

Volume 5, Issue 11, 2007, November 2007

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

How the garden
master got his
garden,
Part 1

Wildcrafting: Native plant fun for winter

And more!

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

In Every Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| About this Journal..... | 3 |
| Garden chores to do now..... | 6 |
| Native Plant Puzzle | |
| Name this plant!..... | 5 |
| Native plant resources on the web.. | 29 |
| On the Cover..... | 4 |
| Sparky's Corner..... | 7 |
| This & That, notes from Jennifer..... | 27 |



Features

Thanksgiving thoughts

Things to consider.....9

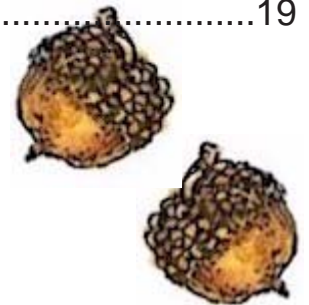
Wildcrafting

Winter fun for gardeners.....11

How the garden master got his garden

Part 1.....19

Thanksgiving card
from the National
Wildlife Federation



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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.).



Wine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)
Photo by Rory Nichols
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

On the Cover



Acer circinatum (Vine Maple)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Only the Best

The Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) is usually the first of our Northwest Native plants to show autumn color. Never are two leaves the same. Most trees have a range of colors for fall, but the Vine Maple knows no bounds. The single leaf in our photo showing autumnal shades has orange, gold, salmon and pumpkin. Incredible, especially when you remember this leaf is only about 3 inches across!

The other leaves on this plant will soon don their own personal colors for this year. Some may choose scarlet and gold and rust, some may be brilliant red with pink and orange, some may even pick yellow and gold and bronze.

Vine Maple is a small tree but such a showoff! And such a delight!

If you've only got space for one bit of fall glory, pick this one. It's the best.



Rare plant puzzle



Photo by Jennifer Rehm

Name this plant!

This month our puzzle is unusual--we don't know what the plant is! So we're looking for a botanical star to tell us the true name of this shrub. It may not be a native. We saw it growing along South River Road outside of Salem in September.

Can you identify this plant? Please email our webmaster at chillipepper6@comcast.net with your answer!

Good luck!
Wally

Answer to last Journal's puzzle:

Flowers on a maple tree!

Congratulations to all who found the answer!



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

This is Wally's todo list from October, 2002. It's my very favorite of his gardening tip lists. Hope you don't mind seeing it again!

1 – Check all your perennials while there are still some leaves. Many native perennials can be divided and Fall is a good time. If you can find separate stems with roots, you can divide off a new plant. Certainly plants such as Oxalis, False Lily-of-the-Valley, False Solomon Seal, Wild Strawberries. Red Columbine, etc, can be easily divided.



2 – Mulch new plants now for root protection. Don't be caught by an early, hard freeze.

3 – If some native deciduous shrubs grew too fast and are a bit leggy, you can prune back when the leaves are off. Shrubs should be pruned to force bushiness. If you are going to take winter cuttings from the trim, wait until December. (Be very cautious in pruning young native trees – only to correct some improper shape – never cut the leader!)

4 – Get your native bulbs and rhizomes in now. Sometimes it is tricky to hold bulbs in refrigeration. This may break winter dormancy too early and the bulbs and rhizomes will “think” the winter is over and start sprouting!

5 – For native plant gardens that are dense and newly planted, be safe from some diseases by raking leaves, pruning off dead branches and burning this trash. Diseases can winter over in damaged plant material. Better use sawdust (hardwood), bark dust, etc. as mulch.

6 – Plant trees this fall and winter. You do not have to wait until Spring. Fall plants are great – plantings of bareroot native plants in Jan, Feb and March are OK as long as you can work the soil. Native Plant Gardening is a 12 month “hobby” (obsession??)



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor

I bet you know what time of year it is. Autumn! Fall! The autumnal equinox! Rock-tober!

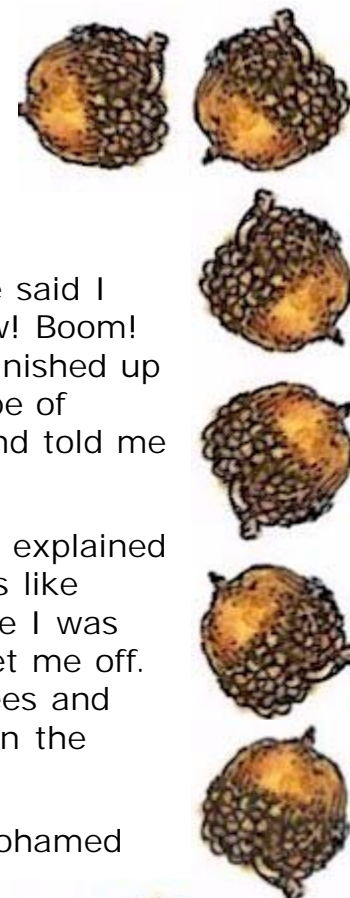
I am in big trouble. My mother sat me down last week and told me I need to settle down. She said I am too rambunctious. So I showed her my Rambo moves on an imaginary bad guy. Whish! Pow! Boom!

Boom! Boom! Tap to the chin! And I finished up with a quick jump rope (imaginary rope of course). Mama just shook her head and told me to go play with my buds.

Later on after she had a nice nap she explained that rambunctious did not mean I was like Rambo. She had been trying to tell me I was making her nuts. NUTS! That really set me off. I went straight up and down three trees and when I got back she was still sitting in the nest just shaking her head again.

