

Volume 5, Issue 5-2007

May 2007

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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garden: Native Threads, p20**

**Honey, I'm not going to cut
the lawn this year!, p13**

Native plants all grown up, p23

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) in Spring
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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About this Journal

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:

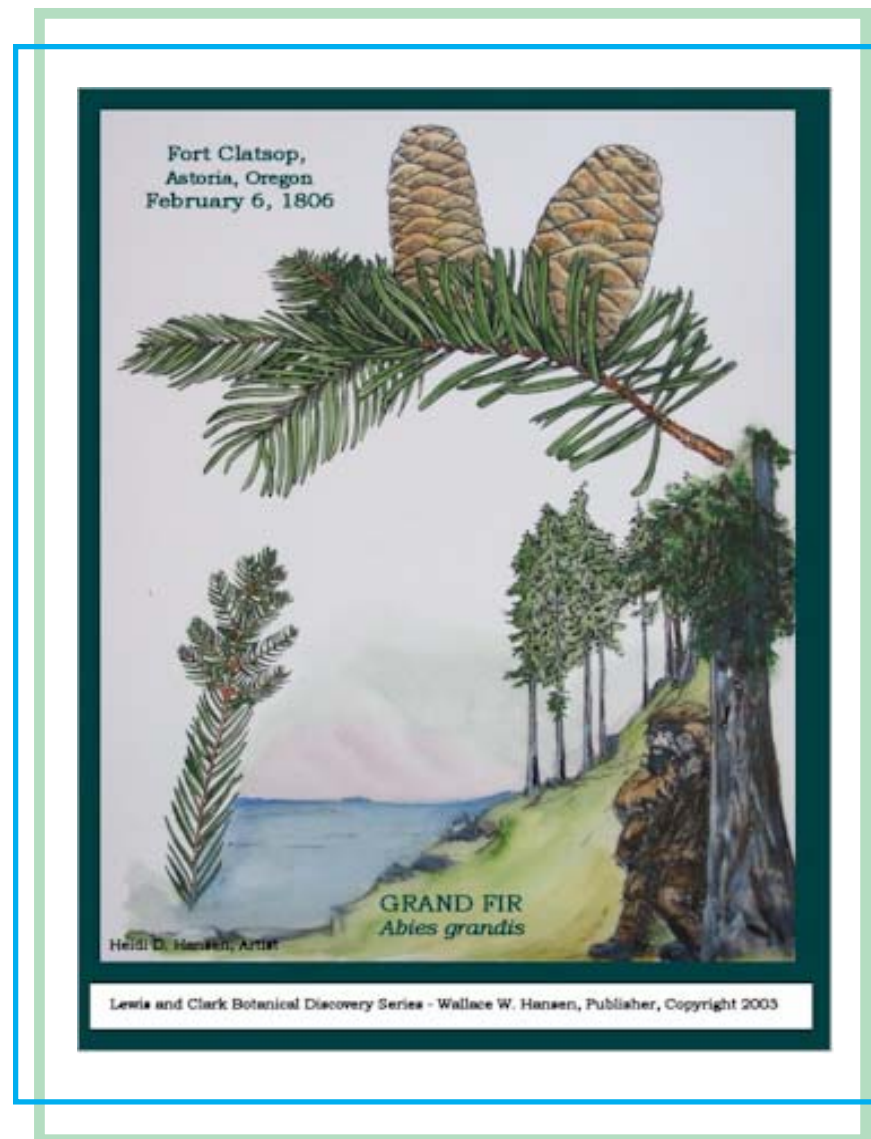
A — To generate interest, even passion, concerning the magnificent Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest.

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.).



Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) at Fort Clatsop
Painting by my daughter, Heidi D. Hansen



On the Cover



I took this photo of a little rock garden during a tour of private native plant gardens hosted by the Native Plant Society of Oregon. It was a delightful tour!

The homeowners were on hand to tell us about their gardens and give stories about their gardening adventures. There were NPSO members along who provided additional botanical information. It was a pleasurable day spent with gardeners of all ages and experiences.

Visit the NPSO website for opportunities like this one. This organization offers many tours, exhibits and lectures during the year. www.npsoregon.org. The public is not invited to all activities but those that are open are so noted.

Sorry, I was too busy taking photos (with the homeowner's permission) to hear which Lewisia these are.

Photo by Jennifer Rehm



Rare plant puzzle



Photo © Donald C. Eastman

Name this plant!

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

"I'm not a cosmos, nor a mesembryanthemum, not a delosperma nor a cineraria, all alien to the Northwest. Not even an armeria or a sisyrinchium, or androsace, all native to the northwest. No, I'm much more rare than these. Come to the beach and if you are very fortunate you may see me, but don't touch!."

Send me an email with the correct botanical name of this plant . A small prize to those who correctly identify by May 16, 2007.

Good luck!
Wally

Answer to last Journal's puzzle:

Haplopappus whitneyi

Congratulations to all who correctly answered!



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

1 – Plant sales! Now is the time to get your plants at low prices. Nurseries are giving good discounts. Gardening organizations are holding sales.

2 – Slug patrols--have one in the morning and one in the evening. Get the kids involved. If you cannot abide touching the slimy things, use an old pair of tongs. Carry a small bucket of water with you and drop them in. When it's time for the next patrol, pour them out, cover with a little dirt so they'll compost, and put in fresh water.

