September 2009

#### Volume 7, Issue 9-2009

# Northwest Native Plant Journal A Monthly Web Magazine

# From the wild side: Colorful late summer blooms

Published by Wallace W Hansen Northwest Native Plant Nursery & Gardens

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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.

 $\mathbf{C}$  — 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.).

Wapato (Sagittaria latifolia) Edible roots (old timers called them "Duck Potato"), delicate white looms in late summer Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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 <a href="mailto:nwplants@gmail.com">nwplants@gmail.com</a> Some articles (and pics) might deal with propagation, culture, diseases, restoration, reclamation, fertilizers, etc.

# On the Cover

## Douglas Aster (Symphyotrichum subspicatum), Common Yarrow (Achillea millefolium), Western Wallflower (Erysimum asperum)

Prim and proper are two descriptors few would apply to the northwest native perennials that bloom in late summer. These three are among the most clever. Each year they provide slightly different shades than in years previous. All

are hardy, drought resistant and can be divided when their clumps get a bit too tight.

They self-seed as long as local wildlife don't harvest them all, and even if they are targeted for a bird luncheon, a few seeds always escape. (Birds are not usually known for their table manners.)

In addition to bright colors, the Western Wallflower has a lovely fragrance!

> Photos by JoAnn Onstott



Northwest Native Plant Journal by Wallace W Hansen Native Plant Nursery & Gardens

## To Do List

## **Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden**

1 – Give the watering chores to the capable hands of nature. Enough will usually be provided for the need and tapering off watering will tell the plants it is time to reproduce themselves, each in its own special way. Some will set seed, some will send out roots that rear up their heads and become a new plant. The mother plants nearby give shade

Eric Petersen / The Livingston Enterprise

or other protection for their young, while putting forth edible treats to draw maurading birds and bunnies away from the tender children.

**2** – If you've found yourself with a healthy crop of weeds, now is the time to put the kibash on their growth and reproduction. The nasty things use the same qualities that 'good' plants do to preserve themselves. Knowing what they're up to allows us to derail them. One very simple and effective way to maintain control of our gardens is to stomp down the weeds and leftover annuals and cover the area with black plastic, held securely to the ground with hoops of wire or rocks or bricks or even a nice heavy board. Refusing to allow sunlight or moisture combined with the heating effects of the plastic creates a sort of cook oven that will roast the seeds until springtime. When the growing season starts up next year the plastic is removed and the earth tilled up, incorporating the composted remnants and presenting a beautifully enriched space just hankering for something to grow.

3 - As the gardening chores wane, time is often found for journaling what the plants have done during the year. Perhaps the Oregon Grape were flowering fools covering the shrub with rich bouquets of golden yellow. Maybe a tree was particularly favored by birds for afternoon naps or morning chats. Make note of those things you wanted to do but never got around to. They can be the starting point of planning next year's garden.

**4** – Enjoy the evenings out of doors. Commune with nature. Appreciate the gifts your garden gives so freely.

This photo has been shown all over the web. I have no idea who took it but that little child diving into the leaves with such abandon, never fearing there might be something in there that may hurt him, is a beautiful thing.

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# Mystery plant puzzle



This lovely fern is in question. What is the true botanical name of it? Please give us your best guess and we'll announce those who correctly identified the plant with the winners announced in next mopnth's journal. Some ferns grow right from the benning as miniature replicas of themselves.

Some keep the tender young leaves coiled tightly until their spines are sturdy enough to bear their weight.

On the occasion when the coil is properly developed and the mother plant has added bulk to her root system, she graceful;ly extends these new fronds which rapidly grow their leaves and form the rich center of the fern with these newly hatched fronds.

This photo was taken by oue of our gardenening friends with a request for identification.

Note the distinctive darker color along the spine of each leav and the distinctly yellow-hued edbes. What could it be?

Test your native plant knowledge by identifying this northwest native.

The reward is simple but very satisfying: You will be included in the list of our gardening friends. We can bestow no finer award than to add your name to the ranks of true native plant lovers.

Send me an email (NativePlantLady@nwplants.com) with the correct <u>botanical</u> name of this plant. Youi'll join the ranks of our botanical whizzes listed each month in our journal.

