

Eric le Fatte

The Vascular Plant List of Mount Townsend

*Washington Native Plant Society, Native Plant List, Mount Townsend and
Jefferson and Clallam counties, December 29, 2005*

You saw species of green I'd miss
and asserted a plant
doesn't need to evoke
recollections of the death of Socrates,
or be virtuous, a pedagogue, or gaudy.
You whispered petals
don't have to shout
Feast your eyes on this.
Blossoms don't have to confetti
feet of the mountain pink.
From you I know
the unassuming also count
along with the bright disciples.
Where others play stars on open slopes,
it will not hurt to bow
and creep. Among
the meadows of vedettes,
thistles and sedges still fit.
The edible, toxic, medicinal
you showed are botanical
parts of the understory;
that the dialogues
are between them and us;
that the sum of minutiae
is the whole of beauty.
You left others

to leave nothing written.
When you named all the plants
my world grew.

