

Volume 5, Issue 12, 2007, December 2007


# Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

At last: a book by  
Wally, complete  
in this issue!

Native Moon Gardens

Information at your fingertips:  
Native Plant Resources on the Web



Have a joyful  
holiday season!

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

# Northwest Native Plant Journal

## A Monthly Web Magazine

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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.).



# On the Cover

## **Red-Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*)**

This shrub is deciduous but does not lose its appeal when the leaves have fallen. The intensely red stems show in magnificent contrast when winter frost or snow coats the ground.

Pure white blossom clusters are persistent and the bloom period lasts almost all summer.

By autumn, the leaves have begun turning scarlet to wine and the earlier posies are now covered in white berries instead of flowers. But still the blooms continue!

An extremely colorful native, Red-Osier Dogwood grows rapidly in sun or shade in USDA zones 5-10.

***See more of this Northwest Native shrub on page 36!***



Photo by Jennifer Rehm





# Plant puzzle



Photos by Jennifer  
Rehm

## Name this plant!

Another plant that is a mystery to us but we hope not a mystery to you. This shrub appears to have reached maturity at about 10 feet tall and about 13 feet wide.

In September the branches were laden with pendulous oval cream white fruits. By November they had turned periwinkle blue to dark purple.

The leaves and shape are reminiscent of the Serviceberry family, Amelanchier. Now those leaves have become quite colorful and are falling to the ground.

Send me an email with the correct botanical name of this plant. We'll announce the first person to identify the plant in our next journal.

Good luck!  
*Wally*

## Answer to last Journal's puzzle:

Japanese Knotweed  
(*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

Congratulations to Bonnie, who identified this highly invasive alien!



# To Do List

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos alba*)  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



## Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

- 1 –** If you have not planted spring-blooming bulbs, do so now. Fawn Lilies (*Erythronium*) and Camas will be your best bouquet next spring.
- 2 –** Mulch! Rake any wayward leaves up to the base of the trees from which they have fallen. By next year they will have composted and fed the tree, nature style.
- 3 –** Decorate empty pots and flower boxes with cuttings from evergreens. Choose combinations of leaves and conifer style needles, add sprigs of Red-Osier Dogwood or colorful willows. Cover the dirt with cones and seed pods. In just a few minutes you will have a long-lasting winter bouquet for the landscape.
- 4 –** While the memory of this year's garden is still fresh in your mind, make good notes in your gardening journal about what worked and what did not.
- 5 –** Odd as it may seem, now is a natural time to plant seeds of perennials you have gathered this year. Scratch little spaces where you want the new plants to grow, sprinkle a few seeds and cover lightly with dirt, then mulch. You just might have some delightful surprises when spring warms up the soil and those seeds sprout.
- 6 –** Get serious about bird and squirrel feeders. Hopefully you will have begun filling them a couple of months ago so the birds are already visiting regularly. If not, get busy! If you provide the food, they will come. Now that the weather is colder you can begin putting out suet and other meltables. Seed-covered bells and cones slathered with peanut butter mixed with suet will be appreciated. Dried corn and nuts for the squirrels will help keep the furry guys out of the bird feeders. If you've no way to keep water in your birdbaths dry, put some apple or orange pieces there. Monitor all feeders--rotten food only attracts rodents and can make the friendlies sick.



Rose Hips (Photo by JoAnn Onstott)





# Sparky's Corner

## A special message from our frisky contributor

It must be that time of year the two-leggers call holidays. They've been taking trees with cones



more than any other kind of plant lately. Victor has been showing them all the different kinds and then they put one in their zoom-zooms and take it away. Little two-leggers are helping the big ones pick out which tree to take. They never do that usually. So I think this is part of the holiday.

My buds and I were looking inside the Wally house again at the magic window the other day. There were little two-leggers scampering around with a white doggie and they were putting shiny stuff on a cone tree. Then they all stood around looking at it. They made a funny sound all together, their little mouths were shaped like perfect O's and it was very nice. One of the two-leggers has his toe in his mouth and drags his nest around. Another one has yellow fur in little bunches on her head. One of them puts his fingers on a little red thing of some sort and it makes plinking sounds. Very interesting. We don't now what the deal is but these same two-leggers were on the magic window about two moons ago wearing weird stuff and fiddling around with a squash. We kind of like them.



Serious wind today! Some our nests have had pieces blow away and the rain is coming from everywhere. Branches are flying in the air right off the trees. Old Mr. Snorters says this is how the earth gets clean but I think it's just making a mess. But soon as I get done writing down this stuff for Jennifer I've got to go help everybody put the nests back aright and then we're going to

[➔More➔](#)

# Sparky's Corner, continued

snuggle together in the big nests. We'll probably grab some snacks to take there with us. I think Grandma already stocked up on some--she's the keeper of the biggest nest. She'll tell us stories and make sure we do the rules right. And we'll have lots of hugs. We put the littlest guys in the middle and then my buds and I snug up around them so they stay warm. Those little ones could blow away if we don't take care of them!

Well, there are some goings-on among the two-leggers that hang around the nursery. Wally stays inside most of the time so we just get to see him once in a while. Victor and Ignacio are doing their usual stuff. Julie and Bridgette came out the other day! It was really good to see them. Wally's kids have been coming around and bringing their little ones. And we have a new lady two-legger who is here most of the time. Her name is Dana. She is very nice except she tells the other two-leggers what to do. They don't seem to mind. They say OK and just do whatever she says. I think she's doing the stuff that Wally used to do. JoAnn comes out every little while and takes pictures. She brings her friend and her doggie sometimes. I like her doggie. Her name is Sophie. She's a quick mover but she smiles all the time, just like JoAnn. Her friend is nice as well. He walks all over the place while JoAnn works with her camera.

Guess that's about enough writing for today. I'm going to grab some nuts and head for Grandma's nest. We'll have full bellies and warm, dry fur and happy thoughts in our little heads. Maybe we can figure out how to put our mouths in perfect little O's and make those sounds the little two-leggers do in the magic window. That would be fun. And then we'll have some good Grandma hugs and take a nice long nap.

See you next time.

Your friend,

**Sparky**

This is  
Sophie!  
Thanks,  
JoAnn





# Winter White

## NW native trees, shrubs and perennials suitable for a moon garden

What's a moon garden? A garden designed especially to be enjoyed between dusk to sunrise.

In this hustle, bustle world, it seems as though we only have time to truly enjoy our gardens on the weekends. Let's re-think this idea. Let's take the garden to a new level and plan to add some extra hours to that space we love so well.

Since it takes about 10 minutes for our eyes to adjust to the dark, start your moon garden plan with a sitting spot. (Or reclining if that is your preference!) Make the beginning destination to your moon garden a comfortable chair or chaise or other perch. You will want a path to this space that has no chug holes or stumblers and, if at all possible, one that has some sort of soft light. The light could be where the sun naturally pauses just before dipping below the horizon or it may be a couple of solar lamps. Even a special candle you keep to use in lieu of a flashlight.



Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)  
Long lasting perennial of the aster family, hardy and drought resistant and very attractive to butterflies. Bright white flowers bloom for a long time.  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott







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# Winter White, continued



Bunchberry (*Cornus unalaschkensis*)  
Deciduous member of the Dogwood family, this low growing perennial often blooms twice in one year. Red berries in fall.  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

For your moon garden plants, think:

-  White or light colored blooms. The moonlight makes these glow. Sometimes the leaves seem to vanish and the flowers appear to be floating.
-  Variegation on foliage. Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*) has beautifully patterned leaves that form a rosette close to the ground. The flower of this native orchid is lovely as well.
-  Fragrant leaves or flowers. Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) is one of the most fragrant native plants and is also quite beautiful.
-  Interesting shapes. Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*) is often used for bonsai because of its naturally intriguing shape.
-  Consider the sound of the plants. For instance, the Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) has a very pleasing sound when just the slightest breeze rustles the leaves.
-  Look for added attractions. Evening Primrose (*Oenothera elata* ssp. *hirsutissima*) opens its pale yellow flowers when the sun goes down.

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# Winter White, continued

You may be delighted to find that your moon garden also attracts moths. Before you say, "Ick!," think about it. Maryland State Wild Acres website says this of moths:

*"Of the 11,000 species of Lepidoptera in North America only 756 are butterflies with the rest being moths."*

*Moths have often gotten a bad reputation, only a small percentage of moths destroy plants or your wool clothes.*

*Most moths are small, brown creatures. However some have spots, bands of color and interesting shapes to rival butterflies.*

*The best way to tell butterflies and moths apart is to look at the antennae. Butterflies have thread like antennae with a tiny knob at the tip. Moths' antennae are plumed or feathery. Male moths use the feathery antennae to catch the scent of females."*



Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*) Very tall perennial for the back of the border, fragrance is a bit like vanilla.  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Winter White, continued



Hooker's Fairybells (*Prosartes hookeri*) is a lovely understory plant with white bell-shaped flowers. It is often found with False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina racemosa*) and Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), both good for moon gardens. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

So if you find the idea of moths to be unpalatable, consider moths to be night-time butterflies. Here's a little more from Wild Acres:

*"Some of the most beautiful species are the giant silk moths, Cecropia as well as the Luna. They range from deep browns, bright oranges to glowing greens. Because these moths lack moth parts as adults, they cannot feed, and they live for a few days long enough to mate. So to bring giant silks to your moth garden be sure to grow nearby plants used by their larvae. Sassafras, wild cherry, blueberries, dogwood, oaks, hickories, willows and the tulip tree especially for the lovely Promethea are the ones to plant and are beneficial for wildlife in general."*

Luna Moth  
(*Actias luna*)  
Photo by  
Bastiaan Drees,  
Extension  
Entymology,  
Texas A&M  
University



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# Winter White, continued

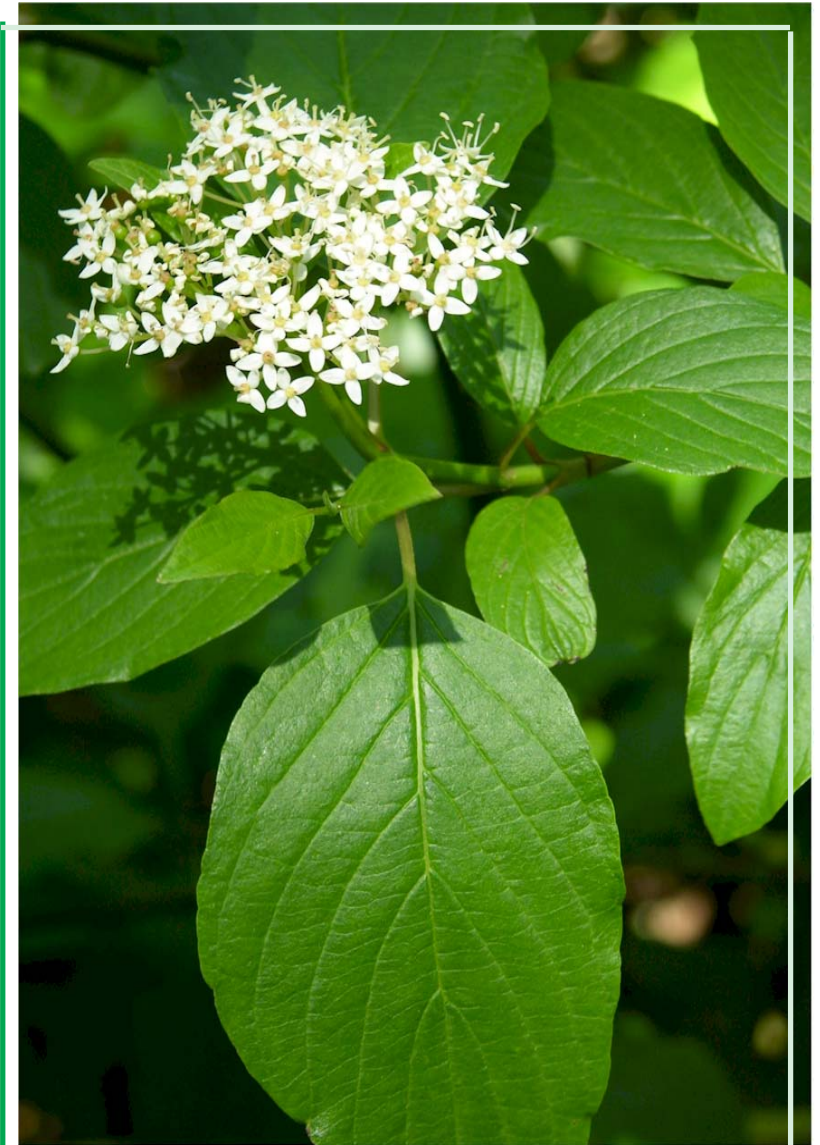
If you aren't inspired enough, here's another aspect of the moon garden from Florida's Native Plant Society that may bring a surprise:

*"The insects that are attracted to your moon garden will in turn attract bats that can eat their own weight in insects each evening. Bats are a wonderful means of insect control and a wonder to watch as well. All of the bats in our area are insectivores and much of their food supply has been diminished by pesticide use. Contrary to popular belief bats will not fly into your hair and in fact in flight they can maneuver around objects as fine as a human hair."*



Io Moth, another type of silk moth.

Don't be scared--bats are not really icky. Their droppings are full of nutrients which is one reason folks put up bat houses. But the main reason is probably the fact that bats are more attractive than mosquitoes. Worried about rabies? Bats and rabies have long had bad press. In truth, it's not that common. If you see a bat running around in the daytime or one that can't fly, beware. But bats that zip around at night--not so much of a rabies suspect.



Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Winter White, continued



Montgomery, Maryland's Green Man has this suggestion for your moon garden:

*"With smaller specialty gardens, it often helps to create a single focal point. Consider using an old-fashioned gazing ball to reflect both the moonlight and moonlit blossoms."*

*"There are also newfangled solarpowered gazing balls, walkway luminaries, and hose guides, among other accessories, which can add a soft glow to your garden."*

San Francisco Botanical Garden has a Moon Viewing Garden in Japanese style, and they have a special event called "White by Night" with instructors Ernest Ng and Helen McKenna.