#### **Good luck!**

P.S. Do you have a plant you'd like to identify? Email it to us and we'll add it to our mystery plant puzzle page.

Northwest Native Plant Journal by Wallace W Hansen Native Plant Nursery & Gardens

# Mystery plant puzzle, continued

## Last month's mystery plant:



### Valeriana sitchensis (Sitka valerian, Mountain Heliotrope)

This plant is native from Alaska through southern California. It can be found in moist ground on wooded slopes or meadows from mid to alpine elevations. Watch for bloom July through August. Very nice coastal perennial. Though the flowers are sweet scented, the leaves have a strong medicinal smell which is the drug valerian used as a sleep aid.

### **Bona fide Plant Detectives:**

Two of our readers correctly identified our August monthly mystery.

Jerry Murray identified Valerian Sitchensis. He notes that this native beauty fills mountain meadows with an interesting pungent aroma.

Sabrina Kis sent this photo to us for identification and later she found the answer to her own question: Valerian sitchensis!

More to come, I'm in the midst of a computer reorganization effort which may be the death of me.

### Photo by Sabrina Kis

# Sparky's Corner

## A special message from our frisky contributor



Fall is just around the corner and my whole neighborhood is scurrying about gathering non-perishables for the winter to follow.

We have so many choices here at the nursery! All those big Garry Oaks spilling acorns every which way, the Hazelnuts are ripe for the picking. In between sampling the nuts we rest a while by the Oregon Grapes where we can give our tastebuds a treat with the purply blue fruit.

The cane berries have gone by but the memories of Salmonberry and Blackberry and Squashberry often come stealing into our dreams.

And the strawberries! Oh, we are crazy about those little red flavor bursts.

The mushrooms will be here soon. We love the morels in springtime but the autumn mushrooms are just as tasty.

Old Mr. Snorters talks about the chanterelles he ate when he was



a youngster. He used to live up in the high country around the town the two-leggers call Falls City.

But one day he made the mistake of napping in a big truck. He woke up when it started moving but he was too afraid to jump off so he hunkered down and hung on for dear life. When it finally stopped he took a flying leap to the ground and then ran up the nearest tree.

⇔More⇔

# Sparky's Corner, continued

He said he was so scared he stayed up there for a long time and watched to see where he was. He saw birds and snakes and squirrels! It wasn't long before he thought it might just be a fine place to live.

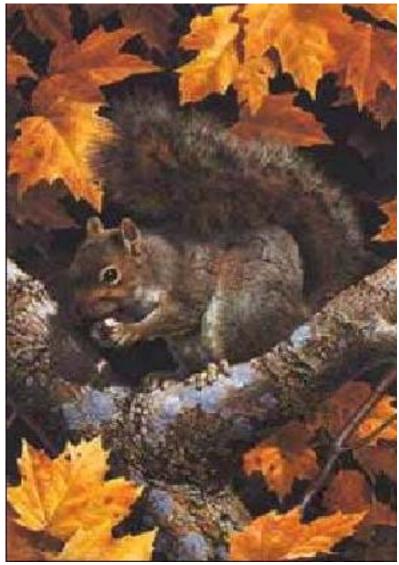
And guess what? It was our neighborhood! And it is a very fine place to be. He got to know everyone and made himself a snug, warm nest. He found lots of food, he found water to drink and even the two-leggers were the nicest he had ever known.

We just love to hear Mr. Snorters telling his stories. We think he makes them up but they are fun to listen to. Sometimes we pretend about things, too.



Your friend, Sparky

This is a chanterelle mushroom, the best mushroom in the whole wide world. Jennifer knows where they grow but she won't tell me.



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# Starflower Foundation

## In memory of Ann Lennartz

Recently I discovered the most wonderful source of native plant information. The Washington Native Plant Society website has a section called Starflower Resources. Curious, I sauntered in and, naturally, stayed quite a while. Here is their introduction to this wealth of native botany:

Founded in 1996 by Ann Lennart, Starflower Foundation assisted with the creation, rehabilitation, and stewardship of Pacific Northwest native plant communities in Seattle, Washington, by supporting citizen-driven restoration and education projects. Having met the founder's expectations, Starflower Foundation ceased operations in December 2007.

