



Book Review by Margaret Hodgson

Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest,
by Mark Turner & Phyllis Gustafson
Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon,
2006.

511 pages, approximately 472 pages of colour photos identifying flowers, 1 map, 4 black and white drawing, Information about the Photographs, Bibliography, Index, Glossary. Hardbound, US\$27.95 ISBN 13: 978-0-88192-745-0

Mark Turner is a freelance editorial photographer specializing in botanical subjects, especially Northwest wildflowers and gardens. He photographs extensively for books and magazines both in gardens and in a wide range of native plant environments. He is an avid member of the native plant societies of Washington and Oregon and has more than 25 years of experience exploring for native plants. He lives in Bellingham, Washington. On March 17, 2010 Mark was the guest speaker at the Fraser South

Rhododendron Society where his photographic presentation focused on garden design and composition.

Phyllis Gustafson ran a small seed-collection business specializing in Northwest natives and is well acquainted with the flora of the region. She also worked with native plants in the nursery trade for more than 20 years. She is an officer of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) and writes frequently for their bulletin. For the last 35 years she has been active both in gardening and in exploring for native plants, mostly in Oregon but also in other climates around the world. She is often asked by plant societies around the country to lecture about the plants found on those quests. She lives in Central Point, Oregon.

Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest is not available in our library, but copies can be purchased online through Chapters. In this book, most many woody shrubs are included, but grasses, sedges, rushes and trees are not included. The authors give a good introduction to help the reader identify wildflowers. Is the plant a shrub or a tree? How big is it? Does it grow like a vine, form a mat on the ground, make a clump of stems, or have a single stem that stands by itself? Are there any spines, prickles, or hairs? A good explanation is given of how to use the book and what terms are used in the book. Each plant entry includes a map showing the counties (United States) or forest districts (Canada) in which the plant has been found. The maps are based on herbarium specimen records from sources in Canada, Washington, Oregon, and California.

Climate, Geography and Plant Habitats are discussed in detail in relation to the mountain ranges and the lowlands between the various ranges and a very good map showing these areas. The major portion of the book is devoted to colour plate identification of wildflowers and is ideally organized according to

colour of the flowers - white or whitish flowers, yellow flowers, orange flowers, pink to red or red-purple flowers, violet to blue or blue-purple flowers, and, finally, green and brown flowers. Within each colour identification section, further identification aids are given such as 3 or 6 petals, 4 petals, 5 irregular petals, 5 symmetrical petals (ovary superior), 5 symmetrical petals (ovary inferior), 5 irregular petals forming a tube and on it goes. The margins of the pages are tinted, allowing the reader to quickly turn to the colour coded area.

This is a useful book for the west coast hiker who enjoys being able to put a name to our wildflowers in this area. The photographs are exceptional and good descriptions accompany the photographs.