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August 2008

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

Smelling up the place

New photographs!

Bolsa Chica project

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
On the Cover.....	4
Garden chores to do now...	5
Sparky's Corner.....	6
Native Plant Information on the Web.....	26

Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Features

Smelling up the place	
Potpourris from native plants...	8
Consummate camera work	
New photos from staff photographer, JoAnn Onstott.....	14
Land restoration	
Bolsa Chica wetland project..	20
This & That	
Musings from the editor.....	24

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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.).

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



On the Cover

Mock Orange (*Philadelphica lewisii*)

This small native tree has the strongest fragrance of all the native plants. It branches freely and grows quickly to a mature height of 4-10 feet. It easily adapts to soil and light conditions, is very drought tolerant and requires minimal attention once established.

In late June it is covered with full clusters of large, snow-white flowers with an aroma that is positively intoxicating.

Hardy from USDA zones 5-10, native from BC to California and east to Montana. It is the state flower of Idaho.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

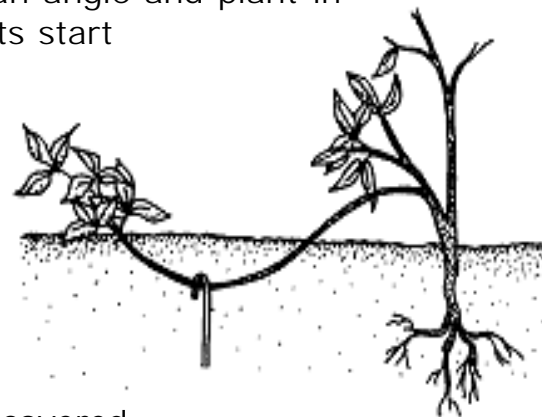


To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden



- 1** – Water watch! This month you either water newly planted landscapes or watch them die. It takes a full year for most plants to establish. Water deeply every 4-5 days in the early part of the day. Mulch will help conserve water.
- 2** – Cool down by keeping your doors and windows closed during the day and open them at night. Want to lower the temperature of your home and protect it from harsh weather? Plant a big tree on the south side of your house.
- 3** – Gather seeds to plant later.
- 4** – Take softwood cuttings of trees and shrubs. Cut at an angle and plant in rooting soil or sand. Transplant to regular dirt when roots start to develop.
- 5** – Divide perennials after they finish blooming. You will double your plants at no extra cost!
- 6** – Try layering to make a new start from an established plant. Prepare a pot of dirt and place it so a branch of the existing shrub lies right on the soil. If the branch does not reach the ground, set the pot on something to make it high enough for the branch to rest comfortably. Make sure the tip of the branch is not covered. Scratch the bark on the branch and then peg it down to the pot with a loop of wire and/or a rock heavy enough to keep it in place. After roots form, cut the start off from the mother plant. This is traditionally done by just burying the middle of a branch in the dirt but the pot method saves digging up the started plant and repotting.
- 7** – Try sun drying huckleberries. Yumm!



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



Warm summer breezes, hardly any rain, fresh huckleberries to eat, what a wonderful world!

It's that time again when Old Mr. Shorters tells us stories at night. We have so much fun and he has great stories! Here's one he told us last night. He said it was about a friend of his who lost his tail. He called it "a tale about a tail."

His friend was a red squirrel named Nutsy. They went with a bunch of their friends to gather nuts at a place called Owl Island. He said it was a long ways away and they had to jump through trees forever to get there.

When they finally made it, they had to ask the head owl if they could gather nuts. He said OK but everybody had to behave and give him some nuts when they were done.

It was working pretty good but Nutsy kept making fun of the head owl and dancing around and being a stinker. Finally the head owl got mad at Nutsy and tried to catch him. Nutsy was really fast but the owl was quick also and grabbed Nutsy's tail. Then he slung Nutsy around until his tail came off!

Everybody raced home after that because they were afraid the head owl would try to yank their tails off too. But they forgot to give him any nuts so they had another adventure about that. Old

Mr. Shorters said he'd tell us about it tomorrow. He said his girlfriend, Bebe, wrote this all up in a book and now she's famous. I didn't know he had a girlfriend but he said there's a lot of stuff I don't know. Hmmm.

