the leap to develop a wildlife habitat in your own space, take a look at the elements you must provide. They are actually not hard to come by and you may already have them without realizing their importance to wildlife.

Food

Putting up a bird feeder is the hardest way to provide food for your wild friends. The truly simple way is to use native plants--trees, shrubs and perennials that are indigenous to your area. They usually don't need much in the way of maintenance after they are settled in your garden which takes about a year. There are hundreds of plants



that are native to any given part of the world. Since we live in the Pacific Northwest, we'll focus on those plants that grow naturally here. Here are the NWF's top ten native plants for the Northwest which includes Oregon, Washington and northern California.

Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

A very large tree with a narrow, pointed crown of slightly drooping branches. Long, dark yellow-green needles and large cones which produce many paired, long-winged seeds.

Doug Fir is the most important timber species in the United States for timber, lumber production and is used in production of veneer for plywood. It is named for David Douglas (1798-1834), the Scottish botanical collector, who sent seeds back to Europe in 1827. One of the most popular holiday trees, its foliage is consumed by grouse and by deer and elk; birds and mammals eat the seeds.

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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*)

Oregon's White Oak is a dense, rounded tree with a spreading crown of stout branches. Leaves are shiny dark green above, light green and usually hairy beneath. Leaves sometimes turn reddish or bronze or copper colored in autumn. Acorns are stalkless or short-stalked and are sweetish and edible, relished by livestock and wildlife and were eaten by First Nation peoples.

Western Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

A very beautiful and showy bloom is followed by the famous berries for which this shrub is named. Its common name of Juneberry tells just when the fruit appears. The berries are large, juicy and sweet. In fact, Serviceberry is grown as a commercial food crop in Canada. Aside from being delicious in pies, muffins, even dried, the fruit is an important food for wildlife from songbirds to squirrels and bears. Deer and livestock also browse the foliage.

Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

Most people in Oregon are familiar with the state flower, an evergreen shrub which bears berries that are eaten by all sorts of wildlife. They also make wonderful jelly. A yellow dye can be made from the bark if you're into crafting.

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Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) in early fall

Photos by JoAnn Onstott

Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) in late summer



Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued



Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)
Photos by JoAnn Onstott and Jennifer Rehm
Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)



Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*)

Quick growing Blue Elderberry will grow into a small tree or shrub that may form a thicket. It has large clusters of small flowers, followed by dark blue fruit that will turn dusty pale blue when ripe. Lewis and Clark were shown this tree by their Indian hosts and reported it as an "alder" with "pale, sky blue" berries. Later this was corrected.

Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)

Salal is a short shrub that has whitish to pale pink urn-shaped flowers. The fruit of the salal is a dark purple berry which are a source of food for wildlife and were once also eaten by coastal Native Americans. The leaves are prized by florists for their beauty and long lasting qualities.

Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)

Not only does the Salmonberry have yellow or salmon colored fruits, its flowers are large and beautifully bright pink. The fruits are very attractive to numerous birds and animals. They are juicy but not too sweet and are a treat to find when walking along a woodland trail.

Hooker's Evening-primrose (*Oenothera elata*)

This perennial flowers from June to September and is much loved by hummers and butterflies. A good habitat plant.

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)

The species name *formosa*, Latin for "beautiful," is a perfect name for this native perennial. It can grow to have hundreds of nodding flowers and likes to twine itself up through open shrubs such as Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*). Attracts hummingbirds as pollinators.

Beach Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*)

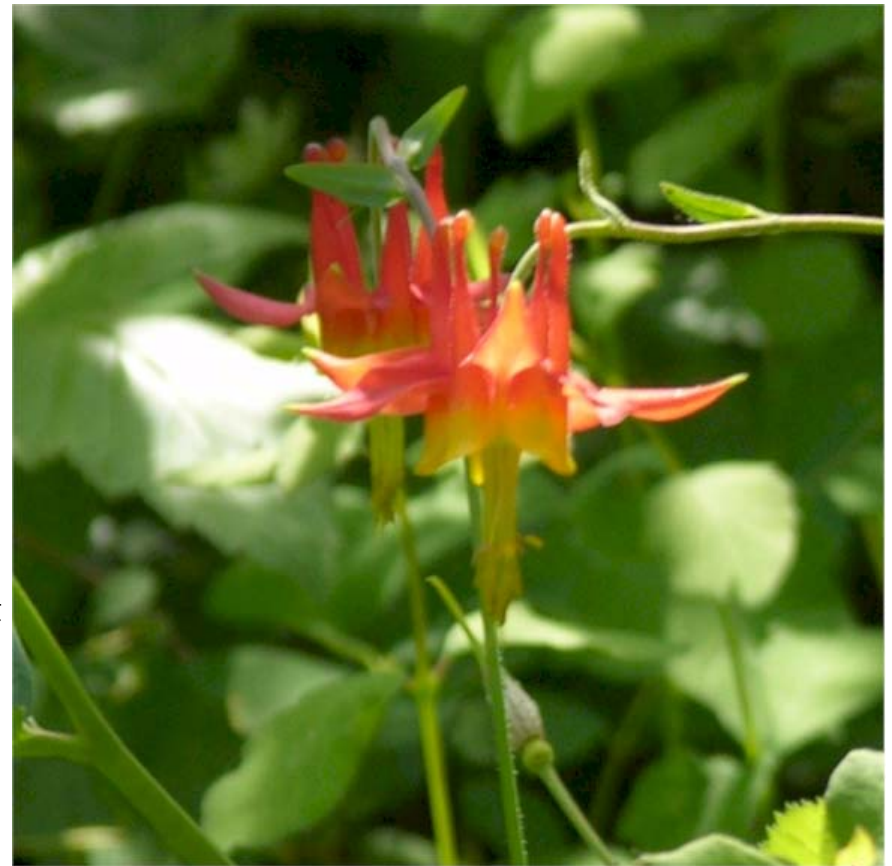
The Beach Strawberry is an evergreen type of wild strawberry native to the coastal regions of the Northwest. A tough little groundcover that can withstand just about anything the weather can dish out. It spreads by runners and if the wildlife leave any for you to taste, you'll know true strawberry flavor!

Water

Bird Baths

One simple way to provide water for wildlife is with a bird bath. You must change the water at least every other day when mother nature does not do this chore for you by raining. Not only will the water be fresh and pure, the mosquitos won't have a chance to breed there.

A stiff brush should be used once a week or so to scrub the bath and rinse it well afterwards. I've had birdbaths for years and never needed to use anything but a good brush and a bit of elbow grease but should you find something more is required, use a little white vinegar or hot soapy water. Bleach is not a good idea and absolutely do not ever use chemicals.