*"What can you see in the garden at night in the dark? Quite a lot by moonlight! The garden is vibrant and full of highly visible plants."*



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Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) Deciduous shrub covered with delicate frothy cascades of tiny white blossoms fit for any bridal bouquet. Photo above by JoAnn Onstott, closeup photo at right by Jennifer Rehm



# Winter White, continued

In Brooklyn, New York's Bay Ridge area, the Narrows Botanical Gardens also has a Moon Garden though it is not populated by native plants:



*"The traditional Moon Garden studs its landscape with silver leaves and white blossoming plants, making a silvery carpet to reflect the subtle light of the moon. Evening falls, and the Moon Garden becomes an inviting spot of romantic idyll, framed by soft, fuzzy Lamb's Ear, white Hisbiscus Diana and Lilacs, and white roses. Enjoy the alluring beauty of the Moon Garden from May to October."*

If you plan carefully, you can enjoy your moon garden all year. You might not want to sit out there when it's snowing but ooh-la-la what a site that would be for a little stroll!



Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), heady fragrance and extravagant display of white blooms. Photo by JoAnn Onstott ➡More➡

# Winter White, continued



Cascade Azalea (*Rhododendron albiflorum*) presents perfect white flowers in late spring. With glossy dark green foliage, a most distinguished evergreen shrub. Photo by Prof. Wilbur Bluhm

P. Allen Smith, renowned gardener and tv personality, was asked whether he had a moon garden. Here is his answer:

*"I do have a moon or as I call it, evening garden. My evening garden came about in a rather haphazard way. After I moved into my house and began spending time in my garden I realized the need for plants that come into their own after the sun sets. I found myself spending a great deal of time relaxing or entertaining in the garden in the evening and at night and so began adding plants to enrich the experience."*

*To begin I just followed the same principle that applies to a shady area - use pale colors and whites to brighten. I've also found silver-gray and variegated foliaged plants to be nice in the evening garden. These light colors sparkle in the moonlight. Then I added flowers that only open after dark, or only release their fragrance at night. Certain plants do this to attract night pollinators such as moths and bats."*

This is the Ceanothus Silk Moth (*Hyalophora euryalus*), the young feed on NW native shrub Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*)



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# Winter White, continued

Barbara M. Martin writes for Suite101.com. She has a whole series of articles on white (or moon) gardening.

*"A shaded white garden or moon garden can be the most magical of all: sharp contrasts of white flowers and silvery foliage against deep shadows and dark corners. Oooh!"*

Other native plants to consider for your moon garden:

- Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)
- Birchleaf Spirea (*Spirea betulifolia* var. *lucida*)
- Cascade Lily (*Lilium washingtonianum*)
- Common or Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus communis* or *j. scopulorum*)
- Goat's Beard (*Aruncus dioicus*)
- Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)
- Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*)
- Red Stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus sanguineus*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*)
- Snowbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus*)
- Trillium (Western or Sessile)
- Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)
- Virgin's Bower (*Clematis ligusticifolia*)
- White Fir (*Abies concolor*)
- Wild strawberries (*Fragaria*)



Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) Sprays of white flowers followed by reddish-black edible fruits. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Winter White, continued



Squashberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*)  
Fine deciduous shrub grows quickly to 4 feet. Small flower clusters are followed by tart, juicy bright red berries which remain on the bush throughout the winter. Excellent for cranberry sauce, a touch of frost will bring up their sugar and vitamin 'C' content.  
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

## Resources:

Maryland Wild Acres Program, Dept of Natural Resources--<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/habichat9.pdf>

Florida Moon Garden by Sharon LaPlante--<http://hernando.fnpschapters.org/landscaping/moongarden.htm>

Moon Gardens for Luminous Landscapes by The Green Man (Joe Keyser)--<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dep/greenman/moon.pdf>

P. Allen Smith on Garden Design--[http://www.pallensmith.com/index.php?option=com\\_simplefaq&task=answer&catid=102&aid=2448](http://www.pallensmith.com/index.php?option=com_simplefaq&task=answer&catid=102&aid=2448)

Suite101, The White Garden in Shade by Barbara M. Martin-- [http://flowergardens.suite101.com/article.cfm/the\\_white\\_garden\\_in\\_shade](http://flowergardens.suite101.com/article.cfm/the_white_garden_in_shade)

Sun and Moon Gardens, (510) 316-3109, Organic gardening services

Narrows Botanical Gardens--<http://www.narrowsbg.org/moon.html>





Wallace W. Hansen



*Reflections on native Plants of the Northwest*  
© 2000

# Reflections on Native Plants of the Northwest

By Wallace W. Hansen

Foreword by Jennifer: Wally put this book together in 2000 but until now it has not been published. We present it here in our December 2007 NW Native Plant Journal as a special gift to you, our fellow gardeners.

All paintings in this book are original works from Wally's daughter, Heidi D. Hansen. She created them especially for her father.

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## Reflections, continued

Welcome, native plant gardener, to my woods.

Step inside, and feel the heartbeat of ancient earth, the strength of the trees and lushness of the ferns as they whisper history and truth. Carefully observe the subtle nuances of each plant, the shape and topography of each leaf, the character of a branch as it meanders toward the sun. Absorb the texture of the bark and compare the forms of berries hanging in space. Learn how ants propagate Trilliums, how the Conifers have come to rule the land, and that, from the tiniest of berries come the sweetest of pies.

Only on this level of scrutiny can we discover the master plan that directs nature and maps our future. When you make an intimate friend with a native plant, the most exquisite of all art -- in color, form and experience -- will be revealed before your eyes.

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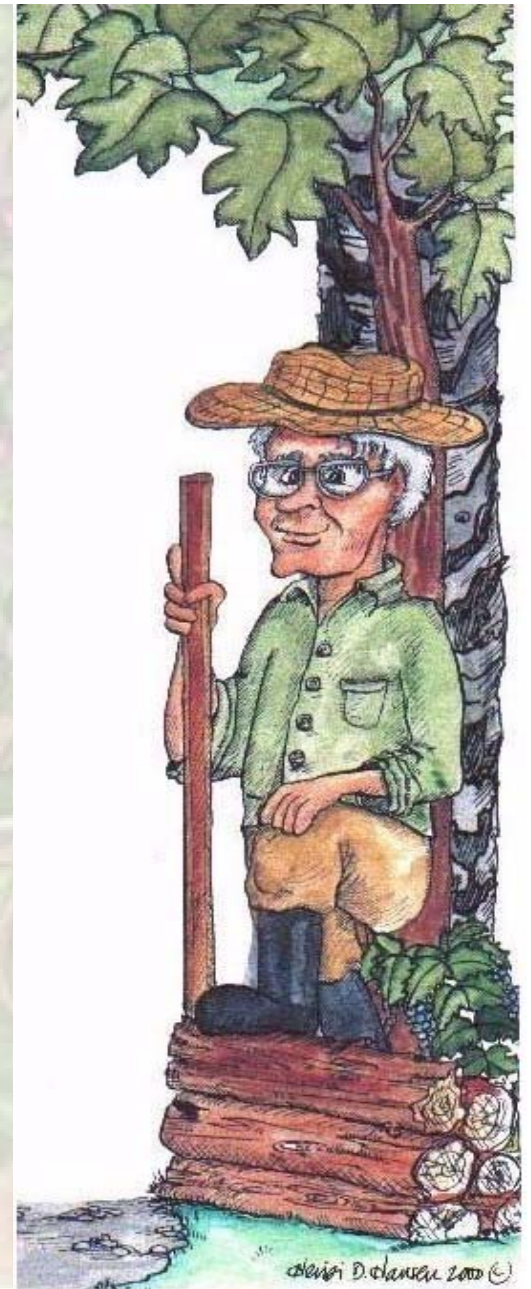
# Reflections, continued

Our millineum is bursting with technology, flooding our human community with machines that work miracles in daily life but which also separate us from the basics of our humanity. Untended, the digital world can disconnect us from the source of nourishment that our spirits crave and, too often, by the end of the week, ache from need.