There are a lot of things going on at the nursery. Diana goes away a lot to somewhere else. She calls it The Big Apple. I never heard of anyplace called an apple before. She's so dramatic and she is so smart! She sings and gets big ideas and keeps everybody hopping with these big ideas. Victor is doing even more things than he ever did before. He's teaching Diana about the plants. I hope he doesn't tell her about the nuts. She already knows about the huckleberries. I know that because she ate some!

[➡ More ➡](#)

Sparky's Corner, continued

That's OK though. Huckleberries are good for you and we have plenty of them. Wally eats them too. He probably told her about them. We like the Oregon Grapes but when you pick them you have to be careful because the leaves will poke you if you're not careful.

The nuts aren't ready yet so we're eating the rest of the ones we hid last year. Grandma says now's the time to do that. She says we have to clean out the

larder so we'll have a place to put this year's crops. I have no idea what she's talking about but I don't really care as long as she says we can eat all the nuts.

We have not had as many young two-leggers as we used to. I wonder why? Do you think the two-legger kits are not gardening anymore? How sad! Gardening is almost the best thing about two-leggers. They carry the plants around and take them away in their zoom-zooms. But now they're bringing back the pots. They never did that before. Victor says it's a good thing because he uses the pots for new plants and the two-leggers don't have to throw them away anymore. Can you imagine--they actually throw stuff away! I don't know where away is but I bet it's full of stuff. And pots.

OK, I'm outa here. It's time to eat and jump around and then go over to Old Mr. Snorters' nest and hear more stories. See ya next time!

*Your friend,
Sparky*



Western Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*) A lovely tree for the landscape, easy to grow and produces delicious filberts. Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Western Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*) Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Smelling up the place

Simple Potpourris With Native Plants

The natural way to add pleasing fragrance to your home or vehicle. Make your own potpourri from ingredients you grow or gather. Economical and safe, lovely to look at, these aromatic mixtures make fine gifts, too. Based in part from an article by Pioneer Thinking

Finding the plants

The best place to gather your potpourri materials is your own garden. When you choose plants for the landscape, for the yard, for containers or your herbal garden, be aware of the fragrant qualities of each plant. Different parts of the plant may have different perfumes. For instance, the flowers, leaves, stems and roots may all have a special aroma that is unique. Some plants may be very ordinary in appearance but may have the most wonderfully aromatic bark. A flower may smell lovely when first opened but develop a distinctly stinky fragrance when mature or vice versa. So think about this when you add plants to your collection.

Wild plants (those we find in the woods or the pasture or meadow or alongside the pathway) often are stronger in fragrance than the same plant growing in someone's garden. That is because nature is not a kind gardener. Plants in the wild thirst for water in the deep summer and shiver for warmth in winter. As a result, those that survive are hardy and every part of their being is much more intense than a similar specimen that is pampered and protected and fed with the 'silver spoon.'

Caution: plants growing in the wild may be sprayed with poison or watered by a passing deer. They may be subjected to vehicular exhaust fumes or host to all manner of bugs. If you gather from the wild places, remember the phrase "caveat emptor," (let the buyer beware).



Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*) one of the best ornamental shrubs, this evergreen beauty bears highly scented flowers, edible fruits and soft green leaves. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒More⇒](#)

Smelling up the place, continued

Harvesting your ingredients

Handle your herbs and flowers carefully to avoid bruising them. Once they have been bruised you will have lost any value in them for their essential oils.

As a rule, the best time to collect leaves, roots, flowers and seeds is in the early morning after the dew has evaporated.

Choose plants that are clean, free of any pests or diseases. Choose flowers that are newly opened if that is when their perfume is most evident. Some flowers let the sun draw their oils and their fragrance is most strong in the afternoon.

*Always collect 4 times the amount you will need for the final potpourri mix as flowers, leaves etc will shrink when dried.

Drying Methods

The drying process usually takes up to 2 weeks in general. There are two processes for drying flowers and herbs. Keep in a warm dark place that has good air circulation.

Air Drying: Using a window screen works quite well. It allows air circulation around the plant material. Place the flowers and or herbs on a single layer. Do not pack them tightly together or on top of each other or they will decompose. Takes about one week to be completely dried out.

Hanging: Fasten together several small bunches, tie the stems off with stretchy material strips or string. Old knit undergarments and hose work well for this. Hang your bunches upside down to dry out.



