

Columbines School of Botanical Studies
Spring Apprenticeship Program
Trip #6 Ericaceae

5/17/2025

Hudsonian Zone Lava 3152'
Low/Middle Elevation Coniferous Woods 3361'

Araceae

Lysichiton americanus (L.
americanum)

Skunk Cabbage

+/- Edible

Melanthiaceae (Liliaceae)

Trillium ovatum

Birth Root

No Pick

Aristolochiaceae

Asarum caudatum

Wild Ginger

Spice, Medicinal

Berberidaceae

Mahonia nervosa (Berberis n.)

Mountain Oregon Grape

Edible, Medicinal

Ranunculaceae

Anemone oregana

Small Windflower

Poisonous

Saxifragaceae

Micranthes rufidula (Saxifraga r.)

Red Stemmed Saxifrage

Edible

Rosaceae

Fragaria virginiana

Wild Strawberry

Edible (Choice), Medicinal

Celastraceae

Paxistima myrsinites (Pachistima
m.)

Oregon Box

Ornamental

Violaceae

Viola glabella

Woods Violet

Edible (Choice)

Viola sp.

Violet

Edible (Choice),
Medicinal

Aceraceae

Acer circinatum

Vine Maple

Edible

Ericaceae

Arctostaphylos nevadensis

Kinnikinnik

Edible, Medicinal

Hybrid Species

Edible, Medicinal

Arctostaphylos nevadensis × patula

Arctostaphylos patula

Green Manzanita

Edible, Medicinal

Columbines School of Botanical Studies
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Trip #6 *Ceanothus*

Araceae

Animal Interactions

Elk Scat

Elk Tracks

Grouse Sounds

Pocket Gopher Mounds

Columbines School of Botanical Studies
Field Trip #6
Ericaceae

Wildcrafting Principles

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 plant hadn't "woken up" for the year yet. Appearances may be deceiving.

Botany

Keyed out: *Arctostaphylos nevadensis* and *Arctostaphylos patula*

Flower dissection

The species definition and *Arctostaphylos* hybridization

Ericaceae: 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: 1983 Clearcut; Commercial Thin within the last 10 years.

Many plants can survive the cut and burn, many will not. *Asarum caudatum*, *Trillium ovatum*, and *Viola sp.*, *Anemone sp.* and all survived the cut and burn.

Older Cuts: 1964 Clearcut, and 1983 Clearcut.

Located *Ceanothus velutinus*