

## PLANT MEDICINE 101



# WHY MAKE OUR OWN MEDICINE?

- Independence from pharmaceutical industry
- Greater connection with earth
- Preservation of sacred knowledge
- To care for myself and those I love
- To be a steward and protector of the botanical world and her medicinal gifts

Its fun!

# What map can support us making medicine in the most holistic way?

**SOCIAL** PHYSICAL/BIOLOGICA **MENTAL/EMOTIONAL SPIRITUAL** 

## Lineage of my ancestral medicine making from plants



# Native to Scotland, Ireland, England and PNW!

Akalines my blood (hot/high acid)

**Cooling** 

High in iron (anemia)

Allergy tonic

Skin conditions/rashes

Passing the knowledge to other...Honoring my teachers...these are teachers that I have studied with either directly or indirectly

Peterson's Field Guide

through their resources:

- Jim Miller
- Meadowsweet Herbs
- Gregory Tilford
- Erin Groh-Herbalist
- Mike Brondi and Anne Schwartz
- Michael Moore
- Karen Sherwood
- David Green
- Michael Pilarski
- Heidi Bohan
- Scott Kloos
- Sajah Popham

And any other I may have forgotten...



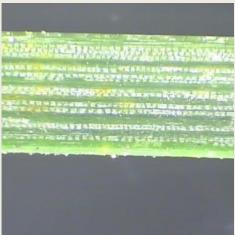
## **Mental/Emotional**

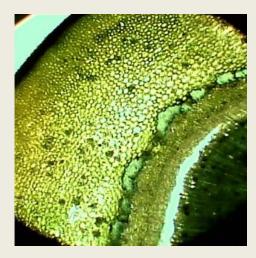


## Where do plant medicines come from?

Starting with the physical/biological...







## **Secondary Metabolites**

NOT USED IN PRIMARY FUNCTIONING LIKE CHOLORPHYLL, GLUCOSE, ETC.







**Terpenes** 

**Polyphenols** 

**Alkaloids** 

## **TERPENES: Not H20 Soluble**



## **POLYPHENOLS: H2O Soluble**



## **Oregon Grape: Beberine alkaloid**



- Amoebicidal
- Antibacterial
- Antifungal
- Antimalarial
- Antitumor
- Hepatoprotective

**And...in larger or prolonged doses** 

Cytotoxic: moderately toxic to humans

Effect heart rate (slows)

Difficulty in breathing

Lowers blood pressure abnormally

#### **ALKALOIDS:**

- -Defense from Herbivores
- -Found mostly in dicots (except for these monocots families: Lily, Amaryllis & Grasses)
- -Found more in annuals but not exclusively

**THE BIG MEDICINES: Morphine, Cocaine, Caffeine, Atropine** 

#### **Medicinal Properties for Humans:**

- Pharmaceutical mimetic
- Anesthesia
- Cardiac stimulation
- Respiratory stimulation and relaxation
- Muscle relaxers
- Psychoactive
- Anti-EVERYTHING! (bacterial, fungal, depressant, spasmodic, tumor, viral, etc)

Can also be *poisonous* (Poison Hemlock) and misused if taken in wrong dose/duration

# THE CRESCENDO OF POTENCY: "Powerfulness, Vigor, Might"

**MEDICINE** 

POTENTIALLY TOXIC
OR
POISONOUS/EXPERT

INCREASE OF STRENGTH OF SECONDARY METABOLITES EFFECTS ON US

#### TWO WAYS TO LOOK AT THIS:

- 1. CUMULATIVE (MINT FAMILY)
- 2. INTENSITY OF POTENCY OF EACH PLANT (AKA FIREWEED VS. OREGON GRAPE)

#### THE POTENCY CRESCENDO IS CONTINGENT ON:

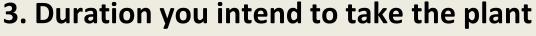
# 1. The plant constituents (AKA its Secondary Metabolites)



2. DOSAGE

Plant 2 Mets can
ADD up- (Mint
Family!)Tonic<<<<Medicine





(Tonic-longerterm OR Medicinal-Acute/shorterm)





#### DONT FEEL LIKE THIS...

- ARE YOU ON MEDS?
- ALLERGIES?
- TREAT YOURSELF FIRST!