Two never-fail ingredients for potpourri: Incense Cedar (left) and Common Juniper (right). Photos by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒More⇒](#)



Smelling up the place, continued

Storing The Potpourri

Store ingredients and the finished mixtures in a cool dark place in airtight glass containers for at least 1 month. They'll keep for about one year before the potency begins to dissipate. You can always perk it up with a little more essential oil and some fresh ingredients.

Recycling old potpourri

Remove anything that is not organic (shells, jewelry bits, buttons, ribbons, etc.) and then sprinkle around houseplants, outdoor containers, in flowerbeds or around trees and shrubs. You can throw handfulls in the fireplace for a burst of scent or simply add to the compost.

Making the potpourri

To make the potpourri you basically need four main ingredients.

- Flowers, leaves, seeds, bark, small wood pieces, roots for the mixtures.
- Essential oils
- Spices and Herbs
- Fixative

Finishing touches

Add beautiful elements to your finished potpourri for eye-appeal. These can be nice whole seed pods or flower buds, cones, fungi, even driftwood, shells or sea glass. If you have old buttons or interesting sewing findings that are light in weight they may be perfect for adding that extra bit to make your potpourri unique. Pieces of broken jewelry could also be used here. A ribbon threaded among the potpourri ingredients can be colorful and will absorb some of the oils and hold them longer.

Don't forget the container. You can pick up great looking containers at yard sales, flea markets, thrift stores. Look for odd glass or porcelain lids as well. Mix and match these to make unique containers to hold your creations.



Lemon Lily (*Lillium parryi*)
An unusual lily of great beauty and strong citrus fragrance. Its stems can reach 6 feet tall and will produce several flowers per stem. Prefers rich moist soil and partial sun.
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

In the background is the very aromatic Oregon Myrtle (*Umbellularia californica*), an outstanding evergreen with distinctly lovely perfumed foliage.

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Smelling up the place, continued

Potpourri Recipes

General Instructions: After Potpourri is made and dried, add 6 drops of your favorite essential oil to every cup of dried potpourri mix. Keep it in a closed container for a few weeks to allow scent to penetrate plant material. Stir the mixture daily.

Feel free to substitute ingredients if you have something that has great fragrance and will combine well. See a list of fragrant northwest native plants at the end of this article.



Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*) blooms in spring. Its leaves are evergreen. It forms clumps and is very long lived. Thrives in sun or shade, USDA zones 5 - 10.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Purple Haze

Ingredients:

- 1 cup dried Lavender (*Lavandula officinalis*) (purple)
- 7-8 drops Lavender essential/fragrance oil
- 2 tablespoons dried Orris Root
- 1/2 cup Red-Flowering Currant flower heads (*Ribes sanguineum*)
- 1/2 cup Oregon Geranium flowers (*Geranium oreganum*)
- 1/4 cup Hairy Manzanita leaves (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)
- 1/2 cup Douglas Iris flowers (*Iris douglasiana*)

American Dream

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup Columbia Larkspur blossoms (*Delphinium trollifolium*)
- 1 cup dried Nootka Rose buds (*Rosa nutkana*)
- 1/2 cup Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)
- 1/2 cup Woolly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanatum*)
- 1/2 cup White Sage (*Salvia apiana*)
- 1/4 cup Wild Ginger flowers (*Asarum caudatum*)
- 4-6 drops Rose essential/fragrance oil
- 2 tablespoons dried Orris Root



Red-Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) is a deciduous shrub or small tree with plentiful red to pink clusters of flowers that are followed by robin's egg blue seeds. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒More⇒](#)

Smelling up the place, continued

Citrus Delight

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons dried orris root
- 5 tablespoons Bearberry leaves (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*)
- 6-8 drops lemon essential/fragrance oil
- 1/2 cup dried Yarrow blossoms (*Achillea millefolium*)
- 1/2 cup dried Lemon Lily (*Lilium parryi*)
- 1/4 cup dried Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
- 1/4 cup orange peels finely sliced & dried or
- 1/4 cup kumquats, thinly sliced and dried



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
Aromatic herb long valued for medicinal uses. A beautiful addition to any flower garden with its tall stalks of blossoms and ferny leaves. It does not like deep shade or standing water but will tolerate most any other condition. Spreads by rhizomes.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Wild Flower Fields

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup dried Elder Flowers (*Sambucus nigra*)
- 2 tablespoons dried Orris Root
- 1/4 cup Evening Primrose petals (*Oenothera elata* ssp. *hirsutissima*)
- 1/4 cup Bearberry leaves (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*)
- 1/2 cup Fringecup flower heads (*Tellima grandiflora*)
- 2 drops Lavender essential/fragrance oil

Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*) A reliable perennial with mounds of lovely leaves from which tall stems of bell shaped flowers emerge. The pink fringe starts white and pinks up as each bloom ages. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇒ More ⇒

Smelling up the place, continued

There are literally hundreds of native trees, shrubs and perennials that have a wide variety of fragrances. Here are just a few of them. They can be added to your potpourri recipe or used as a substitute for other ingredients.

