

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

An Affiliate of Earthshare of Washington

Winter 1996-97

A WARM WELCOME

from the middle of an already long and cold winter. Another incredible autumn for many of the lowland Douglas-fir mycorrhizal mushrooms. The *Russulas* and the *Cortinarii* were again diverse almost beyond imagining. The fungi are very active in the fall, winter, and spring, and enrich the ground in which, and the plants on which, they grow. Hundreds of mutualistic microbial and fungal species in just a few hectares of our northern forests. Douglas-fir alone is said to host over 2,000 species of mycorrhizal fungi throughout its range.

With hundreds of grasses and asters and buttercups for us to view and learn and photograph and share just beyond the solstice, we are fortunate to have so much landscape and temporal diversity. As many of you know, wildflowers may be found blooming even in January in parts of Washington. The Columbia and Snake river canyons with mid-winter *Lomatium* and *Ranunculus*. Here we expect golden-thread, kittentails, osoberry, skunk cabbage, and lots of alder-willow-poplar catkins and pollen before too long.

Please come to our meetings, walks, workshops and share your experiences and expertise. Some chapter officers will not be continuing in their current capacities after May. Time for cross-pollination and symbioses to infuse our diffuse panicle-like inflorescence. The chapter could benefit from some changes in how events (walks, hikes, workshops) are organized and guided and arranged and planned, and in how the newsletter could be more informative and more efficiently produced and disseminated.

We invite all members to join us for the February meeting to consider these and other changes for the upcoming year or so. So incredibly much happening that is of direct consequence to the wildflowers, and such membership depth of expertise and interest in our beautiful wildflowers. Please come! Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.

Anyone interested in having a designated time during which folks can plan on sharing a few to a dozen slides—sort of slide-show open mike? Slides of the South Sound and Beyond. If so, contact Dave at next meeting.

Kudos to Ernie Paul and WSU Cooperative extension/Thurston Co. Native Plant Salvage Project for sponsoring winter activities.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

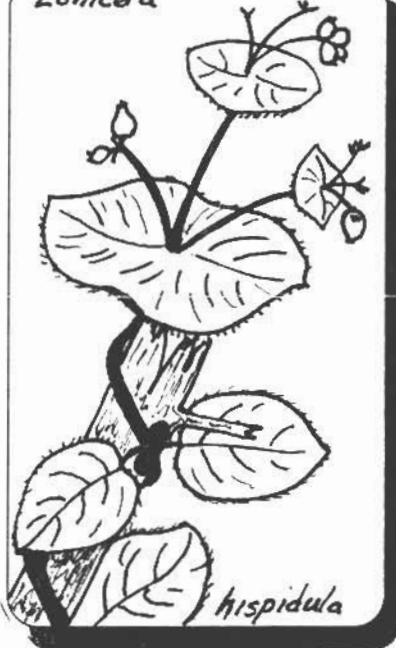
No January Meeting: as has been customary (could easily be changed), no regular monthly meeting on January 3.

January 18 & February 22 (9:00-2:00 Saturdays): Plant Salvage (locations TBA)—calling all ye hearty souls—put your rain and mud gear on and dig in! Learn winter ID skills with plants destined for local stream restoration projects. Call Ernie Paul at 786-5445 for more information.

January 25 (Saturday): Winter Twig Identification Workshop. OK, keying willows out isn't hard enough—join the Native Plant Salvage Project and chapter volunteers in a basic winter twig ID workshop. 10-12 AM and 1-3 PM. Pre-registration required. A great opportunity to meet and remember new characters and winter ecology. Call Ernie Paul at 786-5445.

February 7, 1997 (Friday): John Gamon will present a talk and slide show overview and update of Washington's rare plants. John Gamon is well known to many of our members—John is the Rare Plant Botanist for the Washington Natural Heritage Program and former chair of our chapter. John will present an overview of rare plant protection in the state of Washington. With so much botanical, ecological and rare plant activity

Lonicera



happening in Washington at this point in time, this will be a fascinating show. Please be sure to come.

March 7, (Friday): Dr. Betsy Kirkpatrick of the University of Puget Sound will present "Investigating causes of subalpine wildflower distribution and abundance." Subalpine floras experience physiologically extremes and increasing human traffic. Management requires answers about specific environments and plants—such slide shows inform and stimulate us to think about what questions we should ask and how they might be answered. Betsy will speak about eleven subalpine wildflower communities in the north Cascades. **The March meeting will be held in Tacoma** at the Tacoma Mountaineers Clubhouse at 2302 N. 30th. From I-5 take City Center Exit 133 to Schuster Parkway. Exit Schuster Pkwy. at N. 30th. Clubhouse is on left at Carr St., one block past traffic light at 30th and McCarver.

March 15, 10:00 A.M. (Saturday): Restoration planting along Deschutes River in Tumwater. Call 786-5445, Ernie Paul.

OPPORTUNITIES

Galore! Among them are the chance to comment on the Grass Lake plan. Olympia is near finalizing a plan that could allow substantial changes in the use of west Oly's Grass Lake Park. Some members were fortunate to join us when Michael Clegg led the Grass Lake flower walk last summer. Grass Lake is rich in habitat, landscape, and biological diversity. Contact Julie McQuary at the Olympia Parks Dept. (709-2700) if you wish to comment, or call Rod Gilbert if you need more information.

MEMBERSHIP

For information, or for membership change of address, 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 our meetings or feel free to call. Or, bring plants to key or to mystify. We greatly value the knowledge and experience and native plants our members have to offer!

If you have newsworthy items for the newsletter, please contact Dave, Angel, or Rod at the numbers below.

Please join us throughout the year to appreciate, conserve and study our native flora.

Chair:

David Thysell - 360-264-4179

e-mail: daveth@thurston.com

Vice-chair:

Angel Lombardi - 360-943-3575

Secretary:

Rod Gilbert - 360-456-4013

Treasurer:

Laine McLaughlin - 360-866-2516

Conservation Chair

Mary Fries - 206-272-9192

Please remember to renew your membership dues!

Meetings are the first Fridays of the month at 7:30 P.M. in Rm. 101-102, Olympia Community Center, 222 N. Columbia, Oly. Members and non-members welcome!