

September 2008

Volume 6, Issue 9-2008

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine



Alternative to lawns: Grass!

Fun stuff to do now

Sparky's summer friends

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

Northwest Native Plant Journal

A Monthly Web Magazine

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Maidenhair Tree

Jennifer Rehm

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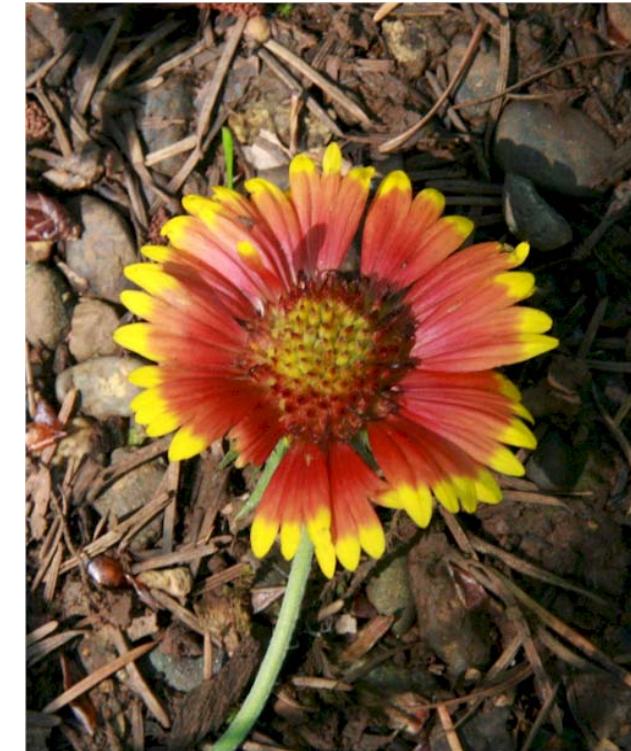
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About this Web Magazine

This Journal was created under the direction of Wally Hansen – a dedicated Grower, Aficionado and Passionate Lover of Northwest Native Plants.

This Journal is not ‘commercial.’ Our goals are:

- A** — To generate interest, even passion, concerning the magnificent Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest.
- B** — To help you create your own Native Plant Gardens, large or small, for home or work.
- C** — To help you propagate and “grow on” those species that interest you the most.
- D** — To inform both Home Gardeners and interested Professionals of many disciplines concerning trends and news items from my little corner of the world.
- E** — To help the reader enjoy native plants more by understanding the historical and cultural role of native plants (i.e.—use by Native Americans, Pioneers, Early Botanists, etc.).



Blanket Flower
(*Gaillardia aristata*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



On the Cover

Douglas Aster (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum*)

Lavendar fringe around a bright orange puff. Who would have thought these two colors would look good together? But they do. And somehow they tell us that fall won't be long in coming.

Leslie L. Haskins in his 1967 book, Wildflowers of the Pacific Coast, calls this "our commonest purple aster, .. another of the plants named after that indefatigable botanist, David Douglas."

"The flowers often begin to appear in June, becoming more common as the season advances, until in September and October they are in their glory. From then on they begin to decline, but if the season is mild and open, a few stray flowers may be found almost throughout the winter."

A fitting description of our "commonest" aster.



Photo by JoAnn Onstott



To Do List

Caring for your NW Native Plant Garden

1 – Begin withholding water from perennials so they will prepare to reproduce themselves via seeds.

2 – Cut branches of colorful leaves and interesting seed pods. Hang them upside down in bunches in a cool dark place while they dry. This preserves the color as much as possible. Identify the plants carefully however. The brightest colors at this moment are poison oak and many of the very beautiful seed pods are invasives. These are not good choices for displaying in your home.

3 – Journal your garden. Note what did well and what did not. Also note the shrubs and trees you see that are particularly colorful so you can add them when the fall sales begin.

4 – If you are into basket making, the reeds and grasses should be ripe for cutting about now. Roll them loosely together and lay them flat as they complete drying. An old screen door propped up on saw horses is a perfect place to do this.