Resources developed by Starflower included an Image Herbarium containing information and images for Western Washington native plants for use in restoration and landscaping projects. As mutually agreed upon with Starflower, WNPS has made Starflower's learning and education materials available on our website.





Ann Lennartz

### http://www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/Memory\_of\_Ann\_Lennartz\_compressed.pdf

Three of the Starflower topics available by links on the WNPS home page are:

Habitat Education Activities and Resources

Wative Plants for Western Washington Gardens and Restoration Projects

Starflower Restoration Resources

Aside from the considerable size of Starflower input, the WNPS website has a great photo gallery covering native plants of all types. Their beautiful photographs are listed by category and by botanical name. You don't have to be a member of WNPS to view the gallery or to read any of their plethora of articles.

Though this website is particularly for Washington, most of it is applicable to Oregon as well.



# Gardening for Wildlife

## How to get native plant news in your mailbox for free

I've signed up for several mailing lists to keep me informed on what's happening botanically in the Northwest. These are not spam or advertisements or just pure junk. They are like little newsletters of varying sorts.

One of my favorites is the Backyard Habitat Certification Program E-News published by the Three Rivers Land Conservancy. Each month it comes to my email box and gives gardening tips--things to do in my yard, books to read, activities to become involved in and special events I might enjoy.

Here's an excerpt from the latest email:

"I just finished reading Douglas Tallamy's book, Bringing Nature Home, how native plants sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens. Many people tend to think the urban area is so developed, that creating habitat for wildlife is a lost cause. I am convinced more than ever that small lots can have a significant impact to save native wildlife.

"Speaking of, fall is the best time to plant. Even though the plant above ground looks dormant during the winter, the roots are still growing and having 6 months of rain is crucial for a new plant to become established. When planting this fall, here are some suggestions Douglas recommends.

1. 'Unless we establish a food web with many levels and much redundancy, just as we would find in nature, the ecosystem is likely to falter. Each vegetation level should be represented by several



species that do pretty much the same thing (trees, shrubs, ground cover). Redundancy in plants creates redundancy in the community of organisms that rely on plants for their living.'

2. 'Native border gardens should be as wide as possible and as densely planted as possible.'

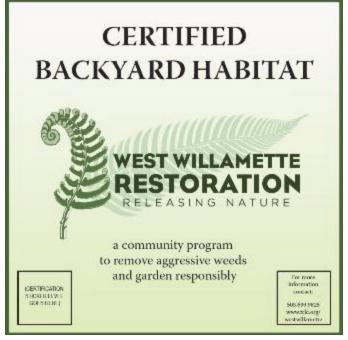
*3.* 'It is the shrub layer rather than the tree canopy that birds most often use as nesting sites.'

**⇒**More**⇒** 

# Gardening for Wildlife, continued

The writer continues:

Last week I sat on my deck and watched a bee going in and out of a native penstemon plant (amazing I found the time with two small kids). It crawled inside the entire flower, stayed for a few moments then



moved onto the next flower. It buzzed by my catnip but kept returning to the penstemon. I wondered, if I didn't have that native plant, would the bee, specialized to collect that pollen, survive without the plant.

Program notes:

If you have had your site visit and you have been working on your yard, remember to give us a call when you are ready to be certified or move up in certification!

For those who qualify, we still have two more native plants sales this fall. Keep an eye out via e-mail for more information in the coming weeks.

Did you know the City of Portland has a small grant for landowners to purchase native plants up to \$500? Check out this website for more information. I'd be happy to write a letter of recommendation for all those participating Backyard participants.

www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?a=142306&c=43077

As you can see, this monthly email is more than an armchair gardener's pastime--not that there is anything wrong with that form of botany. Most of us do the planning and reading and dreaming about our gardens indoors, saving the active stuff for clement weather during the daytime. But the tips and ideas presented here make me want to get right out there and see what's happening with my penstemon!

If you'd like to get on the mailing list for this newsletter, go to www.trlc.org/westwillamette/backyardhabitat. Three Rivers also offers other mailing lists or special projects you can join in on.