Alum Root (*Heuchera*)
Bay Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*)
Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)
Butterfly Mint (*Monardella*)
California Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*)
Cascade Lily (*Lilium washingtonianum*)
Coastal Sagewort (*Atremisia pycnocephala*)
Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*)
Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*)
Evening Primrose (*Oenothera*)
False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)
Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*)
Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*)
Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)
Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*)
Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)
Iris (*Iris tenax*, i. *setosa*, i. *purdyi*, i. *missouriensis*, i. *douglasiana*, i. *chrysophylla*)
Juniper (*Juniperus*)
Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)



Labrador Tea (*Ledum glandulosum*)
Lemon Lily (*Lilium parryi*)
Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)
Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*)
Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)
Oregon Geranium (*Geranium oreganum*)
Oregon Grape (*Mahonia*)
Pacific Crabapple (*Malus fusca*)
Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*)
Red Stem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus sanguineus*)
Snowbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus*)
Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis* var. *longiflora*)
Vanilla Leaf (*Achlys triphylla*)
Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*)
White Fir (*Abies concolor*)
White Sage (*Salvia apiana*)
Wild Ginger (*Asarum caudatum*)
Wild Lilac (*Ceanothus cuneatus*)
Woolly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanatum*)
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Oceanspray (Holodiscus discolor) is a deciduous shrub with frothy cascades of tiny cream flowers. The fragrance is sweet and reminiscent of vanilla which intensifies as the flowers go from creamy white to light tan. Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Consummate Camera Work

A tribute to our photographer

Every few weeks I come home to find a couple of disks in my mailbox with a date and list of their contents. I tuck them away until I have an absolutely peaceful moment with my computer. Usually I have a cup of tea or a glass of lemonade at hand and soft music playing in the background. When all is prepared, I place the first CD in the drive and watch as little pictures appear, one at a time, on my screen.

I study each image as it pops into the folder I keep for this very special occasion. I've named it JKO, the initials of my dear friend who brings these photos to me. She is our staff photographer, you see. She photographs the plants at the nursery in all stages of their growth. She visits gardens where native plants are starred. Sometimes, when I've noticed unusual or especially beautiful natives growing in the wild, she brings her camera along and we have an outing with capturing nature digitally as our goal. We are never disappointed. A film camera only holds so much and one must wait until the film is developed to see what is there. But a digital camera holds hundreds of images and each one can be previewed immediately, even while it is being shot!

But a camera is only as good as the eye which imagines what can be seen and the steady hand that snaps the shutter. This is where the magic is born.

Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)
Deciduous shrub with awesome bright pink flowers in spring before the leaves appear. Sometimes a wild hillside will be covered with these natives and each spring they outshine everything in the area with their blinding beauty.
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

