



Volume 7, Issue 6-2009 ~ June 2009

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

A look behind the camera

And more....

Published by Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plant Nursery & Gardens

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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Pacific Dogwood Stamp
(*Cornus nuttallii*)

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About this Web Magazine



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

I am Wally Hansen – I am a dedicated Grower, Aficionado and Passionate Lover of Northwest Native Plants.

This Journal is not 'commercial.' My 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.).



Writers wanted: If you have expertise for any species of Northwest plants and wish to write an article for pay for publication in this Journal, please contact Wally via e-mail at nwplants@gmail.com Some articles (and pics) might deal with propagation, culture, diseases, restoration, reclamation, fertilizers, etc.



On the Cover

The Native American Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) is a quiet plant, slipping in among other shrubs, usually beneath taller trees.

Quite early in spring this little deciduous shrub brings forth leaves of a bright green with a slight yellow cast--not chartreuse but certainly not an ordinary bright green. The leaves are in bunches all along the stems.

At the very tip in the last bunch of leaves appear clusters of white flowers dangling at the end of the stems. It is this point of growth that attracts our attention.



Oh, Ladybug! We're so glad you've come. Stay awhile, protect our plums!

Native American Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) *"Harbinger of Spring"*



Photo by JoAnn Onstott

[⇒ More ⇒](#)

On the Cover, continued



A closer look at the flowers (above)
The ripened fruit (below)
Photos by JoAnn Onstott



We appreciate the airy beauty of this northwest native for a month or two, but when the flowers have gone by there are so many other plants that catch our eye, the *Oemleria cerasiformis* is forgotten.

But the birds and other wildlife do not forget their friend, for this is a source of food and shelter, a good place to build a nest or rest on the branches and watch for the chance of snapping up an unsuspecting bug. One would think hummingbirds might favor the blooms since they have a longish throat that hummers could probe for treats but I have not seen this happen. It might have occurred and I missed it.

The fruit replaces the flowers, little greenish tan plums turn darker as the days go by. Their color spectrum evolves to yellow-orange, then carmine and finally a dusky dark blue/purple. This is the real payoff for wildlife gardens. Those fruits do bring on the show of flashing wings and songs cast up in the air.

One of the common names for this shrub is "skunk bush." I came to understand that moniker when I picked some of these flowers to put on my desk. They were lovely but the next day I noticed their fresh fragrance was a bit sour. By the third day, the flowers were still beautiful but stinky. **Definitely stinky.** They had to be buried. The smell was so strong it was quite evident right through a sealed plastic bag.



The fruit beginning to color (above)
The natural shape of this shrub (below)
Photos by JoAnn Onstott



Monthly Highlights

Things to look for this month

1 – Strawberries! Ripe, red and juicy strawberries will be ready this month. Don't worry, if you don't get all yours picked the birds will be sure to find any you've missed. If you just planted them this year they will not have much of a yield. But next year will be much better. By year three you'll have berries galore!

2 – Lilies! Look for Tigers and Leopards and Lemons and Washingtons, also the little Fritillaries will be abloom.

3 – Poison Oak! This is the time when the flowers are out and the oils are very strong. If you are allergic to this nasty plant, stay out of the wilderness. But also be careful everywhere you go. I found Poison Oak growing in a neighbor's flower bed.

4 – Children! Most kids are out of school or will be soon. They'll be popping up everywhere when you least expect it. Because the weather is more friendly, the little ones will be outdoors a lot also. Be careful driving! If you have young friends, try to interest them in native plants. Print out Wally's coloring book, take a nature hike!

5 – Sunshine! Be aware of the danger of too much sun for your skin, for dehydration and for sun stroke. Use a sunscreen lotion or spray, wear clothing that is light in color but covers your arms and legs. Wear a hat. Don't forget sunglasses. Drink a gallon of water per day or more! A lot of damage can occur from overexposure to the sun in a very short time. As the sun rises, it's rays are not so strong. The higher in the sky it gets, the stronger the rays. Then as it wanes and sets in the evening, the rays are again weaker.

