

South Sound Chapter of Washington Native Plant Society

February 2021, Monthly Update

Editor: Gail Trotter newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org

WNPS Mission

To promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats though study, education and advocacy.

What's Happening Highlights

Chapter Meeting "After the Blast: The Ecological Recovery of Mount St. Helens"

- Zoom Webinar - you must preregister
- Read more below for February Program

SSC February Hike

Native Plant Appreciation Month - April

Volunteer Opportunities

Calendar of Events <https://www.wnps.org/events>

Partner Calendar <https://www.wnps.org/partner-calendar>

February Program - Please register and e-mail a notice to your friends to join this program.

"After the Blast: The Ecological Recovery of Mount St. Helens" by Eric Wagner

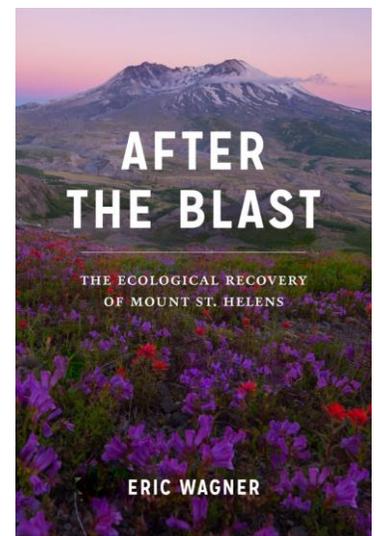
On May 18, 1980, the world watched when Mount St. Helens erupted in southwestern Washington, killing 57 people and destroying hundreds of square miles of land. Scientists thought it would take years for life to return, but the first ecologists to visit the blast zone a couple of weeks after the blast were stunned to find plants already pushing up through the ash and animals skittering around. Mount St. Helens has been surprising ecologists ever since, and in this talk I will explore how the eruption prompted scientists to think in new ways about how life responds to seemingly total devastation.

Date: February 8

Time: 6:30 PM

Registration & E-mail options on:

<https://www.wnps.org/calendar/970>



Book is available at University of Washington Press <https://uwapress.uw.edu/search-results/?keyword=after+the+blast>

Bio: Eric Wagner is a writer in Seattle, where he lives with his family. In addition to *After the Blast*, he is the author of *Once and Future River: Reclaiming the Duwamish*, and *Penguins in the Desert*. His essays and journalism have appeared in the Atlantic, Audubon, High Country News, and Orion, among other places, and he has a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Washington for his work on Magellanic penguins in Argentina.

WNPS South Sound Chapter - Native Plant Hike

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021

Title/Location: Dickerson Creek Falls, 4900 Leber Lane, Bremerton

Hike Leader: Cyndy Dillon (10am-12pm) Contact
Information: fieldtrips@southsoundchapterwnps.org
253 225-9284 (text or call)



PHOTO FROM UELAND TREE FARM

Departure Time from trailhead: 10am Estimated
Return Time to trailhead: 12pm

Departure location: Parking area at end of Leber Lane

Number of people: 12 per group

Hike Description: Scenic Dickerson Creek Falls is within the private Ueland Tree Farm. We will walk 2.3 miles including a 1.6 mile loop through a forest of western hemlock, Douglas fir and western red-cedar. Most of the understory is evergreen, but we will be able to identify some deciduous shrubs by their twigs and admire several mosses. The trail is relatively flat except for 2 short moderately steep climbs.

Any special requirements: For Covid 19 safety, hikers must **pre-register** with Cyndy Dillon, who will send a link to a mandatory liability waiver when you provide your email address. For the hike you will need to bring the liability waiver, mask (when 6 foot social distancing is impossible), hand sanitizer, any water and snacks desired. Wear good hiking shoes. Dogs are allowed. No restroom is available.

Directions: Cross the Narrows Bridge and go 25 miles on WA-16E which merges with WA-3S to the Austin Drive exit. Turn left and go ½ mile past a park with a Navy fighter jet display. Turn right on Kitsap Way and after ½ mile take a left fork onto Northlake Way. After another ½ mile, turn left onto Leber Lane and continue across railroad tracks to a large parking lot. Trailhead is on the far side of the lot.

Native Plant Appreciation Month (NPAM) - APRIL

To Educate people across Washington State to the beauty and importance of our state's native flora and its relationship to our native pollinators, our wildlife, and ultimately, ourselves.

Though this educational process our goal is to develop **appreciation** of native plants and to encourage grassroots **advocacy** for their protection.



Register for: A Guide to Restoring the Little Things that Run the World, with Doug Tallamy:
<https://www.wnps.org/events/966>

For more information or to participate in the South Sound Chapter planning for NPAM please contact Gail Sklar vicechair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Please e-mail any poetry related to NPAM for the April newsletter by March 20 to:
newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org

To a Violet

by Lia Scheer from the Willapa Review

Who plucked you from your native glen
Where trillium and soft moss grow,
Transported you from where you dwelt,
Hidden from the sunlight's glow?

No more do you belong in this
Man-made enclosure, then the wild
Seagull belongs inside a cage.
Within these walls, you are defiled.

Your grace is not compatible
With plastic, bric-a-brac and glass.
Your home is deep within the dell,
Concealed beneath the emerald grass.



BY MARY VAUX WALCOT

Partner Events

2021 Washington Botanical Symposium March 4 for information and registration see:

<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/adults/conferences-symposia/wa-botanical-symposium/>

SSC & Partner Volunteer Opportunities

Olympia Native Plant Garden Work Party February 18, 10 AM - Register by February 16 with Gail Trotter and she will send you a mandatory liability waiver and volunteer guidelines.

newsleterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org

China Lake Work Party <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/event/china-lake-volunteer-work-party/>

Tacoma Nature Center Work Party <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/event/tnc-work-party-2-5-21/>

Citizen Science initiatives on Penology

Nature's Notebook usanpn.org/natures_notebook

Project Budburst budburst.org

Arbutus A.R.M.E. - Collaboratively advance knowledge important to conserving the Pacific Madrone.

Join to assess the health and condition of madrone populations throughout the Pacific

Northwest. <https://www.arbutusarme.org>

Forest Health Watch - PNW Community Science to Keep Forests Healthy

Pilot Project: take pictures of Western Red Cedar, upload and mark on map. For more information see: <https://foresthealth.org/redcedar/>

GRANTS

SSC awards grants for conservation and education projects. Individual grants are a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$500. Funded projects must further the WNPS mission. (See top of newsletter)

Applications received by March 1 will be evaluated and awards will be announced April 1.

Detailed information including submission requirements and the form can be found [here](#).

Contact Peggy Butler grants@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Message from your Chapter Chair:

WNPS recently completed an ambitious new Strategic Plan. You all should have received a post card and/or email recently with details of the plan. The mission of WNPS remains the same: To promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy. The question the Strategic Plan addresses is what will be our focus as we

promote that mission in the next few years. The three major goals of the next three years are to 1. Create programs and resources for everyone; 2. Become a more inclusive organization; and 3. Build leaders.

As a chapter, we will be asked to look for ways to move the Strategic Plan forward. The Chapter Board and I will be discussing how our current activities fit into the plan and what additional activities we might consider. But we can't do it without you!

If you have a particular interest in one (or more) of the Strategic Plan goals, please let me know. We welcome ideas, input and energy from everyone.

I encourage you all to check out the details of the Strategic Plan at www.wnps.org/reports-and-minutes/strategic-planning-2020

Deb Naslund (She/her)
South Sound Chapter Chair
chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org