



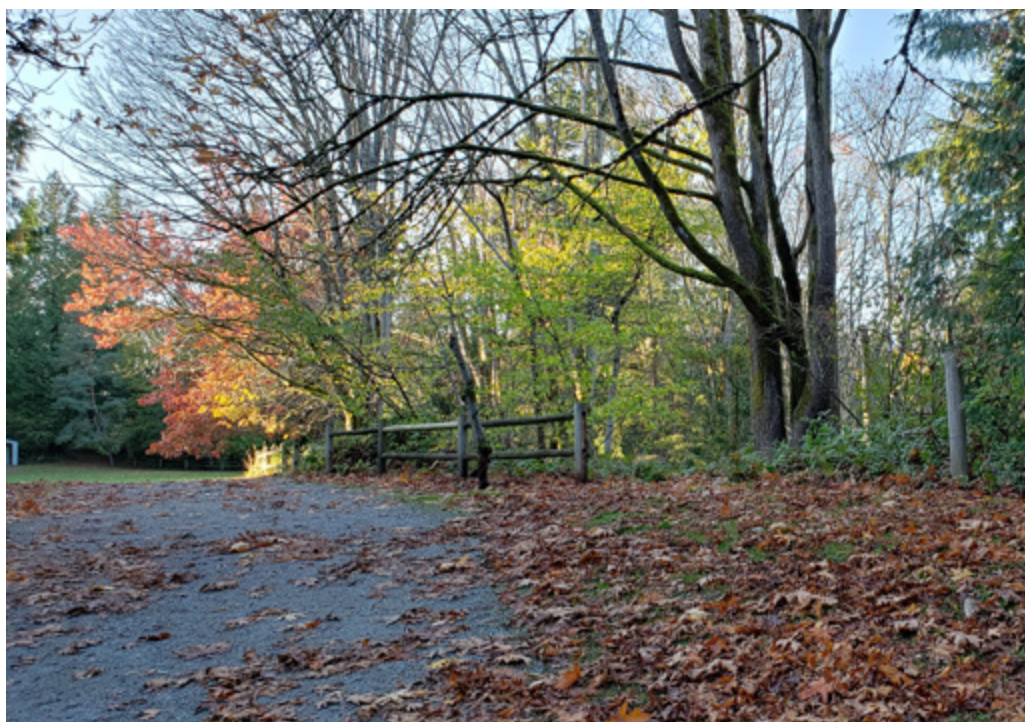
November 2019

Naturalists

ONE STEP AT A TIME

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In the Native Plant Garden

THE NATURALIST'S NATIVE PLANT GARDEN IS CONTINUING TO DO ITS THING

Provide habitat for birds, continue to grow examples of our native trees and shrubs, provide shade in an exposed, parking-lot-like part of Magnuson park, and provide learning opportunities and opportunities for stewardship to our fellow mountaineers, plus providing examples for what many of our native plants look like. It is also now jointly supported by us and the Washington Native plant society, giving us access to expertise in native plant germination, care and maintenance, as well as a new source of energy for the garden.

There will be occasional work parties through the fall. Working alongside native plant society members is an opportunity for us to learn more about native plant habitats and care. **Those of you that are interested in participating can e-mail George Macomber (georgems@98115.net). He will put you on the mailing list for work parties.**

Check out the garden. It is just by the climbing rocks on the north end of the Seattle clubhouse. Good place for a picnic or a walk or biking destination or a quick fix of nature before a meeting at the mountaineers. Try it, you'll like it.

October Naturalist Hikes

OCTOBER 3 – BARCLAY LAKE



A creditable edible haul – king bolete, bears tooth, delicious lactarius, pigs ears and a haul of other boletes



Cladonia lichen with 'british soldiers'



Bright coral mushrooms



At the base of the Baring Wall – in sun on a wet day

October Hikes (Continued)



Snake liverwort



The violet cort, *cortinarius violaceus*. So lovely it wasn't worth picking.