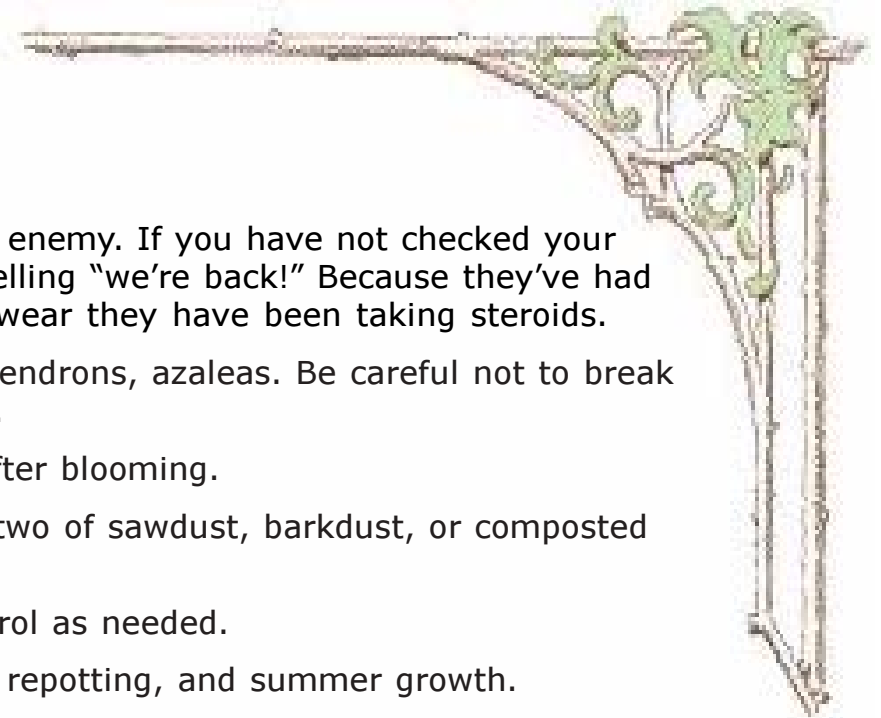
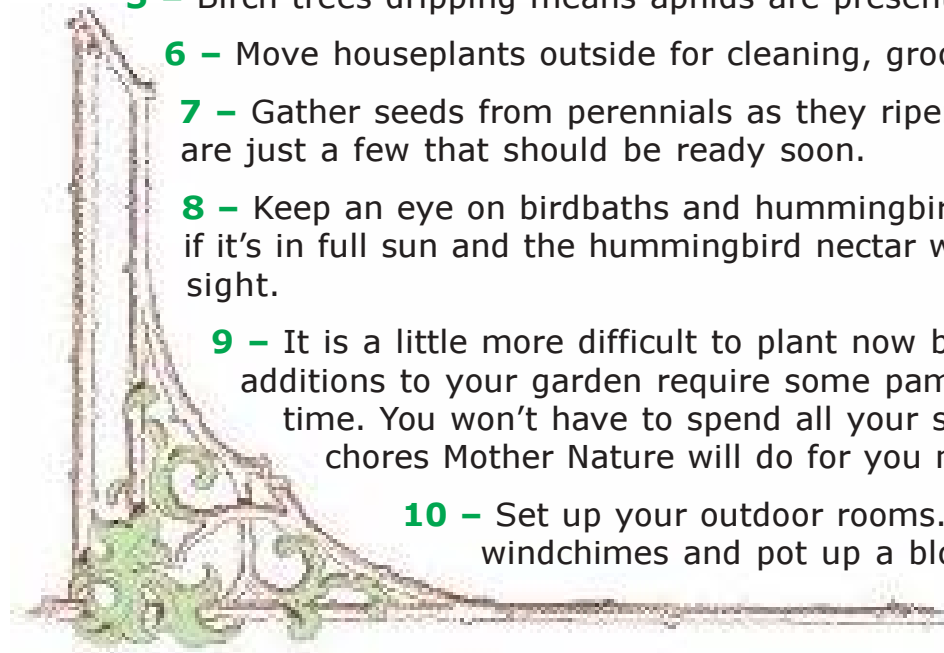
6 – Huckleberry blooms! If you find these in the wilderness, remember where you saw them and come back in late July or August to taste the delicious berries. Remember, Hucks are Wally's favorite and he is quite particular, only the finest of flavors suits our master gardener!



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

- 1** – Right about now weeds are fast becoming everyone's worst enemy. If you have not checked your garden for weeds you'll find they are almost standing up and yelling "we're back!" Because they've had such a good time sprouting seeds and gaining strength you'll swear they have been taking steroids.
- 2** – Remove seed pods after blooms have dropped from rhododendrons, azaleas. Be careful not to break the little leaf buds. That's where next years flowers come from.
- 3** – If you must prune rhododendrons and azaleas, wait until after blooming.
- 4** – Use organic mulches to conserve soil moisture. An inch or two of sawdust, barkdust, or composted leaves will minimize loss of water through evaporation.
- 5** – Birch trees dripping means aphids are present. Control as needed.
- 6** – Move houseplants outside for cleaning, grooming, repotting, and summer growth.
- 7** – Gather seeds from perennials as they ripen and dry. Lupines, mallows, delphiniums and violets are just a few that should be ready soon.
- 8** – Keep an eye on birdbaths and hummingbird feeders. Change both daily. That water can get very hot if it's in full sun and the hummingbird nectar will ferment overnight. Drunken hummers is not a pretty sight.
- 9** – It is a little more difficult to plant now because you'll have to do the watering yourself. New additions to your garden require some pampering until they are firmly established and that takes time. You won't have to spend all your spare time on this, just check them once a day and do the chores Mother Nature will do for you next year.
- 10** – Set up your outdoor rooms. Dust off the cushions, put out some candles. Check the windchimes and pot up a blooming plant for the table.



Rare plant puzzle



Identity of the photographer will be revealed
in the July issue of our journal

Name this plant!

I'm hard to find past afternoon tea

But if you're lucky you just might see

My bright color, for that's the key.

Send an email with the correct botanical name of
this plant to NativePlantLady@nwplants.com.

You will join the ranks of winners!

Good luck!

Congratulations!

Hat's off to Jerry Murray who not only
identified the May plant--he gave us
some lovely insight into the species.