5 – Apples that grow in waste places are falling to the ground. You'll see them along side country roads and around old abandoned homesteads. They will probably have worms and other kinds of bugs but they are fine for drying. Pick the nicest looking apples and leave the rest for wildlife. Deer are particularly fond of apples. Wash your 'keepers' and shine them with old toweling or denim. Slice thinly, about 1/4 inch or less, and arrange on screening or in the food dryer. Dry them very slowly so they don't turn into applesauce on you. You can string these on good twine for holiday garlands. They also make fantastic wreathes--I use a wire coat hanger for these. Rhododendron or salal leaves and rose hips are nice additions. I've sold 4 foot garlands for \$50 and wreaths for \$35 at craft fairs. I only made a few each year and folks would call me in September to reserve them. I'll write up the recipe for making these in next month's journal. For now, get the apples!

6 – Almost forgot--watch for rose hips on native roses. They must be gathered before the rains begin or they won't keep. See our October journal for tips on using them.

Easy bouquet: gather your favorite flowers and leaves loosely in your fist, tie with raffia or string and place in a decorative vase.



Sparky's Corner

A special message from our frisky contributor

Some of our favorite summer visitors are getting ready to leave. Every year they come to see us in spring and then when the nights start getting cold, they go back to their winter home--that's usually the bottom part of California or the top part of Mexico.



our real name is *Sciurus griseus*. And Jennifer's real name is "The Native Plant Lady." Haha--I am so funny! Diana named her that because she's a Native American and she knows all about plants.

We can always tell when they get here because they sing so much, especially the boys. Soon as they arrive they start in singing and prancing around to get attention from the girls. Grandma told me they can sing over 3000 songs in one day! That must really poop them out.

She said it takes about 45 days to pick out a mate, make some eggs, sit on the nest for about 2 weeks and then take care of the baby birds about another 2 weeks. That's why they start on the singing as soon as they get here. They have a lot to do and a short time to do it.

We really like the songs. The boys do most of the singing. They have different ones for different occasions. Like when those pushy cow birds come around, or when they are trying to impress the ladies. One of their songs is almost like a rap, real fast, they sing "sweet-sweet-sweet-I'm-so-sweet." And sometimes the girls will say "chirp" right at the end of the song. So cool!

Oh yeah, forgot to tell you these birds are Yellow Warblers. Grandma says that's their common name and their real name is *Dendroica petechia*. This is like our common name is Western Gray Squirrel but

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Sparky's Corner, continued

Anyway, there are a whole bunch of kinds of Yellow Warblers but ours are the Dendroica petechia kind. They are bright sunshine yellow. The boys are really bright and have red streaks on their chests and the girls' color is not so bright and no red streaks.

At first I didn't know what kind of birds they were. We just called them the sunshine birds. But Jennifer asked our friend Sharon Stiteler (Bird Chick) and she told us they are Yellow Warblers.

The reason they like staying with us at the nursery is because we have lots of willows and big shade trees and a nice sunny meadow and all the two-leggers are so nice. Really, we have the best two-leggers, both the ones that live here and the ones that come every day and the ones that come whenever they want to.

Speaking of two-leggers, here's two of my favorites. It's George and Diana trying to take a hoop house apart so they can put it on the truck. They'll do anything for a little fun.

Well, I gotta go hang out with the warblers before they fly away. See you next time.

*Your friend,
Sparky*



The Wild Garden: Hansen's Northwest Native Plant Database



Yellow Warbler photo by Sharon Stiteler.
www.birdchick.com.



Northwest Native Grasses



Stars of the late summer garden

Perennial plants add casual beauty to your landscape

Landscape designs with clean, simple lines are gaining favor around the world. We are seeing less lawn and more islands surrounded by mulch, raised beds with walkways between and dry streambeds of river rock with groupings and feature plants.

The more we understand global warming and the ecological effects of maintaining unnatural garden design, the more these new schools of thought make sense to us. They are far easier on both gardener and pocketbook and, once we compare the cost of natural plantings to the old-fashioned "Jones's" designs we begin doing a happy dance in celebration of true understanding.

Here in the Northwest we are fortunate to have a wide variety of shrubs, perennials, ferns, trees, water plants and grasses that are native to wet and windy coastal regions, fertile valleys, mountain ranges, and high desert areas. NW Native plants are tiny orchids and giant conifers and everything in between. No matter where in the northwest you live, there are all kinds of plants suitable for any style of garden.