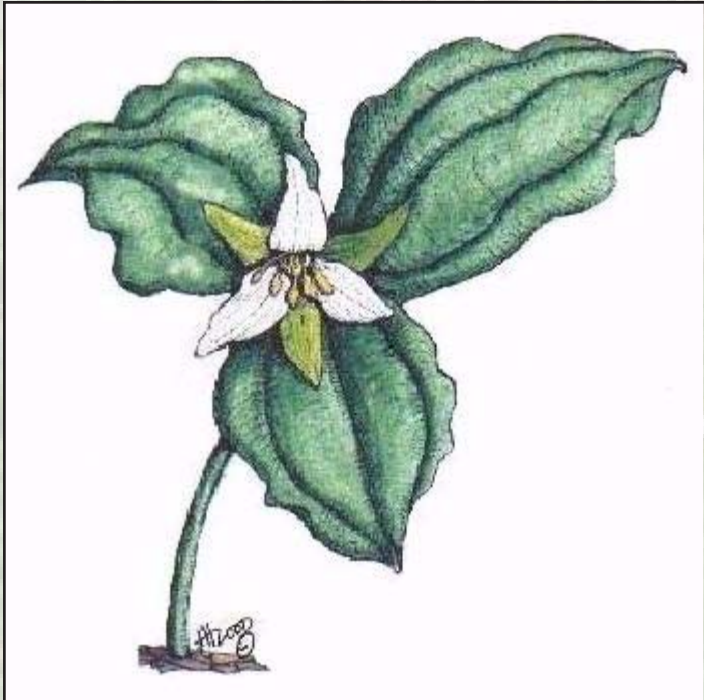
Human communities are like natural forests, we will drift back to our roots to achieve homeostasis after some phenomenon tilts us out of balance.

I witness this as more and more persons, groups and agencies surge toward native plants to restore the land and preserve the soul. Likewise, there is a growing drive to propagate music and art, literature and drama. Old forms are new again. Artistic traditions are revived. Perhaps, like native gardening, these deepen our spiritual directions which modern technology threatens to endanger?

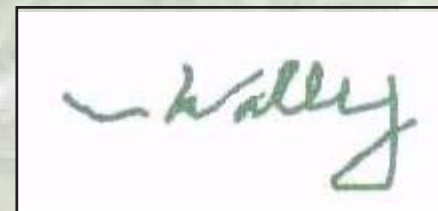
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# Reflections, continued



I have written this book for the same purpose that I grow native gardens: to inspire and comfort the reader with elements of traditional art and nature that nurture the soul and connect us to that which was planned from the beginning and endures within us, beyond us, and calls us back to the rhythm of the woods; the tending of life, faith in the master plan, work in the gardens of humanity.



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# Reflections, continued



**Trillium ovatum**  
**WESTERN TRILLIUM**

A drift of these wonderful perennial flowers on the forest floor in the early spring is a sight never to be forgotten. I think of a drift of these Trilliums in bloom as a mysterious woodland order of little nuns with their prim and proper white and green habits and strict behavior codes. This Trillium has a second stem that rises out of the standard three leaves and on which sits the flower. Taking its name loosely, can the flower be offering a standing "ovation?" To whom? Surely these nuns would not be giving a prideful ovation to themselves, but perhaps something else in their wooded niche? As humble and subtle as this flower looks, it is a dominant force in the native plant woods.

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# Reflections, continued



**Ceanothus thrysiflorus**  
**BLUEBLOSSOM**

The queen of wild evergreen lilacs. Covered with deep lavender blue flower clusters from spring to fall. With dark, waxy leaves that exude a thriving life force through winter, in the summer you can hear a Blueblossom, because it is so matted with fat, furry black and yellow bumblebees.

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# Reflections, continued

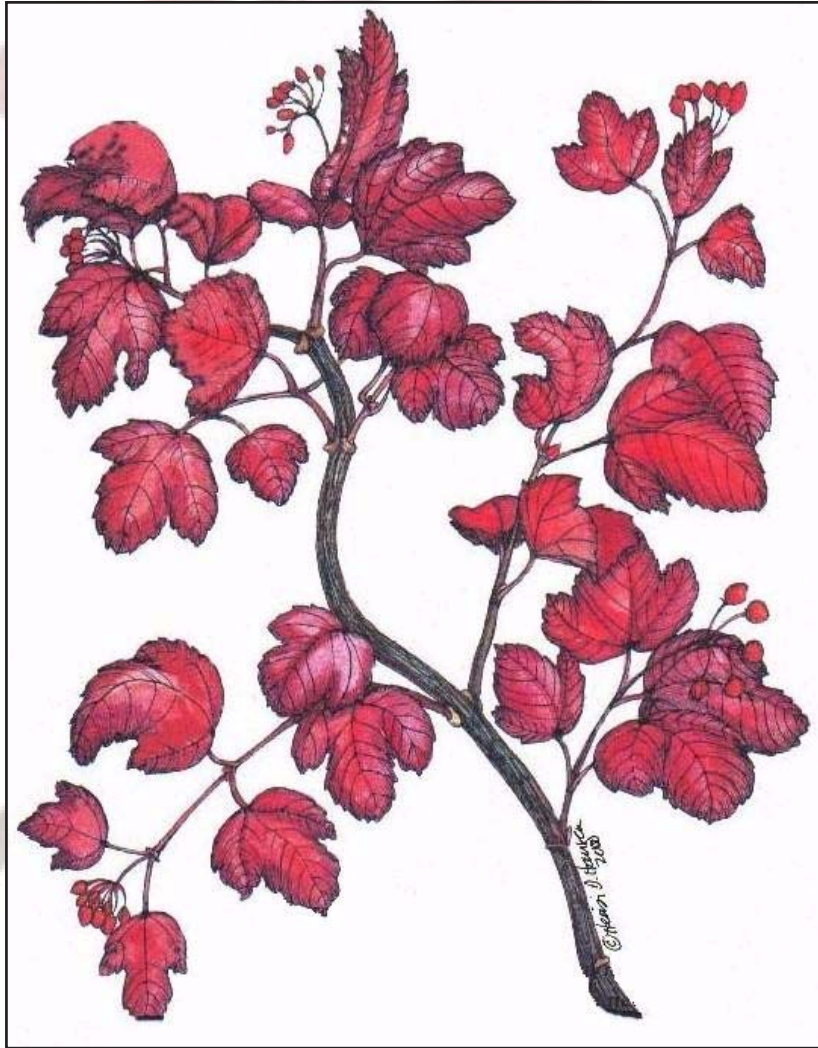
**Arctostaphylos  
columbiana  
HAIRY MANZANITA**

Manzanita is a rugged pioneer that gravitates toward chaparral and starts colonies in areas sparsely populated by lonely bulls. The twisted branches are covered with reddish brown bark which peels off to reveal the smooth and lustrous level underneath. The leaves grow at the end of these branches and are soft and hairy. The name, manzanita, is the Spanish diminutive of *manzana* (apple).