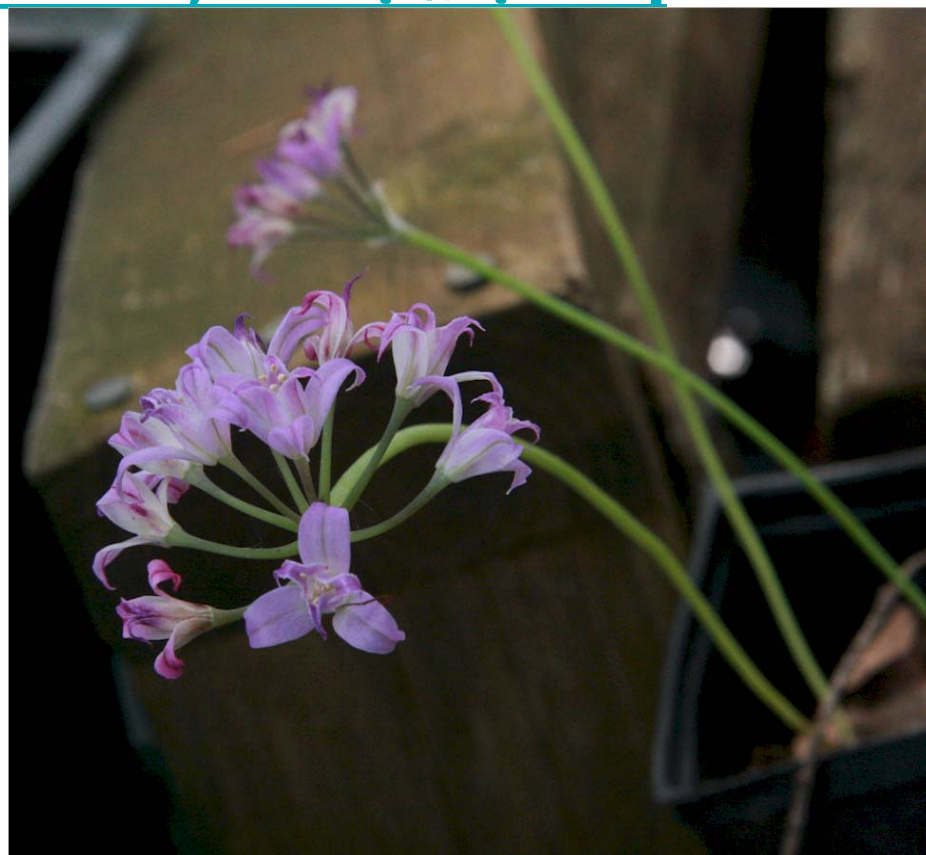


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Consummate Camera Work, continued

Hooker's Onion (*Allium acuminatum*) This plant is the same variety as the one below but the two photos illustrate how different two 'twins' can be! Hooker's Onion is best eaten roasted but take due caution to ensure you are eating a real onion. The fragrance makes identification easy.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Hooker's Onion (*Allium acuminatum*)

Similar to other wild alliums, this one grows in clusters and its grass-like leaves wither before it blooms. Although it usually has bright pink flowers, on occasion its flowers are white with dark pink tips. It can be eaten and some prefer the flavor to onions cultivated as a food source. Wants to grow in a dry, sunny space with good drainage.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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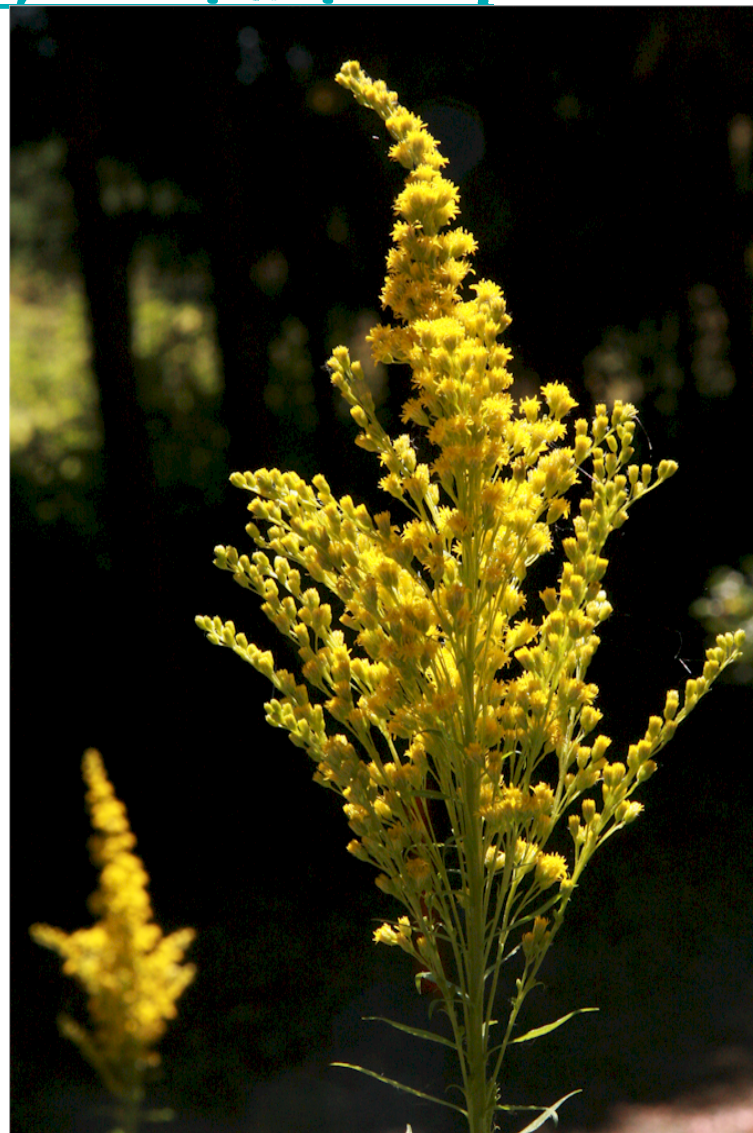
Consummate Camera Work, continued