3 – Trim up the branches of shrubs and trees that are truly dead or broken. Make structures with them, set aside a small pile for wildlife perches or protection, make a coyote fence or cut into kindling for next year's fireplace.

4 – Ferns will appreciate a nice clipping. The fresh fronds are unfurling now and last year's fronds may be tattered or dead. You can leave them on the plants if desired if the fern is in good health.

5 – If your landscape has suffered at the hands of unwise planting or pruning in years past, this is a good time to begin repair work. A tree could be planted where it's future was not consulted. A big tree may now be growing right under utility wires or in a space too small for it. The best thing might be to cut it down. Or a sun-loving shrub will be planted beside a young tree and both will live in companionship for a few years. But later, the tree has changed the sun-lover's environment to one of moist shade and the shrub becomes leggy or dies. Digging up the shrub and moving it to a sunny spot could be the solution.

6 – Mother's Day is May13. Plant one of those sale plants in a pretty basket and tuck moss around to cover the dirt. Or go for a walk in the country and pick a bouquet of natural wildflowers. A gift certificate to her favorite nursery is usually appreciated.



Iris and
Camas are
blooming
now, both
excellent as
cut flowers.



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor

Now that the weather is warmer, the animal kingdom is very active. There were some baby geese in the neighborhood the other day--so cute! Little beggars go pecking around almost like chickens, eating bugs. Yuck! They can have my part, I don't care much for bugs. I'm a berry and nut man. Even two-leggers don't eat bugs. Seems to be a job only the birds enjoy. Although there may be other animals that eat them.



A most curious thing happened last week. My pals and I were running around Wally's nest and we looked inside one of those nest eyes--Wally calls them 'windows'--and we saw something we could not figure out. It looked like a window into a whole other nest but we couldn't see where the nest was. It looked like a jungle and there were some animals in it that had faces sort of like two-leggers, they ran around on two legs but sometimes they put the front legs down and used them as well. But the space around the window was only about the size of 100 acorns. How could that jungle and these two/four-leggers be in there? We looked at it for a few minutes but it made no sense so we went back to running through the trees. We understand trees. We understand nests also. We even understand windows but not this kind. The most peculiar part of this window was when Wally held out his

hand, the window disappeared! We don't know what that window was but if we ever get stuck in one of them, I sure hope Wally doesn't make us disappear! We decided to stay away from windows just in case. Nests and trees are better.

[⇒More⇒](#)

Sparky's Corner, continued

The baby geese aren't the only things full of action now. We had a whole swarm of bees fly in and land on one of those things the two-leggers sit on. They had the queen with them--she hardly ever goes out--and they just sat there on that thing for days. JoAnn came by and took their picture. After a few days they flew away. Grandma said the bees were looking for a new hive (that's a bee nest). She said when they get too many bees in one hive, some of them will take off and look for another hive. Two-leggers make hives in boxes and if they can get the bees to live there, the two-leggers will steal their honey. Now, that is just not fair. The poor bees work so hard gathering up all the pollen from the flowers and then they take it back to their hive and turn it into honey and after all that the two-leggers scoop out the honey! I told grandma those two-leggers were not playing nice but she said it was OK. I guess the bees get too

much honey and the two-leggers help them out by cleaning their hives. So it's the law of nature. Grandma uses that a lot--she says "be quiet, you're upsetting the law of nature;" or "bring me a nice acorn, the law of nature says I need one." Sometimes I think the law of nature really means 'grandma said so.'

Gotta go--see you next time!

Sparky

Here's one of those baby geese.

This is the bee swarm that came to visit.



The Right Tools

Power in the Garden

Gardening has all but lost its traditional image as a quiet activity involving perhaps the occasional thump of a mallet, or the subtle clicking of summer shears. Look in any garden centre and you'll find a range of hover mowers, hedge trimmers, edgers, and shredders. It takes energy to manufacture all of them, and yet more to power them. Always ask yourself whether you need each gadget. Will it really help you, or does it just seem exciting to have and to use? Could you borrow one from someone else, the few times you actually need it?

This article is from the website, greenchoices.com, dedicated to helping us make informed decisions in our everyday lives so we'll be healthier and so will our planet.



Stop mowing altogether--Replace lawn with NW Native evergreen groundcovers! Top, Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), right, Mahala Mat (*Ceanothus prostratus*)



At right: A sampling of mowers available right now. (Clockwise from the top)



Robot mower--

battery powered, mows inside an area you define, parks itself in an electric charging garage when it runs low on power.



Rotary mower--gas or electric, you push or follow it around, grass is collected and you empty the collection bag when full.



"John Deere mower"--a little different design of riding mower for those who like a sportier style.



Reel mower--manually powered, collection basket is optional. Easy to use and you can sharpen it yourself.

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The Right Tools, continued



Superb evergreen groundcover, Coastal Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*)

More NW Native groundcovers, strawberries are win-win: the berries are so intensely flavored you'll not be satisfied with hybrids again! Photos by JoAnn Onstott

Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), delicious berries, bright white flowers and bluish green top leaves.



Hand tools can be a revelation. The right tool can make a job sweet and easy, without the need for noise or trailing cables. Try talking to experienced gardeners, and finding out their favourites - always remembering that each one will give you a different answer!

