

Vine maple (III)

by [Paul Willis](#) in the [May 25, 2016](#) issue

*(Acer circinatum)*

Gray leaves, ghost leaves  
buried under  
the winter snowpack.

Now, in spring, they lay  
their desiccated hands  
atop the ladders

of Oregon grape,  
hoping to climb  
out of the grave.

—*Ross Lake National Recreation Area*