

## COLUMBIA GORGE DISCOVERY CENTER INTERPRETIVE POND WALK

*At each of the numbered points along the trail map, stop and learn something about our area's history.*

**1. Camping at the river's edge** – The bank of the Columbia below The Dalles was the end of the overland Oregon Trail for those who chose to travel through the Gorge. Indeed, many emigrants were at the end of the line in energy, food, and endurance when they reached Chenoweth Creek. Guidebooks had promoted the wonders of the West, but failed to mention the dangers of dysentery, cholera, starvation, drowning, and accidents.

At The Dalles emigrants had a choice of hiring Hudson's Bay Company bateaux. The HBC had a limited number of large bateaux and men to assist in the trip and the price was stiff. Some years crews charged \$50 per wagon and \$10 for each person. Few emigrants had that kind of money or the patience to wait for the next boat. Nearly out of supplies, hungry, ill, and weary, they camped along the river east of Crate's Point while waiting for passage or completion of their rafts and flatboats.

**2. Tools For An Important Job** – Emigrants who made the choice to construct their own rafts needed a few basic tools to complete the job. Men and boys went into the hills to fell pine trees with axes. They bored holes into logs with augers to hitch their oxen to the trees and drag them to the mouth of Chenoweth Creek. They bound the logs into long rafts with ropes and ox chains. Some probably whipsawed planks to construct flatboats, or to fashion runners to steer the ungainly rafts.

*"We returned to our camp and commenced our flat boat 13 feet by 47 feet long whip sawing our lumber etc."*

*"...a few chisels, handsaw, drawing knife, axes, and tools generally, it would be well to bring, especially augers...."*

Peter Hardeman Burnett, Advice for Emigrants, Linnton, Oregon, 1844

**3. Westward By Water** – Emigrants set out—often three or four wagons per raft—to float the mighty Columbia. They faced winds, waves, and rocks. Boys drove the oxen and horses single-file along a narrow, perilous cattle trail. Strong winds battered the rafts and often made progress impossible. There were few places to tie up to shore for the night. Those who tarried too long found icicles hanging from their wagon boxes. For many this was a journey of terror and hardship. Some parties took up to ten days to float to the Cascade rapids. There all went ashore, reassembled their wagons, and made a five or six mile portage along the north bank. They let their rafts and flatboats sweep over the rapids and snagged them at the lower landing to resume their trip by water.

*"We took our wagons part and put the bodies on first and put the running gear on top of that and lashed it on."* Nineveh Ford, Recollections of 1843.

**4. How Clear Is Your View?** – Air Pollution from human activities can impair your view and impact your health. Small particles of sulfate, nitrate, and carbon transported from urban areas and generated within the National Scenic Area, are reducing visibility by scattering and absorbing light. Sources

of these particles include industrial processes, vehicles and outdoor burning. Local state and federal agencies, industries and communities are working together to monitor air quality, reduce air pollution and improve your views of the spectacular Columbia River Gorge.

**5. Olney's Trading Post** – Nathan Olney passed through The Dalles in 1845 on his way west, and again in 1848 while serving with the Oregon Volunteers in the Cayuse War. That year Olney erected a log cabin on Mill Creek. Later, compelled to relocate outside the Fort Dalles Military Reservation, he settled at Chenoweth Creek where he lived in a small cabin and sold food and supplies to emigrants until 1852.

He served in the territorial legislature and as sheriff of Wasco County. His Indian wife, Annett, and three sons settled in 1867 on the Yakima reservation following his death. Many of his descendants today live on the Yakima Reservation. "He was the first permanent resident of The Dalles and the first merchant who figured prominently in the affairs of the community." William McNeal. History of Wasco County Oregon. (Ca. 1853)

**6. Crates' Donation Land Claim** – Edward Crate came by canoe route across Canada to the West in 1838 and was employed as master of the canoe and bateau 'fleet' for the Hudson's Bay Company.