Let's take a look at a class of plants growing in popularity: the native grasses.

Soft Rush
(Juncus effusus)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Grasses, continued

Common Name	Soft Rush
Scientific Name	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Native Region	Western North America
Moisture Conditions	Coastal, water's Edge, wetlands & standing Water
Light Preference	Full Sun, Partial Sun
Wildlife Value	birds, small mammals
Height	less than 3'
Bloom Time	Summer
Evergreen	No
Comments	Very common shoreline plant; food for beaver and common muskrat; excellent cover for wetland birds, various songbirds and small mammals



Soft Rush
(*Juncus effusus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Grasses, continued

Common Name	Tufted Hairgrass
Scientific Name	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Native Region	Western United States
Moisture Conditions	dry - wet
Light Preference	sun - part shade
Wildlife Value	birds, small mammals
Height	20 - 36 inches
Bloom Time	Cloud-like green to gold inflorescences in summer that turn to light golden straw color; lasts into winter; good as cut flower
Evergreen	no, perennial
Comments	Narrow leaved bunch grass that is attractive with the wind blowing through its tall seed plumes. Plant in drifts of 5 or more for a meadow like effect. Plants usually do a nice job of reseeding themselves. Perfect for salt water shorelines.



Tufted Hairgrass
(*Deschampsia cespitosa*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



Grasses, continued

Common Name	Slough Sedge
Scientific Name	<i>Carex obnupta</i>
Native Region	Western U.S.
Moisture Conditions	Moist, wet
Light Preference	Sun – part shade
Wildlife Value	Seed is important food for many bird species, new growth is browsed by many animals.
Height	3 feet
Bloom Time	July-August
Evergreen	Yes
Comments	This is a great evergreen sedge that spreads readily. Leaves are excellent for making baskets.



Slough Sedge
(*Carex obnupta*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Grasses, continued

Common Name	Spreading Rush
Scientific Name	<i>Juncus patens</i>
Native Region	Oregon to Baja California.
Moisture Conditions	Moist to wet.
Light Preference	Sun to light shade
Wildlife Value	Nesting material, food, and shelter for many insects, birds, and mammals.
Height	1 – 3 feet
Bloom Time	Mid-summer to fall.
Evergreen	Yes
Comments	Historically, rushes were used in weavings, and peeled stems soaked in grease were used as candles. Rushes continue to be used for making mats and woven furniture in Asia.

Spreading Rush
(*Juncus patens*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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Grasses, continued

Common Name	Witchgrass
Scientific Name	<i>Panicum capillare</i>
Native Region	Western North America
Moisture Conditions	Sandy to gravelly areas, some moisture.
Light Preference	Full sun
Wildlife Value	Birds feed on seeds, small mammals and deer browse new growth.
Height	1 – 3 feet
Bloom Time	June - November
Evergreen	No
Comments	A loosely tufted annual with clumps of flat, linear, mid-green leaves, to 12 inches long. In late summer and fall, bears dense panicles of tiny, greenish-brown spikelets on fine branchlets.

Witches Grass
(*Panicum capillare*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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Grasses, continued

Common Name	Baltic Rush
Scientific Name	<i>Juncus balticus</i>
Native Region	Native in Canada from Labrador across and down into southern California.
Moisture Conditions	Does not require drainage, accepts seasonal flooding.
Light Preference	Full to partial sun.
Wildlife Value	Provides good cover and seeds for waterfowl, songbirds, and small mammals.
Height	2 ½ - 4 feet.
Bloom Time	May - August
Evergreen	No, perennial.
Comments	Used by muskrats to construct huts and for food. Important as a winter forage for elk and also provides good cover for many bird species.