Water features and atmospheric lighting are often used to enhance gardens, but at what cost in terms of constant energy use? Solar power is one solution. It also has the advantage that you avoid any danger from mains power in the garden. On the

downside, the amount of power available depends on the amount of sunlight, but some devices use dry cell batteries as a back up, and you could even find that variations in e.g. the height of your solar fountain are part of the charm of relying on your immediate environment.



Left, solar powered fountains. The copper bowl fountain can be used inside or out. The floating fountain can also be equipped with lights.

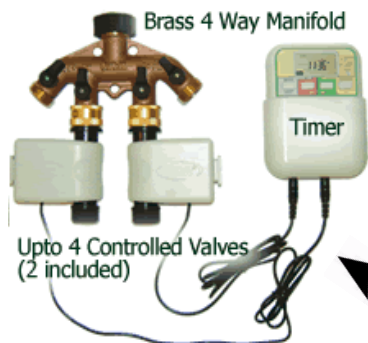
Right: this aerator performs as well as gas or electric powered versions!



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The Right Tools, continued

- Several companies manufacture garden lights with solar cells which charge NiCad batteries during the day. Some can be set to automatically switch on at dusk. Designs include strictly utilitarian, discreetly modern, and lanterns on shepherd's crooks. You may find these products in better electrical and lighting retailers, as well as some garden centres.
- CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) will sell you instructions and parts for building your own solar powered fountains. Their website is www.cat.org.uk.
- It's worth looking out for the new LED bulbs - these consume fantastically little electricity; as little as one-tenth of other low energy bulbs.



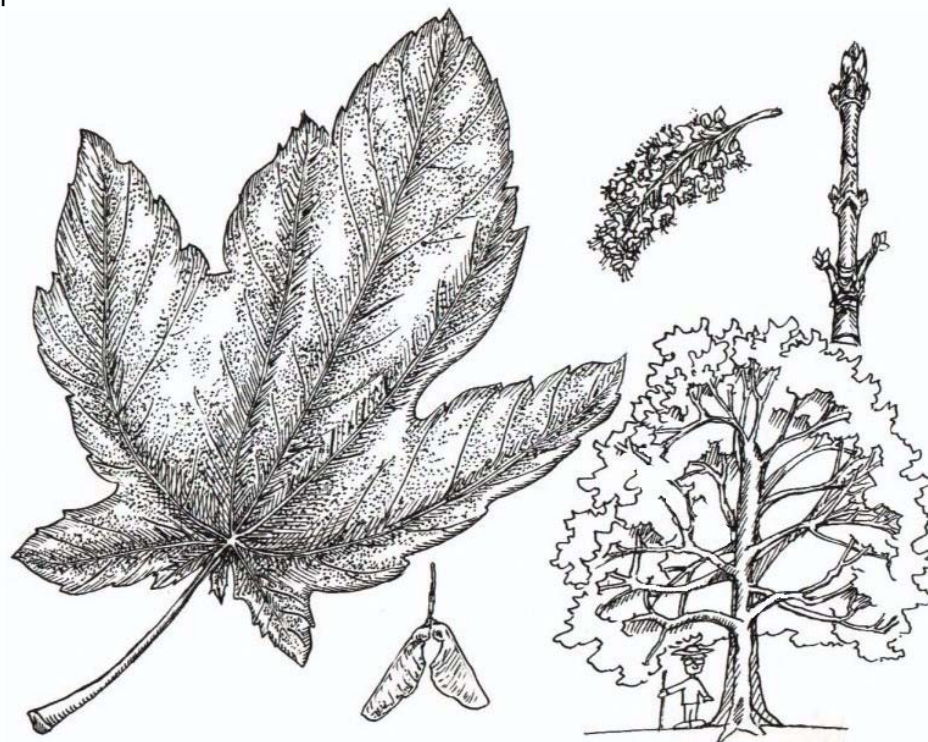
Though native plants require little, if any, watering, here are two ways to time the amount of water your plants get.

Electric powered sprinkler timer, about \$90

or



Simple timer with internal water gauge, \$10-15.



It's all about choices. A little sweat equity in most cases will provide as much benefit to your garden as gas, electric or battery powered tools. An additional bonus to using manual tools: improved cardio-vascular health for the gardener!

After your workout, treat yourself to a nice sit-down beneath your Big-Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) Drawing by Heidi D. Hansen

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The Right Tools, continued



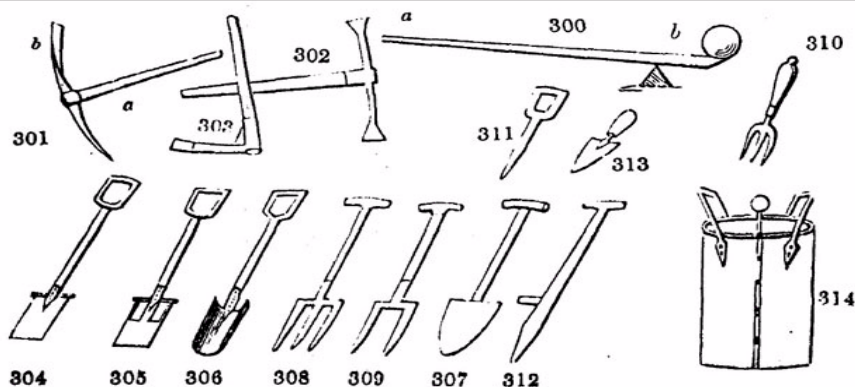
If you were to trim the sweet-smelling blossoms from your Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*), would you prefer zipping through the job with a power hedge trimmer or enjoying that aroma as you clipped them by hand?