I asked her if she has that disease Mohamed Ali has, you know how he shakes his head all the time? He's still the greatest fighter of all time but his butterfly is sunning on a rock and his bee stinger is all stung out. Then mama really flipped. She started spitting and sputtering and finally she just

stood up and pointed towards Grandma's nest. I knew what that meant: Oboy, another 'talk' from Grandma. She talks, I listen. Oboy.



⇒ More ⇒

Sparky's Corner, continued



So I went to Grandma's nest and she talked and I listened. She said kids need to have nest behaves and outside behaves. And grownup behaves and bud behaves. And daytime behaves and nighttime behaves. I didn't know what she was getting at but I was pretty sure it wasn't going to be fun. So she talked some more and I listened some more.

When we finally got done she brought out some nice mushrooms and said I had to go hug mama and then I could go play. You can always tell when Grandma is done with a 'talk' because she gives you a treat and a hug and then you get to go play.

Well, here's the deal:

--Nest behaves are you have to clean off your feet and no jumping in the nest. Dirty feet and jumping are for outside behaves.

--Grownup behaves are 'yes maam' and 'no maam' and 'please' and 'thank you.' Bud behaves are 'yo, dude' and 'whaddup.'

--Daytime behaves are run all over the place and fly in the trees and chase each other. Nighttime behaves are not yelling when people are trying to sleep and no racing through trees next to the nest.

It's not so bad. In fact, I kind of get it because when the little kids are acting crazy when my buds and I are discussing the cool stuff we talk about we don't like them to do that. So it's all good. Specially the mushrooms.

That's it for now--gotta go. I gathered up a whole bunch of acorns but then I was too busy playing to properly put them away and now I can't find them.



Painting by Glen Bates

Sparky

P.S. The great Mohamed Ali has Parkinson's disease. There is no cure. He once said: ***"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Others stay awhile, make footprints on our hearts and we are never, ever the same."***



Thanksgiving



It is time again to pause and remember the blessings in our lives, the rainbows. Each struggle we face makes us stronger. The rainbow only appears when there is both sun and rain.

This poem by J.R.R. Tolkein can apply to us all. We may not wear crowns (or even hats) but we are each of us kings and queens, princes and princesses, in our own lives.

All That is Gold

All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king.

J.R.R. Tolkein

*A bouquet of earth's goodness,
arranged by Julie Nichols*



Wildcrafting

A gardener's winter fun



"Cabin at Lake" on a shelf fungus. The artist is Jutta Beyer and her website is www.cabincreations.com

When it's too wet to plant and the sun is too far away to warm us up, we look for other ways to enjoy native plants. May we suggest a bit of autumnal harvesting to gather materials for crafts? Whether you make these things for yourself or to give to others (or even to sell at craft fairs that will soon be springing up everywhere), you'll find enjoyment in working with nature's finery. In this article we'll cover:

What to gather

Shelf fungus drawings

Picture frames

Bark candles

Fancy vases

Native American leaf prints

Earth bounty candles

Cherrystone bed warmers

Kindling bundles

Fire cones

Nature mobile

Stick vase



USE CAUTION WHEN GATHERING WILD THINGS

Always wear gloves when handling plants.

Do not allow your gloved hands to come into contact with any area of your body.

Do not eat berries, nuts, or any other part of a plant. (Berries are food for birds, but many people get very ill if they touch or ingest them.)

Wash your hands and forearms with warm, soapy water when you are finished gathering.



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Wildcrafting, continued

What to gather

Take a walk just about anywhere native plants grow and look at the world as though you've never seen it before to find inspiration. See the beauty of form, color and texture in everything around you. Leaves, of course, are the epitome of fall. But look for other things too. Acorns, hazelnuts and walnuts abound here in the Willamette Valley. Eastern Oregon has almonds! Cones of cedar, fir, pine or sequoia come in all sizes and shapes. Seed pods are as unique as the plants they appear on. Trees have interesting bark--paper birch and ninebark, ash and plum, all are different. Fungi and mosses grow everywhere. Even odd pieces of wood or things like screws and nuts and bolts are laying about. We humans are such messy creatures! And don't overlook feathers both large and small.

Shelf fungus drawings

When you find shelf fungus with the white underneath side, you can draw on it with a sharp object such as an exacto knife or even a nail. Be careful when harvesting because any scrape or scratch will be permanent. Set it aside where it won't be bothered after you do your drawing until it is completely dry. It will be much lighter in weight then. You should put a sealer on it after drying to protect it from dust and dirt.

Whether or not you draw on the fungi, be sure to let them dry thoroughly before using in decorations. They are fragile when damp and very durable when dried.



Two natural fungi specimens and "Chickadee," another shelf fungus drawing from Jutta Beyer.



Wildcrafting, continued



Picture frames

Old picture frames should be viewed as the canvas upon which you can glue all kinds of stuff. Cover the whole thing with moss and decorate a corner with a few pine cones. Use sticks cut into lengths in the same way the old 'hobo art' was done with burnt matches. Use just one kind of material or a combination. Use your imagination!

Bark candles

Pick up candles at the dime store (oh, wait a minute--that's the dollar store nowadays!) and wrap them in bark. Glue it down with a little hot paraffin or candle drippings. Tie with a piece of raffia for added punch. Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) is the most common material for this but other trees are just as lovely. Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is peeling right about now as is Pacific Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*). Pieces of pine or cedar bark are also interesting. If you use something with a lot of little pieces instead of one big piece, cover the whole thing with some watered down white glue which will dry clear.