# Coming events for gardeners

## Fall Workshops: Places to go, things to do

### **Native Plants for Less Work and More Wildlife**

By Portland Metro

Saturday, Oct 10, 2009, 10:00am - 11:00am

Eager for beautiful wildlife habitat in your own yard? Learn how to get it the low-maintenance way. Hands-on activities include helping plant native plants.



Vine Maple (Acer circinatum) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Free and includes a complimentary native plant while supplies last. Registration not required. Presentation from 10 to 11 a.m. followed by activity at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by Metro. See <u>www.calendar.oregonmetro.gov/events/</u> index.php?com=detail&eID=484&year=2009&month=09 for details.



### Site Planning 1

Registration Period: Friday, Aug 21 - Friday, October 23 Category: Naturescaping and Native Plants Workshops Where: Oak Lodge Sanitary District, Oak Grove, OR Date: Saturday, Oct 24, 2009, 9:00am - 1:00pm Saturday, Dec 5, 2009, 9:00am - 1:00pm

In this advanced workshop, you will learn how to evaluate a property and prepare a site plan employing naturescaping techniques. Through hands-on measuring exercises you will learn how to map and measure your property, assess your garden style and needs, do some garden dreaming, and work on a group design scenario. Participants must have attended the Basic Workshop first. See www.emswcd.org/workshops-events?func=details&did=95

Fall colors of Quacking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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# Coming events for gardeners, continued

### **Naturescaping Basics**

Saturday, Nov 7, 2009, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Tigard Public Works

This introductory workshop explores core concepts of naturescaping, pollution prevention, and introduces attendees to watershed connection, native plant identification and site planning principals. Explores:

--Time and maintenance savings

--Reduction/Elimination of water and chemical use

--Increasing and improving wildlife habitat

--Watershed stewardship

http://www.emswcd.org/workshops-events?func=details&did=94

### Rain Gardens 101

Registration Period: To Friday, Oct 30

Category: Rain Garden Workshops

Where: Berry Botanic Garden

Date: Sunday, Nov 1, 2009, 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Rain gardens are a great way to add beautiful landscaping to your yard and protect our overloaded urban streams at the same time. Learn how to build a rain garden on your property to keep our streams clean and healthy!

You will learn how to assess your site to determine the best location and size, calculate impervious surfaces, determine soil suitability, choose appropriate plants, and maintain your new rain garden. You will receive a rain garden packet to bring home.

http://www.emswcd.org/workshops-events?func=details&did=100

Soft autumn colors are very attractive in this plant which JoAnn labeled "Water Birch Maybe" Photo by JoAnn Onstott



# Coming events for gardeners, continued

### Stormwater Management: One Backyard at a Time (Video Stream Workshop - Available to a computer near you!)

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Want to do something 'green' and good for the environment, as well as beautiful? Does rainwater run off your property into the street? Does your neighbor's rainwater run onto your property? What is a rain garden? How big does a rain garden need to be? What plants should be included in a rain garden? Why



does that house have plants growing on the roof? These are just a few of the questions we will answer in the September 15 th broadcast of Stormwater Management: One Backyard at a Time! The WSU Video team toured Whidbey Island, Washington, Bend, Oregon, and Ketchum/ Sun Valley Idaho to see what home and business owners, developers, city engineers

and mayors are initiating to curb the pollution running to the surface and ground waters. Examples of Best Management Practices being implemented in the three distinct climates of the case studies give a well rounded illustration of the various methods available. <u>http://www.wmswcd.org/content.cfm/</u> Calendar/View-Event?EventID=26

There's no mistaking Paper Birch (Betula papyrifera)! The white peeling bark is easy to recognize. The leaves are shaped like pointed raindrops and their fall color is reliably golden. Photos by JoAnn Onstott

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# Coming events for gardeners, continued

### **Rainwater Harvesting and Rain Gardens**

Sunday, September 28, 2009, 6:00pm - 8:30pm Monday, September 29, 2009, 6:00pm - 8:30pm Skyline Grange

An environmental practice that has been around for thousands of years, rainwater harvesting has been used to collect both irrigation and drinking water. While urban areas today have a safe and reliable source of drinking water, we can still harvest the rain to irrigate our yards and for other gardening purposes. In combination with rain gardens it may also help decrease stormwater problems. West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in partnership with Clackamas SWCD offers a Rainwater Harvesting class Sept 28 and 29 from 6-8:30 PM each evening.