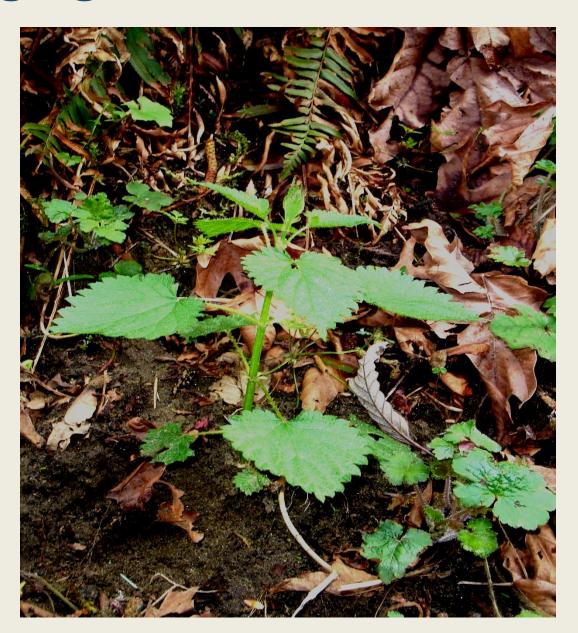
- HARVEST ETHICALLY
- WORK WITH ONE PLANT AT A TIME
- PAY ATTENTION TO CONSTITUENTS (H20) SOLUABLE?
- Do your RESEARCH

## PLANT MEDICINE 101

## Stinging Nettle-Urtica dioica

Diuretic, Alkalines blood, decreases bleeding (internal), tonic for long term allergies, antiinflammatory for eyewash, gargle, etc.

High in A and C,
Calcium and Iron



## Salal-Galtheria shallon

Anti-inflammatory internally/astringent, safe and gentle, can relieves pain associated with diarrhea and intestinal issues, as well as externally.





## **Black Cottonwood Tree**-Populus trichocarpa

Buds contain the same properties as aspirin. Oil from the buds is used for sore muscles, aches and pains externally.



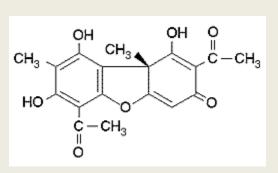




#### Usnea sp.

## Antibiotic, Antibacterial, (Respiratory and UT) ACUTE USE...

Also good survival lichen to know and can be used externally for cleaning wounds-just be aware of any skin irritation from the usinic acid (Long term use has been reported to possibly cause liver damage). DO NOT OVERHARVEST or use when pregnant.









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## Fireweed-Chamaenerion angustifolium







Anti-inflammatory tonic infusion/tea-mouth, stomach, intestine, etc. Wonderful and gentle

## **Dandelions-***Taraxacum officinale*

**Liver, kidney, and spleen tonic and detoxifier** (roots as tea or tincture.

Whole plant is edible and aerial parts are very high in Vitamin A (111%) and some C (32%)

Careful of where you harvest!!





### **Lemon Balm-***Melissa officinalis*

Stress and anxiety, and a great before sleep/insomnia tea. Some other uses include, helps with digestion, liver detox, normalizes blood sugar, protects brain cells...and more.

Can be a little upsetting to stomach if your drink a ton!





## Plantain-Plantago major

Skin issues externallyrashes, insect bites and stings (poultice or salve); antibacterial and antiinflammatory

VERY NUTRITIOUS: Young leaves only. high in calcium and vitamins A, C, and K



## Rosemary-Rosmarinus officinalis

Anti- inflammatory (topical pain reliver), improves memory, helps with stress (lowers cortisol levels), hair care, digestion, strengthens immune functioning, treats herpes, can be used on oral issues, helps dry skin and tone...many more!



#### Culinary Herb used for everything!!





## **Yarrow-***Achillea millefolium*

Hemostatic, pain reliever externally (whole aerial plant), internally uterine tonic, can help break fevers, can help help dry you up in general and so much more!

Part of my 3 part cold infusion with Pearly Everlast and Oxeye Daisy

#### **NOT for Pregnancy internally**





### Remember to do YOUR research!

Contraindications



- Use <u>small amounts</u> first and see how you react
- Talk to an ND or Herbalist BEFORE you take medicines internally if you are on medications

- Be aware that even 'tonic' herbs can have reactions
- Tonics/Food Medicine First
- A mentor is KEY!!