Fancy vases

Waltz into the nearest yard sale and you will probably find a box of glass or plastic bud vases. Seems like everybody has some and nobody wants them. But they are just the ticket for covering with natural materials. As with the picture frames, swipe on some glue and start pasting. Take a pinecone apart and use the little pieces like roofing tiles, overlapping just the ends. Seeds are easy to use--lay down some newspaper and pour the seeds over the sticky glue, turning the vase around to catch. Pat them all down when the vase is covered. Use long dried Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) needles in curvy designs like scrollwork. Seal the finished product so nothing falls off. Laquer or shellac or diluted white glue will be fine for this.



"Tramp art" house made of matchsticks.

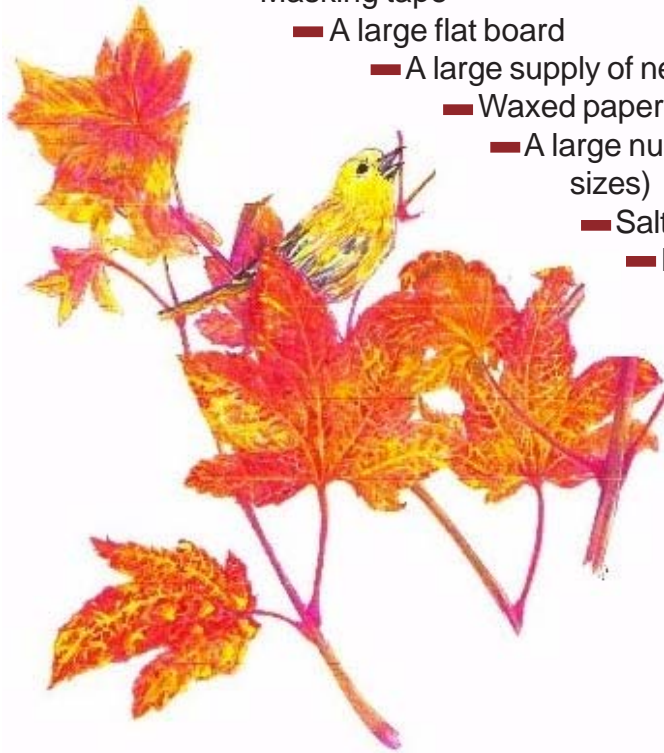
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Wildcrafting, continued

Native American leaf prints

When my grandchildren and I did this we called it 'leaf smacking.' Well, they were rambunctious boys and I wanted it to sound very exiting so this was a good name. But it's actually an ancient craft that has been done by Cherokee tribes since the olden days. It is easy and fun. Get together:

- Garden gloves
- Plain white 100% cotton pieces of fabric (t-shirts are good!)
- Flat headed hammer or a large smooth round river rock
- Masking tape
- A large flat board
- A large supply of newspapers
- Waxed paper
- A large number of leaves (various shapes and sizes)
- Salt
- Baking powder
- Water
- A large container to soak fabric in salt and water solution
- A large container with clear water



COLOR MEANINGS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

Most Native Americans name four points of the earth, the four directions of the compass—north, south, east, and west—and assign a color to each one. Among the Cherokee, north is blue, south is white, east is red, and west is black. You might find it interesting to research the symbolism of various colors to local American Indian tribes. Examples of what colors mean to the Houma or Choctaw:

Black--night, underworld, male, cold, disease, death

Blue--sky, water, female, clouds, lightning, moon, thunder, sadness

Green--plant life, earth, summer, rain

Red--wounds, sunset, thunder, blood, earth, war, day, autumn

White--winter, death, snow

Yellow--sunshine, day, dawn

Source: Dunn, H. (1973)

[⇒More⇒](#)

Wildcrafting, continued



1. Layer several thicknesses of newspaper on a flat surface.
2. Spread the fabric on the newspaper.
3. If you're doing a shirt or other item with two sides, put a piece of light cardboard between the layers so the other side won't be stained.
4. Put the leaves on the fabric however you want the design to look.
5. Cover the leaves with waxed paper and tape it down with masking tape.
6. With your hammer or flat rock, pound the leaves until the color dyes the cloth.
7. Pound the whole surface of the leaf evenly.
8. Check the print to make sure you got the whole image transferred.
9. You can add touches of the leaf color by crumbling up another leaf, dipping it in water, and use it to "paint" the fabric.
10. To set the natural dye, soak the fabric for about ten to fifteen minutes in a solution made of 1/2 cup of salt, 1/2 cup of baking soda in 2 gallons of water.
11. Rinse the fabric in clear water.
12. Air dry away from direct sunlight to prevent fading.



Douglas Hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*) painting by Heidi D. Hansen in the background, Paper Birch photo by JoAnn Onstott in the foreground.



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Wildcrafting, continued

Earth bounty candles

For each candle you'll need an empty clear plastic bottle, enough paraffin to fill it, heavy string for a wick, a stick or pencil from which to suspend the string, and natural findings you think are beautiful—leaves, bits of bark, cones, seed pods, dried flowers, shells, sea glass, whatever.



Cut a length of string to go from the bottom to the top of the bottle with a few inches left over. Prepare the wick by dipping the string in melted wax, then wind one end a couple of times around the stick or pencil. Do the dipping 2-3 times allowing the wax to dry between each dipping. Tie the loose end around a stick or something that will fit flat in the bottom of your bottle to hold it straight. Now you're ready to assemble the candle.



Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), photo by JoAnn Onstott

Put the wick stick in the bottom of your bottle and arrange some of your decorations around the side. Pour in a little wax to hold them in place, let dry slightly. Then add more decorations and more wax to hold each piece, pausing between layers long enough to let the wax dry some more. Continue until the bottle is full up to the hip. Let dry until completely set.

