

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

May 17, 18, 21, 2019

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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
Ranunculaceae	Anemone oregana	Small Windflower	Poisonous
Saxifragaceae	Micranthes rufidula (Saxifraga r.)	Lava Saxifrage	Edible
Rhamnaceae	Ceanothus velutinus	Red Root	Medicinal
Celastraceae	Paxistima myrsinites (Pachistima m.)	Oregon Box	Ornamental
Violaceae	Viola sp.	Violet	Edible (Choice), Medicinal
Sapindaceae (Aceraceae)	Acer circinatum	Vine Maple	Edible
Ericaceae	Arctostaphylos nevadensis	Kinnikinnik	Edible, Medicinal
	Arctostaphylos nevadensis × patula	Hybrid Species	Edible, Medicinal
	Arctostaphylos patula	Manzanita	Edible, Medicinal
Animal Interactions	Elk Scat Elk Tracks Frog Grouse Sounds Vole Mounds		

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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.

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*