The answer: *Erythronium oregonum*

Lynne sent the photo in last month's journal to us hoping
for a positive identification. She says "there is a large field of
them in Victoria, on the bluffs overlooking the strait."



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor



First off, let me clear up a rumor: I did not go to Hawaii. I went to Argentina. My buds and I are of an age now where we are very interested in the girls and we heard the most successful way to impress the fair ones is to learn the tango. And where else would one go to learn this incredibly romantic dance besides Buenos Aires?

So we went. I can't say exactly how we got there--we couldn't figure out how to get on an airplane and none of us have passports so we used the best available choice of transportation. It took a while but there was so much food the two-leggers didn't even notice when we helped ourselves.

One very exciting thing happened that I just have to tell you about. There was a little dog named Bunny who was also heading to Argentina but the lady who owned him kept him on a little leash and would not let him run around to have any fun. Poor little guy. We talked it over amongst ourselves and decided to do a little do-si-do (that's what we squirrels call tricks).

Jazbo volunteered to trade places with Bunny for a day. The lady always stayed in the bathroom a long time every morning so Bunny let us into their room. We took the leash off Bunny and Jazbo put it on and then we tippy-toed out of there so we could hide and watch what happened. Bunny was afraid that Mrs. Beasom (that's the lady who owns him) would notice that Bunny looked and acted different. As it turns out, Mrs. Beasom was so excited about the hat contest they were having that she paid very little attention to "Bunny." She brushed him and put his ribbon on his head and squirted him with some smelly stuff and said, "OK, Bunny Honey, let's go get some breakfast."

[⇒More⇒](#)

Sparky's Corner

Jazbo had to slow way down because Mrs. Beasom apparently did not know how to leap and run so he just hunkered down and tried to walk like a dog. Everybody at breakfast remarked how lively "Bunny" was today and how nice his hair ribbon looked (Jaz was really embarrassed about that one!).

The whole day went pretty much like breakfast. Jaz kept grabbing food and throwing it over for us to eat. Great stuff! It was hard on him to mope around and when he had to bark for a treat Mrs. Beasom thought he had a cold but outside of that it was fun for everybody--especially the real Bunny. We tried to teach him how to leap up and grab hold on poles but his fingers don't work the same as ours so he landed on his tail a few times.

When we got to Argentina we didn't even have a chance to find somebody to teach us the tango. In fact, we didn't even get to put our feet on the dirt. Some 2-leggers caught us and put us in cages and we had to go right back home. They thought maybe nasty old Argentinan diseases would make us sick. They gave us good food and water and soft stuff to sleep on but there was no playing and no running and we didn't see our friend Bunny again at all!



But we made up some dances and songs and practiced the whole trip back home. The other four-leggers in the same room with us complained when we were too noisy but some of them tried the Oregon tango songs. Some were pretty good but that little poodle just could not dance. Not bad as a singer but she had no rhythm.

Well, I'm glad to be home. Mama was MAD because we didn't tell her we were going away but she got over it after we performed our tango and promised never to do that again.

Oops--gotta go. Grandma wants to see the dance. See ya next time!

Your friend,
Sparky



Not 'Just' a Photographer

We've all enjoyed her work for quite a while. Now it's time to introduce the artist behind the camera.

When you're pointing a camera at plants or people or whatever, it's easy to get used to being in the background. About a month ago a thought struck: maybe you, the readers of our monthly journal and fellow native plant lovers, might like to meet the woman who has been providing the beautiful photographs for the nursery.

Having known her for many years I knew to approach this subject with care and subtlety and maybe a little chicanery, for she tends to be a little shy off and on.

I emailed her with the idea and did not make a big deal out of it, just a simple little article for the journal. I requested a photo of her at any age and also one of her taking pictures of native plants. I thought she might like picking out a childhood picture and (here comes the chicanery) I also knew she'd probably ask her special someone to take the photo of her using the camera. And I knew her special guy would jump all over this idea.

That all worked out quite well. And today she sent me the photos (a choice of each because she never does anything halfway) along with the requested info about her life.

So, without further ado, may I present my great friend and photographer extraordinaire:



⇒ More ⇒



Photographer, continued

In her own words:

"Born in Tacoma while Dad was stationed at McChord Field. He was career Air Force, so most of my growing-up years entailed moving every few years. It was hard being the "new kid" in school so frequently, but otherwise, it was a great education. Favorite times were spent visiting Mom's parents on their Nebraska farm.



"There was no running water on the farm, and I remember Grandma hauling bucket after bucket after bucket of water from the pump to the vegetable garden in the evenings. Even after retiring and moving to town, Grandma and Grandpa maintained a huge vegetable garden. Grandma canned dozens and dozens of quarts and always loaded down our car for our trips home, until Dad balked saying the trunk was dragging and couldn't handle another jar.

Here she is visiting Lambert Gardens in the Reed neighborhood of Portland.

Until 1968, it was a private garden created by Andrew Lambert, a landscaper of great originality and artistry.

In 1968 the aging Lambert tried to sell the gardens to the city of Portland. They turned him down so he sold to developers who ripped out the gardens and built apartments and parking. JoAnn says she remembers the peacocks that roamed free in the gardens.

⇒ More ⇒

Photographer, continued

"Farm life has always appealed to me, and even though I live in the heart of Salem, my 100-year-old home has a rural touch.