When ready to unmold, carefully cut off the top of the bottle so the candle can get out. If your tap water is hot enough you can use that to loosen the wax, otherwise heat up a pot of water. Dip the candle into the hot water or hold upside down under the tap, squeezing the bottle slightly until the wax is loose. Slide the candle out of the mold and let set another hour or two to harden back up completely. Wrap in tissue or clear plastic wrap to show off your beautiful earth's bounty candle.



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Wildcrafting, continued

Cherrystone bed warmers



It takes a lot of love (and patience) to make one of these but the filling is usually free and the results are amazing. First you need a lot of cherry pits. If they still have bits of fruit attached to them, you can simmer them in a pot of water for 10 to 20 minutes—not enough to cook the pits, just enough to make the fruit soft. Let the water cool and then massage until the pits are clean. Rinse, drain and let dry. You can put them on a tray and dry in a warm oven. It takes about 1 pound of pits to make one bed warmer.

Sew up a length of muslin into an oval, round or rectangle (your choice), put the pits inside and stitch closed. Make a colorful cover to fit. A zipper is a nice thing to finish with so the cover can be removed and washed. Fabrics should be cozy for bare feet. Velvet is good, any kind of plush, velour, soft wool or even cotton works well.

To use, heat up in the microwave for a few seconds and tuck into the foot of the bed. (Take off the zippered cover first!) Your tootsies will be toasty warm in no time.

Kindling bundles

Simply gather sticks, cut to a similar length and tie with raffia or strips of unbleached muslin. The bundles can be placed right in the fireplace or wood stove just as they are. Free and easy and a gift even the smallest child can help make.



Left: Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) photo by JoAnn Onstott.

The fall garland at right is made of silk leaves but it could be done with waxed leaves and real rose hips. Why use artificial leaves when nature makes them so beautifully?

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Wildcrafting, continued

Fire cones

For people who have a fireplace, fire cones are fun and romantic. When you toss them into the fire they burn in awesome colors. Gather cones of evergreens and let dry thoroughly. Dip in melted wax and then sprinkle with one of the following (all can be found at chemical supply houses) while the wax is still damp.

Cupric sulphate—burns green
Calcium chloride—burns orange
Potassium chloride—burns violet
Sodium chloride—burns yellow
Lithium sulphate—burns red

Pack in see-through containers of plastic or glass. An old vase is nice but put a lid on it.

Simple design, native plant materials,
a natural masterpiece. Note the
Red-Osier Dogwood stems
in the background.
Inspired yet?



Nature mobile

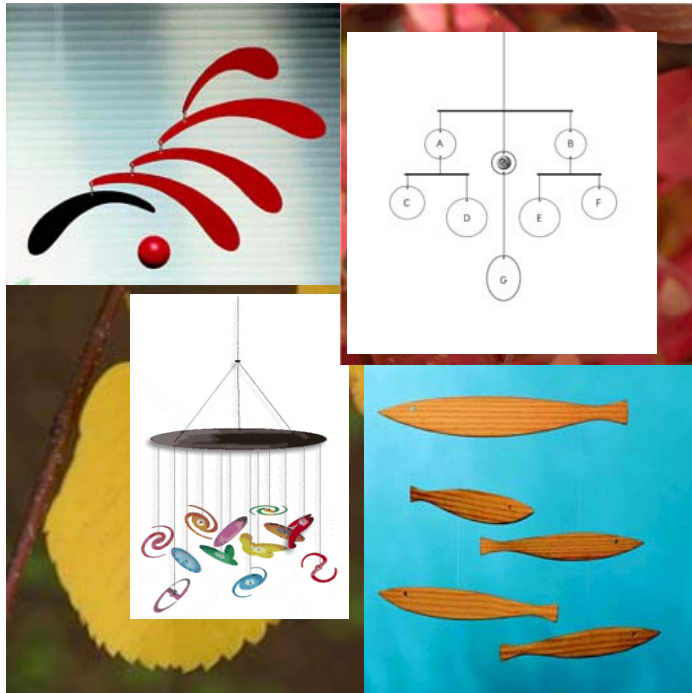
Here's a fun way to display your natural findings and your imagination. Some mobiles are simple, some are intricate and take a lot of time. All are easy, no special skills required. Tips:

- It's all about balance and movement--the weight and placement of items.
- Start at the bottom.
- Tie things together with lengths of string or wire.
- Each item should move independently of the other objects.
- When you get things in the right place, put a spot of glue or candle wax on the strings so the'll stay put.



Some mobile design examples. Substitute your own (much more beautiful) natural materials for the items shown here!

⇒ More ⇒



Wildcrafting, continued

Stick vase

This idea came from FamilyFun.com. It's good for any age and any level of competence. The sticks should be as straight as possible so they'll line up evenly. They can be any thickness and any color. If they have knots on them, turn that to the outside and put the flat part up against the glass. You'll need:

- Sticks
- Rubber bands
- Old fruit jar or other straight sided container (plastic peanut butter jars work fine)
- Clippers
- Decorative twine or ribbon for finishing



Stick vase in progress and completed with flowers.
Photos from
FamilyFun.com



Break or snip your sticks to about an inch longer than the jar. Put two rubber bands around the jar, one inch from the top and bottom. Now begin tucking the sticks under both rubber bands, placing them as close as possible to each other. Once you've surrounded the jar with sticks, slide the rubber bands together at the jar's middle, then cover them with a decorative bow. Glue on a few pinecones, then fill the vase with flowers. For crafters uninterested in flower arrangements, this vessel also makes a fine pencil holder.

These frames are from a company who actually makes them for sale. They are wonderful! And you can make them yourself!



