

Washington Native Plant Society

South Sound Chapter

September 2000



Fall Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at **7:00 pm** (except December, see below). The location is the **US Forest Service Building 1835 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia**

October 4, 2000

"The native plant industry: an insider's view" by Susan Buis. Susan is Co-Owner of Sound Native Plants, a local nursery specializing in propagating and growing plants native to the Pacific northwest and all kinds of ecological restoration projects. She also will answer questions about native plant propagation that you may have.

November 1, 2000

"Bugs take a bite out of Spartina invasion in Wilapa Bay" by Miranda Wecker, Director, Columbia Pacific Resources Center. CPRC is responsible for much of the research on the control of *Spartina alterniflora* (cordgrass) in Wilapa Bay. Miranda will discuss their most recent project; the study of the effectiveness of the planthopper *Prokelisia marginata* as a bio-control agent.

December 6, 2000: potluck begins at 6:00

This month we will be trying something different. Since it is the holiday season we are going to have a potluck before the meeting. Then we will have an open slide show to give members the opportunity to come and share their favorite photographs of our native plants. It will be a great opportunity to socialize and meet other members, and to look at pretty pictures of the spring and summer sun and flowers during our darkest month. So, gather your slides and mark this day on your calendar!

Newsletter editor is leaving!

Due to a transfer to Yakima, I will no longer be able to serve as the newsletter editor and treasurer for the South Sound Chapter. So, we are looking for some volunteers to take over! Neither position is particularly taxing. The newsletter is put out three times per year, in the fall, winter and early summer. The editor is given great license to make it as fancy or plain as he/she likes. Generally it has just been one or two pages, and mainly serves to let members know what the meeting topics and field trips will be. All the mailing labels are sent from the Society headquarters in Seattle, so you don't have to worry about maintaining a list of member's addresses. The treasurer position consists of keeping the books for the chapter. Again, the Seattle office takes care of all the membership duties, then sends us a check three times a year. So, treasurer mostly just writes checks to reimburse expenses related to meetings and the newsletter, and keeps the checkbook balanced.

So, if you are interested in either one or both of these positions, please let one of the board members know. I am leaving in early-October, so please don't delay!

Jenifer Parsons

Book Review

Wildflowers of Mount Rainier by Laird R. Blackwell

Lone Pine Publishing, 2000 (1-800-518-3541)

Review by Perry Lund

Wildflowers of Mount Rainier is not intended to be a flora or technical manual. It is intended to be a guide for the lover of wildflowers and/or Mount Rainier. This guide is technically accurate and thorough for those species covered, but it is written more to help the amateur know what she is looking at and appreciate each flower's story, name and history. 130 species are presented in this guide. Each wildflower is given a full-page treatment that includes a large color photograph; a description of the typical location and distribution; common, scientific, and family names; a description of the species characteristics; and other information about the plant such as the origin of its name, aboriginal uses, or its natural history.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the guide, and what might make it useful to even the more advanced plant lover are the maps and suggested hikes to find the described species. The species accounts also refer back to the trail guides making it possible to at least get in the right vicinity for finding a favorite species. The photography is excellent and the extra bits of information provided about Mount Rainier and its environs make for an enjoyable reading experience.

Blackwell gives the reader several ways to find a plant in question. Species are divided first by zone - Forest Zone, Subalpine Zone, and Alpine Zone; then further divided by habitat, and finally by the color and number of petals. A thumb-nail sized photograph of each flower is given in the front of the book to help users get started. Its size makes it convenient for most pockets and with the durable cover it should hold up to repeated use in the field.

This is a great example of a niche book and for \$11.95 it presents a lot of good information. It may be a great gift for that special someone whose eyes glaze over when you start mentioning scientific names or maybe a good supplement to a collection of local plant books (not to mention the possibility of looking at a picture because you really don't want to work something through a key). Laird Blackwell has also published guides for the Tahoe Sierra and the Sierra Nevada and Central Valley.

Meet (some of) the Board

Chair: Perry Lund - I have lived in Olympia since I was 10 years old; ok, that was 1970. My wife and two children are native Olympians. I truly love the area for both its natural and social environs. I spend my working hours as a wetlands biologist with the department of Ecology. I'm excited to have this opportunity to serve as Chapter Chair this year. I hope we all have a good time together and have the chance to learn a thing or two from each other. Contact information: 360-357-8590; PerrynKim@home.com

Vice Chair - Lisa Berntsen is President and co-owner of Applied Environmental Services, Inc. AES performs wetlands & wildlife investigations, SCUBA dive surveys, endangered species reports and biological assessments. In addition to owning AES, being active with WNPS, Lisa is a Professional Wetland Scientist with the Society of Wetland Scientists. In her spare time, Lisa is very active with the Mountaineers scrambling or climbing most weekends she is not playing soccer mom.

Secretary – Julie Alesio. I received my B.S. in Genetics & Cell Biology with a double major in Sociology from the University of Minnesota - Minneapolis-St. Paul. I received my Master's in Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College (TESC). I worked for the USDA-Forest Service for four years doing mostly vegetation studies and helped develop a monitoring program for revegetation projects on decommissioned roads. Currently, I'm employed by the Washington State Department of Health. I am a statewide coordinator for a software package called Vista/PH that allows users with limited computer skills to access complex data and do community health assessment. In my spare time, I am coordinating a project in the community of Olympia to raise funds for ethnobotanical interpretive trail signs in Watershed Park.

Contacts:

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