Baltic Rush
(*Juncus balticus*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott



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Grasses, continued

Common Name	Dagger-Leaved Rush
Scientific Name	<i>Juncus ensifolius</i>
Native Region	Native to much of western North America from Alaska to central Mexico, and into eastern Canada.
Moisture Conditions	Wet
Light Preference	Sun – shade
Wildlife Value	Extremely important to wildlife. Birds (waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and game birds) eat the seeds. Muskrats eat roots and small animals, such as turtles, muskrats and snakes, shelter in its foliage. Waterfowl nest in dense clusters. Amphibians lay eggs at the base and their young are somewhat protected from predation.
Height	2 feet
Bloom Time	Summer
Evergreen	Perennial
Comments	Flat, leaves similar to a small iris. Spreads by rhizomes and produces an interesting round seedhead. A nice addition to a pond or wetland.



Dagger-Leaved Rush
(*Juncus ensifolius*)
Photo by JoAnn Onstott

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Grasses, continued

Common Name	Hare's Tail Grass
Scientific Name	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>
Native Region	Oregon, California and some parts of Canada.
Moisture Conditions	Sandy or well-drained soil.
Light Preference	Full sun
Wildlife Value	Birds are fond of the seed heads.
Height	12 – 18 inches
Bloom Time	Late spring/early summer to late summer/early fall
Evergreen	Annual, self sows freely.
Comments	Hare's-tail Grass is often grown for its 2-inch seed heads that can be used in dried arrangements. The dense seed heads resist shattering. Good for small gardens. Superb container plant.



Cottontail drawing by TJ,
a dad in Minnesota



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Grasses, continued

There are many more grasses native to the northwest. Each one has a small, inconspicuous flower with lovely seed heads which provide much interest in the fall and winter garden.

The seed heads are often used in dried flower arrangements together with Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and colorful leaves.

A wonderful fall feast for birds can be made by braiding bunches of dried grasses into a wreath. Pleasing to the eye and fun to watch the birds as they dine!

This is the perfect time to select grasses for your garden because they are at the end of the bloom cycle and seed heads are almost fully developed.

From large to small, Northwest Native grasses will last many years and reproduce easily. Bring birds to your yard with this group of plants. Easy to care for, most are drought tolerant and never need mowing!



Hare's Tail Grass
(*Lagurus ovatus*)
Photo by JoAnn
Onstott



Northwest Family fun



Fig. 207. *Acer grandidentatum*, n. Nutt. ($\frac{2}{3}$).



Bigtooth Maple or Rocky Mountain Sugar Maple
(Acer grandidentatum)

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Unusual events in our area

Now that the state fair has come and gone and school has started, we are in that golden time before the winter holidays. The sun shines most days and usually a light jacket is all that is needed in the evening.

Vegetable gardens are nearing the last of the harvest. Late season fruits are ripening but not quite ready. The final huckleberry has put a glow in our tummies.

We're thinking it might be just the time for something a little different. Gas prices are a little lower so short trips are more welcome.

A beach picnic and some kite-flying is always great. But if you've been there and done that, here are a few choice goings-on you may be interested in.

Fun, continued

Kids Day for Conservation

Corvallis Parks & Recreation is proud to sponsor the fifth annual Kids Day for Conservation, a day of free, fun, hands-on, natural resource education.

Over 30 local and state-wide natural resource organizations and businesses will present a wide variety of activities suitable for children of all ages.

You will discover amphibians, insects, fish and other critters that live in our farms, forests and urban areas.

There will be do-it-yourself nature art projects. You can build a bird house to take home, climb a rock wall, and shoot a bow and arrow. Learn how soil "works" and how to conserve energy.

See how wildfire spreads and how to protect your family from it.

Participate in the Great Western Oregon Forest Scavenger Hunt and learn about farm and forest products that are produced locally.

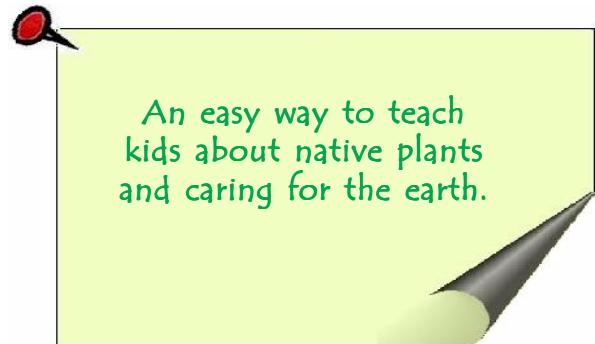
Ages: All

Location: Benton County Fairgrounds

Date: Saturday, September 20th

Time: 10 am - 4 pm

Cost: **FREE** -Pick up a bookmark/bus pass at the Corvallis Parks & Recreation office which will get you a FREE round-trip to the Fairgrounds to attend the event!