Red Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Ponds

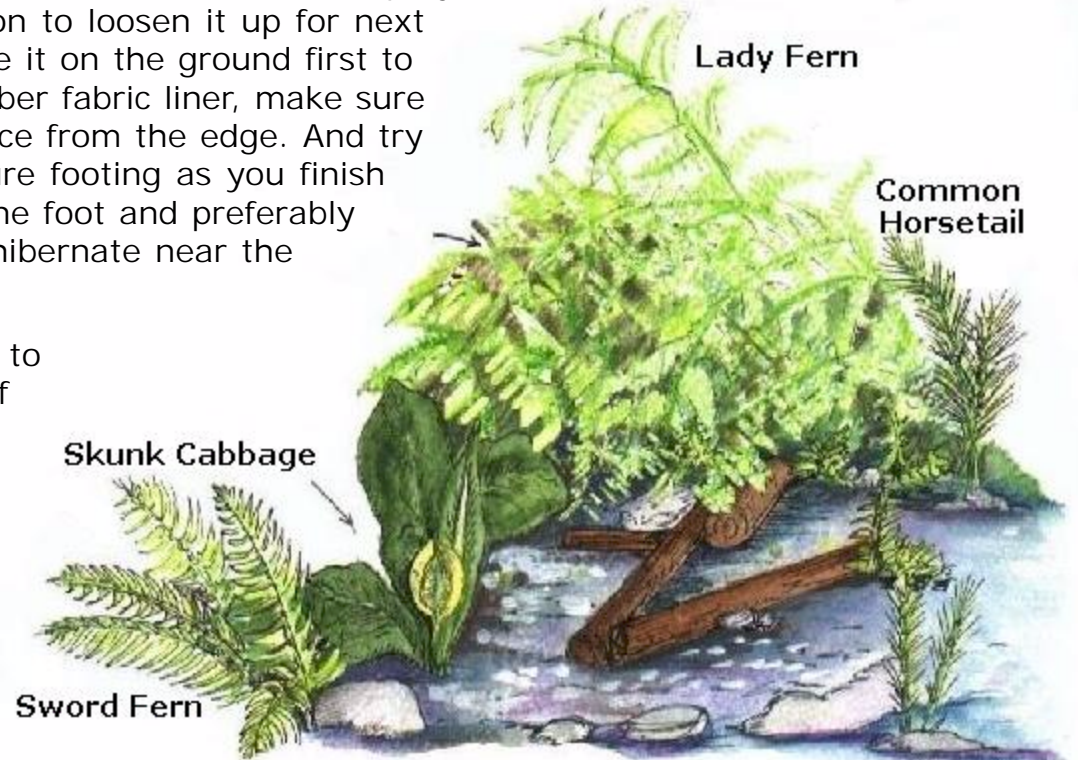
If you want something that needs very little upkeep, a pond should be considered. Building it is the only hard part of a pond if you set it up correctly and even that need not be too difficult. A “whiskey barrel” or other large container will do or you can dig a hole for an in-ground pond. These instructions are from NWF and they are very easy to follow, very uncomplicated. They begin with this word of advice: Start with a simple design and gradually make it complex.

Step 1: Dig a hole. You don't have to dig the hole all at one time. Spray the hole with water after each digging session to loosen it up for next time. If you're using a pre-formed liner, place it on the ground first to mark the shape you'll dig. With a PVC or rubber fabric liner, make sure the liner can cover the hole and some distance from the edge. And try to make flat areas. A flat bottom offers secure footing as you finish shaping your pond. Dig your pond at least one foot and preferably 2-3 feet deep. Deeper ponds allow frogs to hibernate near the bottom during cold months.

Step 2: Pad the hole with sand or old carpet to even out rough spots and protect the liner. If your pond site has roots and rocks, you'll need to make an extra effort to protect the liner.

Step 3: Install the liner. Use the dirt and rocks you removed to cover the edges of the liner.

This natural pond was painted
by Heidi D. Hansen



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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Step 4: Fill with water and water plants.

If you want to attract frogs, leave fish out of your pond because they eat frog eggs and tadpoles. You might be able to have fish and frogs if you make lots of hiding places for them using leafy branches. These provide cover as well as nutrients. Piles of rocks, emerging as islands, and vegetation also give frogs and dragonflies a place to perch. Don't make the sides too steep. Make sure you provide a sloped or stepped escape route for frogs or other animals if they fall in.



Cover and Places to Raise Young

Just as important as food and water is shelter. Here are NWF's basic instructions for shelter.

Wildlife need a place to hide in order to feel safe in your yard. They also need a more long-term shelter to raise their young.

The easiest ways to provide cover is to use existing vegetation, dead and alive. Many shrubs provide great hiding places within their bushy leaves, and dead trees are home to lots of different wildlife. You can also construct hiding places using logs, brush or rocks.

Another popular way to provide cover is to put up a nesting box for birds to raise their young. Depending on what types of birds come to your area, do some research and provide the right kind of nesting box.

Oregon Iris (*Iris tenax*) Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Kids enjoy making something called a "toad abode." To make one, get a medium-size clay pot and saucer. Put the saucer on the ground and keep it filled with water. Nearby, put the pot upside-down with an edge resting on a rock. That makes room for a toad to fit through and hide inside. (If you have a broken pot with a chunk missing at the rim, you have an abode with an instant doorway - no need to prop it up.)

Finally, ponds also provide cover for water-based wildlife so if you have a pond, you are already providing cover and places to raise young.

Gardening in an Environmentally Friendly Way

How you manage your garden or landscape can have an affect on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for native wildlife - as well as the human community. Following are some sustainable gardening techniques that you can use to help conserve resources.

Mulching

Mulch helps keep water in the soil and available to the plant, rather than evaporating into the air. This can help you reduce your watering time. Also, as mulch breaks down, it provides nutrients to the soil. This can help reduce the need for fertilizer.



Not edible for humans, wildlife and pollinating
insects find these fruits delectable
Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* [stolonifera])
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued



A "rain chain garden" provides continuously fresh water in a rainy season.

Photo by Sassy Gardener

Reducing Lawn Areas

Lawns often require chemicals and if you use a gas-powered lawnmower, the engines in these machines are often very polluting. Since lawns are usually made of only a few types of plants, they do not provide a lot of value for wildlife who benefit in ecosystems with diverse plants.

Xeriscaping

Xeriscaping is an approach to landscaping that minimizes outdoor water use while maintaining soil integrity through the use of native, drought-tolerant plants.

Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are used to collect rainwater for use during dry months. Besides helping the environment, an obvious reason for harvesting rainwater is to save money. Depending on the size of your house and the amount of rainfall in your area, you can collect a substantial amount of rainwater with a simple system.

Removing Invasive Plants & Restoring Natives

Native plants are better for the environment than exotic plants, generally requiring less fertilizer and other additives, less water, and less effort in pest control. They stabilize soil and reduce erosion; they more effectively filter storm water than exotic plantings, thus improving water quality; and they promote biodiversity.

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

[NRCS, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), has some practical tips for making a wildlife habitat in your own backyard. This is one of their publications.

Backyard Conservation Tip Sheet: Wildlife Habitat

Make a home for birds, butterflies, and nature's other creatures in your backyard

Habitat is a combination of food, water, shelter, and space arranged to meet the needs of wildlife. Even a small yard can be landscaped to attract birds, butterflies, beneficial insects, and small animals. Trees, shrubs, and other plants provide shelter and food for wildlife.

