

Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

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Mission Bells, Desert Parsley and Chickweed

An interesting member of the lily family that should make its appearance on Rough and Ready in March, one that is familiar to most of us, is Mission Bells. Its rather large and oddly attractive bowl-shaped flowers appear to have been given a camouflage paint job, a mixed patchwork of dull-purple and yellowish-green. Where the plant grows in the open, as on Rough and Ready, it is likely to be seven or eight inches high with two or three nodding inch-long flowers; in cool shady places it may be two feet high or more, with as many as a dozen flowers.

The flower has six curved segments about an inch long that are rather broad and cupped at the base, each containing a large green or purplish gland. There are six stamens and a three-parted pistil. The plant is rather stout and has a number of narrow leaves two to four inches long that may be in one or more whorls or scattered alternately along the stem.

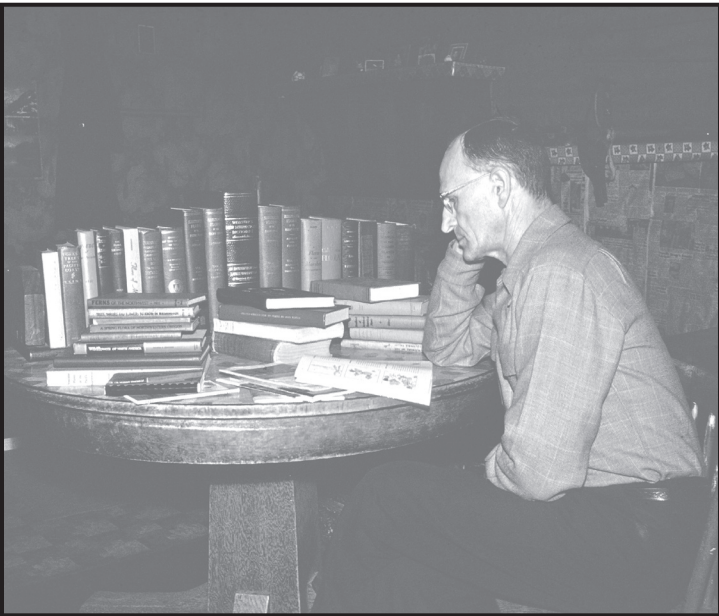
Mission Bells is one of the fritillaries, several species of which are found in the Siskiyou. This one, Fritillaria lanceolata, is the commonest and the one you are most likely to find here in the Valley.

Spring Gold, or fine-leaved desert parsley, is an early bloomer that is sure to attract your attention on your spring tour of the Park. A member of the parsley family, it usually starts blooming in March. Its tiny yellow flowers, in a loose cluster of small roundish heads, and its lacy finely-divided compound leaves, make this plant a pleasantly attractive member of our wild plant community. The plant may be anywhere from six to eighteen inches high when in bloom. The leaves, except when very young, are bright green. They are several times divided into slender leaflets, and the leaf-stem, or petiole, is conspicuously broad and bladder-like, wrapping completely around the plant stem. This feature explains why the plant is sometimes called bladder parsnip.

Meadow Chickweed is another to make an early appearance on Rough and Ready and is quite common in and about the Valley. Not so outstandingly attractive as some other of our spring flowers, still it is a handsome, eye-catching little plant with its delicate foliage and half-inch wide pure-white flowers.

The plant, with its several branching stems, is usually eight or ten inches high with very narrow paired leaves about one inch long whose bases are joined around the stem. The leaves are sometimes quite crowded near the base of the stem. The plant is somewhat hairy and sometimes a little sticky. The flowers are in a rather scattered cluster at the ends of the branches. The five petals are heart shaped, the points coming together inside the short tube formed by the five shorter sepals. In the flower-center are the ten stamens, surrounding the five-parted pistil.

Although some of our so-called chickweeds have inconspicuous flowers and are sometimes garden pests, meadow chickweed is in a class by itself and is deserving of a common name that is less suggestive of a weed. It is much the showiest of our chickweeds and in its modest way, makes a pleasing contribution to the colorful spring carpet of our valley.



Al Hobart in his plant library June, 1963.

Public Notice

City of Cave Junction Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) 2013

CCRs provide information about the quality of the water you receive and are written in compliance with standards set by State & Federal Drinking Water Regulations.

The City of Cave Junction is a blended source water system consisting of the Illinois River (Entry Point A) and the Daisy Hill Well (Entry Point B). The main source of drinking water is the Illinois River. This river travels through a 232 square mile water shed including the East Fork Illinois River, Sucker Creek and Althouse Creek watersheds. Source water assessment results are available at the Water Treatment Plant.

The staff working in the water plant take pride in producing the absolute best water possible. Any opportunity to better serve the citizens of Cave Junction is appreciated and we hope this information is found valuable.

Water Quality Results

Monthly testing on our distribution system is conducted for microbiologicals and weekly testing is completed for water quality. The City of Cave Junction met microbiological testing in **100%** of all samples taken. Drinking water, including bottled water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk, however, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy or those with HIV/AIDS disorders, persons who have undergone organ transplants, or some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

The City of Cave Junction has received a **Bin 1** classification. This is based on the source water monitoring results generated during the test period ending September 2009. The annual mean *E. coli* concentration of these data was **28.8 E. Coli** 100/mL, which does not exceed the 50 E. Coli/100 mL E. coli trigger for a flowing stream source.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791**.