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# Reflections, continued



***Viburnum trilobum***  
**AMERICAN CRANBERRY**

These Colonial - red leaves are the second native tree to put on her autumn coat. Hailing a new season, she ties us to our traditions and reminds us we are woven in history.

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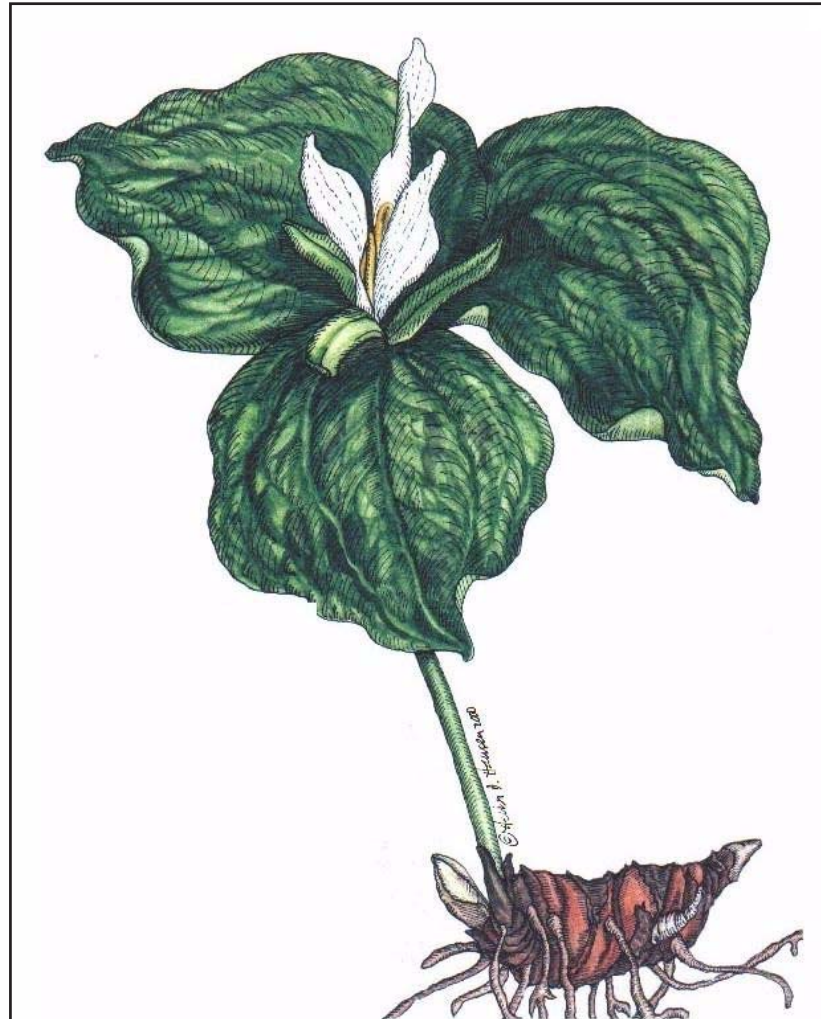


# Reflections, continued

## **Trillium parviflorum** **SESSILE TRILLIUM**

This gem is close to rare in status.

The white bract trio stands straight up, and sits right in the center of the leaves, like a teacup on a saucer. Her leaves get large and lippy and have a deep mottled tone. Seed pods are plump and full of purple dye -- is she an artist, ready to paint, or has she found a way to mark the nose of a deer who has come to her niche for a treat at the Trillium Salad Bar? (Deer love to eat the flowers, leave the stems!)

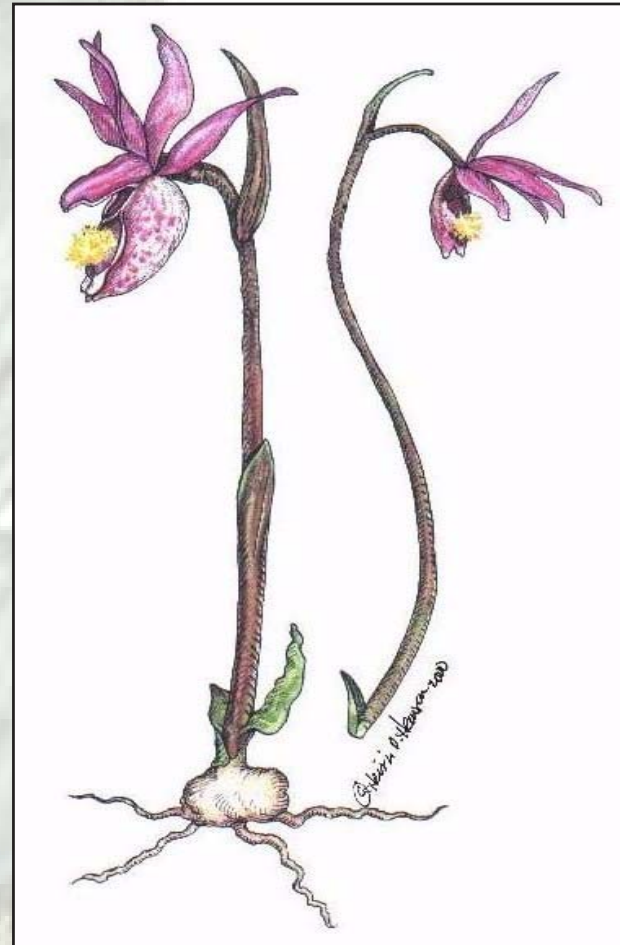


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# Reflections, continued

## **Calypso bulbosa FAIRY SLIPPER**

This is a true miracle flower, inspiring to the autumn woods walker who comes upon her tender budding stalk emerging in the fall. She hides herself all summer, and then, when least expected, bursts out of the dirt while other plants are dying back. What possesses her with such an attitude? Intrigued, I wrote a poem about her, on the next page.



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# Reflections, continued

## On Taming The Fairy Slipper

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?



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# Reflections, continued



## *Pseudotsuga menziesii* DOUGLAS FIR

The glory of my native woods pinnacles at the top of my 250 year-old Doug Firs. They stand at the head of my woods, a fitting place for the Grandfather who stands dignified with all wisdom and continues to rise upward and broaden outward, as if to reach out and scoop up the world, with surging energy unsurpassed by his lesser competitors. What Native American Indians hunted and played by his once supple roots? Now gnarled with thick layers of protection, he gives nest to a 2-foot woodpecker who keeps me up at night.

