

Nifty Tidbits: by Chuck Rigby

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One of my favorite places in the Illinois Valley is called No-Name Trail at the Oregon Caves National Monument. It begins at the lower parking lot and drops down to the level of Cave Creek. I always hate to go down because in the back of my mind is the necessary uphill struggle later to get back to the parking lot. After the trail crosses the bridge on Cave Creek it gradually climbs and rounds the point where one can see down into No-Name Creek. I was never able to determine how this name originated. The trail never goes down to No-Name Creek but stays uphill, possibly because of major scouring that was done by the creek during the flood winter of 1964. When the trail leaves No-Name it is mostly level until it gets back to the upper parking lot.

Many animals are usually visible or evident along the trail. Chipmunks, squirrels, deer, moles, and lots of birds. There is also a great variety of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers which are more noticeable on the sections that have more moisture. One of the unique flowers is Inside-Out Flower. It gets this name because when the petals open, they open all the way back against the stem. The stem seems to be going into the top of the flower instead of the base. This allows the stamens and the pistil to be exposed more than regular flowers. Its scientific name is *Vancouveria hexandra* and is in the same family as the Oregon grape, the *Barberry* Family. "Vancouveria" is to honor George Vancouver, born June 22, 1757 in Kings Lynn, England. He made an important voyage to the NW coast of North America in 1792, and his name as well as those of his crew members are found on many sites in the

Northwest. "Hexandra", the species name, refers to the anthers on the ends of the six stamens where the pollen is produced for the flower to reproduce.

Another unique flower on the No-Name Trail is the wild ginger. The leaf is heart shaped and it grows low to the ground on vines or rhizomes, that allow it to spread. The most common species is the Creeping or British Columbia Wild Ginger, with a dark solid green leaf. However the Sierra wild ginger is occasionally seen. Its leaves are covered with faint white circles and a lighter shade of green background. The marble wild ginger is usually found in serpentine areas. All of these wild gingers have a purple to brown triangular flower that is usually hidden under the leaves and a slight ginger flavor in the roots which was used as seasoning by the early settlers.

The scientific name of the Sierra wild

ginger is *Asarum hartwegii*. "Asarum" is the old Greek name for this group of plants and "hartwegii" was given to honor Karl Hartweg, a German botanist. Karl Theodore Hartweg, born June 18, 1812 in Germany, was sent by the British Horticultural Society to collect plants in the New World. He spent seven years in Central and South America and in 1846-1847 came to California. Hartweg never made it to Oregon but was in the northern Sierras and Monterey area and is noted for introducing Redwood, Monterey Cypress, and Chinquapin into cultivation in Europe.

The No-Name Trail is best taken slowly with careful observation of the various plants available. Even stopping once in awhile to smell the roses, wild ones that is, and letting the birds get back to their normal life, will allow people to appreciate what is there.

Oregon FBI tech segment: Building a digital defense against travel scams

Welcome to the Oregon FBI's Tech segment. Today: Building a digital defense against travel scams.

It seems as though everyone is desperate to escape this summer... to go anywhere other than your basement office or the neighborhood park. And, finally, with lockdowns lifting, we are getting the chance to travel.

Beware though – scammers are not going to let such a good opportunity go to waste. Your desire to get out drives their desire to cash out at your expense.

Here are some tips from our friends at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC):

- Watch out for offers of a "free" vacation that require you to pay fees or taxes to get it.
- Pay attention to the details. You get offered a stay at a "five-star" resort or a cruise on a "luxury" ship... but the contact won't give

you more specific details? It's a red flag if you can't get the name and address of the hotel or details about the cruise company.

- Just say no if the travel offer requires you to pay by wire transfer, gift card, or cryptocurrency. Scammers know that once you pay in one of these ways, it is almost impossible for you to get your money back. Always pay by credit card.

- Don't allow someone to pressure you into making a quick decision about a "great deal." Scammers use social engineering techniques – playing on your fear of missing out – to rush you to act without thinking.

- Watch for premium vacation properties advertised for super cheap prices. Below-market rent can be a sign of a scam. Do some extra research to confirm the deal is legit before jumping in.

- Get a copy of the cancellation and refund policies before you pay. If you can't get those details, walk away.
- Do your own research. Look up travel companies, hotels, rentals, and agents with the words "scam,"

"review," or "complaint."

- Check the address of the property to make sure it really exists. If the property is located in a resort, call the front desk to confirm their location and other details on the contract.

If you are the victim of any online fraud, you should also report the incident to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov or call your FBI local office.

TECH TUESDAY: Travel Scams

- "Free" vacations that require you to pay a fee may be a scam.
- Be wary of a luxury property offered at a very low price. Do your research to make sure it is legit.
- Confirm cancellation & refund policies before purchasing.
- Report scams to www.ic3.gov.