Turbidity—Suspended particles in water that may interfere with disinfection:

Max. 0.05 NTU Min. 0.02 NTU
All samples below State Limit < 0.3 NTU

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Current MCL is 0.080 mg/L
(Site #3= 0.0184000 mg/L) (Reservoir #4 = 0.0203000 mg/L)

Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Current MCL is 0.0600 mg/L
(Site #3 = 0.012000 mg/L) (Reservoir #4 = 0.0137000 mg/L)

Entry Point A—Illinois River

Barium	0.0089500 mg/L	MCL = 2.0 mg/L
Nickel	0.0034800 mg/L	MCL = 0.1 mg/L
Nitrate	0.0630000 mg/L	
Nitrate—Nitrite	0.0630000 mg/L	MCL = 10 mg/L
Sodium	7.39	
Total Organic Carbon	1.5 mg/L	
Combined Radium	4.69 pCi/L	MCL = 5

Entry Point B—Daisy Hill Well

Nitrate (2012)	0.806 mg/L	MCL = 10 mg/L
Nitrate (2013)	0.9488894 mg/L	MCL = 10 mg/L
Nitrites	0.02 mg/L	MCL = 1 mg/L
Arsenic	0.00113 mg/L	MCL= 0.01 mg/L

Lead and Copper/Corrosion of Household Plumbing

Lead & Copper results reported in 90th percentile
Lead 0.0 mg/L Action Level 0.0155 mg/L
Copper 0.1635 mg/L Action Level 1.3 mg/L

There is no detectable Lead or Copper in the City’s two water supply sources:

The Water Treatment Staff monitors the water quality in the distribution system to ensure that the pH of the water is high enough to help prevent corrosion. The average pH in our water system is 7.7 s.u.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Cave Junction is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you’re concerned about lead in your water you may wish to have your water tested.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead**.

The City of Cave Junction’s Water System had no reported violations for 2013

All testing requirements were met and the city is keeping up with new testing requirements as mandated by the Oregon Health Authority and the EPA. The City is dedicated to complying fully with all State and Federal regulations to insure that the water we provide to our citizens is the very best drinking water possible.

The 1996 Amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act requires that all states conduct source water assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) Identification of the Drinking Water Protection Area (i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above that part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our well or from the river; (2) Identification of potential sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area; and (3) Determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources. The purpose of assessments is to provide water systems with the information they need to develop a strategy to protect their drinking water resource. The Oregon Health Authority and Environmental Quality has completed the assessment for our system, a copy of which is on file at the Water Treatment Office. In 2004, in cooperation with the State, the City completed a source water assessment on both the Illinois River and Daisy Hill Well. The City used this assessment to develop protection areas around its source waters to include:

Surface Water Protection Areas: This is the 232 square miles of water shed that provides us with our drinking water.

Well Head Protection Area: This is the zone of travel water will take in the 2, 5, and 10 year times of travel to reach our city well. The City has received recognition from the DEQ Drinking Water Section, for its efforts in protecting its drinking water supplies. The City’s Municipal Code Chapter 13.12, Groundwater Protection was put into place to assist in protecting this valuable source of water.

Kerby Water District

As of July 2010 The City of Cave Junction began providing water and contract services to the Kerby Water District (KWD). KWD customers should direct their questions to John Plute at (541) 592-3791.

KWD passed 100% of their microbiological testing.

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) Current MCL is 0.080 mg/L—Sauers Flat = 0.0270000 mg/L
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Current MCL is 0.06 mg/L—Sauers Flat = 0.0145000 mg/L

Lead and Copper Test Results:
Lead—0.0 mg/L Copper—0.07 mg/L
Lead Action Level—0.0155 mg/L Copper Action Level—1.35 mg/L

City of Cave Junction’s Cross Connection/Backflow Assembly Management Program

The City’s Municipal Code 13.04.060, requires installation of an Oregon State Health Division approved backflow assembly where any potential cross-connection exist.

As of June 9, 2010, the City amended Ordinance No. 531 to reflect a revised backflow prevention program with the City taking full responsibility for managing actual or potential cross connections within the city limits. Audits will be performed to advised new & existing customer if assemblies are needed and annual assembly testing will be conducted by the City’s tester in accordance with State Regulation. **Note: The City requires a permit for the installation of all irrigation systems.**

Water Conservation

If you have a lawn, chances are it is responsible for your largest consumption of water. Typically, 50% of household water is used outdoors. Inside the home, bathroom facilities claim nearly 75% of the water used.

What can you do to reduce water usage?

Water lawns between 4 and 6am or between 8 and 10pm when heat and evaporation levels are lower, allowing moisture to be absorbed.

Delay watering lawns during the first cool weeks of spring. This encourages deeper rooting and makes your lawn healthier. It will also delay that first lawn mowing session.

Consider “Xeriscape” which means landscaping for water conservation. The idea includes using plants that are drought tolerant and filling spaces with decorate objects that do not require water such as rocks, benches, gravel and decks

Important Terms to Know:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers other treatment requirements which a water system must follow.

Parts per Million (ppm) / Parts per Billion (ppb) - ppm means that one part of a particular contaminant is present for every million parts of water. ppb indicates the amount of a contaminant per billion parts of water.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - A measurement of radioactivity

For further information on water testing go to the website at:

public.health.oregon.gov

highlight	Healthy Environments
select	Drinking Water
under	More Resources
select	Drinking Water Data Online
click on	WS Name Look Up
enter	Cave Junction

We want your Input
Public Participation Opportunities can be found at:
City of Cave Junction City Council Meetings
For Information call: (541) 592-2156

CCRs are always available at City Hall or can be found at:
www.cavejunctionoregon.us