With his part-Indian wife, Sophia, Crate selected this point for their home and filed for 640 acres under the Donation Land Act of 1850. This bend in the river was an ideal place to offer services to transport overland emigrants by water through the Gorge or to haul supplies to merchants in The Dalles. The Crates and their fourteen children also raised cattle. Some of the sons operated a butcher shop in town. Edward Crate filed for naturalization as an American citizen on October 28, 1851. He died in 1894, survived by his aged widow. Their original log cabin stood until 1948 when it burned in a grass fire. It was the oldest structure then standing in Wasco County.

**7. Living off the Land** – The Indians of the Columbia River developed many uses for things found in nature. Salmon not only provided food, but when boiled, its skin made wonderful glue. By careful steaming, men unfolded and shaped a mountain goat horn into handsome bowls. Bird and animal bones made good fishhooks. Women sewed beautiful designs of porcupine quills colored with natural dyes onto clothing. From a slice of cedar bark an Indian could make a useful basket. Indian hemp, willow root, and hazelbark served as weaving materials. Bear grass, collected during the summer, provided stunning decoration for basketry designs. Nature's bounty beckoned to the clever humans.

**8. Native American Villages** – Columbia Plateau villages on the upper river contained several structures:

**Mat longhouses:** a long, expandable structure constructed of poles and covered with matting, used as a residence in both summer and winter by many families.

**Sweat house:** a low, dome shaped structure covered with mats, used for sweating to become pure, healthy, and lucky in life's enterprises.

**Salmon Cache:** a raised, v-shaped platform made of plank slabs filled with bundles of wood-dried salmon wrapped in mats for storage.

**Arbor:** a low shed framed of poles and covered with planks, brush, or matting, used for wind-drying fish, or as a working place out of the sun.

Tule Mats, sturdy and versatile, had multiple uses for floor covering, sun shade, roofing, sleeping mat, serving piece for food, or wrapping for deceased relatives.

**9. Salmon: Staff of Life** – The Columbia annually filled with salmon, From April to October natives who lived along its shores managed their great fishery. It fed them for thousands of years and became the source of their wealth and trade.

The men fished with dipnets and spears. The women cleaned the fish and hung vast quantities on racks in sheds where the hot winds of summer dried the harvest. "thus preserved," noted William Clark, "those fish may be kept Sound and Sweet Several years, as those people inform me."

**10. Seasonal Round** – For 10,000 years the salmon people have returned to Nch'i-Wana (Great River). The cycle of the salmon is part of an age-old calendar setting the cadences of native life in the watershed of the Columbia. When streams fill with fish, people harvest them. During summer and fall the Indians of the Columbia Gorge followed their seasonal round. They traveled into the mountains to gather basket materials, pick berries, dig roots and bulbs, and hunt. At camps away from their permanent villages, people erected temporary, mat-covered lodges. These rhythms have echoed through their lives from past to present. Today, through established treaty rights, the people gather traditional foods at sites once visited by their ancestors.

**11. Roots: Nature's Gifts of Life** – At first glance the summer-baked or winter-chilled stretches of the Columbia Plateau seem devoid of life. For the Native Americans, however, this landscape was a great storehouse of life-sustaining roots. Lomatiums – the Indian Parsleys – included several varieties. Known variously as Cous (biscuit root), Cum-see (wild celery), and Luksh (desert parsley) to the Warm Springs people, the Lomatiums provided Vitamin C and iron. The women also dug Wakamo (camas), Pa ah ke (bitter root), Sawwictk (Indian carrot) and balsamroot, the wild sunflower. Root harvests required correct behavior: prayers, ceremonies, and giving thanks. Mother Earth responded with bountiful gifts.

"Their method of cooking is by simple roasting or boiling," observed James G. Swan in 1857. By using wood skewers, women made roasting racks for cooking fish and meat. They boiled other foods, including roots and bulbs, dropping heated rocks into water-tight baskets. Some foods they roasted in rock-lined pits in the earth. They also smoked meat and sun-dried berries. Food preparation and storage demanded weeks of work. The labor was necessary to pass the coming winter without hunger or misery. "If the root can store energy for the plant, it can store energy for people as well." Eugene Hunn, Nch i-Wana "The Big River" (1990).