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Fun, continued



Oregon Aquaculture Association

OAA

Pond School 2008

Development, Management & Enjoyment of Your Pond

Saturday, September 20, 2008 (All Day Event)

This workshop is intended for anyone interested in farm ponds, ornamental ponds, pond fishes and pond management. Topics will include areas of pond ecology, weed and algae management, fish health, pond construction, repair and maintenance and naturescaping. Evening presentations include: "Protecting Oregon's Native Turtles" and "Silent Invasion". On-line registration: <http://www.oregonaquaculture.org>

Location: FivePine Lodge & Conference Center

City: Sisters

State: OR

Cost: \$75 full registration: \$55 for OSU Extension personnel and Oregon Aquaculture Association members.

Contact: Jim Bowman

Contact Phone: 1-541-737-6427

Contact Email: james.bowman at oregonstate.edu

Contact Department: AquaFish Collaborative Research Support Program



Get the skinny on ponds of all sizes. This event is extra cool!

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Fun, continued

The next 5 events are at Portland's Japanese Garden



O-Tsukimi Moonviewing

September 14, 15, & 16, 6-8:30 pm

Members \$25/Non-members \$35

Reservations begin August 1 and are required

There is no better place in Portland to share the romance and mystery of the full moon in mid-September than from the eastern courtyard of the Garden Pavilion, cup of sake in hand, gazing at the harvest moon as it rises above the city.

Moonviewing, or O-Tsukimi, is a traditional Japanese festival which honors the full moon in autumn. Enjoy a quiet evening in the Garden, observe a tea ceremony in the Kashin Tei Tea House and listen to the music of Mitsuki Dazai as she performs traditional melodies on a stringed instrument called the koto. Hear a poetry reading by Peter Kendall and write your own haiku in honor of the autumn moon. Sip sake or tea, enjoy a light sampling of seasonal Japanese foods, and experience a rare walk through the lantern-lit Garden during moonlit hours. From the Garden's spectacular east-facing view, watch breathlessly as the moon rises over the mountains and downtown Portland. A romantic evening in the Garden not to be missed!

This is an adult event and children 12 and under will not be admitted. All other guests are required to purchase a full-price member or non-member ticket. Space is limited, reservations required. Please call (503) 542-0280 or sign up online.

An adult evening enjoying this beautiful garden.

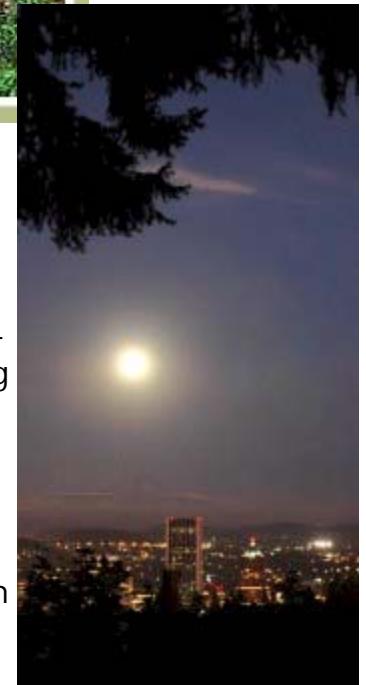
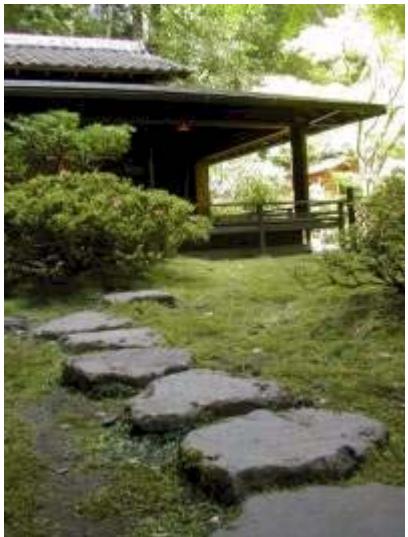