How the Garden Master Got His Garden

Part 1: Reminiscences from Wally

Wally is such a complex person, his life so full of memories and his deep love of plants native to the northwest, it is difficult to capture the essential qualities that make him unique. I thought to tell his story from the beginning but found it best to share some of the writings he has given me for the website and the journal during our years of working together. This, then, is the start.

-- Jennifer

My Grandfather as a small boy came with his family in the 1800's by wagon from Kansas to Ironsides, Oregon, in the eastern part of State. They were cattle ranchers but each summer the larger family would go in wagons, men, women and children, to special areas for a week of huckleberry picking. (Mountain Hucks, I believe!) I have some early photos. They looked like they were all having a wonderful outing – "Huckleberry Picking" for recreation? – Why Not?

Here is my favorite recipe of all time, from my childhood as a country kid in rural Whatcom County, State of Washington, near the Canadian border, in the middle of the "Great Depression." "Little Wild Blackberries" are *Rubus ursinus*, a low rambler with small berries. They appear in logged over land, climbing over stumps and brush piles, mostly in the sun. It usually takes all afternoon to fill a 1 gallon empty lard pail to the brim (and lots of scratched hands and arms!)

NOTE: For this article, we've used illustrations dear to Wally's heart-- artwork created for him by his botanical artist daughter, Heidi D. Hansen.



Mountain Huckleberry painting
by Heidi D. Hansen

[⇒More⇒](#)

Garden Master, continued



Mountain Huckleberry
(*Vaccinium membranaceum*)

Drawing Heidi did for our online catalog

Wally's Favorite Huckleberry Pie

Pick at least 3 pints of berries – enough for one deep pie. You figure out the two crust recipe. Using pure lard and flour. Crusts should be thin.

3 pints fresh Little Wild Blackberries
1 cup sugar
¼ cup flour
1 tablespoon lemon juice
dash of cinnamon
3 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon granulated sugar

Wash berries (watch for tiny spiders) and sprinkle with lemon juice. Combine sugar, flour, cinnamon and add to berries - toss lightly. Form the lower crust in a deep pie plate, add berry mix, add small slabs of butter on top of mix, place top crust (thin) and cut steam holes. Before baking, sprinkle sugar over the top crust. Bake at 400 degrees for 50 minutes or until golden brown. Serve while warm. Top with generous scoops of thick yellow cream. If possible, get fresh milk, not homogenized, with full butterfat content the day before and let stand in a bowl in a cool place, overnight – then skim off. Everyone should experience this treat, at least once in his or her life.

In the 1930's I spent summer time with my Grandfather Duncan, who had a cabin deep in the Olympic forests near Quileute, WA. It was on the banks of a small stream called the Dickey River. My Grandfather made the cabin himself out of Western Red Cedar. The pleasant, strong aroma of red cedar seemed to bond me to something primitive, ancient - a safe shelter, a refuge in that simple cabin surrounded by giant trees, deep in the forest. Be grateful for this wondrous tree! Use it in your gardens if you have room. It will live for hundreds of years. Those who follow you will reap what you have sown.

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Garden Master, continued

I have an ancient, huge Dictionary belonging to my Grandfather, dated about 1900. I found a very fragile but complete dried Western Trillium, with rose tints, between the pages. Some shy country girl carefully placed it there about a hundred years ago – something of beauty – something of purity –which still touches the heart one hundred years later.

My trilliums are up again – Easter is coming!! They have not bloomed yet but are a beautiful sight already! They will reach their peak of beauty around Easter.

Trilliums are my lifelong favorite. As a depression kid in Washington State, near the Canadian border way out in the country, we called Trilliums “Easter Lilies.” I loved those trilliums, along the damp, shady creek bottoms. I picked them for my Mother, who always was so thankful!



I rediscovered the magic of trilliums 11 years ago, here in Oregon. One day I was exploring a nearby deep gulch with a small stream. Growth was very dense and in late March, among the tall firs and the lower vine maples, my passage was nearly impossible. I struggled under and over and through the intricate vine maples. The dense overhead leaves created a twilight zone.

Suddenly I caught a glimpse of a flash of white ahead. Curious, I crawled toward this “white” object and came upon a huge Western Trillium – beautiful, perfect glossy green slightly mottled leaves and stunning white petals. Such a striking, beautiful symbol of Spring and Beauty and Renewal – a composite feeling of all that is good and worthwhile and joyful and eternal.

Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum* ssp. *ovatum*)
Fresh bloom (above, right) and fading bloom (left)
Paintings by Heidi D. Hansen

