
Washington Native Plant Society

South Sound Chapter

September 2002



Chair Welcome

by Anna Thurston

Lisa Berntsen (our valued field trip coordinator) and Rod Gilbert (our trustee vice chair/treasurer) are the key people that encouraged my intrepid participation in the South Sound Chapter. That and a lasting impression of presentations experienced this spring have led me to want to carry the torch for a year.

After one meeting with this group, and conversations along the way, I feel well supported in the role of chair. Thanks are also due to Perry Lund for blazing the trail to this point and making available the materials that make the organization operate as well as it already does. I am also blessed to know the state's executive director, Catherine Hovanic, as a new neighbor. With Catherine's assistance, I am able connect with exemplary programs in other chapters, and contribute similarly in return. Of the goals that our chapter group has discussed, we are excited to be collaborating with various groups who share similar interests in the elements of Nature. To this extent we hope to bring you vibrant and educational presentations, as well as workshops and field trips that focus on native plants, while broadening the horizon to include those things with which native plants are associated. If you have additional ideas, we would like to hear them. If you would like to participate in the effort (which is quite rewarding), the benefits are beyond counting. Thanks in advance for your participation. That is what makes it all happen. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you along the way, and sharing in one another's enthusiasm for the world around us. --A--

Meeting Highlights & Upcoming Meeting Schedule

WaNPS Meetings in Tacoma

The South Sound chapter represents a fairly large geographic area, encompassing two and sometimes three large counties. Over the last two years, general meetings have typically been held in Olympia. A common question asks when Tacoma will get its own chapter so that people don't have to drive so far to attend this good group's meetings. When considering what it would take to establish another chapter in Tacoma, various alternatives were examined. In addition, questions were asked about the protocol behind the development of a new chapter. The key issue regarding the development of any organization with staying power is whether or not a large enough pool of volunteers exist to orchestrate it for the long haul. Certainly there are people who are interested in creating this kind of group in Tacoma, but not enough of them are able to take on the amount of significant and time-sensitive work that makes it happen. The most evident alternative is to collaborate with other organizations in Tacoma so that people there get a reasonable opportunity to participate in programs that relate to native plants. To this effect, the South Sound Chapter will be a sponsor for exciting presentations being offered at Tacoma Public Library in partnership with Tacoma Water.

Other collaborative opportunities exist with the Mountaineers, with the Tahoma Audubon Society and with Metropolitan Parks. Partnerships offer economy of scale, enhanced outreach and a more diverse range of interesting and valuable topics to our members for presentations, field trips and workshops alike. If you know of a group that would like to collaborate with the South Sound Chapter, we hope that you will contact the member(s) of your board who can help you make it happen. In the interim, we hope you will enjoy the programs we have put together. It's looking like a great season for members of our group!

Tacoma Meetings

The World is our Garden - Seminars at Tacoma Public Library. Tacoma Public Library and Tacoma Water invite you to attend a series of good gardening seminars to learn more about the world for enhanced gardening benefits at home. This fall they will be bringing in two special authors who will take participants to the world that surrounds us in the Lower Puget Sound:

Saturday, September 28 - Art Kruckeberg Tacoma Public Library, 10:30 am -noon(ish)

On Saturday, September 28, Dr Arthur Kruckeberg, University of Washington professor emeritus will present Geology & Plant Life of Lowland Puget Sound. Using his most recent publication Dr. Kruckeberg will share insights to his world-wide studies of geography and how the development of soils have influenced the plant life we see around us today. If you've ever wondered why certain plants grow "there" but not "here," you will find answers at this presentation. Dr. Kruckeberg's book, Geology and Plant Life - The Effects of Land Forms and Rock Types on Plants and other titles will be available for purchase.

Saturday, October 12 - Robert Michael Pyle Tacoma Public Library, 10:30 am

On Saturday, October 12, Robert Michael Pyle will enchant us with the ephemeral faces of butterflies in a program entitled "The Butterflies of Cascadia: Enjoying and Conserving our Butterfly Heritage." Author of "Chasing Monarchs," "The Thunder Tree," "Where Bigfoot Walks," "Wintergreen" and most recently, "The Butterflies of Cascadia," Dr. Pyle has much to share regarding the natural history of our butterflies and what we can do to help protect their populations by employing good gardening techniques. These titles and others will be available for purchase.

These programs are co-sponsored by the Tahoma Audubon Society and the Washington Native Plants Society - South Sound Chapter.