The plants you use for food and cover will help determine the wildlife species attracted to your backyard. Nesting boxes, feeders, and watering sites can be added to improve the habitat.

Planning your wildlife habitat

Planning is necessary for attractive and productive wildlife habitat. You have both a horizontal area to work with—the size of your lot—as well as a vertical area that stretches from your soil to the treetops. The vertical area is composed of the canopy formed by the tallest tree branches; understory vegetation consisting of smaller trees, shrubs, and vines; the floor which is often dominated by low-growing groundcovers; and the basement where a variety of organisms exist in the soil. Different wildlife species live in each of these zones, so numerous habitats can be provided on a small piece of land.

Trees and shrubs are the backbone of any landscaping design and are important for wildlife shelter. Many tree and shrub species are excellent sources of food for wildlife. Proper selection of plant material can meet both the aesthetic needs of the homeowner and the food and shelter needs of wildlife. Remember that you are part of the habitat!



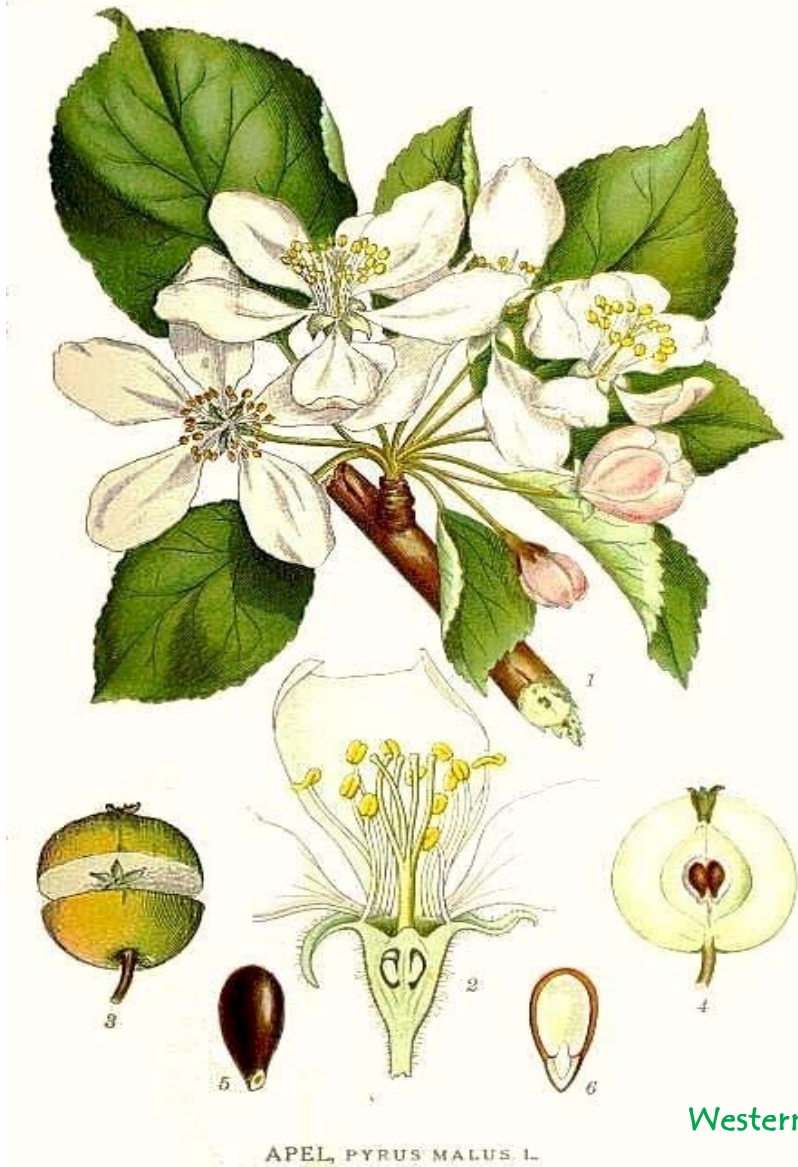
Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*)
Photo by Rory Nichols

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Steps to create habitat for wildlife

1. Identify all existing plants, if any. Note:
 - o Condition of the plants and their locations.
 - o How much shade the trees and shrubs provide.
 - o Are trees evergreen or do they drop their leaves in the fall?
 - o Do they provide valuable food sources?
2. Make a sketch of your yard noting all existing plants, buildings, utilities, and pathways. You may even consider removing some plants. In some cases, trees have been planted too close to buildings or have grown much larger than the previous owner envisioned. Some species may be of little wildlife value and may not be particularly attractive. Once you have identified existing plants you want to save, start exploring options for plants that will work well with these species. The existing plants around your yard may be adequate to attract some wildlife, but a few changes can effectively enhance the existing habitat. Diversity in the landscape is necessary. Some plants provide food but very little cover; others provide cover but little food.
3. Add trees, shrubs, flowers, and groundcovers to your plan. Not all the planting needs to be done at once. If money or time is limited, consider it a work in progress.



Western Crabapple (*Pyrus* [*Malus*] *fusca*)
Old botanical print

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

4. Plant a variety of trees first. Select evergreen species for year-round cover and shelter. Select fruit or nut-bearing plants for a food source. Native species are well suited for providing wildlife habitat because they are adapted to the local soil, climate, and wildlife. Additional considerations for choosing and placement include:

- o Eventual size.

- o Whether they are evergreen or deciduous (trees that drop their leaves). Deciduous trees planted on the south side of a house will provide summer shade, but will not completely block winter sun.

- o Neighboring properties.

- o Flowering and fruiting habit. Select plants that flower and bear fruit at different times of the year. Some shrubs that produce berries can provide food throughout the year. Trees with nuts and fruit can also provide seasonal foods. (See the tip sheet on tree planting for suggested species.)

5. Fill in with smaller shade-tolerant understory trees and shrubs. Adding these to an existing landscape will enhance the vertical structure that is common in natural landscapes. Many smaller trees and shrubs are colorful in the spring when they flower, and provide berries for fall and winter feed.

6. Flowering annuals (plants that live one growing season) and perennials (plants that live for more than a year) add color to the yard and can be added at any stage to attract birds and butterflies. If your yard is large, consider using part of it for tall native grasses that provide beauty, as well as a natural source of food and shelter. A native wildflower garden provides the same function. Even on a small lot, native wildflowers, as well as some common garden species, can provide attractive habitat for a variety of birds and butterflies. Avoid straight lines and perfect symmetry. Natural habitat has curves and clumps of vegetation. Wildlife is not particularly attracted to a well-manicured lawn. Wildlife is more likely to come out into the open for viewing when the boundary of the yard is designed and maintained as a retreat for animals.



Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*)
Poison to humans
but loved by wildlife

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

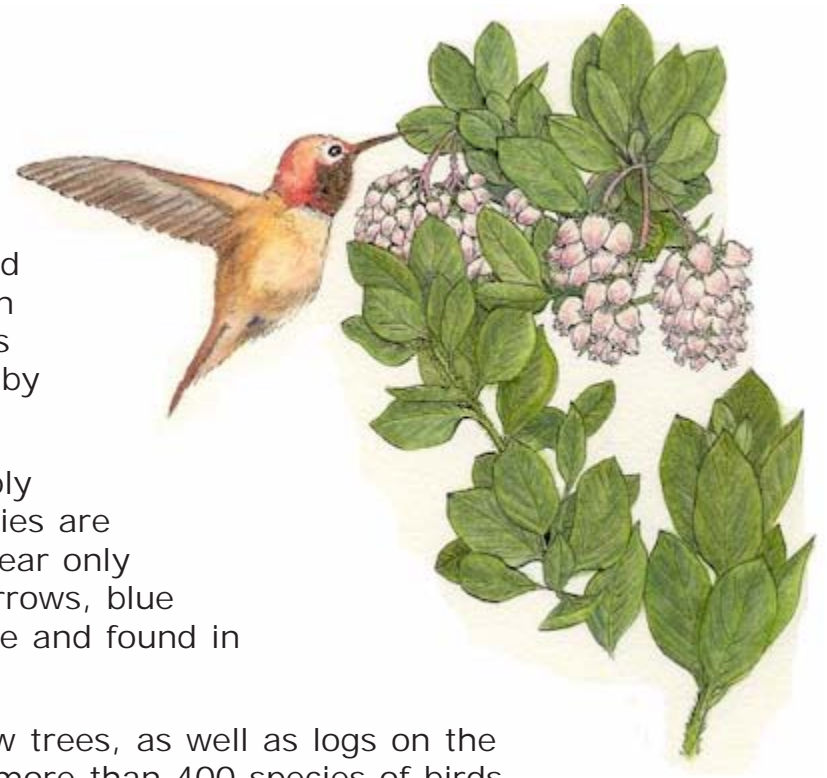
The US Fish & Wildlife Service offers the following:

Landscaping for birds

Food and cover are essential for the survival of all species. Loss of suitable nesting sites is a major factor in the decline of some bird species. In the wild, many species nest in cavities of dead trees. With the loss of hedgerows in some parts of the country and the removal of dead trees in towns, natural nesting sites are often limited. Also, some highly competitive, non-native species of birds have taken over some of the existing nesting sites once occupied by native birds.

Bird species are extremely variable in their habits. Some like deeply wooded areas; others prefer open fields and meadows. Many species are year-round residents, while others such as the cedar waxwing appear only for a few days a year during migration. Other species such as sparrows, blue jays, cardinals, robins, juncos, and chickadees are highly adaptable and found in many environments.

Many people are not aware of the value of dead, dying, and hollow trees, as well as logs on the ground, for birds and other wildlife. Dead trees provide homes to more than 400 species of birds, mammals, and amphibians. Fish, plants, and fungi also benefit from dead and dying trees. Consider leaving standing dead and dying trees in your yard unless they pose a human safety or property hazard, and use old logs and stumps in gardens and landscaping.



Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)
One of the finest Northwest Native shrubs, this evergreen is beautiful
year-round, drought resistant and the fruit is fine for people and wildlife.
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

⇒ More ⇒

Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Additional food and shelter for birds

Few yards will be able to supply sufficient food or shelter for a variety of birds all year long. However, you can improve shelter and food supplies by building or purchasing feeders and houses, and by setting out certain foods.

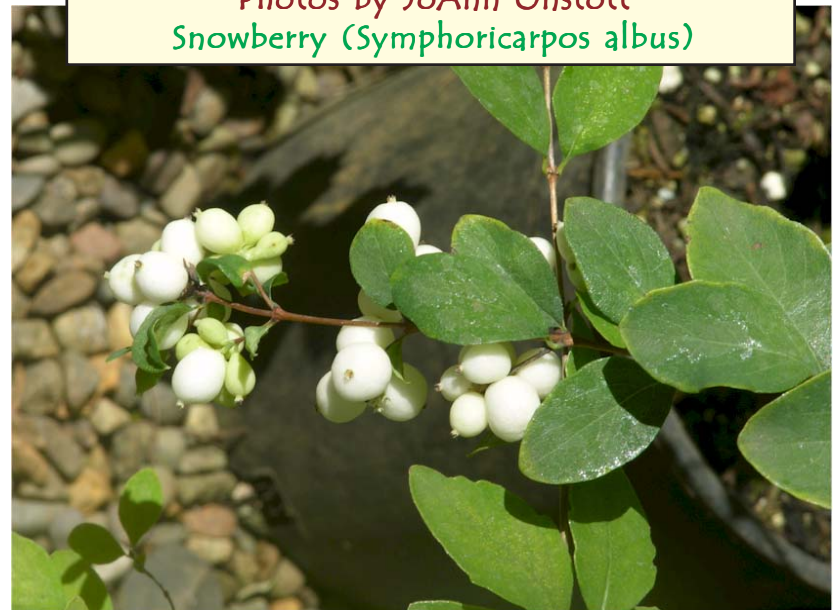
All bird species have specific nesting requirements. Because of these requirements, your yard may not accommodate certain species. For instance, Eastern bluebirds prefer nesting sites that border open fields or lawns with a tree or fence post nearby to provide feeding perches. Chickadees prefer to nest in brushy wooded areas.

Before setting out nesting houses, find out which species are common in your area and can be encouraged to nest in your yard. Make or buy a bird house specifically designed for the bird you wish to attract. The size of the entrance hole is critical to prevent the eggs and young from being destroyed by larger birds—always check a list of appropriate hole sizes. Other considerations include box size, height above the ground, direction the entrance hole faces, and amount of sunlight. Boxes may need baffles or other protective devices to limit access by cats and other predators. A good reference publication is “Homes for Birds” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management. It is available at two internet sites: <http://www.fws.gov/r9mbmo/pamphlet/pamphlets.html> or <http://birding.about.com/>.