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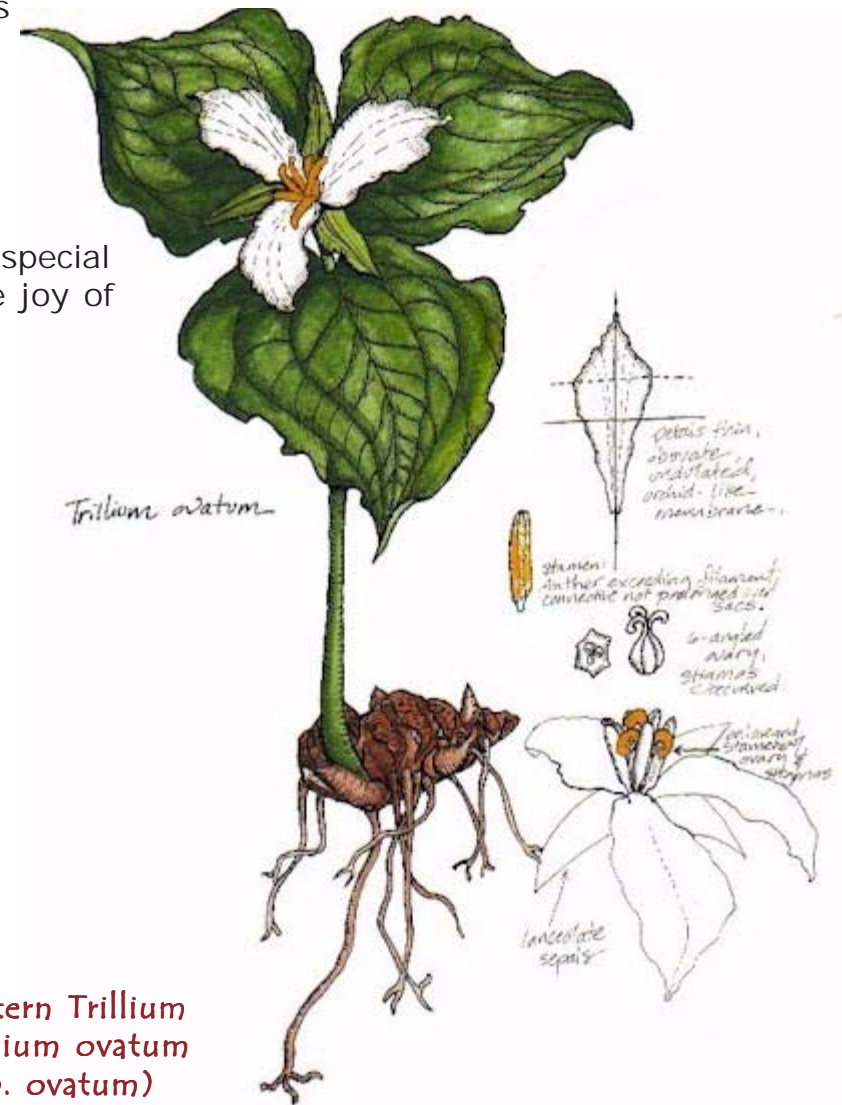
Garden Master, continued

Most of us consider the large, beautiful, traditional lilies (the ones that smell so sweet) as the traditional Easter Lily. I guess I am different. I associate those lilies with sadness and mourning – funerals.

To me, the Trillium is the true Easter Lily for those of us in the Northwest or even in the Northern Hemisphere (no trilliums in the Southern Hemisphere). These have been called the Trinity Lily, of special meaning to those of the Christian Faith. But all Faiths share in the joy of Spring and renewal – the Trillium is a universal symbol.

Great Western Trillium Trinity Lily, Easter Lily (*Trillium ovatum*) by Wally Hansen

*First Flower to break free of Winter's Grasp!
You awake from winter slumber,
And hint at warmer days to come.
Three leaves, three petals, three sepals!
To those of Christian Faith, The Trinity Lily.
To all Faiths, a sign of Spring renewal -
Of Continuity, Assurance, Spirituality
For brief days, your pure white petals,
Glossy green leaves and delightful form,
Brighten and comfort and awaken -
A world struggling out of winter's grasp -
Your prim, proper, starched white habits
Of some ancient forest order,
Soon give way to faded pink and red,
And then to vanish, as plump seed pods form,
To ensure new generations yet to come
Of eternal beauty and eternal values.*



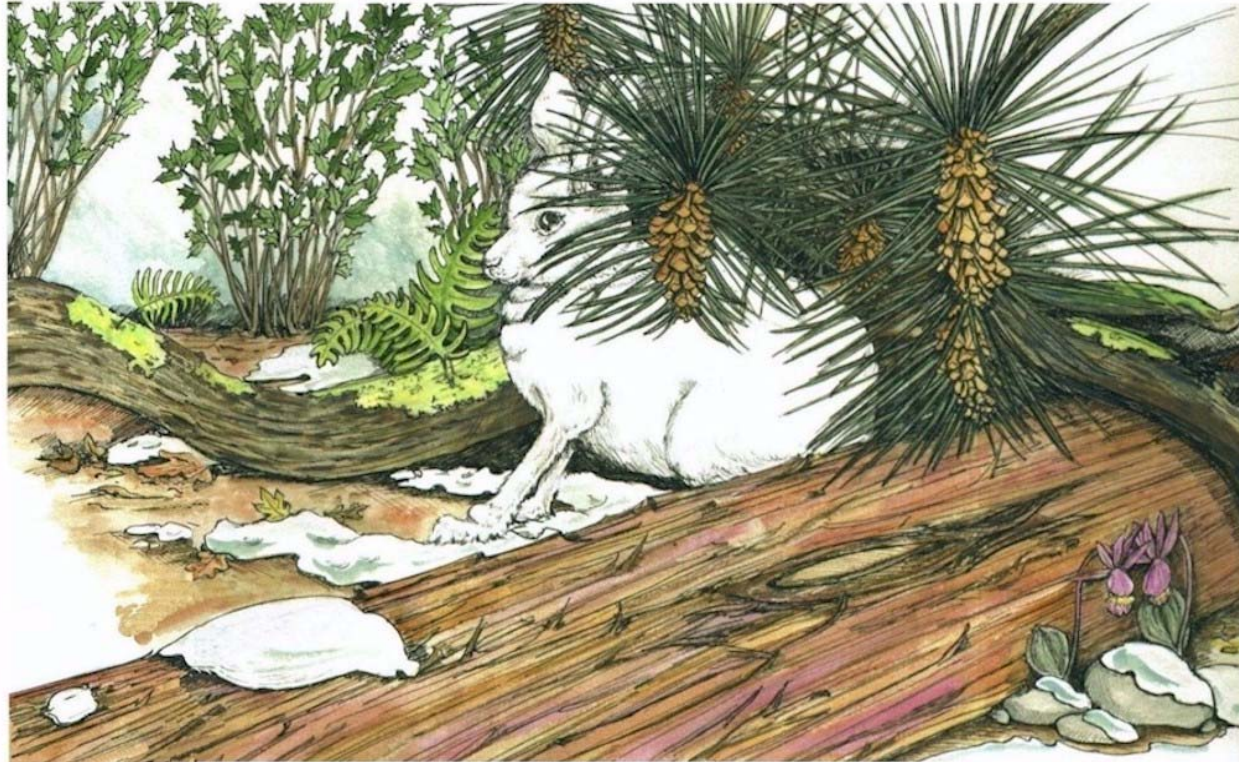
Western Trillium
(*Trillium ovatum*
ssp. *ovatum*)
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