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Portland Field Office

Today in History: The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 21, the 202nd day of 2021. There are 163 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 21, 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II, capturing it from the Japanese some three weeks later.

On this date:

In 1861, during the Civil War, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Virginia, resulting in a Confederate victory.

In 1925, the so-called "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tennessee, with John T. Scopes found guilty of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned on a technicality.)

In 1954, the Geneva Conference concluded with accords dividing Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin blasted off from the moon aboard the ascent stage of the lunar module for docking with the command module.

In 1972, the Irish Republican Army carried out 22 bombings in Belfast, Northern Ireland, killing nine people and injuring 130 in what became known as "Bloody Friday."

In 1980, draft registration began in the United States for 19- and 20-year-old men.

In 1999, Navy divers found and recovered the bodies of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette (bih-SEHT), in the wreckage of Kennedy's plane in the Atlantic Ocean off Martha's Vineyard.

In 2000, Special Counsel John C. Danforth concluded "with 100 percent certainty" that the federal government was innocent of wrongdoing in the siege that killed 80 members of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, in 1993.

In 2009, prosecutors in Cambridge, Massachusetts, dropped a disorderly conduct charge against prominent Black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., who was arrested by a white officer at his home near Harvard University after a report of a break-in.

In 2011, the 30-year-old space shuttle program ended as Atlantis landed at Cape Canaveral, Florida, after the 135th shuttle flight.

In 2008, former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (RA'-doh-van KA'-rajich), one of the world's top war crimes fugitives, was arrested in a Belgrade suburb by Serbian security forces. (He was sentenced by a U.N. court in 2019 to life imprisonment after being convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.)

In 2015, after a nearly decade-long steroids prosecution, former baseball star Barry

Bonds emerged victorious when federal prosecutors dropped what was left of their criminal case against the career home runs leader.

Ten years ago: The 30-year-old space shuttle program ended as Atlantis landed at Cape Canaveral, Florida, after the 135th shuttle flight. Eurozone leaders agreed to a sweeping deal that would grant Greece a massive new bailout and radically reshape the currency union's rescue fund.

Five years ago: Donald Trump accepted the GOP presidential nomination with a speech in which he pledged to cheering Republicans and still-skeptical voters that as president, he would restore the safety they feared they were losing, strictly curb immigration and save the nation from what he said was Hillary Clinton's record of "death, destruction, terrorism and weakness." The NBA moved the 2017 All-Star Game out of Charlotte because of its objections to a North Carolina law that limited anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay and transgender people.

One year ago: Minnesota lawmakers approved a police accountability package including a ban on neck restraints like the one used on

George Floyd before his death in Minneapolis. (Gov. Tim Walz signed the bill two days later.) After months of resisting wearing a mask in public, President Donald Trump told reporters that he was "getting used to" wearing one; as Trump returned from a three-month hiatus from daily virus briefings, he warned that the coronavirus would get worse in the United States before it got better. The Republican speaker of the Ohio House, Larry Householder, and four associates were arrested in a \$60 million federal bribery case connected to a taxpayer-funded bailout of Ohio's two nuclear power plants. (Householder, who has proclaimed his innocence, was expelled from the Ohio House by fellow lawmakers in June 2021.) Jazz singer and actor Annie Ross

died at her New York home, four days before her 90th birthday.

Today's Birthdays:

Movie director Norman Jewison is 95. Actor Leigh Lawson is 78. Singer Yusuf Islam (also known as Cat Stevens) is 73. Cartoonist Garry Trudeau is 73. Actor Jamey Sheridan is 70. Rock singer-musician Eric Bazilian (The Hooters) is 68. Comedian Jon Lovitz is 64. Actor Lance Guest is 61. Actor Matt Mulhern is 61. Comedian Greg Behrendt is 58. Soccer player Brandi Chastain is 53. Rock singer Emerson Hart is 52. Rock-soul singer Michael Fitzpatrick (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 51. Actor Alysia Reiner is 51. Country singer Paul Brandt is 49. Christian rock musician Korey Cooper (Skillet) is 49. Actor Ali Landry is 48. Actor-come-

dian Steve Byrne is 47. Rock musician Tato Melgar (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 44. Actor Justin Bartha is 43. Actor Josh Hartnett is 43. Contemporary Christian singer Brandon Heath is 43. Actor Sprague Grayden is 43. Reggae singer Damian Marley is 43. Country singer Brad Mates (Emerson Drive) is 43. Former MLB All-Star pitcher CC Sabathia (suh-BATH'-ee-uh) is 41. Singer Blake Lewis ("American Idol") is 40. Latin singer Romeo Santos is 40. Rock musician Johan Carlsson (Carolina Liar) is 37. Actor Vanessa Lengies (LEHN'-jeez) is 36. Actor Betty Gilpin is 35. Actor Rory Culkin is 32. Actor Jamie Waylett ("Harry Potter" films) is 32. Figure skater Rachael Flatt is 29.

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