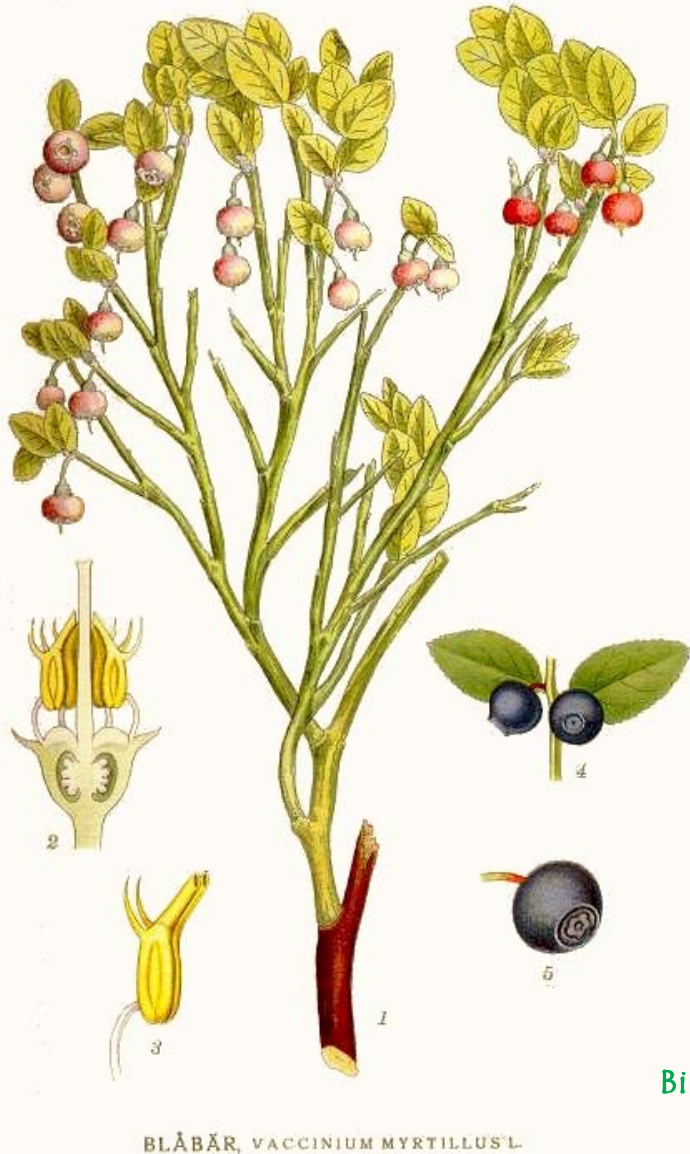
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Squashberry (*Viburnum edule*)
Photos by JoAnn Onstott
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)



Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued



Billberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*)
Old botanical print

Many species of birds can be attracted by a variety of feed in different styles of feeders. There are many styles of bird feeders available, from window-mounted feeders to those that hang from branches and stands. Many birds will readily eat right off the ground. Bird feed comes in a variety of choices; however, sunflower seeds appeal to many birds, as well as small mammals. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees are especially attracted to suet. Citrus fruit, chopped apples and bananas, and raisins will be eaten by numerous species, including robins, titmouse, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and mockingbirds.

Feeders may also attract wildlife species you may not want to feed such as starlings, crows, and squirrels. Feeder type and placement and the type of food can help deter unwanted species.

Unlike many other species of birds, hummingbirds rely on nectar as their source of food. These tiny, migratory birds are commonly seen in the summer in northern states gathering nectar from colorful flowers. Hummingbirds are typically attracted to red and yellow tubular flowers, although they frequently visit others. Hummingbird feeders can be purchased and filled with a sugar-water solution, consisting of 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Every 3 to 4 days, wash the feeder with soap and water, rinse thoroughly, and add new sugar water.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Food and shelter for butterflies

Colorful butterflies and moths add beauty and interest to your backyard. There are hundreds of different species of butterflies and moths in North America. Butterflies and moths are insects. They hatch into larvae (commonly referred to as caterpillars), eventually become pupae, and develop into colorful adults. How long the process takes depends on the species and the climate.

Butterflies and moths are amazingly particular in their food choices. The larval stage of the butterfly may require food quite different from that of the adult. Some larvae consume tremendous amounts of plant material, seemingly devouring plants overnight. A common example in the garden is the tomato hornworm which rapidly strips tomato plants of their leaves. An equally voracious, but beautiful, larvae is the Eastern black swallowtail which is found only on plants in the carrot family, including celery, carrot, dill, and parsley. A close relative is the Eastern tiger swallowtail that eats the foliage of wild cherry, birch, poplar, ash, and tulip trees.

Adult butterflies require food in liquid form such as plant-produced nectar. They get some of it from flowers and from juices of extra-ripe fruit. The types of flowering plants you grow will determine the kinds of butterflies you attract to your backyard. Find out what species are common in your area and use native plants they like. Nectar feeders can be placed in the yard to attract butterflies. Do not use insecticides near plants for butterflies. Learn to recognize larval and egg forms. That large green and black caterpillar eating your dill may one day turn into the gorgeous butterfly you were hoping to attract!



Butterflies adore this NW Native perennial!
Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued



Wild hollyhocks waiting for bees and butterflies!
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Butterflies, like all insects, are most active when temperatures are warmer. While moths are commonly found at night, most butterflies are active on sunny, warm days. Butterflies will benefit from a basking site where they can warm up on cool mornings. Add a light-colored rock or concrete garden sculpture as a basking site. Butterflies also need a source of water. A shallow dish of water or a depression in a rock that retains water is all they need.

Attracting bees

In the United States, there are nearly 5,000 different species of native bees. Most of them are solitary, friendly bees that nest in holes in the ground or burrows in twigs and dead tree limbs. These bees do not have hives to protect them, so they are not aggressive and rarely sting. Bumblebees, carpenter bees, sweat bees, leafcutter bees, digger bees, and others pollinate many different kinds of plants. They play a critical role in healthy wild plant communities and gardens. About 30 percent of our diet is the direct result of a pollinating visit by a bee to a flowering fruit tree or vegetable plant. Providing bee habitat in your yard can increase the quality and quantity of your fruits and vegetables.

Bees are extremely sensitive to many commonly applied insecticides. If you must use chemical insecticides in your garden, apply them in the evening when bees are less likely to be active. **Better to find a natural solution!**

Bees are attracted to most flowering plants, and are especially fond of blue and yellow flowers. Try planting your garden to have different species blooming in the spring, summer, and fall.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Bee houses

A good use for untreated scrap lumber (at least 3 to 5 inches thick) is to drill holes (from 1/8-inch to 5/16-inch in diameter) about 90 percent of the way into the thick wooden block. Space the holes about 1/2-inch to 3/4-inch apart. The 5/16-inch holes work best as homes for orchard bees which are excellent pollinators of fruit trees. Hang your bee blocks under the eaves of your house or garden shed, protected from direct sun and rain.

Attracting bats to your yard

Bats are a beneficial and interesting mammal. Bats are the single most important controller of night-flying insects, including mosquitoes, moths, and beetles. For example, a single little brown bat can catch up to 600 mosquitoes in an hour. Watching bats fly around light posts catching bugs can be an interesting nighttime activity.

A bat house in your yard will help attract bats and provide them with much-needed roosting habitat. The house should be placed on a pole at least 15 feet high in a spot that receives sun most of the day. Tree trunks are usually too shady for bat boxes. Some bat species such as gray bats, red bats, and hoary bats will use shrubs and trees for roosting under loose bark or in cavities.



Alaska Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Many species of bats migrate in the fall and hibernate throughout the winter months in caves, mines, or buildings. If disturbed during hibernation, their metabolism is increased, depleting fat reserves and reducing their chances of survival.



Excellent for your pond, Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

As with all wildlife, bats should be watched, but not handled or chased. Generally, bats are shy of humans and will not attack or fly after a person. However, if caught or picked up from the ground, a bat may bite.

Attracting reptiles and amphibians

Toads, frogs, lizards, turtles, and snakes all have a place in the backyard. While many people may not want some of these animals in their yards, most species are harmless and often quite beneficial—feeding on destructive insects or rodents.