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Garden Master, continued

Winter in the Northwest!

White Pine ~ Tall Oregon Grape ~ Western Red Cedar ~ Fairy Slipper ~ Garry Oak ~ Licorice Fern



Christmas in the NorthWest Woods
The Snowshoe Hare of the Western Cascades

Each Native Plant Garden has its very own “personality.” Ponds of water from Winter Rains create a unique environment of texture and smells, dampness, decay and life.

As a farm boy in rural Whatcom County in Washington State, in the early “thirties” - just below the Canadian border - I have delightful memories of running “after school” trap lines in the swamps along the Nooksack River.

How fascinating the mysterious swamps. How fascinating now to walk in my own damp, cool, beautiful Native Plant Winter Gardens! All seasons are delightful in a garden!

Another painting Heidi
did for Wally

⇒ More ⇒

Garden Master, continued

On Taming the Fairy Slipper by Wally Hansen

From around the world in Northern Climes,
Alaska, Labrador, Norway – East and West
The little Orchid of the cool, damp Forests
- Daughter of Aurora Borealis – Calypso bulbosa!
When cool days and long nights return in the Fall
You send one leaf up from your summer sleep
And bravely hold your place till Spring
Then , miracles and wonders –
The beautiful exotic Fairy Slipper displays again
Her Royal Purple raiment, proof positive
Of Royal Heritage and superior Social Order.
Unseen tiny Woodland Fairies, dance attendance -
The Giant Firs and Spruce bow to her sovereignty
For one month this beauty reigns
Then sinks below the moss
As warms days and short nights loom.
And I, in my humble nursery, vow to subdue this
Wild Beauty and make her grow against her will
In neat nursery rows, pampered
Prim and proper still, but free no more
And if I do, how will I feel? - Perhaps
To free her once again before I sink below the moss?



One of Oregon's native orchids
Fairy Slipper
(*Calypso bulbosa*)
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Garden Master, continued



Wally wrote this in the latter part of September 2001, about 1 1/2 weeks after the tragedy that touched us all.

Our world has changed since my last Newsletter. The Dogs of War are loose and running again. My wife and I had a close call in our family. Our Granddaughter, Thekla Hansen-Young was at her student job at a Law Office across the street from the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. She barely escaped by running, running, running. Phones into NY were out and we did not know what happened to her for two days – how grateful we are that she survived! How sad that so many lost their lives. Justice must be served –this evil must end!

I know war first hand from service in combat zones in France and Germany in 1943-44 and then transferred to the Philippines when the War ended. I was back in Korea in the Seoul area in 1950 for the Korean War, all as a young Army Engineer Officer. Those days were full of Energy and Purpose and Adrenaline. This war seems to bring depression and fear — Why is this?

The Corps of Engineers in the US Army have special buttons for dress uniforms of Officers. So, the Iris has a special meaning for me – the beauty of the flower is stunning.

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

[⇒More⇒](#)

Garden Master, continued

These are Wally's own words about little pieces of his life. In the next issue of our journal, we'll tell more of Wally's story, this time in a written narrative as he related it to me-- sort of a biography.

Of course, it would take years and years to tell the whole tale. We'll touch on a few chapters. Perhaps one day he'll write it all down. It will make a wonderful book!

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

If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would change.

--Buddha



This & That

Notes from Jennifer

The most mundane of days can suddenly become the most memorable. The other morning I was driving down the valley to my 'day job' and out of the corner of my eye I noticed something moving parallel to me through the sky. I first thought it was only a floater* so I blinked but it was still there. It was a bird and it was big! What in the world? Eagle? No, not that big but far bigger than a hawk.

I was in an area of pastures just approaching some shrubs and trees along the fencerow. Just as I got to the trees I glanced out the window again at this low flying bird and at that very second it spread its wings and swooped onto the branches of one of the trees. It was a heron! The roads there are narrow and this beautiful winged wonder was so close--only about 15-20 feet from me.

The whole episode probably lasted less than a minute but it is etched in my mind, an indelible memory so incredible I will cherish it to the end of my days. Why that heron chose to accompany me for this short distance, flying along side by side, he aloft and me in my vehicle, I don't know. But what a gift!

I believe the creatures of the earth come into our lives for a purpose. It may be curiosity, it may be to view a perceived threat or even as an act of aggression. I don't think so. I think the animals show themselves to us in unusual ways to communicate with us. It's up to us to figure out what they are trying to say. This notion is likely inherited from my Cherokee ancestors. Animal medicine is not new, it is ancient. The old ways teach the meaning of each animal and help



My best photo in October. It's a Red-Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*) taken in Corvallis. Really spectacular native shrub--red stems, some of the leaves were red and some still green. there were white blooms and these crisp white berries. Wow!