Tacoma Public Library Main Branch, is located at 1102 Tacoma Avenue South.
For more information please call Tacoma Public Library at 253-591-5666 or visit the
Website at: www.tpl.lib.wa.us/v2/index.htm

Olympia Meetings

Monday, November 4th - Clayton Antieau Olympia Forest Service Hdqtrs, 7:00 pm

Topic: Native Plants in Ornamental Landscapes

Native plants offer many benefits to gardeners of ornamental landscapes, including tolerating drought, resisting pests and disease, attracting wildlife, creating a sense of place, providing year-round beauty, and teaching us about the ecology and complexity of life in the Pacific Northwest. In this illustrated presentation, Clay Antieau describes the benefits of and techniques for using native plants in commercial and residential gardens. You'll discover the infinitely rewarding world of our Northwest flora and the myriad surprising ways in which you can effectively use these plants in your gardens.

Monday, December 2nd - Nalini Nadkarni Olympia Forest Service Hdqtrs, 7:00 pm

Topic: Exploration of Earth's last biotic frontier!

Nalini Nadkarni is on the cutting edge of global scientific research in both temperate and tropical rainforest canopies. Dr. Nadkarni currently teaches forest ecology at The Evergreen State College, and is a Research Associate at the Univ. of Washington and the Missouri Botanical Gardens. She has received numerous scholastic research grants and awards, and been in television documentaries for her pioneering canopy research projects over the past 20 years. Nalini's presentation will focus on new discoveries in this emergent science, and what the implications are for critical environmental issues such as global climate change, the maintenance of biodiversity, and the sustainability of forests. She will highlight cross-disciplinary efforts to foster collaborations of ecologists, visual artists, and musicians to create materials that foster a sense of protection and conservation of forest ecosystems.

Conservation

Torrey Peavine Conservation

by Mary Fries

Lathyrus torreyi, a state Sensitive Plant, was found historically in Pierce County in dry open woods where there were spots without an understory of shrubs. In recent years, three widely spread sites have been found in this county. The greatest abundance occurs in some twenty acres of douglas fir forest and bluff edge in Swan Creek Park in Tacoma. Elsewhere this peavine is found in Oregon and California.

This small, low-growing pea forms mats where there is no competition from leafier or taller plants. Our WNPS volunteers call these "pea patches." When Richard Van Deman discovered this rare plant on a newly built trail in Swan Creek Park, he quietly removed garbage bags full of herb Robert which was threatening the pea, then found it would form mats several feet in size. He screamed for help when he discovered more peas on unauthorized bike and motorcycle trails in the forest, and even more thick patches of herb Robert whose seeds easily could be spread along all trails. Additional threats are wall lettuce (*Mycelis*), and any non-native fruiting shrubs and trees which birds eat in nearby neighborhoods: holly, ivy, blackberries, mountain ash, English hawthorn, bittersweet nightshade, etc.

Many thanks are due to those who came one or more of our three scheduled work parties this season: Mary Sue Gee, Valeria Anderson, Richard Van Deman, David Biek, Betsy Kirkpatrick, Maureen Marindovich, Rudy Thut and Lynette Miller.

Unfortunately, it will be necessary to pull more weeds next year. Management plans should be made. The closest pea patch to the park entrance on S. 56th St. was found in July to have been raked out, apparently in relation to a new bike jump. Ways need to be found also, to protect the pea from trampling. Because this plant is so small and has few flowers, site education and markers may not be as questionable as is the case with more showy rarities which often are stolen by gardeners.

Volunteer Opportunities

Seed Picking at Mount Rainier National Park in September: Dates depend upon weather conditions: mostly during the week. Much meadow restoration remains to be done. Coordinator for the trips will be Mary Fries, 253-272-9192, assisted by Lila Muller, 360-570-8296. Call one of us or write Mary at 620 North C St., Tacoma, WA 98403, to let us know when you can be available, and we will place you on our calling lists.

Puget Creek Restoration Society

Scott M. Hansen

Dates: September 14th, October 12th, November 9th, December 14th, and January 11th
All events are from 9:00 to 12:00 and will or could include planting of native vegetation, eradication of invasive species, mulching around planted vegetation, fencing of restoration planting sites, flagging of planted vegetation or any combination depending on the season. Also if a group or individual can't attend our monthly restoration event we can schedule another time at their convenience for them to participate.