"A recent first-time visitor said it was like a bit of country in the middle of the city, and a neighbor's friend today said my front yard garden looked like his grandmother's garden. Several years ago I had killed off the lawn and filled the space with flowers.

"The back yard is large, and I concluded the best things to plant were natives which, once established, could be easily maintained. I pored over Wally Hansen's catalog making lists of which shrubs I wanted to fill the back yard. The natives are the backbone of the garden interspersed with other favorites.

"The gardens are still works in progress, but then, isn't every garden?"

Ms. Onstott does have a lovely garden. Well, it's really several small spaces that together make up the whole. She has a tea garden and a delft garden and I don't remember the other ones. She did have a moon garden but I think that one turned into the delft garden. She had at one time an antique brass baby bathtub she was turning into a little pond and all the plants were selected for not only their looks and behaviours but their names which had to have something to do with babies. (The only one which comes to mind right now is Baby's Breath.)

Anyway, her gardens are just as unique and wonderful as she is.



I appreciate the misunderstanding I have had with Nature over my perennial border. I think it is a flower garden; she thinks it is a meadow lacking grass, and tries to correct the error. ~Sara Stein, My Weeds, 1988



It's all in a day's (or week's) work

Beginning with this page and on through page 44 are photographs JoAnn has taken over the past few weeks. Once a month or so she brings by CDs filled with photographs she has taken since the last batch was dropped off. Wally gets one copy and I get the other. And this is the source of most of the photos I use in the website and the journal and the entire collections in the section of our website called Gifts from Wally.

The pictures are whatever has caught her eye when she's out shooting. A particularly nice branch or flower or seed pod, the way the leaves look with the sun shining through them, the occasional wildlife--all are liable to be caught in her lens. Such a great gift to see with the camera's eye.



Bitter Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: USDA zones: 4-8.

Mature size: Height: 20-50 ft

Flowers 4-6" posies

Leaves: 1-2" oval

Fruit: Red and juicy.

Birds love them.

Light: Sun -
part shade

Soil: loam.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra formosa* ssp. *formosa*)

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: USDA zones: 7-10

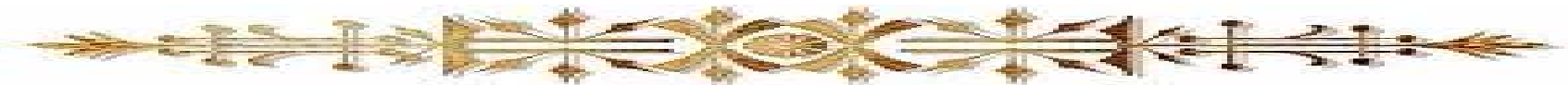
Mature size: Height: 1/2 - 2 ft

Flowers Pendant pink/white, very long bloom cycle. Gentle fragrance.

Leaves: Large lacy, finely textured

Light: Shade

Soil: Moist



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: USDA zones: 6-10

Mature size: Height: 20 ft

Flowers Beautiful fragrant flower spikes in May

Leaves: Broad pale green

Fruit: Giant nuts loved by birds and squirrels. Not edible by humans.

Light: Sun - part shade

Soil: Moist, will tolerate seasonal flooding.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued

Common Cammas (Camassia quamash)

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: USDA zones: 6-10

Mature size: Height: 1-2 ft

Flowers Blue violet stars along 12-19" stems

Leaves: Grassy

Fruit: Bulbs are sweet when steamed

Light: Sun - part shade

Soil: Well drained



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Common Cammas (Camassia quamash)

Closeup

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: USDA zones: 6-10

Mature size: Height: 1-2 ft

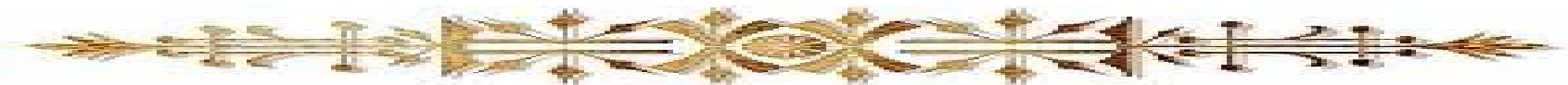
Flowers Blue violet stars along 12-19" stems

Leaves: Grassy

Fruit: Bulbs are sweet when steamed

Light: Sun - part shade

Soil: Well drained



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

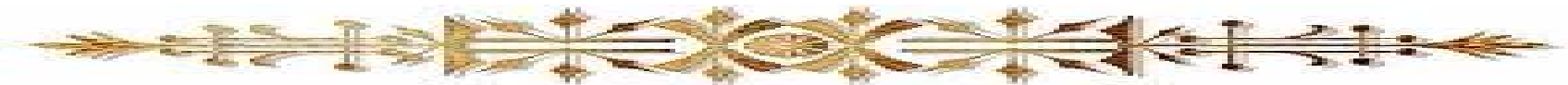
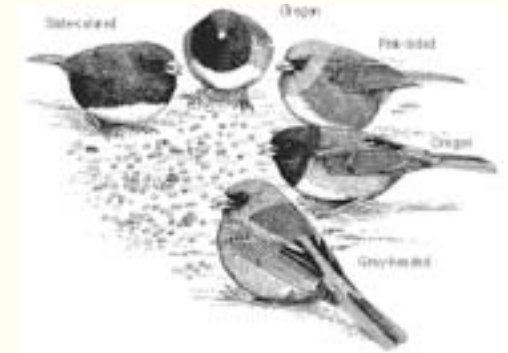
Work, continued