Choices!



Few gardeners who have had the opportunity of inhaling the ambrosia of these bell-shaped flowers would be willing to forfeit that experience for the stink of gasoline or the momentary ease of electrically pruning this beautiful NW native.



1704. The garden-trowel is a tongue-shaped piece of iron, with a handle attached; the blade or tongue being semicylindrical (fig. 313.), or merely turned up on the sides. It is used to plant, or to take up for transplanting, herbaceous plants and small trees. Trowels are also used for loosening the roots of weeds, and are then called weeding-irons. Sometimes they are used for stirring the soil among tender plants in confined situations. Wooden trowels, or spatulae, are sometimes used in potting plants to fill in the earth; but the garden-trowel with the edges turned up is the best for this purpose.

The above text is from JCL Loudon's 1835 Encyclopedia of Gardening edited and © Gardenvisit.com



A Gardening Standoff

From Pennsylvania's Master Gardeners, www.emmitsburg.net/gardens/index.htm

Honey, I'm not going to cut the lawn this year

Michael Hillman
Master Gardener Spouse

It was just about this time last year that my wife announced that she was no longer going to cut our lawn; instead, she wanted to let it go wild.

Having earned my way through college manicuring lawns in suburbs where the height of a lawn was proportional to one's status and wealth, her pronouncement did not sit well with me. The way I looked at it, I had four choices, umm ... actually three, as telling my wife she had to continue to cut the lawn was not an option - period.

Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) One of the most stunning of Northwest Native Shrubs, this fragrant evergreen is hardy between USDA 5-10. Photo by Professor Wilbur Bluhm.

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A Gardening Standoff, continued

First, I could cut the lawn myself, something I hadn't done in years and was loathe to do, given my over-booked schedule. Second, I could try to hire a kid to do it; but as we live out in the country, I would have to depend upon kids with cars, not exactly the type interested in cutting lawns. Third, I could acquiesce to her suggestion and let the lawn grow wild.

Swallowing my pride and kissing away any hope of winning first place in the shortest cut lawn category, I drained the oil in our riding lawn mower, rolled it into a shed and covered it with a tarp.

Secretly I hoped that once the lawn began to look ragged, my wife would reconsider her decision. After all, she had spent years planting flower beds throughout our property, beds which the lawn, when mowed, highlighted nicely. "Surely she'll come to her senses," I thought.



Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) is a fine, deciduous shrub. Smooth Sumac grows 9-12.' The deep green leaves turn a brilliant scarlet in autumn. The trunk and branches grow in twisted, gnarled forms that provide dramatic interest in the winter garden. This species is found across North America (USDA 2-10).



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

A Gardening Standoff, continued



Here's a second look at the beautiful Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*). Note the yellowish coloration of the new growth.
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Well, this is an interesting look but in many towns and neighborhoods, letting the grass grow this high is a violation and the homeowner can be fined.

By the end of the third week of her "strike," things were not working out as planned. The lawn was pushing a foot in height, and neighbors were beginning to notice. "Hey Mike, what's the matter? Your lawn mower on strike?" one neighbor quipped. 'No, my wife is.' I replied, hanging my head in shame.

By the end of six weeks, the lawn had begun to take on a wild, disheveled look, the sort of look an abandoned house has. Every time a car slowed and fingers pointed, I would run for a hiding place. I hated to think what the occupants were saying.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

A Gardening Standoff, continued

But like a bad haircut that turns out great once it grows in, by the end of spring our lawn, or meadow, was beginning to show signs of great promise and I had to admit that my wife's reasons for not mowing were beginning to grow on me.

"First off," she said, "if we let the lawn grow, the soil will maintain more moisture which will help the trees and plants handle the long dry summer months better. Second, the tall grasses will offer cover and food for all sorts of wildlife, from song birds to chipmunks. Third, with all that wildlife in his own yard, Jordie (our cat) will no longer have to cross the road to do his hunting. Fourth, we waste a lot of water trying to keep it green, water which I can better use elsewhere in the garden. Lastly lawn mowers are a significant source of pollution; and while ours doesn't contribute much in the big scheme of things, it nevertheless does pollute."

She was right. Our wildlife population grew in direct proportion to the height of the grasses in the meadow. And I do mean 'grasses' as it was soon obvious that the lawn was not made up of one type of grass, but many grasses, all with their own unique shape and growing pattern. The native Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) which I had never noticed before grew like wildfire. Each morning its beautiful sheaves glistened with dew and in the evening waved in gentle night breezes.



Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*) is evergreen and never fails to clothe itself every year in bright blue blooms.

[⇒More⇒](#)

A Gardening Standoff, continued

As the summer wore on, it stayed green and lush, overtaking the non-native species I had so painfully seeded and re-seed over the years, which withered and died under the sun without their accustomed supply of water. When in the spring people were stopping to gawk at the "jungle," they now stopped to admire the island of green. As my wife predicted, the tall grassed had helped stem the evaporation of moisture from the soil, allowing the trees and shrubs to draw upon it in the summer. Where leaves of neighboring trees hung like limp rags, ours held their leaves out, grasping every sunray they could manage.