There is no other tree who can make use of intolerable soil, and no other fir who can drink up the sun and convert it so fast to growth that all other plants around him quickly scatter elsewhere for their share of the yellow stuff. In his royal dominance, he is no tyrant, but he knows he is grand, and needs not explain nor complain anything, nor do the other native woods inhabitants feel the need to ask.

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# Reflections, continued



**Arctostaphylos uva-ursi**  
**KINNIKINNIK**

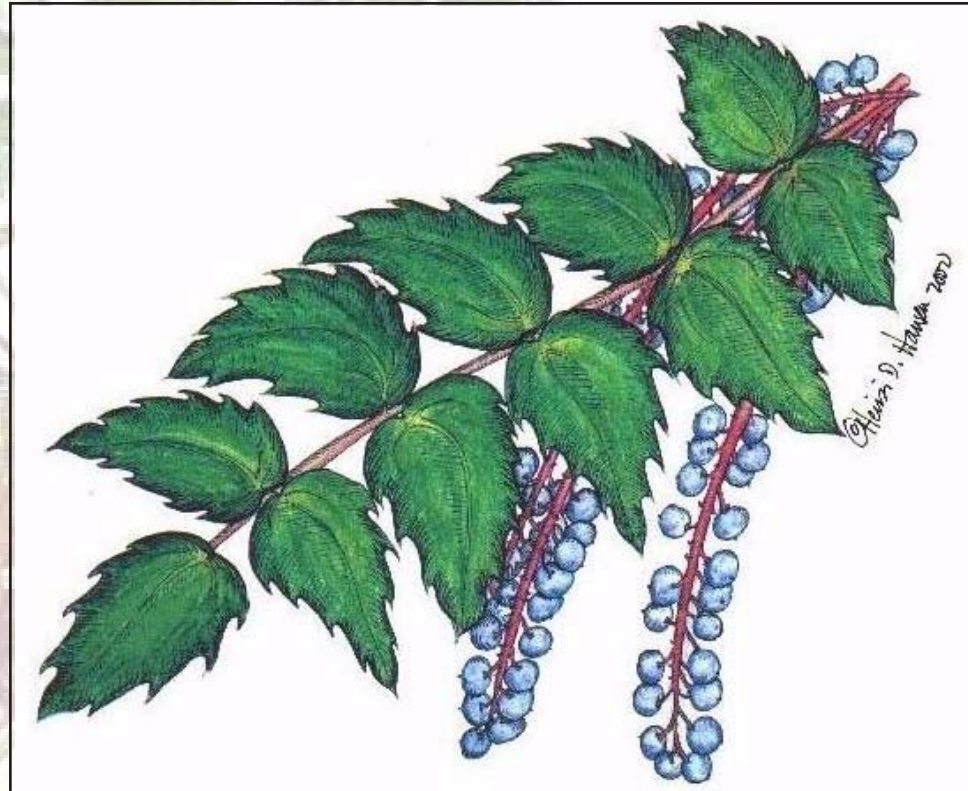
This ground cover is common to urban settings, sunny and rocky. The deep forest green of her evergreen leaves make a rich backdrop for her bright holiday-red berries. Her leaves are thickly clothed and have a waxy sheen throughout the winter. Her pioneer spirit has overcome temperate limitations. She is robust and enduring, remaining classically interesting throughout.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

# Reflections, continued

## **Mahonia nervosa CASCADE OREGON GRAPE**

This two foot tall evergreen upholds the Mahonia standard with her dark green leaves which are longer than other Mahonias. Nor does her bloom disappoint--brilliant yellow and highly aromatic! The fruit is delicious and plentiful. A perfect understory for taller shrubs and trees.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)



# Reflections, continued

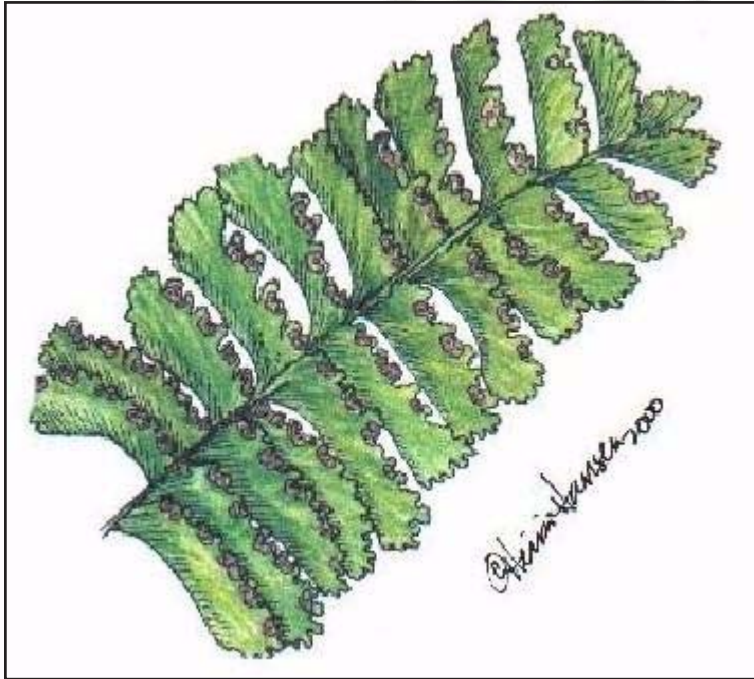


*Lilium columbianum*  
**TIGER LILY**

This perennial is a ferocious attention grabber! Donned with a profusion of Turk's cap flowers -- orange with red spots -- Tiger Lily vascillates between two moods: Sometimes her flowers are nodding like a Queen's wave, and sometimes they are splashy chorus girls kicking up sequins and glitter in a Vegas show. Shameless, this behavior, next to my shy convent of Trilliums!