**12. Squally Point** – Lewis and Clark camped at Rock Fort at The Dalles but were unable to get around Squally Point because of high winds. Thus delayed, on October 28, 1805, they camped "in a very Bad place" in the vicinity of Crate's Point. "we had also a fire made for those people to Sit around in the middle of our Camp," wrote Clark, "and Peter Crusat Played on the violin, which pleased those nativs exceedingly."

## NATIVE PLANT TOUR



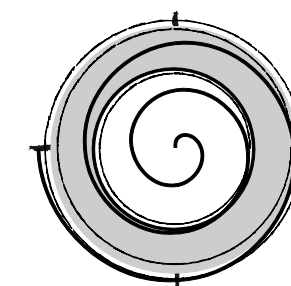
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

## AND INTERPRETIVE POND WALK

### Native Plant Restoration Project

The Native Plant Restoration Project on the Discovery Center grounds promotes soil and water conservation, while inspiring appreciation and stewardship of the natural landscape. Much work has been done to restore what was once the site of a concrete mix plant to the present day grounds, flourishing with native vegetation. From early spring to late fall the grounds are graced with over 100 blooming, indigenous plant species resistant to the dry, windblown environment. More than 40 plants are identified along the Native Plant Discovery Tour. Barbara Robinson, grounds designer and director of the Native Plant Restoration Project, sums up her passion for her work: **"I am an artist and the grounds are my canvas."** Under Barbara's watchful eye, the project has involved countless volunteer hours by numerous individuals since its beginning in 1997. We invite you to take a stroll along the paved trail and enjoy the natural beauty!

*\*With a \$85 donation, you can help improve our grounds by purchasing a stone plant-identification sign from Pioneer Rock & Monument, and have your name commemorated on your sign for future visitors.*



**COLUMBIA GORGE  
DISCOVERY CENTER & MUSEUM**

5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058  
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Common Name	Russ Jolley #	Genus Species	Family
Arrow-Leaf Balsamroot.....	724	Balsamorhiza sagittata (or deltoidea)	Composite/sunflower tribe
Barrett's Penstemon.....	554	Penstemon barrettiae	Figwort
Basin Wild Rye		Elymus cinereus	Grass
Big Leaf Maple		Acer macrophyllum	Maple
Big Sagebrush.....	718	Artemisa tridentate	Composite/anthemis tribe
Bitterbrush.....	257	Purshia tridentate	Rose
Black Cottonwood		Populus trichocarpa	Willow
Bluebunch Wheatgrass		Pseudoroegneria spicata	Grass
Broad-leaf Lupine.....	299	Lupinus latifolius var. thompsonianus	Pea
Cattail		Typha latifolia	Cattail
Choke Cherry.....	256	Prunus virginiana var. richardsonii	Rose
Common Snowberry.....	590	Symphoricarpos albus	Honeysuckle
Cut-leaf Penstemon.....	560	Penstemon richardsonii var. richardsonii	Figwort
Fiddleneck.....	480, 482	Amsinkia retrorsa	Borage
Giant Sequoia (non-native)		Sequoiadendron giganteum	Redwood
Golden Currant.....	228	Ribes aureum	Currant
Gray Rabbit Brush.....	667	Chrysothamnus nauseosus var. albicaulis	Composite/aster tribe
Green Rabbit Brush.....	668	Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus var. lanceolatus	“ “
Hairy Goldaster.....	666	Chrysopsis villosa	Composite/aster tribe
Kinnikinnick.....	412	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Heath
Mock Orange.....	236	Philadelphia lewisii	Hydrangea
Ocean Spray.....	244	Holodiscus discolor	Rose
Oregon Ash		Fraxinus latifolia	Ash
Oregon Sunshine.....	729	Eriophyllum lanatum	Composite/sunflower tribe
Oregon White Oak		Quercus garryana	Beech
Pacific Willow		Salix lasiandra	Willow
Pioneer Rose/Rosa Mundi		Rosa gallica versicolor	Rosaeae
Pioneer Rose/Harison's Yellow		Rosa harisonii	Rosaeae
Ponderosa Pine		Pinus ponderosa	Pine
Pungent Desert Parsley.....	390	Lomatium grayi	Parsley
Red Alder		Alnus Rubra	Alder
Red Osier Dogwood.....	409	Cornus stolonifera var. occidentalis	Dogwood
Red-flowering Currant.....	234	Ribes sanguineum	Currant
Serviceberry.....	237	Amelanchier alnifolia	Rose
Shining Oregon Grape.....	153	Berberis aquifolium	Barberry
Steeplebush Spiraea.....	276	Spiraea douglasii	Rose
Strict Buckwheat.....	78	Eriogonum strictum var. proliferum	Buckwheat
Sulphur Buckwheat.....	80	Eriogonum umbellatum var. umbellatum	Buckwheat
Tule/Bulrush		Scirpus lacustris	Sedge
Willows		Salix Species	Willow
Woods (Pearhip) Rose.....	263	Rosa woodsii	Rose
Yarrow.....	707	Achillea millefolium	Composite/anthemus