Photo by
Stephen Bridges

Fun, continued



Kashintei tea house

Tea Ceremony Demonstrations

September 20, 2008

October 18, 2008

1pm & 2pm

No Reservations Needed

Join us in the Tea Garden of the Portland Japanese Garden for a demonstration of tea prepared by Kashintei Kai. Tea ceremony demonstrations are offered at the Garden on the third Saturday of every summer month at 1pm and 2pm. In keeping with this philosophy, Wakai Dokokai offers firsthand experiences enjoying, studying, and understanding the spirit of the Tea.

From *Chado: The Way of the Tea* by Wakai Dokokai, Portland, OR

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Chado 茶道, the Way of the Tea, is the practice of preparing, serving, and drinking Tea. Since the 15th century, it has been a study in preparing a bowl of powdered green tea (*matcha* 抹茶) as well as incorporating many of the arts of Japan. This elegant yet simple practice reflects the philosophy of the four principles of Tea:

Harmony (*Wa* 和)

Respect (*Kei* 敬)

Purity (*Sei* 精)

Tranquility (*Jaku* 寂)

In keeping with this philosophy, Wakai Dokokai offers firsthand experiences enjoying, studying, and understanding the spirit of the Tea.

From *Chado: The Way of the Tea* by Wakai Dokokai, Portland, OR



Ancient ceremony sure
to delight. Include
children if they are
mature enough to
enjoy.

Fun, continued

Fence-building Workshops

Day 1--September 27, 9am-3pm

Day 2--September 28, 9am-3pm

Reservations required and space is limited

(503) 542-0280 or online

Lunch not included—participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch



Conducted by Head Gardener Michael Kondo, with Virginia Harmon, Director of Grounds Maintenance, assisting, this two-day workshops provides background information on bamboo fence building as well as hands-on practice.

Day One (9/27)

Includes lecture with a review of the history and evolution of Japanese bamboo fence styles, hands-on tool practice, and knot-tying demonstrations.

Day Two (9/28)

This workshop incorporates a fence-building project which allows participants to practice the skills they learned on Day One. Day One workshop or prior experience required for participation in Day Two workshop.

Reservations

Space is limited, reservations required. Please call (503) 542-0280 or sign up online,

Choose Your Workshop:

\$85.00 — Day One Only (Sep 27)

\$150.00 — Both Days (Sep 27–28)

Almost everyone can learn these techniques. Children will need assistance.

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Fun, continued

Godzilla in the Garden

Portland, Oregon

- Date:** November 1, 2008
- Region:** Portland Metro
- Admission Cost:** No
- Wheelchair Accessible:** Yes
- Bus Parking:** No

A matinee showing of the classic Japanese film in the Portland Japanese Garden.

Free with regular paid admission.

Begins at 1 p.m.

Reservations required (not taking reservations until September 20, 2008).

A rare opportunity! See
this 1954 film in a
traditional Japanese
setting.



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Fun, continued

From Oregon Wild, Herman Creek Mushroom and Native Plant ID Workshop

When: Oct 24, 2007 from 08:30 am to 05:00 pm

Where: Carpools depart from Portland

Contact Name: Nanci Champlin

Contact Email: nc@oregonwild.org

Contact Phone: 503.283.6343 x 203

Join Oregon Wild naturalist Wendell Wood for a mushroom and native plant ID workshop on the Herman Creek trail, in the Columbia Gorge.

