

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH SOUND CHAPTER OF THE
WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of Earthshare of Washington

Spring 1998

WELCOME new, old, past, and future members of the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society.

A MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIR KAT

BUCHER: Spring has finally arrived (by the time you get this newsletter)! I hope you are feeling the renewed energy and hopefulness I always do as days finally have lengthened enough to notice. Thanks to everyone who has kept the South Sound Chapter alive through the dark winter months. All who have helped lead busy lives and I really appreciate the time all have devoted to chapter activities. Generous souls include Roblyn (field trips), Judy (co-chair and study weekend), Richard and crew (refreshments and mailing) Dave (newsletter, mailings, and bringing Bob Pyle to Olympia), Angel (much more than a treasurer) Rod and Jennifer (flyers and publicity), and Mary (conservation scout), and, of course, all of our speakers. Thank you all!

We have a great spring planned for you: a grass walk/workshop, hikes, and 2 great speakers. A lot of what has been done and planned has been accomplished by just a few people. WE NEED YOU, TOO! We need your ideas, help on small tasks, in both the short and the long term. Some of us may not continue (this is Dave's last newsletter). Mostly we need your enthusiasm and willingness to get involved in small or large ways. We need to hear your voice!

We will be devoting some time at the April and May meetings to discovering how we can continue to be a vital, informative, and entertaining chapter. Please come and participate in the discussion. Thanks—K.B.

THE ANNUAL MEETING IS IN MAY. If you, or anyone you know, is interested and willing to play an active part in the chapter, please let Kat or Judy know and be sure to show up at the next meetings (phone numbers below).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

April 1, 1998, Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. (no fooling):

"Skokomish Prairie Puzzle," presented by Dave Peter. Dave is a plant ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Olympia who has spent a lot of time researching this botanical enigma. Join Dave in the discovery of a long-forgotten, now-forested prairie. Reconstruct its fire history and probable tribal influences, encounter botanical surprises, and prepare for April 25th and study weekend field trips to the site. A wonderful and fun opportunity to learn about local vegetation, past and present. See you there.

May 6, 1998, Wednesday, 7:30 P.M.: **"Enhancing late-seral and old-growth characteristics: the use of aggressive thinning and native tree underplanting in young Douglas-fir plantations," presented by Gabe Tucker.** Gabe is a research forest ecologist and Evergreen College Instructor. Gabe will describe Oregon's U.S. Forest Service program designed to get a 100 year jump on habitat development for the northern spotted owl and other native wildlife. Sounds interesting!

Your Flower
Illustration
Here!



FIELD TRIPS

****Note:** Please contact Roblyn Stitt at 253-964-3298 for fieldtrip reservations, meeting places, and times. As always, dress for the weather and pack a lunch. Call early, trips are limited to 12 people.**

April 25, 1998, Saturday: Skokomish

Prairie: After hearing Dave Peter speak about this interesting area, you will want to join this field trip.

May 3, 1998, Sunday: Weir Prairie on Fort Lewis. Join Van Perdue and Marty Chaney as we wander through a remnant prairie in spring bloom. This trip combines a prairie wildflower walk with a grass identification walk. Marty Chaney will show us how to identify native and non-native grasses any time of the year! Keys are available for about \$3. Please call Roblyn to sign up and to order a key if interested. Don't worry about getting a Ft. Lewis pass—it will be taken care of. Let's just go, enjoy the flowers and imagine how this area looked a thousand years ago! Easy hike.

June 13, 1998, Saturday: Swan Creek in Tacoma. Richard VanDeman will lead us on an easy-to-moderate 3-4 mile walk. We will look for *Lathyrus torreyi*, Torry's peavine, as well as a plethora of other early summer plants and shrubs.

July 18, 1998, Saturday: Excursion up Kelly Butte, east of Enumclaw. Impressive amount and diversity of subalpine wildflowers and an incredible view of Mt. Rainier. This is a very strenuous hike. Only 1.5 miles, but parts of the trail are very steep. It's worth it! We will meet at the White River Ranger Station and carpool from there.

SPECIAL EVENTS

*****May 15-17, 1998, Friday - Sunday: The Annual Washington Native Plant Society Study Weekend.*****

Remember, our chapter is hosting the upcoming study weekend. It will be held at the Black Lake Bible Camp with field trips to a variety of interesting locations. See the Winter issue of Douglasia for details and registration—but act fast, there are only a few spaces left. Call Judy Lantor if you have questions.

MEMBERSHIP

For change of address or for other membership concerns, contact Catherine Hovanic at:

Washington Native Plant Society

PO Box 28690

Seattle, WA 98118-8690

Phone: 206-760-8022 or toll-free 888-288-8022

Please come forward and introduce yourselves at future meetings or feel free to call. Or, bring plants to key or to mystify. We greatly value the knowledge and experience our members have to offer about native plants! If you have newsworthy items for the newsletter, please contact Kat, Judy, or Angel.

Co-chairs: Kat Bucher - 360-352-3589

Judy Lantor - 360-357-9614 (hm); 753-6056(wk);

e-mail: Judy_Lantor@mail.fws.gov

Treasurer: Angel Lombardi - 360-943-3575

Conservation Chair: Mary Fries - 253-272-9192

Fieldtrip coordinator: Roblyn Stitt -253-964-3298

Meetings are the first Wednesdays of the month (Oct.-Dec. & Feb.-May) at 7:30 P.M. in Rm. 101-102, Olympia Community Center, 222 N. Columbia, Oly. Members and non-members welcome!