⇒ More ⇒

# Reflections, continued



**Adiantum podatum**  
**MAIDENHAIR FERN**

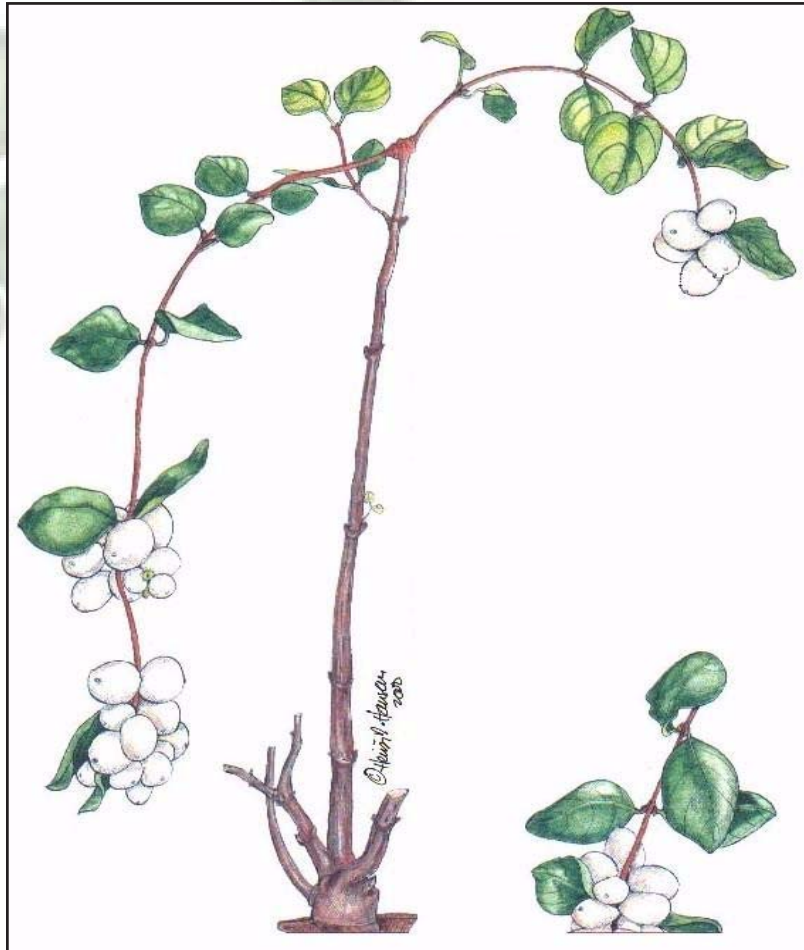
Some ferns go back to prehistoric times. I feel the hush and feathery stillness of ancient secrets kept around me as I walk through my fern gardens. My fern gardens are a sanctuary; I have great reverence for such delicate and fragile looking ferns, knowing that inside of their fine laces is a hearty, adaptive fighter who survived ages beyond many other much more aggressive species. In her lace gloved hand is the strength of tiger.

Maidenhair fern has earned a distinctive badge - for what heroic effort made on behalf of her ecosystem we can only imagine -- which is a thin, wiry stalk that shoots up from the rhizome and hands out her spiraling frond-whorls. This stalk is blacker than night. It cannot be broken by hand, yet it is only a centimeter wide.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)



# Reflections, continued



## **Symphoricarpos albus SNOWBERRY**

My grandchildren sing a song about "popcorn popping on an apricot tree." The writer of that song must have been thinking of Snowberry. The great gobs of white balls that huddle in clusters weigh down this bushy shrub with cheer all winter long. The leaves are perfectly sculpted in such a way as to flutter like a mobile in my garden. On a gray winter's day, when much of my garden sleeps, the bulging harvest of "popcorn" handfulls are a wink and a nod from Mother Nature; busy at work and mindfull of her garden wanderers.



# Red-Osier Dogwood

## *Cornus sericea ssp. stolonifera*

Until winter, Red-Osier Dogwood is pretty much ignored, but once the leaves fall interest is raised. With all the features this native shrub has to offer, it's hard to imagine why this should be true.

The deeply veined opposite leaves of bright green are evenly spaced along the branches.

The posies of white flowers appear randomly at the end of the stems, and the bloom period goes from late spring until November.

As each bunch of tiny flowers fades, green berries soon appear and gradually turn creamy white. Like the blooms, the berries start forming in summer and some are sure to remain through mid-November.



A group planting of Red-Osier Dogwoods with a good start on their annual fall show. Photo by Jennifer Rehm

With all this going on, Red-Osier is still invisible in the garden handbook.

But in fall, all those leaves begin their annual change to shades of yellow and orange and red or dark wine.

Suddenly this shrub is noticed. Though the color spectrum is not as broad as Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*), there is nothing to be embarrassed about as far as fall color is concerned.

[⇒More⇒](#)



# Red-Osier Dogwood, continued



Late  
October

July

Berry and  
leaf  
combinations  
at various  
times  
through the  
year.



September

Early  
November

⇒ More ⇒





# Red-Osier Dogwood, continued



A sampling  
of fall colors  
common to  
Red-Osier  
Dogwood.



⇒ More ⇒



# Red-Osier Dogwood, continued

Now consider the full transformation each of these shrubs goes through in just one year. What other plant can boast of moving from this...

...to this!

From the first tiny bud, the entire length of each branch remains uniformly red its whole life.



Red-Osier Dogwood has it all:

- Interesting leaves
- White flowers
- Green to cream berries
- Outstanding fall color
- Red stems all year
- Rapid growing
- Sun or shade
- Spreads by runners to hold soil



# This & That

## Notes from Jennifer

I have mixed feelings about winter holidays. I love the good cheer and the giving attitudes and the increase in smiling faces. I love the carols and the greenery and people moving about with a mission, a purpose, a goal. I love the lights! Big ones and little ones and specialty lights like snowflakes and chillipeppers. All these things would be positive additions to every single day of the year. Well, maybe some other songs besides carols--Jingle Bells might get pretty stale after a while.

I even like going into malls and big stores and watching people selecting gifts for loved ones and little kids lined up to sit on Santa's lap.

I don't like the big plastic yard stuff. A personal opinion, only--I don't like big plastic anything. I wish the bell ringers at every door could be a little quieter with that bell. I'm done listening to "Grandma got run over by a reindeer." And my joy of crowded shopping emporiums is over about December 9 when the ambience goes from careful choosing to grabbing what's left and stuffing it in a cart because "we don't have anything for Uncle Bubba yet!"

I love-love-love going out in my yard and clipping fresh pieces of Doug Fir and Incense Cedar and Juniper and tying a red velvet ribbon around them to hang on my front door. I love buying a bag of cinnamon pine cones and taking them to my mother along with a box of Christmas tea.

I love getting cards in the mail with little photos of children tucked inside ("Here's little Mary's first grade picture!"), especially when the card is made of recycled materials or somebody made it--I love anything somebody made.

So, celebrate the good stuff and if the not so good stuff gets you down, go take a walk in your garden. If you're really discouraged, pick up a handful of dirt and smooch it around until you get your balance back.

Happy holidays, everyone.

**Danistayohihv & Aliheli'sdi Itse Udetiyvsadisv**

Loosely translated, this is the Cherokee way to wish someone a happy holiday. See [www.flw.com/merry.htm](http://www.flw.com/merry.htm) for similar greetings in other languages.