**Remarks** \*Plants collected as samples by Lewis and Clark

\*April 14, 1806, east of White Salmon River; as noted "the stem is eaten by the natives without preparation."  
Endemic plant found only in the Gorge area.  
Probably described by Lewis & Clark near Camp Chopunnish in Idaho.

\*April 10, 1806 near Bonneville Dam  
Possibly referred to by L & C as "southern wood" at the "prairi of the knobs" near Ovando, Montana

\*July 16, 1806 at the "prairi of the knobs", MT.  
\*June 16, 1806 in Idaho. Lewis also described the tree on June 2 while at Traveler's Rest.  
\* June 10, 1806 along Clearwater River.  
Endemic plant found only in the Gorge area.

\*May 29, 1806 near Kamiah, ID. Lewis drank a liquid of boiled choke cherry twigs and cured his stomach.  
\*Undated. Described by Lewis on Aug. 13, 1805 in Idaho the day after crossing the Continental Divide.

\*April 17, 1806 at "Rockfort Camp" in The Dalles, OR.

\*April 16, 1806 at "Rockfort Camp" and June 29, 1805 at Three Forks, MT. On July 17, 1805, Lewis wrote "I find these fruits very pleasant...not so acid as those from our garden and more agreeably flavored."  
\*Sept. 21, 1806 on Big Bend of the Missouri below Pierre, South Dakota. "Antelope eat on it in winter."  
\*May 6, 1806 on Clearwater River in Idaho.

\*Lewis noted on the original label "the natives smoke its leaves, mixed with tobacco." On Oct. 29, 1805, down stream from The Dalles, OR Clark wrote "This chief gave us to eat (kinnickinnick) burries..."  
\*May 6, 1806 along Clearwater River in Idaho.  
\*May 29, 1806 near Camp Chopunnish, Idaho.

\*Early June, 1806 near Camp Chopunnish, Idaho.  
\*March 26, 1806 near Clatskanie, OR. Lewis wrote: "Near the river...we saw a fine grove of whiteoak trees."

Brought from the east by Oregon settlers.