Dark Eyed Junco

Length: 5.25-6 inches Pink, conical bill White outer tail feathers Considerable geographic variation in plumage Various forms were formerly considered separate species

Various dark-eyed juncos. from U.S. Geological Society



[⇒ More ⇨](#)

Work, continued

Douglas Hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: USDA zones: 3-9

Mature size: Height: 10-30 ft

Flowers Dense clusters of rose-like flowers

Leaves: Deeply serrated and sharp thorns 1/2 - 1" long

Fruit: Haws are plentiful and delicious.

Light: Full sun

Soil: Drought resistant, also tolerates brief periods of flooding.

Bonus!

Attracts ladybugs.



[⇒ More ⇨](#)

Work, continued



Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 5-10.

Mature size: Height: 1 - 1 1/2 ft

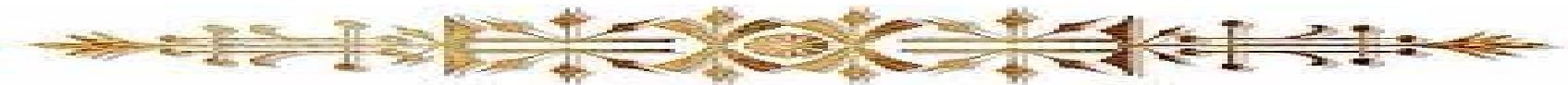
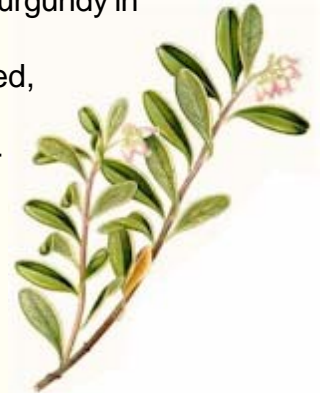
Flowers Small pink-white bells

Leaves: Evergreen, dark green leathery, often burgundy in autumn.

Fruit: Vibrant red, loved by birds.

Light: Full sun - light shade

Soil: Dry.
Excellent for stabilizing banks and groundcover.



[⇒ More ⇨](#)

Work, continued



False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: USDA zones: 3-8

Mature size:

Height: 3 ft

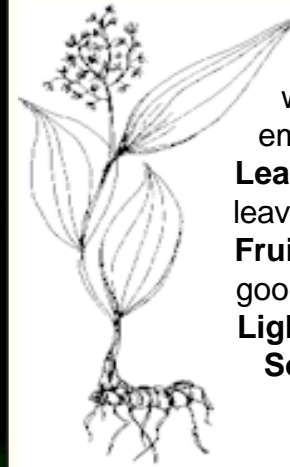
Flowers Creamy
white flower clusters
emit a lovely scent

Leaves: 2 1/2 - 6" glossy
leaves

Fruit: Dense clusters,
good for wildlife.

Light: Shade

Soil: Moist.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum* var. *aureum*)

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 2-10.

Mature size: Height: 3-10 ft

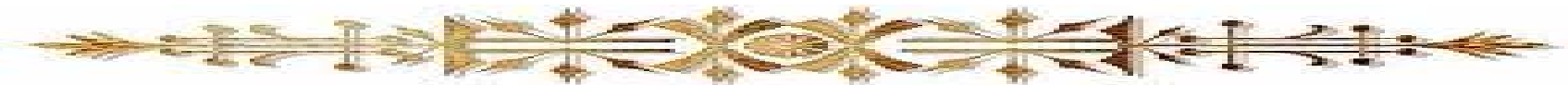
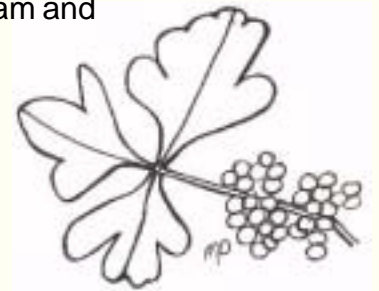
Flowers Spicy golden yellow flowers from February to April

Leaves: 3-5 lobes, turn yellow in fall.

Fruit: Black, much desired for ham and birds.

Light: Sun - part shade

Soil:
Drought tolerant.



[⇒ More ⇨](#)

Work, continued



Greene's Mountain Ash (*Sorbus scopulina*)

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 3-10.

Mature size: Height: 6-12 ft

Flowers Clusters of creamy blooms

Leaves: Deep green
leaflets neatly arranged
along their stems

Fruit: Vivid orange/
red lure birds,
especially
waxwings and
grosbeaks.

Light: Sun - part
shade

Soil: Prefers
moist site but is
adaptable.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Hairy Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*)

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 7-10.