*Floaters are small specks or clouds moving in your field of vision. They are actually tiny clumps of gel or cells inside the vitreous inside your eye. It's an age thing. Most everybody gets them. It's no big deal.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

This & That, continued

interpret their behaviors. The traditional meaning of heron showing himself to you is reflection, truth and facing challenges. So my heron's message is understandable in this context. My question is, why was I honored for this very personal message? That's the part I don't know. I can only say 'thank you' and humbly accept the treasure bestowed upon me.

A blade of grass

Said a blade of grass to an autumn leaf, "You make such a noise falling! You scatter all my winter dreams."

Said the leaf indignant, "Low-born and low-dwelling! Songless, peevish thing! You live not in the upper air and you cannot tell the sound of singing."

Then the autumn leaf lay down upon the earth and slept. And when spring came she waked again — and she was a blade of grass.

And when it was autumn and her winter sleep was upon her, and above her through all the air the leaves were falling, she muttered to herself, "O these autumn leaves! They make such a noise! They scatter all my winter dreams."

--Khalil Gibran



Note to Sparky:
We found your acorns.



This photo is from Claudine Laabs and it is shown on the website sofia.usgs.gov for U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Center for Coastal Geology. She titled it: "One feather - One heron feather floats in the sawgrass - this might be all that is left if the Everglades is not restored."



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



Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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.



⇒ More ⇒

Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued



Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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.

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.



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."

ModernBackyard

<http://www.modernbackyard.com>

Landscape architecture provides exceptional, affordable landscape design online.

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



Mountain Huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323>

Oregon's Clean River Agency website full of wonderful information about caring for our earth. Download their Native Plant Poster, plant list and brochure on removing invasive plants at

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.

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.



NOTICE: NURSERY IS CLOSED



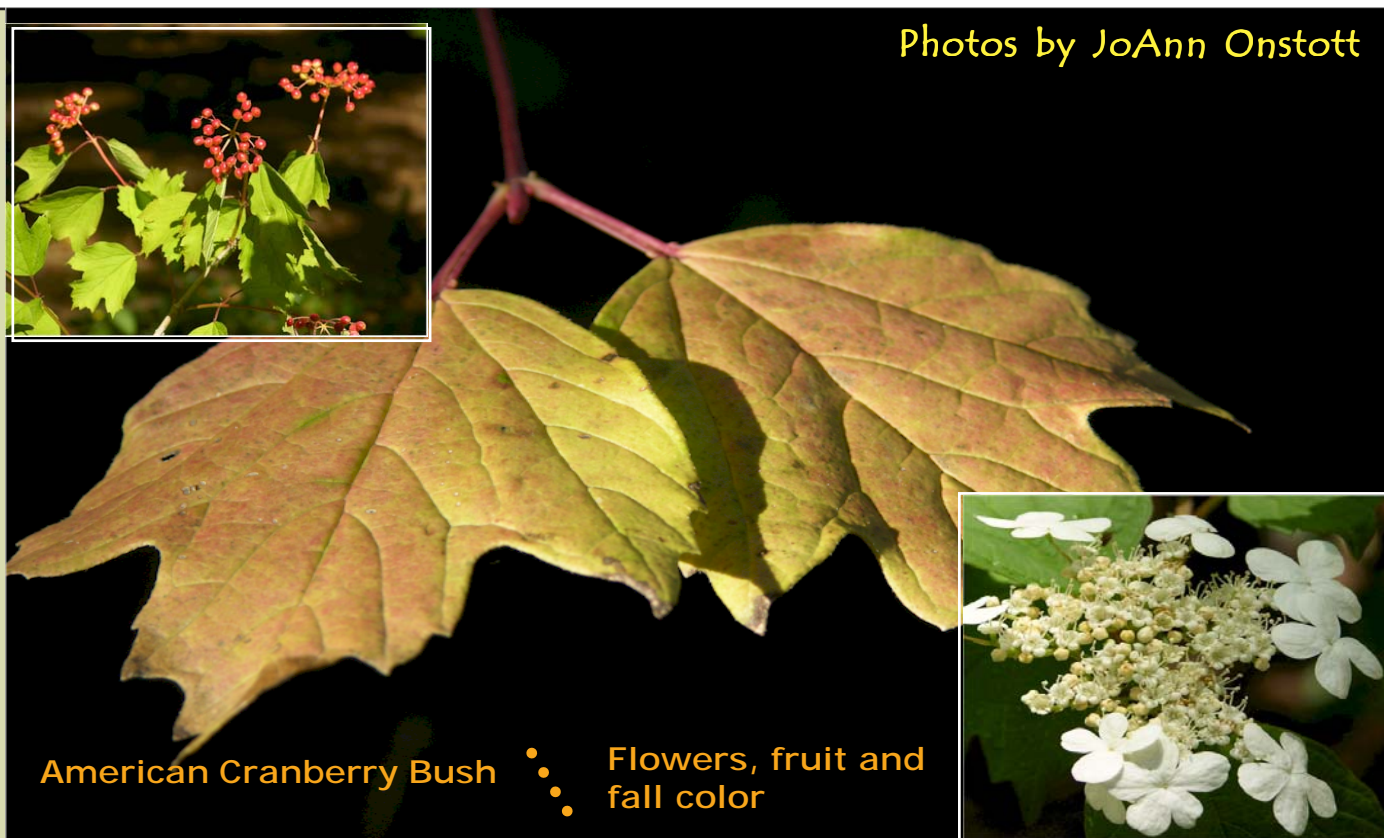
In November 2010,
Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plants
Native Plant Nursery and Gardens
closed permanently.

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!



Photos by JoAnn Onstott

American Cranberry Bush • Flowers, fruit and
fall color