### www.wmswcd.org/content.cfm/Calendar/View-Event?EventID=69

### Welcome the Rain

Saturday, September 26 10 am - 4 pm Rigler Elementary School, 5401 NE Prescott St, Portland www.welcometherain.org/

Rain is a fact of life here in the northwest. It is useless to fight it and can be very beneficial to work with it. These workshops encourage us to welcome the rain as much as we admire the rainbows.



This community event and "solutions fair" celebrates the rainy season and addresses the public's growing desire for more information on the topics of downspout disconnection, green streets, and urban stormwater issues. Free workshops, community networking, live music, storytelling and more will captivate and educate audiences of all ages. No registration needed, just show up and have fun!

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### Rain Garden Training (Salem workshop)

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 30, 8:30 am - 5:00 pmWHERE: Pringle Creek Community, 2110 Strong Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97305COST: \$50. Scholarships are available.Hosted by Oregon Environmental Council

SPEAKERS & AGENDA: Trainers Rob Emanuel and Derek Godwin, Oregon State University Extension Service and Oregon Sea Grant, authors of the forthcoming Oregon Rain Garden Manual. The rain brings many benefits for watersheds and residents. But it can also be a bane for both if it carries pollutants or excessively floods our local streams. Capturing, controlling and filtering some of this stormwater runoff in rain gardens is one way to help beautify our landscapes while we improve the health of our watersheds. The purpose of the training is to help gardeners and homeowners learn the skills needed to design, build and maintain rain gardens and serve as local



resources to other community members interested in building rain gardens. It will include both an indoor and outdoor component. Seating priority will be given to those willing to work with OSU as rain garden representatives and provide assistance to local communities in which they live.

http://www.oeconline.org/our-work/rivers/stormwater/lowimpact-development/lid-workshops

Rain Gardens can be designed to enhance any landscape. This one at the Oregon Confention Center in Portland is absolutely stunning but would be a bit out of place in most residential neighborhoods.

Photo by James Hencke

Beautiful!



# Bay City Rain Garden

## Tillamook County's showpiece sets a fine example

This past July, OSU Master Gardeners and other volunteers completed the third and final rain garden in Tillamook County. This one is near 7th and Main Streets in Bay City. The other two are in Pacific City and at the Hoquarton Slough Park in downtown Tillamook.



The concept of a rain garden is relatively new and very few have been completed in privately owned landscapes. The sight of overflowing drains during heavy rain periods is more and more commonplace. Even street flooding happens all too often. We blame it on the rain and leaf clogged drains. Municipal street maintenance teams have to haul out the heavy equipment to clear out the clogs to accommodate the water. When the drains are cleared we happily go about our business, order has been restored. We think nothing at all of washing our cars in the driveway, cleaning the pavement with a sharp nozel attached to a garden hose or allowing the sprinkler to send a large percentage of the water to the street instead of the landscape. And why not? Everybody knows the northwest has too much water anyway. We're helping to keep our cities clean.

Then there is the issue of rain gutters. They are a required

element on most of our homes. They capture the water that hits our roofs, direct it to the downspouts and shoot it away from our foundations so the house structure is protected from water seepage and rotting wood. The gutters must be cleaned at least once a year and we are encouraged to hose off the roof to protect it from all that nasty leaf material that can rot the roof.

Paved driveways and patios are standard in most landscapes, the bigger the better. We have three car garages and space to park everybody's car. We put in a nice slab for our RV to sit on. The material used for these hardscapes is usually cement. It's cheap, lasts a long time and we can squirt it off with a hose when it becomes dirty. It can even have a pattern applied that makes it look like bricks or rocks.

# Bay City Rain Garden

Little by little without meaning any harm, we have created in our own homes and landscapes the perfect environment to destroy streams and rivers and pretty much make a mess out of the original magical scheme that provided us with pure water and plentiful flora and fauna. Let us not forget the parking lots and roads that we need more and more of as we develop virgin land into forms that make our immediate lives much easier. Now that we are realizing what we've done, we have turned our attention on ways to stop doing it and undo the previous decades' actions.

