

Columbines School of Botanical Studies
Spring Apprenticeship Program
Trip #6 *Ceanothus*

May 13, 14, 17 2016
[Back to Plantlist Page](#)

Hudsonian Zone Lava 3125'
Middle Elevation Clearcuts and Coniferous Woods 3500'

Family	Genus	Name	Uses
Araceae	Lysichiton americanus (L. americanum)	Skunk Cabbage	+/- Edible
Melanthiaceae (Liliaceae)	Trillium ovatum	Birth Root	No Pick
Aristolochiaceae	Asarum caudatum	Wild Ginger	Spice, Medicinal
Ranunculaceae	Anemone cf. oregana	Small Windflower	Poisonous
Saxifragaceae	Saxifraga cf. marshallii	Lava Saxifrage	Edible
Celastraceae	Pachystima myrsinites	Oregon Box	Ornamental
Aceraceae	Acer circinatum	Vine Maple	Edible
Rhamnaceae	Ceanothus velutinus	Red Root	Medicinal
Violaceae	Viola glabella Viola sp.	Woods Violet Violet	Edible (Choice) Edible (Choice), Medicinal
Ericaceae	Arctostaphylos nevadensis Arctostaphylos patula Arctostaphylos X media	Kinnikinnik Manzanita Hybrid Species	Edible, Medicinal Edible, Medicinal Edible, Medicinal
Animal Interactions	Elk ate Ceanothus bark at base Elk Hair Elk Scat Elk Tracks Frog Misumena vatia Vole Mounds	Crab Spider	

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Field Trip #6

Ericaceae and *Ceanothus velutinus*

Wildcrafting Principle

Is the stand healthy? You may need a year round vision. The *Ceanothus velutinus* looked sick because of last year's persistent leaves, but the stand was healthy. The sap was running and the bark was quality. The plant hadn't "woken up" for the year yet, so it looked sick. Appearances may be deceiving.

Botany

Keyed out: *Arctostaphylos nevadensis*, *Arctostaphylos patula*, and *Ceanothus velutinus*.

Flower dissection

The species definition and *Arctostaphylos* hybridization

Ericaceae: generally urn shaped flowers, anthers awned or opening by pores.

Saxifragaceae: split ovaries

It may generally be somewhat rather rainy, snowy, or frying hot when we key out, be prepared.

Middle Elevation Coniferous Woods

Generally occurs at 4000' in Oregon, but it can vary wildly

Hudsonian Zone: Lava dominated soils, often a dominant layer of *Chimaphila umbellata*.

Canadian Zone: Often a dominant layer of *Xerophyllum tenax*.

Big Three of the Middle Elevation Coniferous Woods

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Middle Elevation Clearcuts

Recent Cuts - Many plants can survive the cut and burn, many will not. *Asarum caudatum*, *Trillium ovatum*, and *Viola sp.*, *Anemone lyallii* and *A. oregana* all survived the cut and burn.

Older Cuts - Located, harvested, and processed *Ceanothus velutinus*