The once sterile yard teamed with birds of every shape and size hunting for the bugs that now crawled the moist surface. The songs of the birds filled the air from dawn to dusk, at which time they were joined by the squeaks of bats that had come to partake in the bounty. Many a night we lay in bed listening with pleasure to the birds chattering about their day's events.

Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*) in snow. The dark green leaves were unaffected by this icy coating.

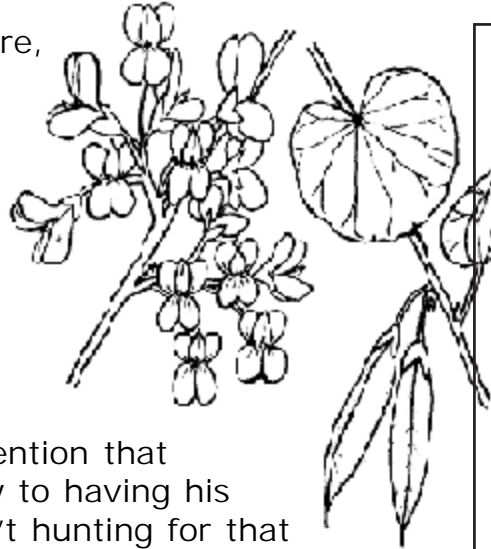


Note the area still being mowed offers easy strolling through the garden. This could easily be replaced by hardscape walkways. Pea gravel is often used for paths. Bricks are lovely as well. A beautiful effect can be achieved with chunks of broken concrete where moss will grow between them.

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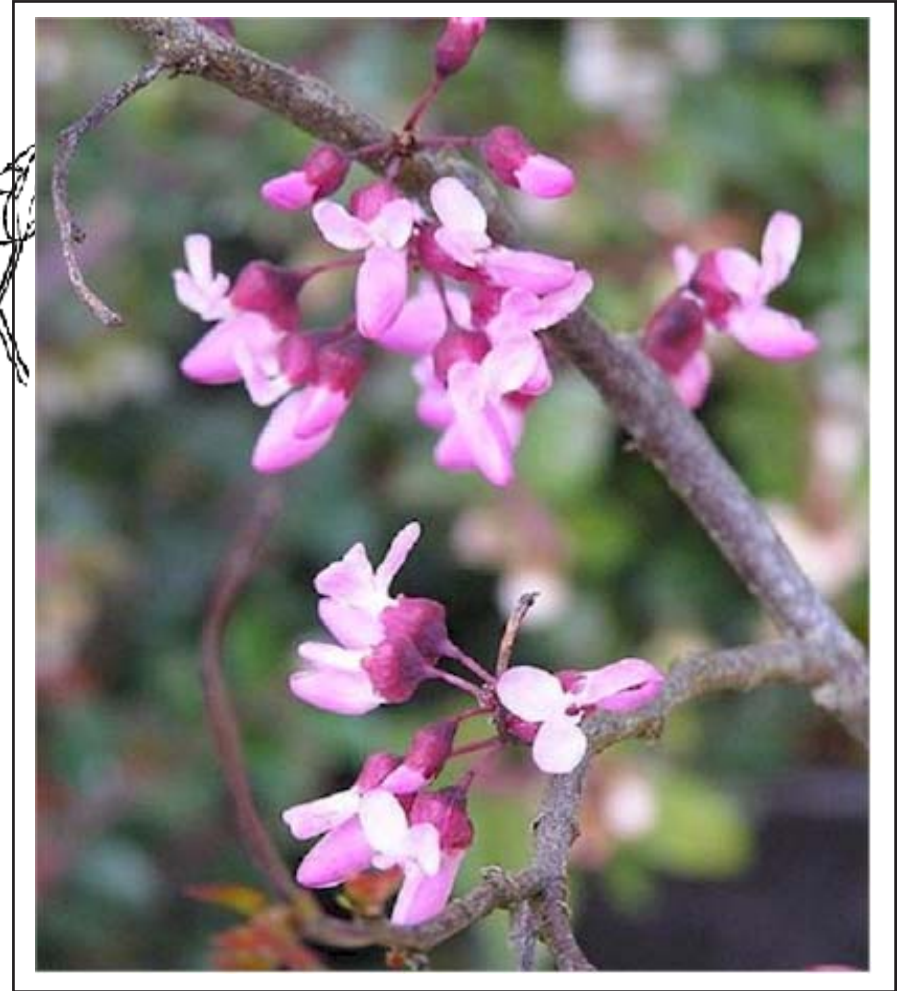
A Gardening Standoff, continued

As for watering, she was right there, too. For years I had fretted about drawing down our well trying to keep the yard and gardens green. Last summer was different. Not once did I have to haul out the sprinkler, and what water the gardens did need was more than supplied by the rain barrels attached to our down spouts.



I would be remiss if I failed to mention that yes, our cat did take quite a fancy to having his own private savannah. If he wasn't hunting for that vole that always seemed to elude him, he was basking in the sun in a bed of tall grass as if he were truly one of the "big cats" back in Africa.

In late summer, when a dead tree trunk, covered with native Virginia Creeper vine (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) that provided berries for the birds in winter, finally fell, I didn't object to my wife's decision to allow it to lay where it had fallen. "The truck will give the birds that are not ground feeders a place to sit while they eat or rest. Besides it's full of bugs that will attract woodpeckers." Again she was right. When fall arrived, the trunk was lined with birds as they feasted on the yard's bounty.



Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) favors dry, sunny areas in USDA zones 6-10. The brilliant edible blooms open while the branches are bare of leaves. This deciduous shrub has an open habit which birds appreciate for a springtime perch. Western Redbud is symbiotic with nitrogen fixing bacteria, a boon for the garden soil. ➡More➡

A Gardening Standoff, continued

When the last snow of February was in all its glory, outside my window the outlines of the little green paradise my wife had created when she ended her lawn cutting career could still be seen, anchored by the tree trunk now serving its final purpose in life. That day its purpose was to provide a stand for a beautiful red tail hawk who, attracted by the wildlife visiting the yard, has come to hunt its evening meal.

I think it is safe to say that my wife's decision not to cut the lawn was a good one. Nature has reclaimed our yard, and our yard is a better, healthier, and more beautiful place because of it.

This summer when I drive by well-manicured lawns, I'll not look on them with envy, but with sadness, for I now know what potential yards have if we allow Mother Nature, the best and most qualified gardener of us all, to do her stuff.



I love this story and I hope it gives inspiration to those of you who wonder what would happen if you just quit mowing that alien grass and let nature take over. Check your local ordinances though and maybe put down some paths. Do take care to pull up any invasives that move in.

Blackfruit Dogwood (*Cornus sessilis*) is native to Southern Oregon and California though it is hardy from USDA zones 7-10. It prefers shaded, moist, acidic locations where it is a desirable understory to larger shrubs or trees.



The Master Gardeners

This is the logo of the Adams County Master Gardeners' website.





Native Threads

The Fabric of the Modern Garden

From Seattle landscape architect, Julie Miles

Using a current language of forms and materials, the contemporary garden reflects a culture and its values. Thankfully, for those of us obsessed with transporting the beauty and ecological benefits of native plants to our gardens, natives are becoming a 'hip' material in mainstream nurseries and publications. As part of the slow and steadily growing green movement, the use of native plants in public and residential gardens is gaining popularity.

A common tendency when working with native plants is to imitate plant groupings observed in nature at a miniature, garden-appropriate scale. While this approach can successfully encourage wildlife habitat and please the aesthetic of the familiar, it is seldom considered as part of the overall design of the home (architecture, interior, landscape, broader context) and thus rests solidly in the mundane, forgoing the opportunity to artfully evoke the wilder world by distilling its essence in our fabricated garden rooms.

Vine maple trunks with native groundcover.

All photos with this article are by Julie Miles

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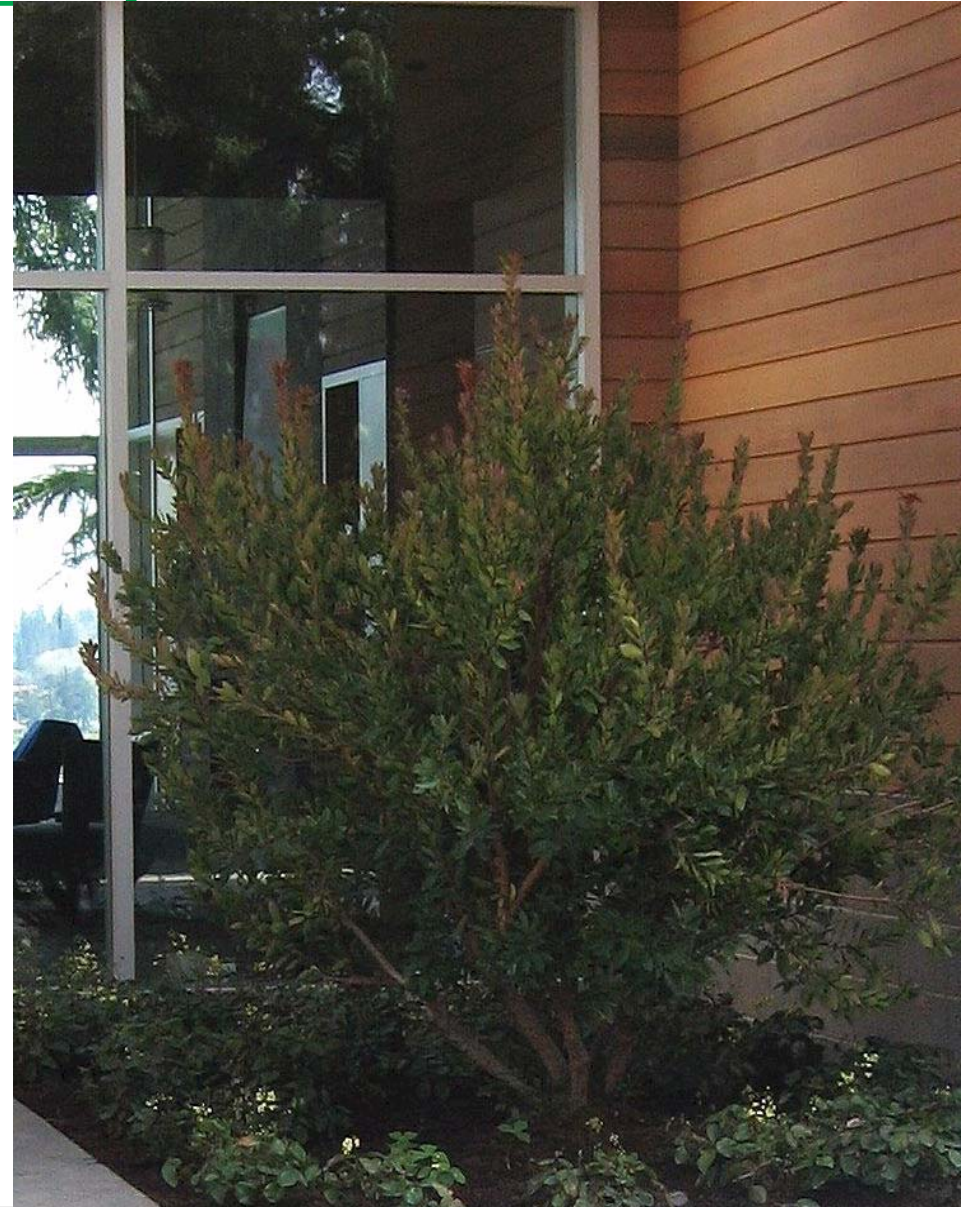
Native Threads, continued