One of the tools we have begun to use is the rain garden. According to Wikipedia, the internet's free encyclopedia, this is how the rain garden concept began:

The first rain gardens were created to mimic the natural water retention areas that occurred naturally before development of an area. The rain gardens for residential use were developed in 1990 in Prince George's County, Maryland, when Dick Brinker, a developer building a new housing subdivision had the idea to replace the traditional best management practices pond with a bioretention area. He approached Larry Coffman, the county's Associate Director for Programs and Planning in the Department of Environmental Resources, with the idea.

The result was the extensive use of rain gardens in Somerset, a residential subdivision which has a 300–400 ft rain garden on each house's property. This system proved to be highly cost-effective. Instead of a system of curbs, sidewalks, and gutters, which would have cost nearly \$400,000, the planted drainage swales cost \$100,000 to install. This was also much more cost effective than building ponds that could handle 2-, 10-, and 100-year storm events. Flow monitoring done in later years showed that the rain gardens have resulted in a 75–80% reduction in stormwater runoff during a regular rainfall event.



Rain garden in Wilkes East Neighborhood, Gresham, Oregon



This first documented use of rain gardens typifies many others that did not get noticed but were quietly developed by homeowners, garden designers and avant garde municipalities. The use of French Drains is sometimes done to facilitate drainage in small areas of landscapes that are prone to stay soggy. They work on the same basic principal as rain gardens but only incorporate the first steps. Here is Wikipedia's list of benefits of rain gardens:

Improve water quality by filtering run-off Provide localized flood control Are aesthetically pleasing Provide interesting planting opportunities Encourage wildlife and biodiversity Tie together buildings and their surrounding environments Provides a way to use and optimize any rain that falls Reduces or avoids the need for irrigation Keeps excessive rainwater runoff out of public storm water systems Water infiltrates the ground quickly so mosquitoes can't breed

I hope this information has tickled your curiosity about a type of garden becoming increasingly familiar and oh, so beneficial.

Resources:

The Rain Garden Network, www.raingardennetwork.com/

University of Rhode Island's Healthy Landscapes, www.uri.edu/ce/ healthylandscapes/raingarden.htm

Rain Gardens, downloadable pdf from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



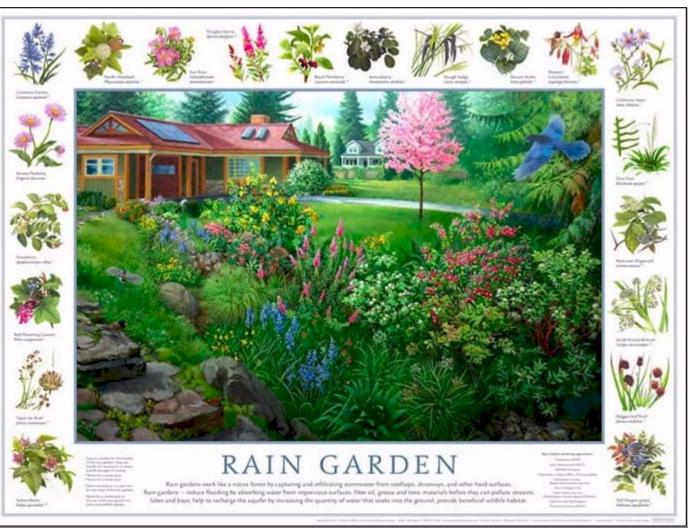
Rain garden during rain (above) And afterwards (below)



⇔More⇒

# Bay City Rain Garden

Plants in this model rain garden are all native to the northwest. The list of plants is divided by environmental requirements so choices for shade, sun to part shade, and full sun are easy to make.



How convenient to see illustrated the interplay between the various plants as well as the suggested layout of the rain garden. This would be a perfect gift for your favorite gardener!