Our contact information is: phone (253) 845-6578,
E-mail: pugetcreek@yahoo.com

Webpage: www.pugetcreek.org
Address: 11419 86th Ave. E. #C Puyallup, WA 98373

*Development of Wildlife Habitat on Prairie and Oregon white oak sites in
Pierce County, Autumn 2002.*

Prairie Restoration - September 21

Lakeview Nature Preserve on Spanaway Loop Road,
Parkland, WA

Site preparation: remove Scotch broom on prairie;
remove invasive weeds along riparian corridor

Al Schmauder, 253.581.2364;

schmauda@lewis.army.mil

Mary Sue Gee, 253.531.5767; msgree@foxinternet.net

Riparian Oregon white oak Restoration - September 28

Lakeview Nature Preserve on Spanaway Loop Road,
Parkland, WA

Site preparation: remove invasive weeds along riparian
corridor; prepare planting sites for oak seedlings

Ione Clagett, 253.531.8475; clagettpark@mac.com

Mary Sue Gee, 253.531.5767; msgree@foxinternet.net

Prairie Restoration - October 5

Parkland Prairie on Tule Lake Road, Parkland, WA

Site preparation: clean debris & rocks off grassland for
annual mowing

Mary Sue Gee, 253.531.5767; msgree@foxinternet.net

Riparian Restoration - October and November (exact
dates depends on weather, soil
conditions, seedling dormancy, etc.)

Clover Creek Reserve on 4th Av. E., Parkland, WA

Site Preparation: remove invasive weeds along Clover
Creek for re-vegetation

Al Schmauder, 253.581.2364;

schmauda@lewis.army.mil

Mary Sue Gee, 253.531.5767; msgree@foxinternet.net

Oregon White Oak Restoration - November (exact date
depends on weather, soil conditions, seedling
dormancy, etc.)

Lakeview Nature Preserve on Spanaway Loop Road,
Parkland, WA

Planting of 300 oak seedlings

Al Schmauder, 253.581.2364;

schmauda@lewis.army.mil

Mary Sue Gee, 253.531.5767; msgree@foxinternet.net

Olympia Volunteers In Parks Program

Jonathon Turlove, Coordinator

We have a couple neighborhood park cleanups for our Stewardship Saturday projects this month, and we have changed our Restoration Wednesday project for the month as well - here's the scoop!

Restoration Wednesdays -Every Wednesday 9:00-Noon. Many of Olympia's parks are facing a threat of non-native, invasive plants such as English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, laurel, and knotweed. Every Wednesday morning our volunteer restoration crew works to remove these plants from our parks. During the month of September, we will focus our attention on Trillium Park in the Governor Stevens neighborhood (900 Governor Stevens Ave SE). If you haven't been to this park, you will be amazed that such a little scenic area exists right in this neighborhood! Call or e-mail to sign up.

Trail Thursdays -Every Thursday, 9:00AM-Noon For the month of August, our Trail Thursday crew will be continuing our work in Watershed Park on a project to make the trail more accessible to wheelchair users and strollers. We will be building ramps in place of stairs and removing large roots. This is a great way to get some exercise and meet some neat people - come join the fun! Call or e-mail to sign up.

September 7 9:00AM - Noon - Sunrise Park Cleanup Sunrise Park is a neighborhood park on the West Side of Olympia just north of Harrison. This work party will involve picking up litter, removing blackberry and scotch broom, removing some low limbs off trees, and painting some barrier posts. In three short hours, we will really make a difference in this park! Meet at the park at 500 Bing St. NW (From Harrison turn north on Division, west on Bush, then north on Bing).

September 21 9:00AM - Noon - Bigelow Springs Fall Weeding Volunteers have made great improvements to this park over the past several years adding native plantings, benches, interpretive signs, and a butterfly/hummingbird garden. This workparty will involve weeding and adding bark to the path. Meet at the park located at the corner of Bigelow and Quince streets. (Note: do not confuse this park with Bigelow Park, which is located three blocks up the hill).

PLEASE NOTE

For all Volunteers In Parks Projects, volunteers under 14 need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and volunteers under 18 need to have a parent or legal guardian sign a waiver of liability (available at the project site). If you would like to join us for any of these projects or are interested in the weekly trail crew, please call or e-mail us to sign up. Refreshments, tools, and work gloves are provided for all work parties. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear sturdy boots or shoes. If you would like to be taken off this mailing list, send us an e-mail and we will remove your name. Thank you for your interest!

Olympia Volunteers In Parks Program
City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department
222 Columbia St NW, Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 753-8365
(360) 753-8267 / fax
jturlove@ci.olympia.wa.us

Upcoming Workshops & Events

Erica Guttman
Native Plant Salvage

The Native Plant Salvage Project will offer free classes in naturescaping, winter twig identification, and planning home revegetation projects during the fall and winter. The Project also will coordinate six major plant salvages and installations of two demonstration landscapes -- new volunteers are always welcome! All events are in the evening or on weekends. Please call 360-704-7785 to receive the newsletter with full descriptions and dates.