Shelter for reptiles and amphibians is easy to provide. Several rocks piled in a sunny spot will provide basking sites. Consider planting shade-tolerant groundcovers under trees and leaving a thick layer of leaves to provide cool shelter. Stumps, logs, and rock piles in a shady spot can be valuable.

Water for wildlife

Clean, fresh water is as important to birds, bats, butterflies, and other wildlife as it is for people. Water in a saucer, bird

bath, or backyard pond is adequate for wildlife. Be sure to change the water every few days to keep it fresh. In hot weather, it may be necessary to refill the container daily.

Logs, rocks, and water-holding structures provide drinking and basking habitat for turtles, butterflies, and songbirds. Stones with depressions that collect water will help attract butterflies.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

A word about attracting mammals

Squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, skunks, woodchucks, mice, and deer are commonly found in many urban environments. These species are highly adaptable and, in many cases, are becoming unwanted visitors rather than welcome guests.



These raccoons will be looking for food when they wake from their nap!

As with all wildlife, cover is essential for the survival of these species. Small brush piles intended for amphibians and reptiles will also provide shelter for rabbits and mice. Chipmunks and woodchucks are adept at digging their own burrows. Trees may provide shelter for squirrels, raccoons, and opossums. Food set out for birds may attract many of these animals. Squirrels, chipmunks, and mice will readily eat birdseed. Raccoons will feed on suet. Woodchucks and rabbits will eat a variety of vegetation including garden vegetables and flowering plants. Deer are browsers and will nibble at trees, shrubs, hay, and grain.

A few precautions can be taken to avoid unwanted encounters with these animals. Avoid setting out food that may attract scavengers such as raccoons. Keep garbage cans in a secure shed or garage or use metal cans that scavengers cannot chew through. Check the exterior of your house for loose or rotted boards that could allow access by mice or other rodents. Remember that these animals are wild, and if threatened they can bite. Raccoons can be particularly aggressive. All these species can carry diseases. Do not handle them.

Laws vary from state to state on wildlife issues. If you have questions or concerns about wildlife, check with your state's Department of Natural Resources or Conservation Department before taking any action.

NOTE: In Salem, Oregon, you can rent a trap from the Humane Society but you cannot transport the trapped animal without a permit! Know the laws before taking steps to remove these visitors!

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued



Douglas Hawthorn
(*Crataegus douglasii*)
Painting by Heidi Hansen

On the farm

With more than 70 percent of the land in the United States privately owned, it follows that most of the wildlife in the countryside depends on private landowners. Farmers are installing grass, tree, and shrub plantings; ponds; riparian buffer strips; and other wildlife habitat at record rates. Some farmers provide bird and bat houses, while others plant or leave food plots of corn, millet, or other grains specifically for wildlife.

Pheasants, grouse, quail, prairie chickens, mourning doves, and songbirds, as well as leopard frogs, diamond-back terrapin, red bats, and other wildlife, benefit from habitat that farmers and ranchers establish on their land. Farmers appreciate and enjoy wildlife supported by good habitat and also benefit from pollination and pest control by beneficial insects.

Help for your Wildlife Project

Various government and environmental agencies and organizations offer programs to encourage and assist with wildlife habitats. Some are for large-scale habitats of many acres and some are for ordinary yards. They all have one simple goal: To promote backyard conservation. Here are just a few.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, and Wildlife Habitat Council encourage you to sign up in their "Backyard Conservation" program. To participate, use some of the conservation practices in your backyard that are showcased in this series of tip sheets: Tree Planting, Wildlife Habitat, Backyard Pond, Backyard Wetland, Composting, Mulching, Nutrient Management, Terracing, Water Conservation, and Pest Management. Then, simply fill in the Backyard Conservation customer response card, send a Backyard e-mail request to backyard@swcs.org, or call 1-888-LANDCARE.

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

Brochures you can order from NRCS on tips and projects for sustainable gardening

- o Build a compost bin
- o Organic gardening tips
- o Cut your lawn in half
- o Have a chemical-free lawn
- o Friendly fertilizers
- o Conserve water in your garden
- o Cope with drought



Need help? Call 1-800-822-9919 or email info@nwf.org.

NRCS website, <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Feature/backyard/wildhab.html>

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP),
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Programs/whip/>

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.



Rocky Mountain Juniper
(*Juniperus scopulorum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

The **National Wildlife Federation (NWF)** has a variety of publications you can download from the internet. For example:

Projects for creating cover and places to raise young

- o Setting up a nesting box
- o Why dead trees are great for wildlife
- o Make a log or brush pile
- o Make a bat house
- o Make a bee house
- o Make a gourd house
- o Plant a tree

Inspiring Americans to
protect wildlife for our
children's future.



They also sponsor a certification program designed to help individuals plan and apply a wildlife habitat plan for a home site or small acreage. On request, NWF will send you an application package and instructions for its Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. If your application and plan meet the criteria, you will receive a certificate and, if you wish, a sign to show your commitment to wildlife conservation. Contact:



Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program
National Wildlife Federation
8925 Leesburg Pike
Vienna, VA 22184-0001 or
<http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/>

Wood's Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)



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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Migratory Bird Management works with groups and individuals to conserve and manage migratory birds. This agency offers information about backyard habitats for birds and wildlife. Several pamphlets are available: Backyard Bird Feeding, Backyard Bird Problems, Attract Birds, Homes for Birds, and Migratory Songbird Conservation).

For more information contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20240



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Habitat, <http://www.fws.gov/habitat/>

Habitat is a combination of environmental factors that provides food, water, cover and space that a living thing needs to survive and reproduce. Habitat types include: coastal and estuarine, rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, wetlands, riparian areas, deserts, grasslands/prairie, forests, coral reefs, marine, perennial snow and ice, and urban.



Destruction, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat is the driving force behind today's decline in species and biodiversity. Impacts to habitat can be caused directly by such activities as the clearing of forests to grow crops or build homes, or indirectly, for example, by the introduction of invasive species or increased pollution run-off from yards and fields. It is the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Learn more about the habitat-related activities of the Service programs by visiting the links below - and get involved.

Western Wild Grape (*Vitis californica*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Planning a Wildlife Habitat, continued



Schoolyard Habitats Are for the Birds (and Frogs, and Butterflies!)

The Partners Program works with some very special partners—these are the teachers, students, PTA's, school boards and school administrators. Together we restore wildlife habitat on school property.

Why Build an "Outdoor Classroom"?

- o The process of planning and building wildlife habitat provides children and communities with a unique hands-on experience.
- o A more diverse landscape offers many teaching opportunities in science, English, mathematics, social studies and art.
- o Children's play is an important part of learning. A more varied schoolyard provides opportunities for informal learning and nature observation.
- o Schoolyard habitat can be important for local and migrating wildlife and can help protect water quality of nearby streams.

