

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

5/15-16/2026

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

**Araceae**

*Lysichiton americanus* (L.  
*americanum*)

**Skunk Cabbage**

+/- Edible

**Melanthiaceae (Liliaceae)**

*Trillium ovatum*  
*Xerophyllum tenax*

**Birth Root**

No Pick

**Aristolochiaceae**

*Asarum caudatum*

**Wild Ginger**

Spice, Medicinal

**Berberidaceae**

*Achlys triphylla*

**Vanilla Leaf**

Edible, Medicinal

**Ranunculaceae**

*Anemone lyallii*

**Small Windflower**

Poisonous

**Saxifragaceae**

*Micranthes rufidula* (*Saxifraga* r.)

**Red Stemmed 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 glabella*

**Woods Violet**

Edible (Choice)

**Aceraceae**

*Acer circinatum*

**Vine Maple**

Edible

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

**Ericaceae**

Arctostaphylos nevadensis	<b>Kinnikinnik</b>	Edible, Medicinal
	<b>Hybrid Species</b>	Edible, Medicinal
Arctostaphylos nevadensis × patula		
Arctostaphylos patula	<b>Green Manzanita</b>	Edible, Medicinal

**Plantaginaceae (Scrophulariaceae)**

Penstemon davidsonii	<b>Penstemon</b>	Emollient
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**Animal Interactions**

Branta canadensis	<b>Canada Geese</b>
Deer Prints	
Elk Scat	
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: 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 sp.* and all survived the cut and burn.

Older Cuts with Recent Restoration Cuts - Located *Ceanothus velutinus*