

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

May 16, 19, 2020
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Hudsonian Zone Lava 3125'
Middle Elevation Clearcuts and Coniferous Woods 3500'

| Fami Genus | Name | Uses |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Araceae | | |
| Lysichiton americanus (L. americanum) | Skunk Cabbage | +/- Edible |
| Melanthiaceae (Liliaceae) | | |
| Trillium ovatum | Birth Root | No Pick |
| Orchidaceae | | |
| Calypso bulbosa | Calypso Orchid | No Pick |
| Ranunculaceae | | |
| Anemone oregana | Small Windflower | Poisonous |
| Saxifragaceae | | |
| Micranthes rufidula (Saxifraga r.) | Lava Saxifrage | Edible |
| Rosaceae | | |
| Fragaria virginiana | Wild Strawberry | Edible (Choice), Medicinal |
| 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 | Green Manzanita | Edible, Medicinal |
| Animal Interactions | | |
| Branta canadensis | Canada Geese | |
| Elk ate Ceanothus bark at base | | |
| Elk Scat | | |
| Elk Tracks | | |
| 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*