Mature size: Height: 8-10 ft

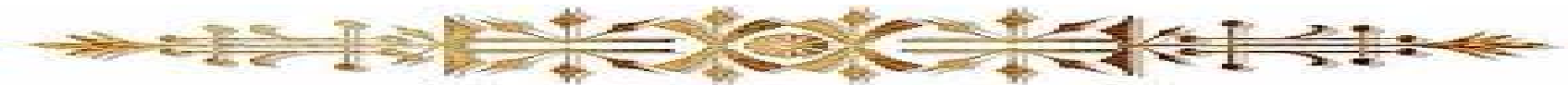
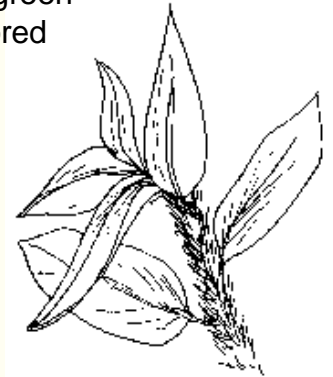
Flowers Clusters of fragrant white to light pink

Leaves: Hairy green

Fruit: Rust colored
edible fruits.

Light: Full sun,
southern or
western
exposure

Soil: Well-
drained acidic
soil, highly
drought tolerant.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued

Larkspur (Delphinium)

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: To USDA zone 3.

Mature size: Height: 1-2 ft

Flowers: Stems up to 2 ft with
blue/purple flowers

Leaves: 1-2" across,
divided palmately, 5
segments each with 3
fine-haired lobes

Light: Sun

Soil: Not very
particular but not
too wet.

CAUTION: This
plant is highly
poisonous.



[⇒ More ⇨](#)

Work, continued



Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: Hardy to USDA zones 7.

Mature size: Height: 30-70 ft

Flowers: Clusters of fragrant cream blooms

Leaves: Dark green large leather

Fruit: Small red berries follow flowers.

Light: Sun, south or west exposure

Soil: Well drained. Do not overwater or fertilize.



[⇨ More ⇨](#)

Work, continued



Pacific Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*)

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 5-10.

Mature size: Small bramble

Flowers Small white clusters

Leaves: Compound (usually 3 leaflets), 1 1/2 to 3", armed with stickers..

Fruit: Black highly flavorful and juicy.

Light: Sun - full shade

Soil: Not particular, small amounts of irrigation produces bigger berries.



⇒ [More](#) ⇒

Work, continued

Pacific Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*)

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 3-10

Mature size: Height: 12 ft

Flowers Small white clusters 3-5".

Leaves: Small, maple-like

Light: Sun or- shade

Soil: Moist, will tolerate seasonal flooding as well as summer droughts.



⇒ **More** ⇒

Work, continued

Pacific Willow (*Salix lucida* ssp. *lasiandra*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: USDA zones: 2-9.

Mature size: Height: to 50 ft

Flowers: catkins 1 1/2-4" with hairy, yellow or brown scales at ends of leafy twigs



Leaves: 2-6" long, narrow and sharply pointed

Light: Sun - part shade

Soil: Moist sand or gravelly soil, tolerant of dry conditions.



[⇒ More ⇨](#)

Work, continued

Palmate Coltsfoot or Quinault (*Petasites frigidus* var. *palmatus*)

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: USDA zones: 8-9.

Mature size: Height: 2 ft

Flowers: Large, flat-
topped white to pink
flower clusters

Leaves: Deeply
divided 5-7 toothed
heart shaped, wooly
beneath.

Light: Deep shade -
full sun

Soil: Moist



⇒ [More](#) ⇒

Work, continued



Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: To USDA zone 2.

Mature size: Height: 100 ft

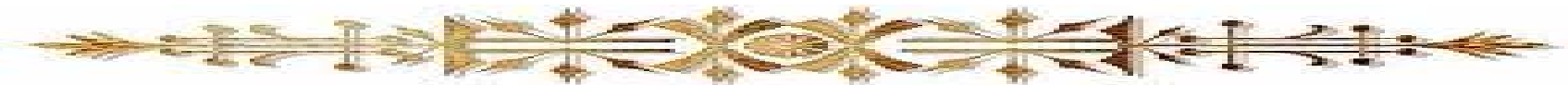
Flowers: 5" long golden catkins

Leaves: 2x3" heartshape, reliably cheerful yellow in fall.

Light: Sun

Soil: Moist

but not soggy.
Bark is remarkable white throughout its life.



[⇒ More ⇨](#)

Work, continued

Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: USDA zones: 7-10.

Mature size: Height: 75 ft

Leaves: 2-3" oval

Light: Sun - part shade

Soil: Poor, moist soils, can tolerate some drought.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa* var. *arborescens*)

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 6-9

Mature size: Height: 5-8 ft

Flowers Erect spikes of cream flowers

Leaves: large, opposite, compound with five to nine leaflets.

Fruit: Bright red, disagreeable to humans but attractive to birds.

Light: Sun - deep shade

Soil: Wants considerably moist but tolerates poor soil.



⇒ [More](#) ⇒

Work, continued



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

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones:5-10.

Mature size: Height: 15 ft, can be sheared much shorter if desired.

