Washington Native Plant Society
South Sound Chapter
Native Plant Hikes

Date: Sunday, December 8, 2019

Title/Location: McLane Creek Nature Trail Pond Loop, Olympia

Hike Leader: Chris Earle Contact Information: cpdillongh@comcast.net
please RSVP 253 225-9284

Departure Time: 10:30am Estimated Return Time: 12:30pm

Departure location: main McLane parking area at end of road (not the smaller parking area halfway down the road) Number of people: unlimited

Hike Description: Chris will guide us on an ecology-oriented 1-2 mile hike. McLane was last logged in about 1939, so the forest is now 80 years old, and appears to have regenerated without assistance (no trees planted). It's come back as a hardwood wetland and although (if we forget, for a moment, the likely future human actions) it will probably return to a cedar swamp in time, but it will probably take several hundred years for the cedars to drive out the hardwoods, and the beaver and the creek are probably both going to influence that process. Although herbaceous flora will be missing, most of the woody plants will be identifiable. The park should have interesting birds in the winter, and maybe evidence of the November salmon run.

Any special requirements: Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring rain gear, if necessary. Cookies and water will be provided. **Discover Pass required.**

Directions: From I-5, take exit 104 for Hwy 101. Drive west for two miles on Hwy 101. Take the exit for Black Lake Boulevard, turning left on Black Lake Boulevard. In 3.5 miles the road turns right to become 62nd Avenue. Keep on 62nd Avenue for 0.7 miles to a stop sign.

Here, turn right on Delphi Road. In half a mile, turn left into the main parking area for McLane Creek, marked with a large brown and white sign. The trailhead is a short distance down this road.