# 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](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

## 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

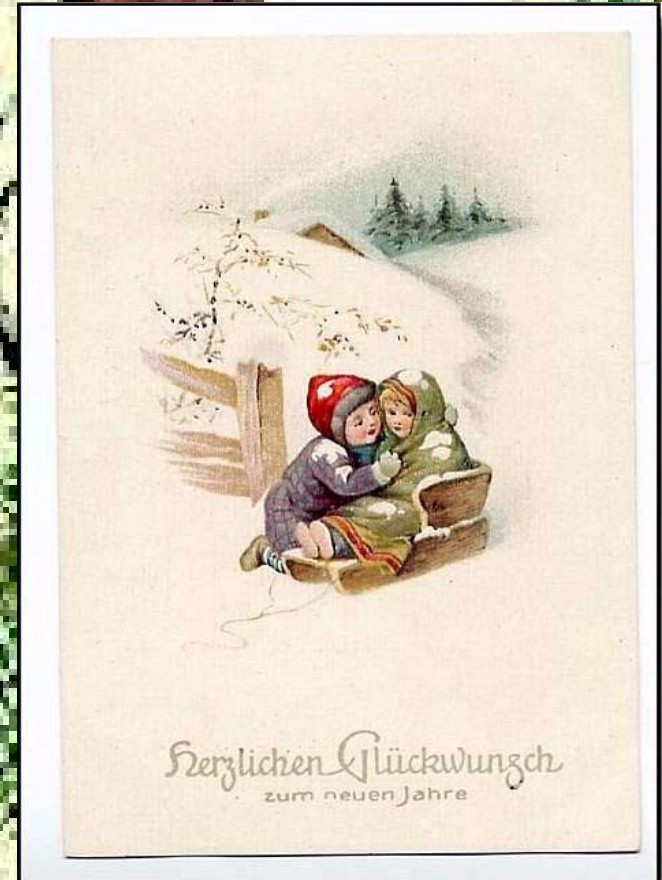
<http://www.modernbackyard.com>

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

## 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

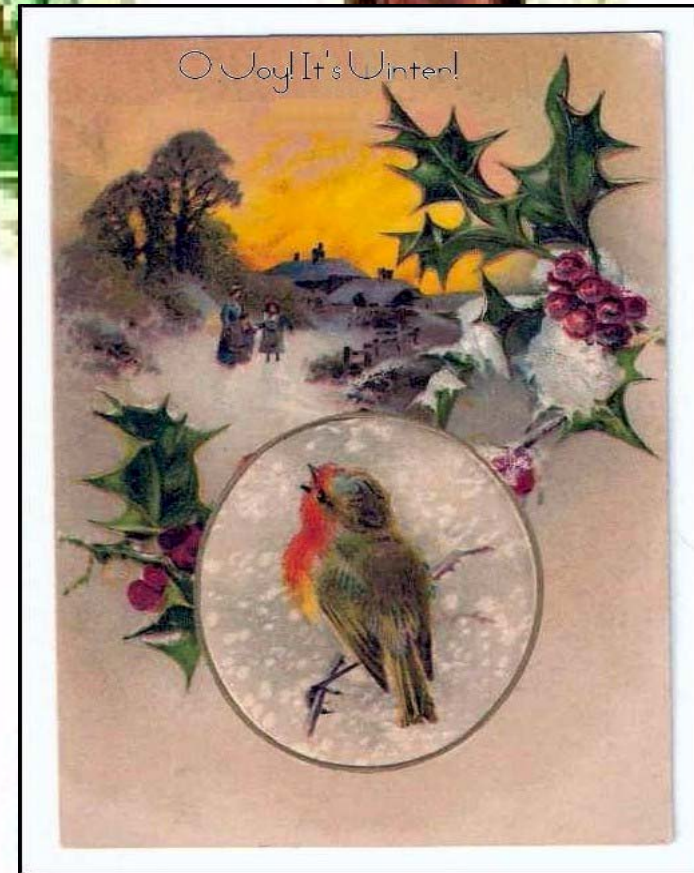
<http://homepages.which.net/~fred.moor/soil/links/10102.htm>  
A website about soil fertility, chemistry, and pH with many interesting links.

## Soil Science Society of America

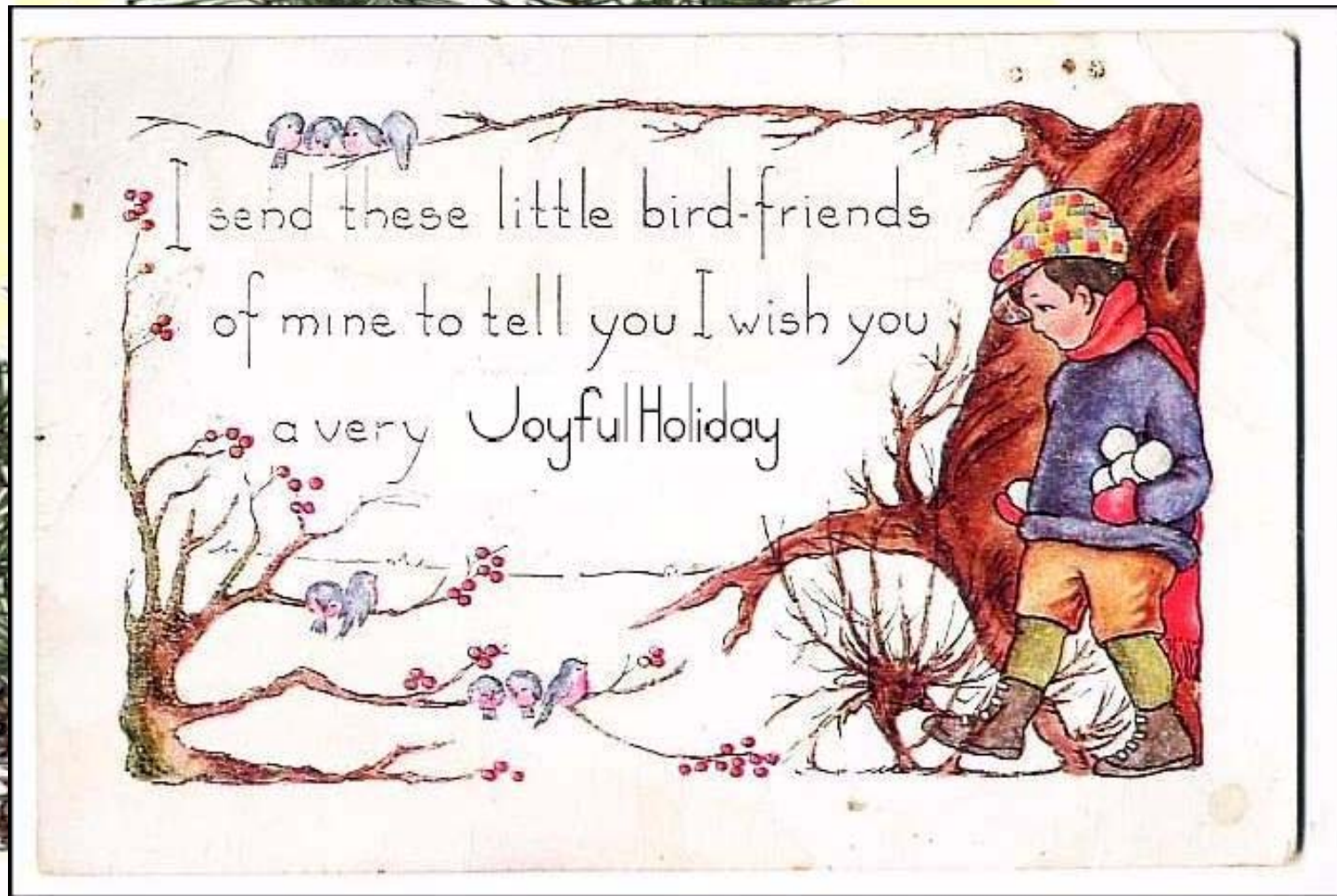
<http://www.soils.org/>  
Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

## 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.



From all of us here at the nursery---





## NOTICE: NURSERY IS CLOSED

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

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

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

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

**Good luck! Good gardening!**



Noble Fir (*Abies procera*)

Young plant in a pot (left).  
The same plant seen from the  
top (right).

Photos by JoAnn Onstott