Inspired planting possibilities are boundless. The following list touches on simply a few favorite creative uses (both observed and personally planted) for native plants in the Pacific NW garden. My hope is that gardeners and designers and their gardens – created with fertile imagination grounded in the science of horticulture and the native environment - will play a growing role in a mutually beneficial relationship between our human community and our natural world.

- **Arctostaphylos columbiana/Hairy Manzanita:** Plant a single Hairy Manzanita (or *Arbutus unedo* 'Compacta'/Strawberry Tree) as a focal point or in a pot. This evergreen boasts year-round color with its striking red-hued bark. It develops an interesting, irregular form and subtly displays the beauty and character of a sculpture.
- **Acer circinatum/Vine Maple:** Vine Maples tolerate a wide range of site conditions, but are fantastic in difficult, drier, shady areas of the garden underplanted with masses of *Vancouveria hexandra*/Inside-Out Flower and *Mahonia nervosa*, with accents of *Polystichum munitum*/Sword Fern.

Arbutus unedo "Compacta," native to Europe, not the Northwest. A native alternative would be *Arctostaphylos columbiana* (Hairy Manzanita)

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Native Threads, continued



*Symphoricarpos
albus*

- **Fragaria chiloensis/Coastal Strawberry:** Coastal Strawberry creeps to create a wonderful, evergreen carpet in sunny or shady, average or dry conditions. Its runners are boldly red; to accentuate its color and habit, try planting Coastal Strawberry to cascade over a wall.
- **Symphoricarpos albus/Snowberry:** Try Snowberry as a deciduous, clipped hedge. The delicate, dense branching with berries is charming in winter and even without its leaves performs well as a screen.



*Fragaria
chiloensis*

Julie's business provides exceptional, affordable landscape design online. A unique idea! The firm makes extensive use of NW native plants.



All Grown Up

Mature Native Plants

These two Blueblossoms have grown here at the entrance to the nursery since they were just little tykes. They now welcome visitors at their full mature height of 10 feet. What an imposing pair of sentries!

They have not been trimmed or shaped but left to grow to their own nature. A branch or two may have been cut when damaged by heavy snow and sometimes the driveway must be widened if the exhuberant evergreens try to reach across the span. But for the most part, little pruning has been done.

Very little watering has been necessary as well.



It's always nice to know just how tall or wide that young shrub is going to be after a few years. Here are some photos of mature native plants in various settings.



Blueblossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*)
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

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All Grown Up, continued



It was well into autumn when I visited this garden. As many of us do, this gardener does not manicure his landscape for the sake of tidiness. Instead, he allows leaves to stay where they fall. Branches as well. In fact, very little is done to change nature's ways. As a result, when looking over this garden one never thinks it looks like a park, but it does look a lot like walking through the woods.



Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Pacific Rhodie (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*) and Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

All Grown Up, continued



Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



A very nice specimen, this Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) is showing its usual clusters of delicate creamy flowers. The fragrance is not too sweet, a bit reminiscent of vanilla but with a mossy undertone. These flowers are fabulous in a bouquet! They are even more attractive up close than they are from a distance.

The natural fountain shape of this deciduous native is lovely but if you wanted to trim it into a hedge it would not mind.

The wood is incredibly strong. In fact, one of Oceanspray's common names is Ironwood.

[⇒More⇒](#)

All Grown Up, continued

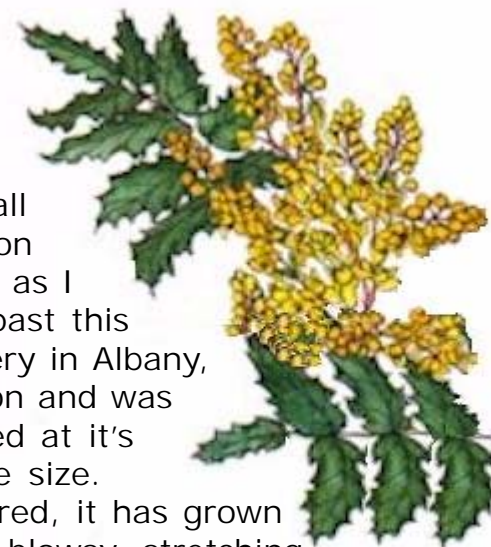


Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)
Photo by Jennifer Rehm

I saw
this Tall
Oregon
Grape as I
drove past this
cemetery in Albany,
Oregon and was
amazed at it's
huge size.