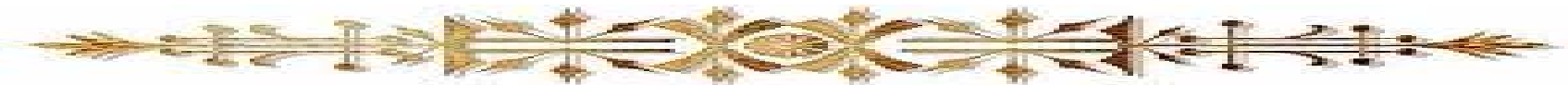
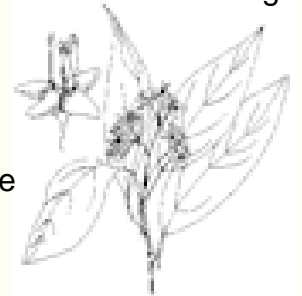
Flowers White flat topped clusters.

Leaves: Opposite, prominent lateral veins curve toward the tip and smooth edges. Beautiful scarlet in fall--stunning with bright red stems.

Fruit: Blue-white berries.

Light: Sun - shade

Soil: Once established, very drought tolerant.



⇒ **More** ⇨

Work, continued

Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)

Plant Group: Shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 5-9.

Mature size: 6ft x 6ft

Flowers Large red/purple

Leaves: 3-lobed

Fruit: Yellow-rose edible.

Light: Sun - part shade

Soil: loam.

This bramble is very nice as a landscape plant, attractive and the large flowers are very unusual for this type of plant.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Scouler's Willow (*Salix scouleriana*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: To USDA zone 5.

Mature size: 30' high, 10' wide

Flowers: Tiny catkins with red or yellow

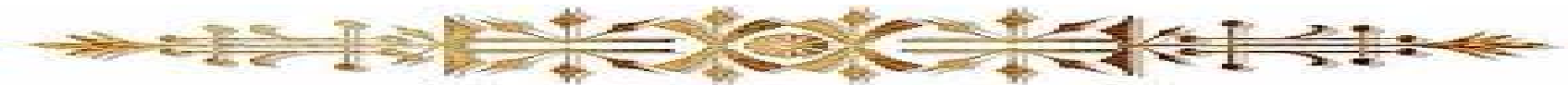
Leaves: 2-6"



Light: Sun - part shade

Soil: highly adaptable, grows along streams naturally.

This willow's branches do not usually divide. Rather, they grow straight making them excellent material for crafts.



⇒ [More](#) ⇒

Work, continued

Swamp Lantern, Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: USDA zones: 4-7.

Mature size: Height: 2ft

Flowers; Bright yellow spathe in March

Leaves: 1-4" long and 2" wide.

Light:

Sun - part
shade

Soil:

Boggy
wet
conditions.



⇒ [More](#) ⇒

Work, continued



Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

Plant Group: shrub

Hardiness: USDA zones: 2-10

Mature size: Height: 9-12ft

Flowers Bright red fuzzy seed heads

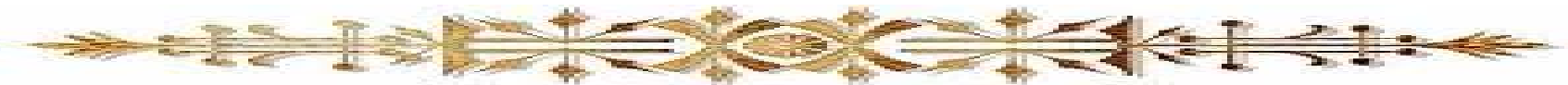
Leaves: Pinnately-compound, 11 to 31 leaflets per leaf. Brilliant scarlet in fall.

Fruit: Up to 700 individual bright red fuzzy seeds grow in erect clusters.

Light: Sun - part shade.

Exceptionally heat tolerant.

Soil: Common soil, does not require fertilizing.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Spring Queen, Kitten Tails (*Synthyris reniformis*)

Plant Group: Perennials

Hardiness: USDA zones: 8-9

Mature size: Height: 1 - 1/2 ft

Flowers Bunches of small bell-shaped flowers from periwinkle to violet.

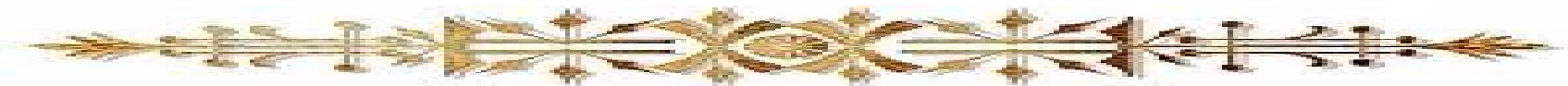
Leaves: Round scalloped

Light: Part shade or morning sun.

Soil: Moist

forest
environment.

Lovely
woodlander.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Western Buttercup (*Ranunculus occidentalis* var. *occidentalis*)

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: To USDA zones 0.

Mature size: Height: 12-20"

Flowers Bright yellow shiny petals

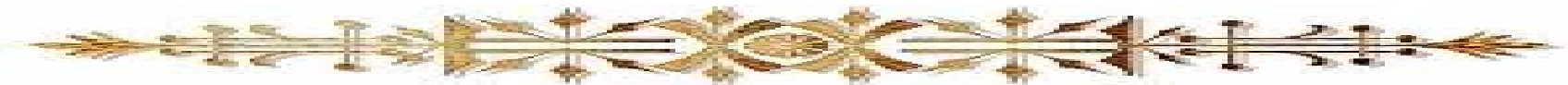
Fruit: Lovely seed pods (see below)

Leaves: Generally basal and cauline.