To find out how you can build an "Outdoor Classroom", contact your state Partners Coordinator. In Oregon:



Amy Horstman
2600 S.E. 98th Avenue
Suite 100
Portland, OR 97266
503-231-6179
FAX: 503-231-6195

*An Outdoor Classroom in Oklahoma
developed with the support of the
Partners Program*



The Elderberry Party

By Jennifer Rehm

I had an old Blue Elderberry once that was a prolific bloomer and the fruit was just as plentiful as the flowers.

There was a large flock of tiny little birds living in the neighborhood and every year when the elderberries neared ripening stage, these little birds would begin scoping out my tree. A few would taste a berry or two and the others would watch from nearby phone lines, waiting for the taster's review of the fruit.

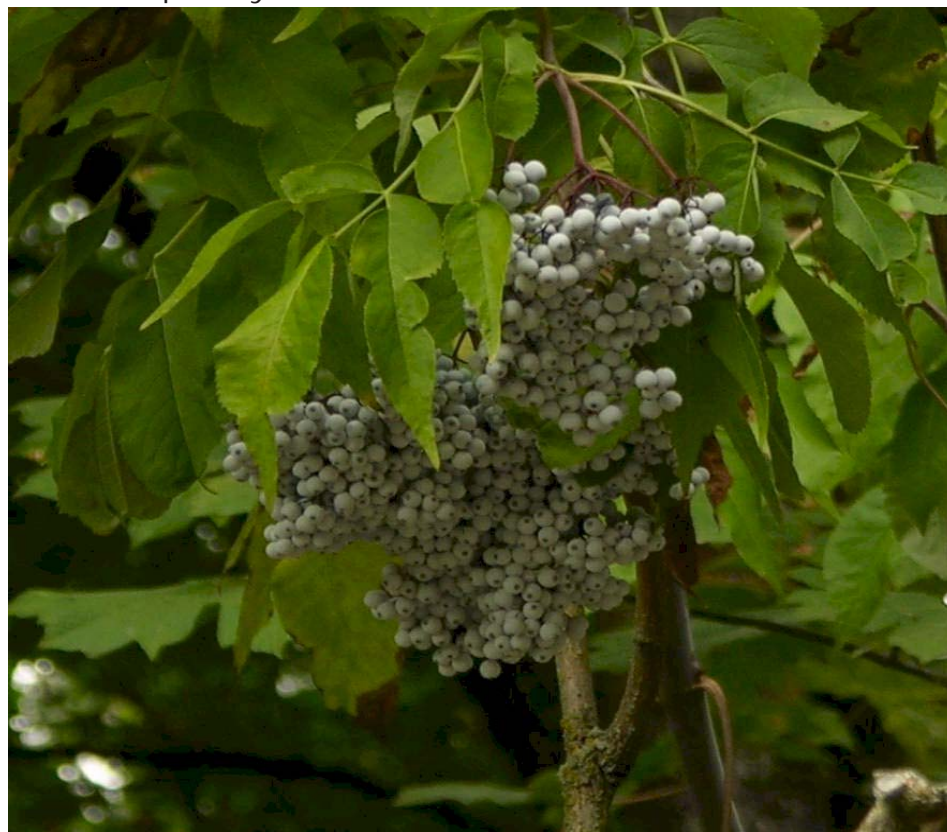
Finally they would decide the berries were ready and they'd all begin swooping around in the sky above the tree, at last coming down as though of a single mind to clean that tree completely of fruit.

They made a grand racket with their chirping and flitting and singing, jumping from branch to branch. Some would fly almost straight up, do a little pirouette as though for sheer joy and then come back down to rejoin the feast. This would go on for at least an hour.

At last, the entire flock would suddenly rise into the air, do some figure-eights all in unison and then go streaking through the sky to land in a giant oak about a half block away. There they spent another hour or so debating over whether the berries were as good this year as last, bragging about who ate the most and who sang the loudest. Then they'd take off for parts unknown.

Oh, they came back a little later. After all, they did live in the area. But this annual adventure seemed to be as important to them as it was to me. I purely enjoyed their antics and never knew which day the little birds would come to have their elderberry party.

Do include one of these Northwest Native trees in your wildlife garden. If you are fortunate, one summer day you may see a show, the likes of which one can only imagine until it happens. I shall never forget it.



Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Just for the Birds

Safe Birdfeeding

by Alicia Craig-Lich
From National Wildlife Federation

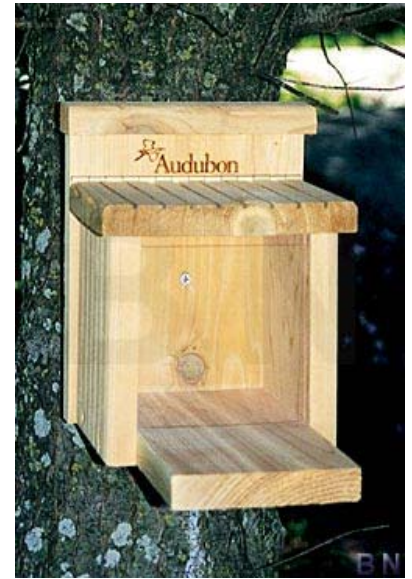
Feeding wild birds is a very popular hobby, second only to gardening in North America. It is a fun, rewarding and educational hobby. Many schools and work places have added feeders to their areas. An important element of feeding the birds is taking proper care of birdfeeders, including periodic cleaning to help promote bird health and proper placement to promote bird safety.

Keeping your birdfeeders clean is a very important part of providing a healthy feeding environment for the birds. Proper placement of birdfeeders is also important in keeping birds safe from predators.

A 1992 study conducted by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology concluded that 51 percent of bird deaths were caused by window strikes. Predation, predominately by household cats, caused 36 percent of bird deaths. Disease caused only 11% of bird deaths in our backyards.

In a 1997 study conducted by the American Birding Association, cats were found to be a significant source of mortality among birds that come to feeders. It has been estimated that a single domestic household cat can kill more than 100 birds and small mammals each year.

Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)



Keeping squirrels away from bird feeders is a 2-step process: Install baffles (such as the one below) on the bird feeder post and give the squirrels their own feeder.



⇒ More ⇒

Just for the Birds, continued

When you feed the birds, take the following steps to provide a safe and healthy feeding environment.

- Provide multiple feeding stations in different areas of your yard to disperse bird activity.
- Crowding at the feeder - which is a more common occurrence in winter months - can cause stress, which may make birds more vulnerable to disease.
- Clean your feeders regularly with hot water, and let them air dry completely. Also keep areas under and around the feeders clean.
- Keep seed clean and dry and watch that it doesn't get moldy. Offer only fresh seed.

- Use a seed blend that is designed for the feeder you have and the type of birds that come to that feeder. Blends that contain filler seeds or grains are not typically eaten by the birds and end up on the ground making a mess.

(Left) This is a standard squirrel baffle and it works pretty well. It mounts on the pole beneath the feeder. The dome at right mounts above the feeder. It not only deters squirrels (and sometimes cats), it helps shelter the birds from weather. Use both types with a pole-mounted feeder.