Unfettered, it has grown
happily blowsy, stretching
over the fence. Such grand
blooms are undoubtedly enjoyed by
the visitors who come here to pay
their respects.

Our state flower, Tall Oregon Grape
(*Mahonia aquifolium*) is glad to grow
in sun or shade. It's thistly leaves
never fall, turning from the bronze of
new leaves, to the dark shiny
summer and often
changing to deep or
bright scarlet in winter--
a beautiful contrast
to the delicious
dusky blue fruit.



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All Grown Up, continued

Rory snapped this fully-grown Giant Sequoia growing beside someone's house. Hard to imagine that such a stately cone-shaped giant has probably never been pruned. The symmetry is so perfect, yet this is the natural growth of the world's tallest trees. Standing under a Giant Sequoia puts everything into a reasonable perspective.



Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) Photo by Rory Nichols

On a more personal scale, these native perennials are doing their own part in beautifying the landscape.

The Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*) in the foreground are at their most lovely bloom. Each bell is edged in tiny fringe which recurves back around the bell. When fully 'ripe,' the fringe changes from it's chartreuse beginning to a rosy pink. A beautiful landscape plant and fine for the cutting garden.



Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*) Photo by Jennifer Rehm



This & That

A few notes from Jennifer

Path made
from broken
concrete.



Timers:
(top to
bot-
tom)
An old
hour-
glass;
sterling
silver
windup
timer
from

Tiffany--doesn't look like much but the antique dealer wanted \$75 for it; wooden timer from a kit, \$45.

There seem to be some loose ends attached to this issue of our journal and I am of a mind to sweep them into some semblance of order.

One thing I meant to say more about was the use of old broken concrete for pathways. This material is always free and usually readily available. Homeowners sometimes have a dickens of a time getting rid of it and it's terribly expensive to take to the dump. However, it makes perfectly fine walkways and it can be stacked in such a way that a retaining wall made of concrete chunks looks like rock and we know how durable it is.

Another subject I'm not quite done with is using a timer to tell when you've watered the garden enough. In the article about power tools back on page 11, I show some automatic timers. But there's one kind of timer I did not mention and that's the old fashioned 'egg timer.' There's all kinds of them from the wind-up to the sandy hourglass. If you want to add a little bit of exercise to your watering, take one outside with you, turn on the sprinkler and when the timer is ready, turn off the water. Simple as that. Have a short nap while you wait.

The last thing I wanted to share with you is the living grass cutter I noticed recently. A family must have decided a lawnmower was not their cup of tea so they got a goat. They put out one of those igloo kind of dog houses and staked the goat alongside it, complete with a big bucket of water. I pass this place often and that goat seems to be having the time of his life. He's always happy.



The happy goat wasn't out today but these little guys were.



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.



Red-Flowering Currant
Ribes sanguineum
Painting by Heidi Hansen

[⇒ 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.

<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=32142>



Hairy Manzanita
(*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)
Painting by Heidi D. Hansen

⇒ 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.



Coast Redwood seedling
by Heidi D. Hansen



Personal notes from Wally

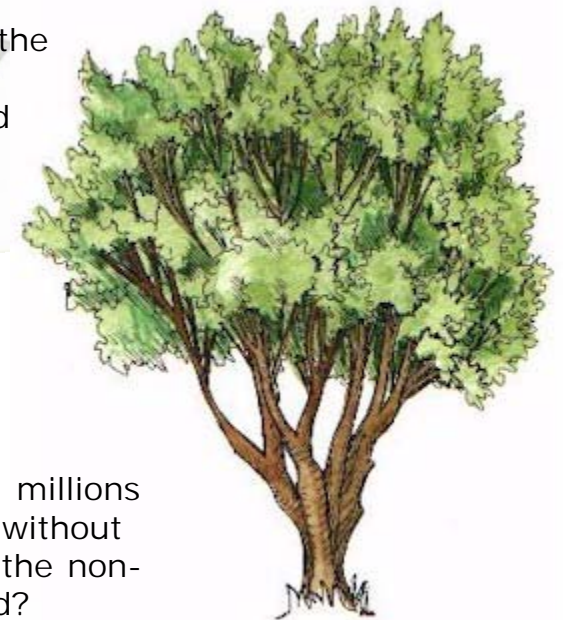
From my window I see two huge Big Leaf Maples in a corner of my gardens. Over the past fortnight, every day the buds open more and more to finally form the large beautiful new maple leaves of these magnificent trees. I am amazed and humbled by this ancient ritual of mystery and beauty and renewal and growth and creation.

Do you know that every cell in a leaf is like a miniaturized factory with thousands of intricately designed molecular machinery containing millions of atoms, without parallel in the non-living world?

I am overwhelmed by the grandeur of a tree – of a plant – of a garden. Health and renewal and humility and joy are found in a garden! You do not have to look far!

Good luck!
Wally

Two watercolors my daughter, Heidi D. Hansen, painted for me of our NW Native Maples.



NOTICE: NURSERY IS CLOSED



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

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

www.nwplants.com

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

Good luck! Good gardening!

Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*)

Photo by Prof. Wilbur Bluhm