Light: Sun - part shade

Soil: meadow, open woodlands,
vernally moist
places.

Cheerful and
hardy, this plant
serves well as a
groundcover.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Western Larch (*Larix occidentalis*)

Plant Group: Tree

Hardiness: USDA zones: 3-8.

Mature size: Height: 100-180 ft

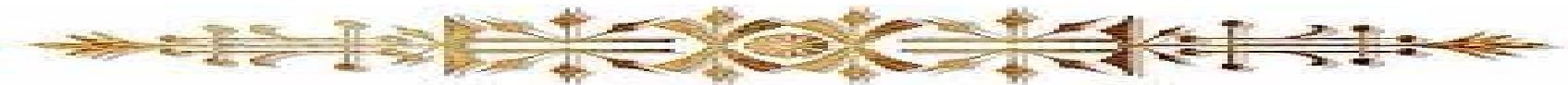
Flowers 4-6" posies

Leaves: 1-1 3/4" yellow-green
in spring

Fruit: 1-1 1/2
long.

Light: Full
sun

Soil: Wide
variety as
long as it's
well-
drained.



[⇒ More ⇒](#)

Work, continued



Yellow Violet (*Viola glabella*)

Plant Group: Perennial

Hardiness: USDA zones: 5-8.

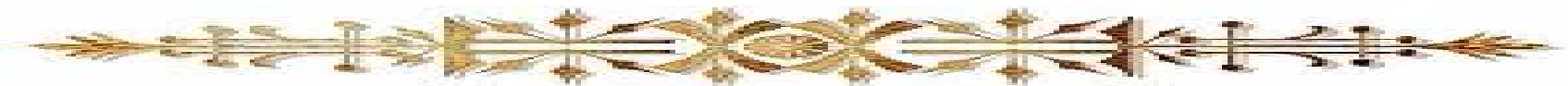
Mature size: Height: 6-12"

Flowers 1" posies

Leaves: Smooth textured pointed

Light: Light shade

Soil: Requires consistently moist soil.



Useful Native Plant Info 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.



Pacific Dogwood
(*Cornus nuttallii*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇒ **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.



Red-Osier Dogwood
(*Cornus sericea* ssp. *stolonifera*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

⇒ 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.

Wildflower Trails of the San Francisco Bay Area

<http://www.westernwildflower.com/>
Excellent photography and trail guides.

Woody Plant Seed Manual

<http://www.nsl.fs.fed.us/wpsm/>.
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.



Bunchberry
(*Cornus unalaschensis*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



This & That

A few notes from Jennifer

The damage done by last winter's heavy snow has finally been erased from my garden. There is now a lovely gazebo on the patio with a chaise lounge, my willow chair and a metal lawn chair from the 30's that bounces.

My hammock is waiting to go under the pear tree but I have not yet located the hooks to hang it. I like to put one of those mosquito nets above and drape it around. It feels like a private little spa. I was so proud of myself when I thought of putting the net there last summer. I thought I could sleep in the yard when the nights were hot and it would protect me from bug bites.

Now picture this: I have my special pillow and a light coverlet. I arrange everything picture-perfect and lie down, bringing the edges of the netting closed around me. I sigh with delight. Soon enough I hear that unmistakeable buzzing and I grin, knowing I've outsmarted all mosquitos with my jungle style summer bed. The buzzing stops. I imagine the little monster looking at me through the net, consternation on his face as he tries to figure out why he cannot get a good poke at me.

Suddenly I feel the stab of defeat! I have one instant of puzzlement--how did this happen?!? And then I realize my mistake. I've covered the hammock completely.....except I overlooked the fact that the hammock is made of rope and my entire backside is open to the universe...and the mosquitoes. My smug face now holds chagrin and I laugh heartily at myself as I gather up pillow and cover and take myself indoors where I start drafting a design for a screened porch.



"We grow too soon old and too late smart."
~ old Dutch proverb



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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with a 50' spread. Now
that's a shade tree!
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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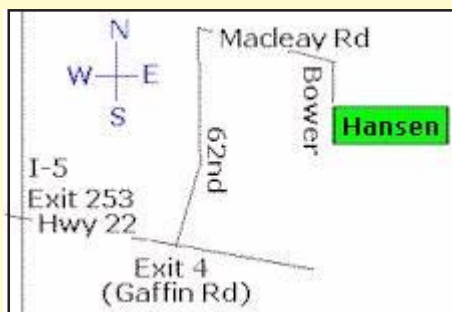
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A NURSERY TRIP – WELL WORTHWHILE!

This delightful, peaceful Native Plant Nursery/Garden is located about five miles East of Salem, Oregon, on five acres of Doug Firs, Cedar, Pine, and ancient Garry Oaks. This central Willamette Valley location is an easy drive from anywhere in the Northwest. If you are interested in Natives, a tour of the Nursery/Gardens is well worthwhile (improve your plant identification skills). My nursery and gardens have often been referred to as an “Arboretum” of plants of the Pacific Northwest. You will be inspired and encouraged in your own gardening.

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