### Rain Garden poster, beautiful! Available at www.goodnaturepublishing.com/raingarden.htm

Northwest Native Plant Journal by Wallace W Hansen Native Plant Nursery & Gardens

# This & That

### A few notes from Jennifer

Finding the photo of the little boy diving into a pile of leaves (see page 5) brought back memories of an autumn game my grandkids and I used to enjoy. The first time we did it, they were between 5 and 8 years old.

Their folks used to engage their help in raking leaves in their yard. They had to rake them all up, put them in garbage bags and then help haul them to the dump. They were given a monetary award for this and it was an annual job nobody particularly enjoyed but it was good family time and their yard was picture perfect afterwards.

So when I hauled out the rakes and garden cart they figured it would be the same deal. Not much fun but at least they got some pocket change. I directed them to rake up all the leaves into one big pile in the middle of the yard and come get me when they were done.



About an hour later they found me in the backyard and said they were all done. We went around front where they thought I'd inspect their work and pay them. Imagine their surprise when I shook their hands, told them what a fantastic job they'd done and then jumped into the pile of leaves!

They were dumbfounded. I climbed out and told them it was their turn. Not one millisecond of hesitation followed that announcement. They jumped and rolled and threw leaves at each other and at me for about an hour. We went inside for some hot chocolate and stood looking out the living room window at the leaves now spread all over where they had started. They asked if they had to rake them up again. I said they could if they wanted more jumping fun but as far as I was concerned, their job was done.

I explained to them that all I really wanted was to provide them some fun and break down the leaves a bit. We talked about how beautiful the forests and meadows are and I pointed out that the leaves in the wild places are never ever raked or hauled away. Instead of removing the leaves, nature leaves them right where they land. They cook over winter and compost so that the soil beneath the trees just got richer and more full of plant food every single year. They understood exactly and learned some basic gardening information they will remember for a long time. Garry Oak (Quercus garryana var. garryana)

Tough leaves benefit from a good stomping to aid in composting.

Photo by JoAnn Onstott

Until next time, Jennifer



# 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.



### American Bonsai Society

### www.absbonsai.org/

The bonsai organization for North America, including Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

#### Birdchick 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.

### CalPhotos

http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/

Over 33,000 plant images from the University of California, Berkley

# Cornell University online grafting course <u>http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/hort494/graftage/hort494.index.html</u>

A distance learning approach from The Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at Cornell University Kenneth W. Mudge, Associate Professor of Horticulture

## Fire effects on plant species

### www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/

USDA, Forest Service site summarizes and synthesizes research about living organisms in the United States—their biology, ecology, and relationship to fire.

# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

### Flora of North America Web Site

### http://hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/

Taxonomic relationships, distributions, 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.

### Growit.com Rooting Database

### www.growit.com/Know/Rooting.htm

"Extensive information on rooting cuttings of woody plants, organized by botanical name. Developed for commercial growers."

### ModernBackyard

### 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.

Noxious Weed Control www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/statelist2.shtml Search function, can be shown in text only

### Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

### www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=29323

Information about caring for our earth. Download their Native Plant Poster, Northwest Native Plant Journal by Wallace W Hansen Native Plant Nursery & Gardens Plant list and brochure on removing invasive plants.



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# Useful Plant Databases on the Web, continued

### **River Corridor and Wetland Restoration**

www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site

### **Soil Science Society of America**

www.soils.org/ Website for soil science professionals. Offers information and links.

### **Starflower Foundation**

### www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/#starflower

Founded in 1996 by Ann Lennart to assist with creation, rehabilitation, and stewardship of Pacific Northwest native plant communities in the Washington area.

### **USDA PLANTS Database**

http://plants.usda.gov/ Searchable for common or botanical name, shows origin, range and status

### Washington Native Plant Society

http://www.wnps.org/ Appreciate, conserve and study our native plants and habitats

### Wildflower Trails of the San Francisco Bay Area

www.westernwildflower.com/ Excellent photography and trail guides.

### Woody Plant Seed Manual

### 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

Northwest Native Flant Journal by Wallace W Hansen Native Plant Nursery & Gardens



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Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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Red Flowering Currant (Ribes sanguineum) Beautiful shrub grows quickly to 10 feet. Has gorgeous red to pink flowers followed by blue fruit. Smashing fall color! Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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