The Tacoma Nature Center will be hosting its 15th annual fall Native Plant Sale. Open: 9am-4pm @ 1919 South Tyler - Tacoma. For more information call 253-591-6349

News and Other Items of Interest

"Trees & Shrubs of Washington"; " Wildflowers of Washington" / C.P. Lyons.
Renton WA : Lone Pine Publishing, 1999.

Originally published 1956 in one volume as "Trees, Shrubs and Flowers to Know in Washington", these two titles now have handy field guide formats with color photos of each species. Tree descriptions retain general overviews, the range-maps, and some of the twig or cone drawings, but gone are the details of form, bark, leaf, fruit, wood, and "quick-check" ID. Wildflowers are arranged by color, then gross flower structure. Their descriptions in the new edition are clearer, with differentiating features described. Both volumes feature quotations from early explorers such as Lewis & Clark or Douglas relating to the plant described.

You will want to hang on to the old book (if you have it) and get both of these new ones.

Board Member Introductions

The upcoming season of chapter meetings is off to another great start. There are some new faces and welcome to those board members who are returning for another year. To help folks get to know who is on the South Sound Chapter Board, this issue of the newsletter and upcoming issues will run a short introduction/background history of different members.

Chair – Anna Thurston

I am a landscaper by trade, having pursued my BS at Colorado State in Horticulture, Design and Greenhouse Management. I also have architectural experience having initiated a Masters degree in LA and having pursued professional studies at both Kansas State University and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Throughout, I have always put a native spin on the landscapes that I designed, or in the various landscape seminars that I have taught.

After eight years as a Design/Build General Contractor doing landscape installations all over Colorado, my altruism needed room to promote concepts regarding resource efficient landscaping in the public arena. Call it being "Subversive from Within," it has been and remains my goal to open the communication channels within and to the public at large, that Nature does a good job of landscaping if we would only help her out along the way. I have since 1989 been working as a Water Conservation Specialist for the City of Aurora, Colorado, and for the last 9+ years for the City of Tacoma. I still do hourly design work, and still give presentations, but am also working hard to practice what I preach in my own garden (visitors are always welcome). The rest is obligated to programs like the Native Plant Society and other groups that help people get acquainted with Nature. I am looking forward to working with the team that represents the South Puget Sound Chapter.

Vice President – Rod Gilbert

Rod grew up in the English countryside blissfully ignorant of his natural world. He came to the US in 1985, went to Evergreen, and soon discovered the beauty and importance of native plants and natural habitats. "My world view changed drastically when I started learning about my immediate environment. Every time I return to the UK, I see the result of thousands of years of human manipulation of the landscape. I used to think how beautiful the rolling countryside was, but it's mostly sterile and lacks biological diversity. Its very sad...too often people don't realize what they miss until it is gone. If only more folks here in the NW realized how lucky we are". Rod has worked out at Fort Lewis for the last 7 years conducting biological surveys and loves to hike and botanize in the Olympics. He's yet to meet a native plant he doesn't like, "though I recall a few cross words I've had with some creek dogwoods on occasion".

Contacts

For membership information, contact the state chapter at 1-888-288-8022 or wnps@wnps.org
South Sound Chapter Board:

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a.thurston@worldnet.att.net

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ericag@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu

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smilacinastellata@msn.com

Volunteer Coordinator
Lila Muller
nwnatives@reachone.com

Newsletter Editor note...

I am requesting that members consider switching to an electronic newsletter. Production costs for the newsletter continues to go up with the rates for postage. A reduction of these costs would allow South Sound Chapter funds to be directed to other areas. If you are interested in having the newsletter sent to you via e-mail, please send your name and e-mail address to the attention of your newsletter editor, Penny Kelley, pennypoa@earthlink.net Thanks!

SUMMARY OF DATES TO REMEMBER

(For the Fridge)

MEETINGS

- ◆ Saturday, September 28 - Art Kruckeberg Tacoma Public Library, 10:30 am –noon(ish)
- ◆ Saturday, October 12 - Robert Michael Pyle Tacoma Public Library, 10:30 am
- ◆ Monday, November 4th - Clayton Antieau Olympia Forest Service Hdqtrs, 7:00 pm
- ◆ Monday, December 2nd - Nalini Nadkarni Olympia Forest Service Hdqtrs, 7:00 pm

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Please remember, if you have recently moved or have a change in your e-mail address, send your updated information to:

Washington Native Plant Society
Attn: Catherine E. Hovanic
7400 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-6302

Address & E-mail Update Information

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

New E-mail Address: _____

New Phone Number: _____

WNPS Chapter: _____

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