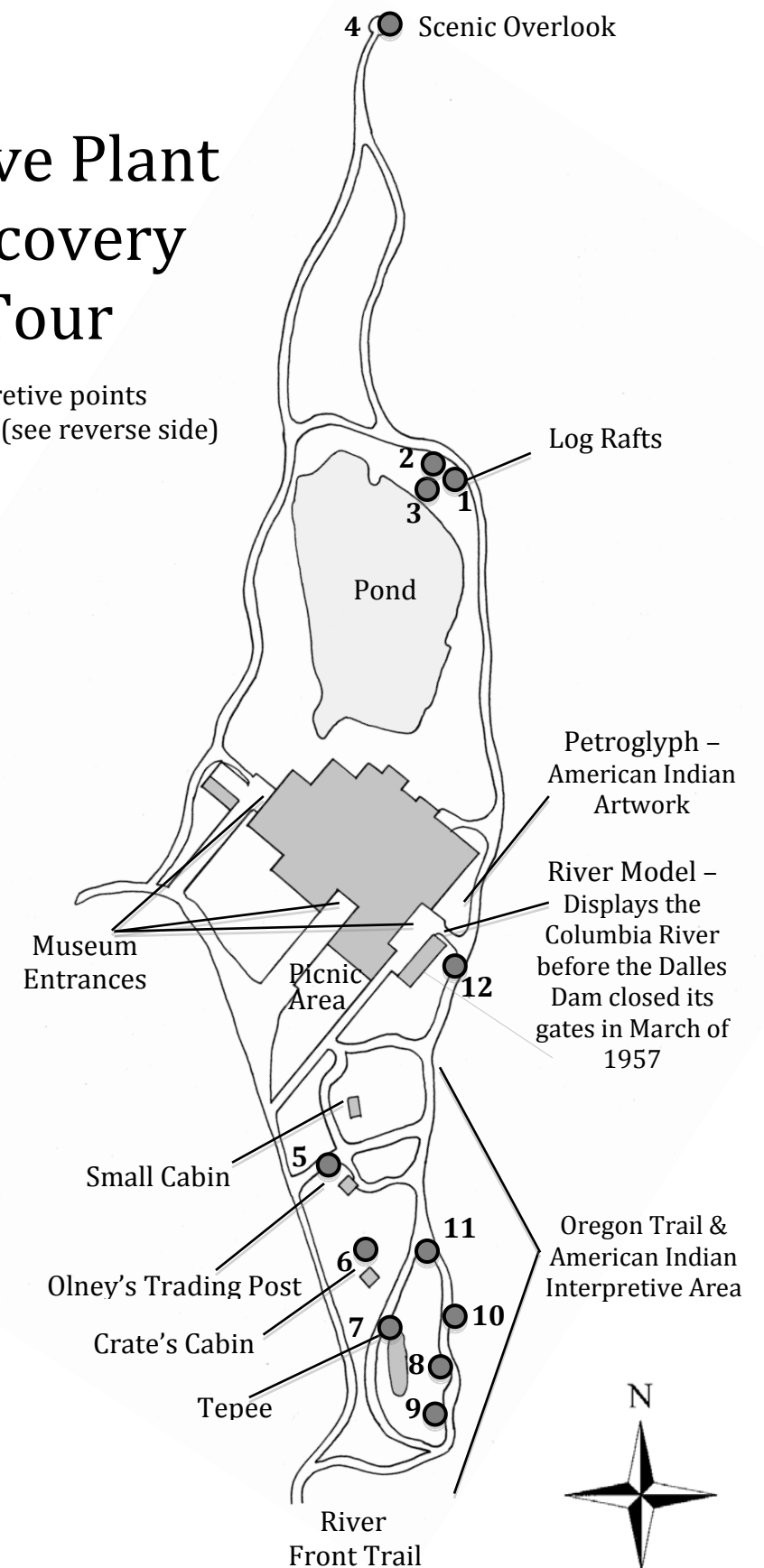
\*Oct. 1, 1805 at Canoe Camp on Clearwater R., where they constructed canoes from large ponderosa pines.  
\*April 14, 1806 near Memaloose Island below Lyle, WA.  
\*March 26, 1806, Clatskanie, OR. Also described at Fort Clatsop on February 9, 1806.

\*March 27, 1806 near mouth of the Cowlitz R. in Wash.  
\*April 15, 1806 near "Rockfort Camp" at The Dalles, OR.  
\*April 11, 1806 near Bonneville Dam. Lewis described it in detail on February 12, 1806 at Fort Clatsop.

\*May 20, 1806 near Camp Chopunnish, Idaho.

# Native Plant Discovery Tour

● Interpretive points of interest (see reverse side)



**Enjoy a stroll along the level, paved trail and see how many of the 40 identified native plant species you can find.**