A word about cats: In my opinion, cats need to stay in the house. But if they are let outdoors, put a bell on them! At least the birds will be warned they are in the vicinity. And for everyone's sake, have them neutered and vaccinated whether indoors or out!

Jennifer

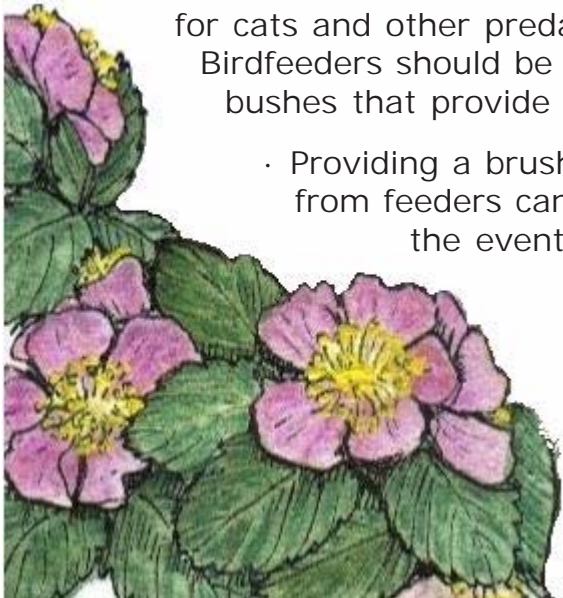
Coastal Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



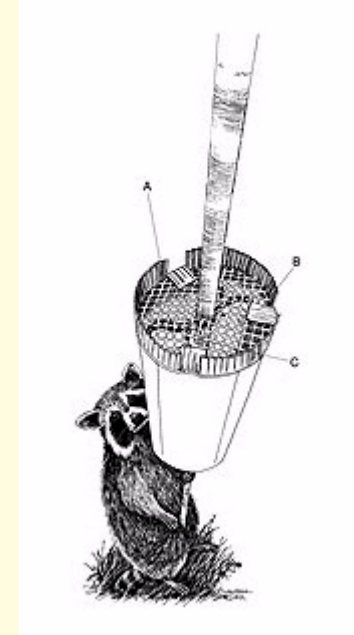
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Just for the Birds, continued

- Dry rake or use other methods to keep the area around your feeder clean.
- Provide seeds from a feeder rather than broadcasting/scattering seed on the ground.
- If possible, move your feeding stations periodically, so there will be less concentration of bird droppings.
- If you find a dead bird near the feeder that has not been killed by a predator, disinfect the feeders with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water.
- Always wash your hands after filling or cleaning your feeders.
- Place bird feeders in locations that do not provide hiding places for cats and other predators to wait to ambush the feeder. Birdfeeders should be placed 5' to 12' from low shrubs or bushes that provide cover.
 - Providing a brush pile or bushes and trees 5-12 feet from feeders can provide a place for birds to hide in the event of danger.



Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*)
The blooms attract butterflies
and bees and the birds cannot
resist those hips in winter.



From The Purple Martin Conservation Association, a martin's-eye-view of a raccoon and the stovepipe baffle pole mount. The slick metal baffle wobbles on the pole preventing the raccoon from climbing to the box. The mesh inside the baffle keeps snakes from slithering up the pole. See their website for instructions on building this very effective (and cheap!) predator baffle: <http://www.purplemartin.org/update/PredBaff.html>



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.

⇒ 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

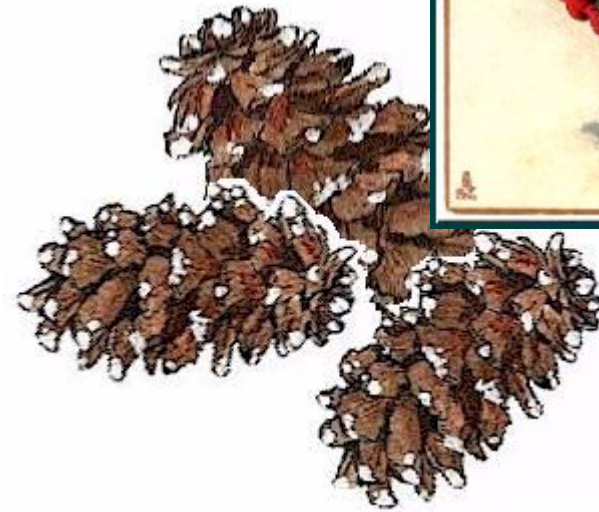
<http://homepages.which.net/~fred.moor/soil/links/10102.htm>

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.



Personal notes from Wally

Through this holiday season there is a feeling of caring, of touching in comfort and in friendship. Smiles appear on faces that have been somber too long. Memories come back to visit again, sometimes things we thought we'd forgotten long ago. Embrace these feelings and use them as an opportunity to refresh the fellowship of man.

Alice Cary was a remarkable woman. Her family lived on a farm in Ohio. She was one of 9 siblings and as was customary in those times her responsibilities included helping with the family chores. She missed school more often than not, but began to write poetry and draw sketches of farm life.

She eventually struck out on her own to make a living in New York with her poetry and prose--a most daring move thought to be foolhardy by all who heard of this. Nevertheless, she persisted and became a sort of cultural icon among the literary society, much loved and respected by the "upper crust." She was joined by her sister Phoebe and the two of them were often written about and had their works included in Harper's, Atlantic Monthly, New York Ledger and other leading publications.

It is said that Alice never regretted the adventures of her life and her words are so timeless they could have been written today. Certainly the sentiments expressed in her poem, Nobility, allows a genteel look at what our personal goals might be. I hope the fires that burned inside Alice might ignite a spark in us all. Look at the brave new year and dare to become all that you might be. It takes but one step at a time--the first one is always the hardest!



Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Personal notes from Wally, continued

Here is Alice Carey's poem, Nobility.
Beautiful words of inspiration to
take into the coming new year.



Nobility
Alice Cary (1820-1871)

True worth is in *being*, not *seeming*,—
In doing, each day that goes by,
Some little good—not in dreaming
Of great things to do by and by.
For whatever men say in their blindness,
And spite of the fancies of youth,
There's nothing so kingly as kindness,
And nothing so royal as truth.

We get back our mete as we measure—
We cannot do wrong and feel right,
Nor can we give pain and gain pleasure,
For justice avenges each slight.
The air for the wing of the sparrow,
The bush for the robin and wren,
But always the path that is narrow
And straight, for the children of men.

'Tis not in the pages of story
The heart of its ills to beguile,
Though he who makes courtship to glory
Gives all that he hath for her smile.
For when from her heights he has won her,
Alas! it is only to prove
That nothing's so sacred as honor,
And nothing so loyal as love!

We cannot make bargains for blisses,
Nor catch them like fishes in nets,
And sometimes the thing our life misses
Helps more than the thing which it gets.
For good lieth not in pursuing,
Nor gaining of great nor of small,
But just in the doing, and doing
As we would be done by, is all.

Good luck!
Wally



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.



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Incense Cedar
Intoxicating
aroma, rich ever-
green foliage
from top to bot-
tom, fast grow-
ing, excellent
privacy hedge.

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!**