Douglas Spirea (*Spirea douglasii*) The erect flower spikes of the Douglas Spirea are dramatically different from the cultivated landscape spireas which are mostly white. You'll find this native wild thing in moist, open sunny locations and it does not mind a coastal wind. Invaluable in wetland restoration projects. Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Solidago canadensis
Canada Goldenrod

Goldenrod (*Solidago*) is another plant with erect blooming spires. A symbol of wealth and well-being, Goldenrod is very attractive to bees and butterflies. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

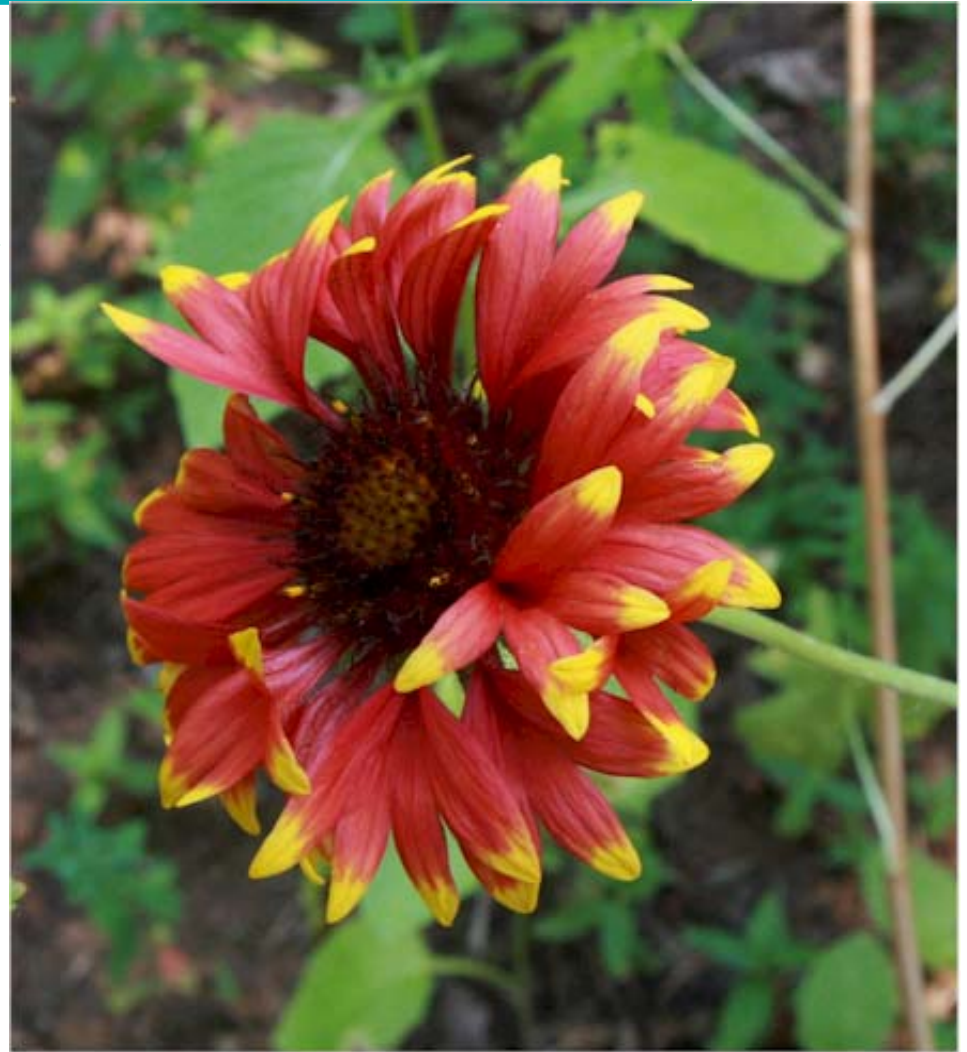


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Consummate Camera Work, continued

