

Sometimes, our destination in mind, (2) we find ourselves caught in a purpose. (3)The trail beckons us forward, and we heed its call. (4)Forward through deep virgin forests, (5)stair casing our way through (6) switchbacks, (7)to find ourselves in the rocky moraines of long lost glacial upheaval, (8)before a crystal clear lake, (9)whose cold waters call too us after a long but rewarding trip.

I find myself at times remembering a pivotal moment in my scouting career. A split second of time, that unbeknownst to my Scoutmaster, would create a life long passion, one that I continue to follow to this day. An instant in time, when the destination became a second thought and the world around me opened up and became so much larger than I had ever noticed.

Traveling to the Birta May Lakes I was the unlucky scout that ended up in the middle of a Stinging Nettle patch. The burning itch in my legs was unbearably. My Scoutmaster looked at me and said through a mouthful of apple he was eating, "See that fern, no that one, no the other one, right, Braken Fern, break it open and rub it on your leg." With that he turned around and walked away. I did what he told me, and after that I became a plant freak.

Poor Gene Nolan could not shake me, at every turn I asked what that was, can you eat it, does it do anything useful? I earned my Botany Merit Badge, back when there was such a thing, and started trying recipes. I found myself enraptured by the (10) delicate beauty of the Star Flower (11), the Queen's Cup, (12) and the snare of the Devil's Club.

(13 - 17) I find today, that most scouts do not have interest in the minute, the delicate beauty that surrounds them. But I am a firm believer that the reason why, is that we spend too much time on the destination, and not what surrounds us as we try to reach that goal. A five mile hike can be a rewarding experience if the scout has the opportunity to (18) sample the goodness of the berry, (19) or be witness to the plants that hold death within their grasp.

Tonight I hope to assist you in creating a program that takes our Native Plant Life in to account when planning an outing. We will preview what I find to be the 10 best tasting berries around our parts,

and then turn my presentation to our 10 deadliest plants in the Pacific Northwest. To finish it off, we will preview two rare gems, which are now only located in small parts of our area and how we can use the internet to create excitement to a scouting program by locating and documenting.

So let's get down to the good stuff, what is out there that a scout can grab a handful of and roll around their palette? Let's start with number 10:

- 10: Thimbleberries (21)
- 9: Salmonberries (22)
- 8: Salal (23)
- 7: Evergreen Huckleberries (24)
- 6: Red Huckleberries (25)
- 5: Wild Raspberries (26)
- 4: Black Caps (27)
- 3: Wild Blueberries (28)
- 2: Trailing Blackberry (29)
- 1: Wild Strawberry (30)

You received recipes for some of the berries we have discussed, from jams and jellies to pies and four course meals, your boys now have an arsenal to use on their next outing. And the beauty of this list? You have berries from early spring to late fall at your disposal. Plus the internet is literally full of recipes for Native plants and berries.

Now lets move on to Washington's Bad Boys of the Greenbelt. The deadly 10. Let me just start by saying, all of these will kill you, it is not easy to rank a bunch of plants that in equal parts can cause hemorrhaging, paralysis and death. These are the plants that are not jokes. Scouts need to be made aware of their deadly poisons, and learn a healthy dose of respect for them.

10. Buttercup Family (32) (Ra\*nun`cu\*la"ceous)
9. Common Snowberries (33)
8. Larkspur (34) – part of the buttercup family (delfaneen)
7. Mountain Monkshood (35) – part of buttercup family (A\*con"i\*tine)
6. Common Foxglove (36)

5. Meadow Death Camas (37)
4. Baneberry (38)
3. Douglas Water Hemlock (39)
2. Poison Hemlock (40)
1. Indian Hellebore (41)

And last amongst our list of native plants, here are two rare gems that if not protected will soon disappear from our landscapes forever, and be no more than a memory. I am not here to preach, just to tell it like it is. Plants are delicate; simply walking into an alpine meadow destroys hundreds of years of fragile growth. The meadows at Paradise are perfect examples of how long it takes to restore what takes us so little time to destroy.

1. Torrey's peavine (43)
2. Chocolate Lilly (44)

So, having some knowledge is never enough to get scouts involved. How do we entice our scouts to want to learn more, if recipes and violent vomiting do not gain their interest, how about a game or two?

Games:

Plant Scavenger Hunt:

- Identification Book
- Plant List for area

In the Wild Kim's Game

- Local edible and poisonous plants

Wild Berry Dutch Oven Cook Off

- Two things boys love, fire and eating. Get them out picking berries and finding recipes online, and then have them do a competition on who can make the best grub.

Picture This:

- Disposable cameras
- Object is to give the patrols a list of plants, best shots of each species wins

Plant Trivia / Jeopardy

- Interpatrol Competitions

Picture Worth a thousand Words

- Slide 47

Books, Websites and resources.(48)