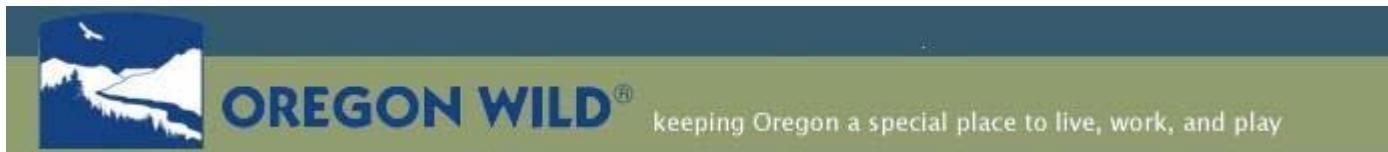
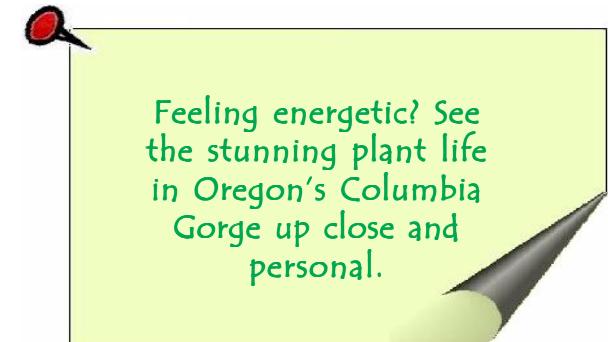
(Moderate, 4 miles, 500' elev. gain)

Explore the old-growth groves on Herman Creek in the Columbia River Gorge as you learn to identify the many mushrooms and other native plants in this area. The great Columbia Fire of 1902 and subsequent smaller fires burned most of the old-growth forest in the Columbia River Gorge, but the big trees at Herman Creek remain. Plant list provided. *Please note that mushrooms will not be gathered on this outing.*

How to RSVP:

Since there is a high probability that rain may postpone the event to the next day, please sign up only if you are available both days.

Be sure to RSVP with your **name, address, phone number (where you can be reached last minute) and an e-mail** so we may contact you with complete details prior to the event. If you are registering a friend, be sure to include their contact information, too.



This & That

A few notes from Jennifer

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This & That, continued

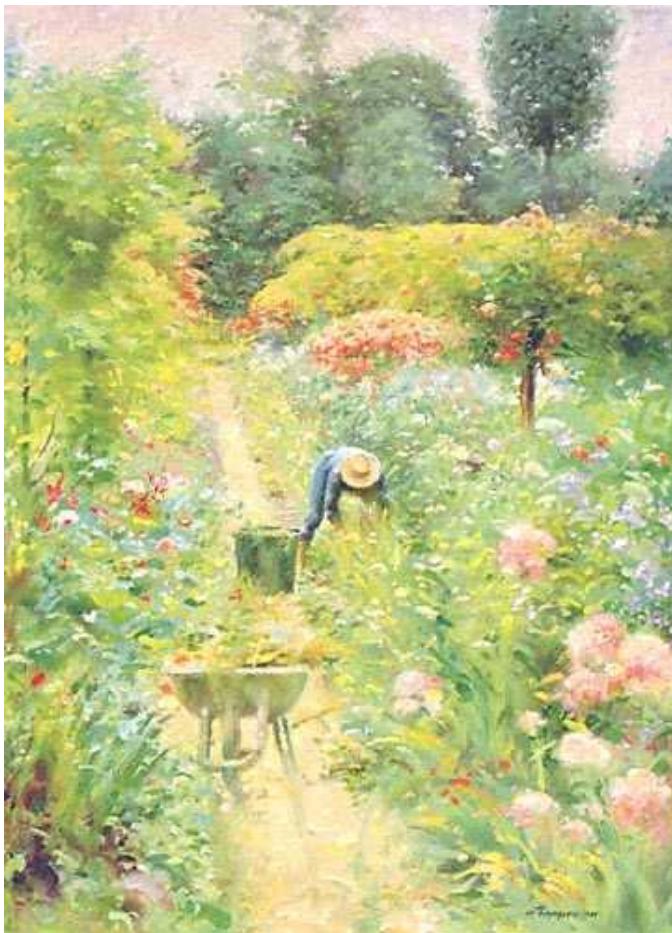
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Useful Plant Databases on the Web

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



The Gardener, Giverny by Richard Earl Thompson

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.

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Useful Plant Databases on the Web, Continued



Heron's Looking Glass by
Richard Earl Thompson

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



Opalescent Autumn by
Richard Earl Thompson

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](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.



NOTICE: NURSERY IS CLOSED

In November 2010,
Wallace W Hansen NW 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!



Deer Fern, drought tolerant mid-size beauty
Photo by JoAnn Onstott