OCTOBER 24 – NISQUALLY FLATS WITH TOM BANCROFT



Snow just above us the night before



Hookeria lucens, aka clear moss or shining hookeria



Mallard in flight

October Hikes (Continued)



Cackling geese



Beaver dam



OCTOBER 17 – UMPANUM CREEK WITH GARY BRILL



Poison ivy

FANTASTIC FALL COLOR NATURALIST HIKES

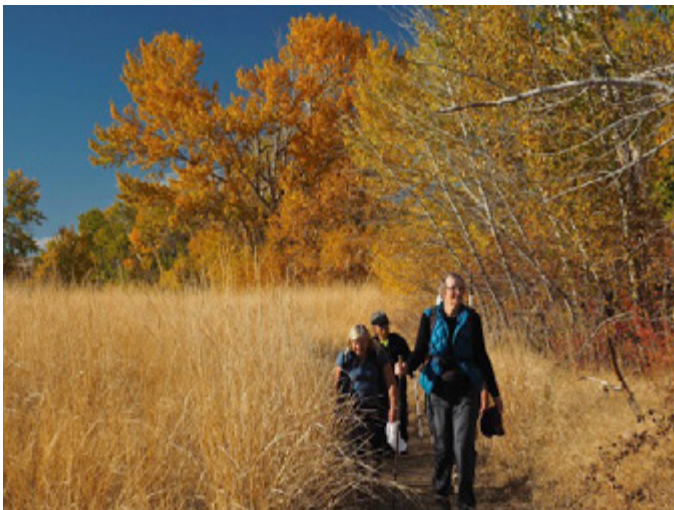
I think this fall after late September, we had perhaps the best fall colors I've ever observed - or at least remember seeing, both east and west of the Cascades. My assumption would be that two 3-5 day, unusually cold periods happened the first half of October, and fall colors seem to turn most spectacularly in clear, and cool to cold fall weather. I suppose there would be a scientific reason for this related to sugars or something, but suffice it to say fall trips this year have been fantastic. I can't get enough. I lead three fall hikes that were theoretically Naturalist hikes but really were just opportunities to enjoy spectacular fall colors. Of these, because I took so many images this fall, I've only had time to prepare one set of images - but additional images will be coming to participants.

Yes, we were able to make observations at Perry Creek of a diversity of mushrooms, informed by Stewart Hougen; an amazing array of ferns and fern allies, many of which are relatively rare sightings; and what must have been some 100 different mosses, most in a dormant state. But man, what rich colors of Bigleaf Maples and Vine Maples!

At Umtanum Creek Canyon there were many songbirds, and we also enjoyed fly overs by a Kestrel and a few hawks. Along the river birdlife was plentiful, and all of this was in a beautiful area with rich fall colors, enhanced by the lovely pastel, blue-greys of Big Sagebrush and Grey Rabbitbrush, some yet in full flower as Asteracea. We even managed to observe a few mosses, one of which I misidentified; these being Polytrichum and Syntrichia. For better or worse, and harmless, if one takes reasonable caution, we even saw a rattlesnake in a surprisingly shady area with wet ground.

Anyway, the images I can share are from the last of these trips where we walked Cowiche Canyon, and the Garry Oak and East Riparian Trails in brilliant, late afternoon sun. The color combinations of the orangish Oaks with yellow Quaking Aspen and Black Cottonwoods, and red-leaved

October Hikes (Continued)

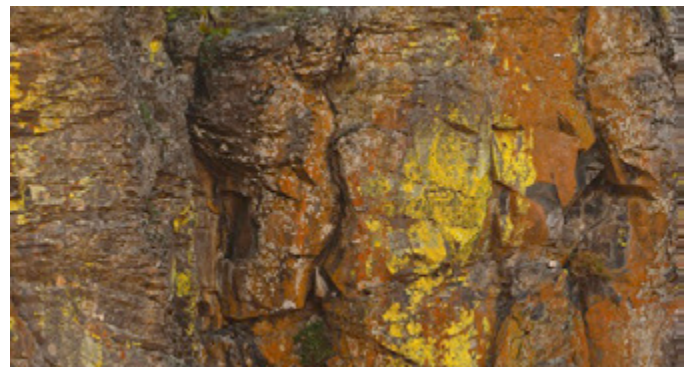


Nootka and Wood's rose, and greenish-yellow Sandbar Willow were to die for. And all of this was made even richer with the tall native bundhgrasses, many reaching above head height at the base of Snow Mountain Ranch. There weren't many songbirds, but we did see several hawks, and a Northern Harrier, along with numerous Scrub Jays along the Riparian trail. The hawks, besides the most obvious Red-tails, included several Sharp-shinned Hawks. Since birding is not my strong suit, it took me a good bit of study to feel confident in my identifications after the fact. Cowiche Canyon is very interesting geologically, as the south rim is represented by the familiar Columbia River Basalts that flowed across much of Eastern Washington some 15 MYA, while the north rim is made up of much younger Andesite that came from near Mt. Aix some 1.64 MYA. This Andesite flow of some 46 miles is the longest known in the world. and then, there are the richly colored Crustose Lichens that decorate



the shaded Basalt Walls of Cowiche Canyon. We didn't even study those lichens at all. Oh well!

And these trips were just the tip of the iceberg as I did many private trips, including a return to Umtanum Creek Canyon the day after the Cowiche trip. Fall colors make me feel as if I am drunk on fine red wine.



Upcoming Hikes

Sign up online under *Explore, Find Activities* and check exploring nature (or click the register buttons below).

The mountain hiking season is nigh upon us, and we nats have many offerings to enjoy.

[Activity Listings - Click for Full List](#)



The Stilly, Skagit & Samish

NOVEMBER 1 - THOMAS BANCROFT

Snow Geese and Swans will be back. Brush up your birding skills with a master of the art.



Montlake Fill

NOVEMBER 11 - GORDIE SWARTZMAN

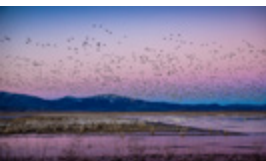
Monday morning at Montlake. Many winter birds are showing up at the Union Bay Natural area and we can stroll and bird for them.



Lincoln Park

NOVEMBER 16 - GORDIE SWARTZMAN

We will visit several sites in West Seattle including Jack Block Park, Armani Boat Ramp, Constellation Park and Lincoln Park. Seabirds are showing up now and lets begin the season right with a good chance to relearn (or learn) these species.



Klamath Basin Birding Trip

NOVEMBER TRIP LISTED SOON - LINDA MOORE

Look for online trip details within next 7-10 days for a 4-5 day photo/naturalist-oriented trip in late November to Klamath Basin during peak stopovers of the largest Pacific Flyway's fall waterfowl migrations. The trip will focus on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath NWRs near Tule Lake

N.Calif, just south of Klamath Falls, OR with option for wildlife viewing/geology side trip to Lava Beds NM.

Save The Date

The following are not open for registration until January, but save the date now. Both include car camping and/or ferries and reservations will need to be made several months before the actual activity.



Coulee Corridor Birding Trail

MARCH 20-22 - ANITA ELDER

Love birds? Grab your camera and join us on this 3-day road trip with car camping along the birding trail where we could see migrating sandhill cranes, raptors, and hundreds of other birds.

[More Info](#)



Vancouver Island

JUNE 8-12 - ANITA ELDER

Naturalist and photography-oriented road trip on Vancouver Island that includes car camping, short hikes and a full day cruise on a merchant vessel to view, identify and photograph wildlife.

[More Info](#)

Naturalists Fall-Winter Lecture Series

SEATTLE PROGRAM CENTER, 7 PM

Free to Naturalist Study Group members, public welcome – donation

NOVEMBER 20, 2019 (WED) | JOHN FLECKERSTEIN, FAIRHAVEN COLLEGE, WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Plants and Animals: Tools and Tricks of the Pollination Trade

Plant pollination is accomplished by a wide range of processes, including many animal species. Among the plants that are animal pollinated, some are extremely specialized, relying on very few or even a single animal species. Others are generalists, pollinated by a wide range of animals. Equally, some animal species are generalists while others are highly specific. John Fleckenstein will give a fascinating talk that our Naturalists will find very interesting about these affiliations and the mechanisms of pollination employed by various plant species.

DECEMBER 11, 2019 | JENNIFER HAHN, ADJUNCT, FAIRHAVEN COLLEGE, WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Wild Foods

Jennifer is the author of three books: *Spirited Waters: Soloing South Through the Inside Passage* (Mountaineers Books, 2009), about her 750-mile solo kayak trip from Alaska to Washington; *Pacific Coast Foraging Guide, 40 Wild Foods from Beach, Field and Forest*, Mountaineers Books/Skipstone, 2010), and *Pacific Feast: A Cook's Guide to West Coast Foraging and Cuisine*.

FEBRUARY 12, 2020 (WED) | PATTI HAPPE, WILDLIFE BRANCH CHIEF, OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

Relocation of Mountain Goats From Olympic National Park

This project is an effort to remove the goats from the Olympics, where they are not native, and reestablish goats in the Cascades, where they once roamed. She previously spoke to The Mountaineers about reestablishment of fisher populations in Olympic National Park (a successful program that has since been expanded to the Cascades).

MARCH 11, 2020 (WED) | DAVID GIBLIN, COLLECTIONS MANAGER, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HERBARIUM, BURKE MUSEUM

Burke Museum Web Resources and Apps

David will give a talk on the various web resources and apps that are available through the Burke Museum Image Collection and affiliated resources and the many ways amateur naturalists might be able to benefit from these resources.



Moss Workshop

JANUARY 30 | 7:00 PM | GARY BRILL

Moss workshop with Gary Brill and Stewart Hougen – lecture January 30 and field trip the following weekend.

Registration opens December 30.

[More Info](#)

Central Puget Sound Chapter/Washington Native Plant Society Program



Restoring Riparian Habitat in the Skagit Basin: Accomplishments, Challenges, & Next Steps

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019, 7:00PM,
BRENDA CLIFTON

Seattle Program Center
7700 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle
Refreshments, Public Invited, Admission is free.
Donations are appreciated!

Doors open at 6:00 PM for the Native Plant Identification Workshop

Brenda Clifton will discuss how riparian habit restoration is approached in the Skagit Basin, from a botanist's point of view. She will discuss new approaches to revegetation that address climate change. The presentation will include lots of pictures showing how effective habitat restoration can be in a relatively short time period.

Odds & Ends

Naturalist facebook group:



The Facebook Group is a group of Mountaineers who have a passion for the natural world and want to learn more about it.

It is called The Mountaineers Naturalist Group. It is open to Mountaineers Members who are affiliated with the Naturalist Program, either as a current or past student of the Intro to the Natural World course or as a member of the Naturalist Study Group. It provides a place for members to share photos of their hikes and trips, as well as to help with identification of species.

People can search for it on Facebook and ask to join. If they are a current member of The Mountaineers and affiliated with the Naturalist Program, they will be added.

The group is open only to Mountaineers Members as it helps us build camaraderie among our members. (There are many other Facebook groups open to all such as the Washington Native Plant Society and Western Washington Birders.).

Poetry

WORDS ARE BIRDS

by Francisco X. Alarcon

words
are birds
that arrive
with books
and spring

they
love
clouds
the wind
and trees

some words
are messengers
that come
from far away
from distant lands

for them
there are
no borders
only stars
moon and sun

some words
are familiar
like canaries
others are exotic
like the quetzal bird

some can stand
the cold
others migrate
with the sun
to the south

some words
die
caged—
they're difficult
to translate

and others
build nests
have chicks
warm them
feed them

teach them
how to fly
and one day
they go away
in flocks

the letters
on this page
are the prints
they leave
by the sea

ROBIN

By Shreya ashar

Robin sang sweetly
When the days were bright
'Thanks, thanks for summer,'
He sang with all his might.

Robin sang sweetly,
In the Autumn days
'There are fruits for everyone;
Let's all give praise.'

In the cold and wintry weather,
Still hear his song:
'Somebody must sing,' said Robin
Or winter will seem long.'

When the spring came back again,
He sang, 'I told you so!
Keep on singing through the winter
It will always go.'

A MAN SAID TO THE UNIVERSE

By Stephen Crane

A man said to the universe:
"Sir I exist!"
"However," replied the universe,
"The fact has not created in me
A sense of obligation."

THIRTEEN WAYS OF LOOKING AT A BLACKBIRD

By Wallace Stevens

Among twenty snowy mountains,
The only moving thing
Was the eye of the black bird.

I was of three minds,
Like a tree
In which there are three blackbirds.

The blackbird whirled in the autumn winds.
It was a small part of the pantomime.

A man and a woman
Are one.
A man and a woman and a blackbird
Are one.

I do not know which to prefer,
The beauty of inflections
Or the beauty of innuendoes,
The blackbird whistling
Or just after.

Icicles filled the long window
With barbaric glass.
The shadow of the blackbird
Crossed it, to and fro.

The mood
Traced in the shadow
An indecipherable cause.

O thin men of Haddam,
Why do you imagine golden birds?
Do you not see how the blackbird
Walks around the feet
Of the women about you?

I know noble accents
And lucid, inescapable rhythms;
But I know, too,
That the blackbird is involved
In what I know.

When the blackbird flew out of sight,
It marked the edge
Of one of many circles.

At the sight of blackbirds
Flying in a green light,
Even the bawds of euphony
Would cry out sharply.

He rode over Connecticut
In a glass coach.
Once, a fear pierced him,
In that he mistook
The shadow of his equipage
For blackbirds.

The river is moving.
The blackbird must be flying.

It was evening all afternoon.
It was snowing
And it was going to snow.
The blackbird sat
In the cedar-limbs.



Odds & Ends (Continued)

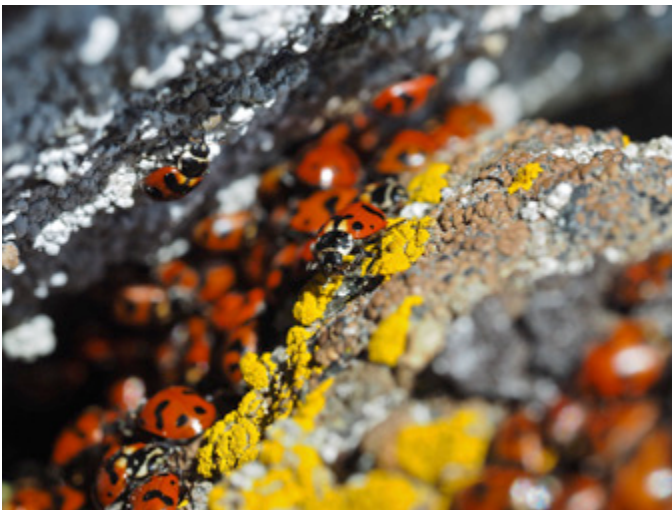
Overpopulation, I don't think SO...

by Gary Brill



Once in awhile on the summits of Cascade Peaks you find nestled amongst the highest summit rocks great numbers of Ladybugs, seemingly everywhere, but also piling on top of one another in huge congregations. That was the case on the summit of Rock Mountain on September 25th.

It was not difficult to google an article explaining this seemingly strange behavior: <https://www.summitpost.org/exploring-the-mystery-of-summit-ladybugs/723486>



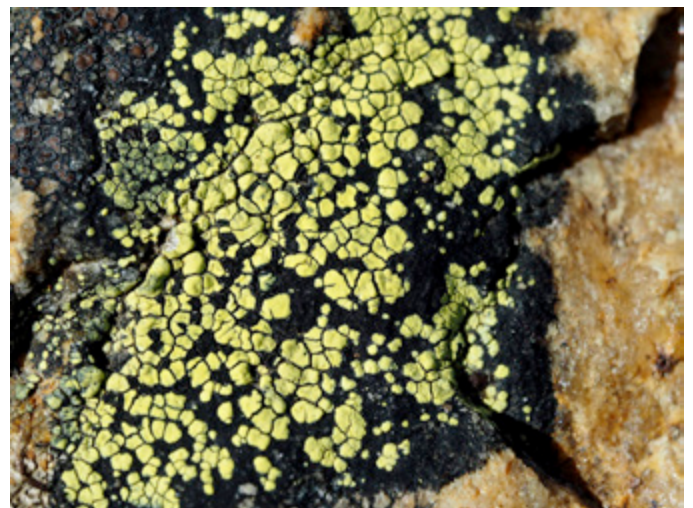
So, yeah, there are too many people in the Puget lowlands and trailhead crowds have grown dramatically, almost exponentially in the past ten years or so; but for Ladybugs, well, they have been doing this for who knows how long? They apparently date to the Cretaceous. We've only been around perhaps 100,000 - 200,000 years and have managed to make quite a mess of the place.

As for the beetles and the article, I am not so sure. A quick look at Hippodamia at BugGuide [https://bugguide](https://bugguide.net/node/view/8373).

[net/node/view/8373](https://bugguide.net/node/view/8373) shows that the pattern of spots defines the species. They don't look like Hippodamia convergens at all. These Ladybugs may be related to Hippodamia caseyi; perhaps they are Hippodamia oregonensis, but probably not Hippodamia washingtoni - at least not these beetles.

The article really doesn't explain, but merely hypothesizes, why they congregate as they do on summits. Perhaps they just like the view. Life is just one big gigantic mystery!

Of course there is a lot more - at least for people - to being on summits than Ladybugs. I like the view, too. And then there are lichens; using Richard Droker's excellent Flickr site, it is reasonable to try to identify lichens also: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wanderflechten/albums/72157652360753891>



Pleopsideum flavum

Odds & Ends (Continued)

Graduates from the 2019 Introduction to the Natural World Course

CONGRATULATIONS

Andrea A
Anita Jozefiak
Barbara Guthrie
Barbara Kruse
Beth Morigan
Bob Hammer
Brian Holsclaw
Dan Casady
Daniel Knight
Deborah Sand
Derek Price
Evy Dudey
Greta Olson
Jack Granberg
Jessica Hancock
Jordan Pickrell
Kate Grossman
Katie Oman
Kay Norton
Kayla Zeiss
Kelly Dmetruk
Kelly Ryan
Kelsey Scherer
Kirsten Olsen
Lily Kahng
Lily Liao
Lin Murdock
Linda White
Lis Olver
Lisa Romberg
Mack Frankfurter
Maggie Clark
Marissa Litak
Mark Glidden
Mary Stimson
Megan Hartness
Nancy Miller
Pat Mork
Peter Schoen
Peter Tran
Roseanne Lorenzana
Sarah Ealey
Scott Behmer
Shannon Sawyer
Steph Harmon
Stephen Dmetruk
Susan Kingrey
Tosha Mayo

Photographs

BY GRACE WINER



White-stemmed Evening Primrose, *Oenothera nuttallii*



Cocklebur, *Xanthium strumarium*, photographed at Cache Creek Ranch in Hells Canyon, October 14, 2019. *Xanthium* is Greek for "yellow" as yellow dye is extracted from the fleshy stems of this plant



Photo by Gary Brill

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We welcome comments, ideas, information to share, original short articles, and photos. If you have information you'd like to have appear in the newsletter, please send it to Gordie (g.swartzman@gmail.com).