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia aristata*) is such a cheerful perennial it's hard to resist that bright color. It has a long tap root that reaches deep into the earth for moisture, making it very drought resistant. Good cut flower, excellent in a butterfly garden.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*) is a beautiful ornamental that grows to 3 feet in full sun. Excellent for the rock garden. Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒More⇒](#)

Consummate Camera Work, continued

Prairie Violet (*Viola pedatifida*) has such intensely blue-purple flowers they look like satin. Usually blooms mid to late spring but can also bloom in fall.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Goodyera oblongifolia
Rattlesnake Plantain


Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*) is a very under-used orchid of the northwest. The foliage is a beautiful evergreen rosette with distinctive markings on a dark green background. It grows in forests that are dry or moist.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Consummate Camera Work, continued



Oregon Grape (*Mahonia*) dusky blue purple fruit is delicious to eat. Makes wonderful jams and jellies! Before the fruit is formed, this plant has large yellow clusters of flowers that have a delightful fragrance. An evergreen shrub, Oregon Grape leaves are edged with spikey teeth similar to holly. Fine fall color.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Baneberry (*Actea rubra*) is a poisonous plant, particularly the roots and berries. Not usually deadly, the symptoms of poisoning by this plant are vomiting, delirium and stomach cramps. Definitely not a plant to fool with though it is beautiful in the landscape. Oddly, this plant is said to have verifiable medicinal qualities and because of that it has been used extensively in many cultures.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Land Restoration

Bolsa Chica Wetlands

A great notion is coming closer to fruition with each passing year as the Bolsa Chica wetlands near Huntington Beach, California, are restored to their former glory, bit by bit.

We came to know about this undertaking from a new native plant gardening friend, Connie Boardman. You will recall we introduced Connie last issue with her eye-popping photo of Red Monkeyflowers. She took that shot in the area where a group called the Bolsa Chica Stewards has been replacing the non-native grasses with native plants for about 10 years. It's a mesa just upland next to the wetlands of Bolsa Chica.

She writes:

This spring, after a winter of more normal rainfall, we had a riot of bloom with the monkey flowers being only one of the plants in bloom. The coast sunflowers just went nuts, as did all our sages. I think they were making up for the prior season when we only had between 2-3 inches of rain.



Birding among the Coastal Sunflowers on the Bolsa Chica mesa.
Photo by Connie Boardman

[⇒More⇒](#)

Land Restoration, continued

Early pioneers called it "shell beach," because the sand was made of empty shells in varying states from whole shells to tiny bits. They were left along the beaches and bluffs by the original inhabitants of the area. The Shoshone, whose feet first walked the Bolsa Chica, subsisted largely on fish and shellfish which were abundant in the wetlands. Artifacts of the people of early California are still found. The ancient burials from 8,000 years ago silently mark time.



Coastal Sunflowers and Purple Sage making a beautiful comeback of abundant bloom. Photo by Connie Boardman

The Bolsa Chica, or "Little Pocket" was isolated by wetlands, small areas of dry land, and the Pacific. Once a part of the huge Rancho La Zanja, "little pocket" was named when the ranch was divided in 1834.



Bolsa Chica Stewards and friends celebrate Earth Day with a planting party followed by ice cream. Photo by Connie Boardman

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Land Restoration, continued

It was wild land with only the small adobe of the Nieto family and the only visitors were wandering cattle and vaqueros. Rancho Bolsa Chica largely avoided encroaching "civilization." The US military used it for an armament in WW II but for years it was only visited by farmers and duck hunters until enterprise came in the form of oil drillers which eventually sucked the life out of it. To be sure, non-native invaders found a foothold but the original face of Little Pocket would no longer be recognized in the barren waste that once supported true native life.



"I was invited to the Bolsa Chica to view the artifacts that had been found. When I looked at those artifacts, I wanted to clutch all of them close to me. These artifacts were part of our history. They were part of my ancestors. They are our story, our culture. The Bolsa Chica must be saved." - Lillian Robles, Juaneno/Acjachemem Nation, Celebrate the Bolsa Chica, Bolsa Chica Mesa Press, 1999



Very little of the first Bolsa Chica remained when Ms. Robles saw the area in 1999. Since then, great changes have been made. No longer populated only by skyscrapers and clanging oil rigs, the coastland and mesa welcome back those plants and wildlife that lived here hundreds of years ago. It's a good beginning.

Bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*) with pollinator.

Photo by Connie Boardman (Shown at right) See her bioblog at www.boardmanbio.blogspot.com/

[⇒More⇒](#)

Land Restoration, continued

Not all the harm that befell Bolsa Chica is undone. It took hundreds of years for it to reach the ultimate disarray and it will take many more years to retrace those steps backwards. But it can be done as we can see from the huge changes that have been made in the Little Pocket.

(1981)



(2006)



How did this happen? The answer to that question is simple: One step, one day, one pair of helping hands, all multiplied for a few years of positive action.

We hope this story inspires you to lend your hands to some restoration work in your own area. You don't have to go to Bolsa Chica--there are restoration projects everywhere. We're beginning to look at what we've wrought with new eyes. A clear vision of what is right now and what can be tomorrow can motivate us to make it happen.

By taking one step at a time it is possible to actually change the world, just a little bit. What a difference a day can make!

Bolsa Chica from 1981 to 2006.
Look what can happen!
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program
shows these photos on their website.
www.fws.gov//bolsachica/



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**BOLSA CHICA
RESTORATION**

This & That

A few notes from Jennifer

Summer is no time to be tied up in projects that prevent enjoyment of the gorgeous weather. Unfortunately, that's the spot I find myself in right now.

The good news is the lion's share of the tasks will be over in a week and I can get back to doing what I love--lazing about in a hammock! Just 30 minutes lying beneath a shady tree and doing absolutely nothing does me more good than hours of anything else.

I've tried all sorts of formal meditation, yoga, acupuncture, relaxing teas and herbal scrubs. Nothing works better for stress and just plain tiredness than melting into that woven rope cocoon.

Wally introduced me to a poem a few years ago back when he still wrote a personal message in the journal for all the gardeners who loved to hear from him. This poem was by James Whitcomb Riley titled Knee-Deep in June. The first verse goes like this:

Tell you what I like the best —
'Long about knee-deep in June,
'Bout the time strawberries melts
On the vine, — some afternoon
Like to jes' git out and rest,
And not work at nothin' else!



Yep, that's the ticket. Oh, I can't wait for this next week to get done. Of course, I'll have to pay attention and not get too anxious. No reason to waste a whole week of my life trying to make the next week hurry up. But I'll keep this image of myself in mind so I have the goal right before me.

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

This & That, continued

It's been an interesting month since we last communed. Every day I see something special that sets each day off from the others like a special message just for me. One day I had just turned onto a side road and there was a young skunk ambling across the road like he owned it. I stopped right in my tracks until he finished the trip to the other side. He had sort of a smile on his face. I think he was getting quite a kick out of making a car wait.

Another day I noticed a young man jumping in and out of a ditch grabbing at something. A police officer was standing there watching him in a bemused fashion. Thought maybe the guy was trying to catch a frog or something like that but when I got closer I saw he was grabbing money! The wind was blowing pretty good and the bills were flying all around. That fellow was snatching them as soon as they landed and cramming them in his pockets.

Whenever I see something like that I make up a story about what is happening. (You probably already figured that out!) I think it is a fun way to look at life. We're a pretty comical species and a laugh or two makes it easier to keep the right perspective.

Sometimes the sights aren't so funny. Friday had one of those. I noticed a sheriff's car beside the road and a couple of flares and when I got round the bend there was a car on its side. All sorts of firemen and sheriffs and ambulances were there trying to get things straightened out. People standing around and some kids sitting in a car. Wonder what they were doing. They must have seen what happened or had some tie to whoever was in that car.

I drove home slowly that day with tears streaming down my cheeks and a prayer on my lips for the scared and hurt and their families and for those firemen and sheriffs who serve the rest of us when we can't take care of ourselves. I got that message loud and clear: slow down. Drive carefully. Look out for each other.

Until next time,
Jennifer

Douglas Spirea (*Spirea douglasii*) in morning sun.
Photo by Jennifer Rehm



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

Birdchick

<http://www.birdchick.com/>

Hundreds of photos of birds, bees, butterflies and other friendlies. Sharon Stiteler shares the joys of birding as well as insights on rabbits.

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.

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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.



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Maidenhair Tree
(Ginkgo biloba)

Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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!

**Mock Orange
(*Philadelphus lewisii*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott**