

The Acorn

Serving the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society Fall 2011

WNPS Fall Native Plant Sale

Mark your calendars for October 8, 9 am to 3 pm for the second annual WNPS South Sound Chapter Fall Native Plant Sale. This year's sale will be at the Capital Museum Coach House, 211 21st Ave SW in Olympia. We expect a very good selection of native plants for your fall planting. We are always looking for more volunteers to be involved in the sale. We have a variety of different tasks that need to be done.

To volunteer or get your questions asked, or to suggest plants you would like us to have available, contact Bonnie Blessing-Earle at bonnie.blessing@gmail.com or Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net or 253-564-1137. Hope to see you at the sale. Bring friends!

Please Note No matter how big a pry bar we used, we couldn't fit everything in this time! If you get your copy of the Acorn via the traditional mail, visit www.southsoundchapterwnps.org/ and view the bonus page.

A Farewell Message from Seth Swanson

Surprises sometimes come in the form of life changing opportunities. Recently I was approached with a career changing opportunity. I have accepted a new role that I believe will offer me greater new challenges and rewards. With this change in career also brings a change in geographic location as my family and I will be moving out of the Pacific Northwest early this summer. Though our departure seems to have come just as quickly as our arrival a few years ago we nonetheless feel that we have established a great connection with the area. The Pacific Northwest, and especially Olympia, has offered us a unique and rich lifestyle. The dynamic local environments of ocean, mountains, prairies and forests have provided us with some of the most beautiful landscapes to explore and to recreate in. The community of Olympia has been just as diverse and welcoming as the surrounding ecosystems. We have been graciously welcomed by both the area and the people who live here.

I feel honored to have had the opportunity to

be a part of WNPS. I joined this organization with hopes to learn more about the native flora of the Pacific Northwest and to help contribute something to the community. I am certainly leaving with more than I had expected. It is refreshing to meet so many dedicated individuals who contribute tirelessly to what they feel so strongly about. Our environment is a treasure, and it is great to see so many people put differences aside and work with the same common goal to preserve our natural surroundings.

I would like to thank all of the members and everyone who has been involved in the organization for making this such a rewarding experience for me. And many thanks to the members of the executive board who have made my role as chair extremely manageable during a busy and hectic time in my own life. I am sad to leave to the area and the relationships that I have established, but every move brings new opportunities, challenges and rewards. I wish the best to everyone, and I hope to see the South Sound Chapter grow and flourish in the years to come.

Chair Report _

We regret seeing Seth depart as he brought so much knowledge and capability as Chair of the South Sound Chapter, but we have a growing group of enthusiastic volunteers with many upcoming opportunities for involvement. We will participate in the Western Washington Fair with a booth at the Puyallup fairgrounds in September. Then we will begin our monthly meetings, also in September, with a social uniting the Olympia and Tacoma sub-chapters. And we will sponsor our third plant sale in October as we commence a very promising season of excellent speakers. I am hoping some of you will be interested in position or committee openings (Botanist, Volunteer Coordinator, Conservation, Publicity, Field Trips Coordinator). Let's have a great year with native plants.

Cyndy Dillon

South Sound Chapter Activities Plant List Project

How are your plant identifications skills? Would you like to sharpen them? Help to assemble and update plant lists for the parks and natural areas of Pierce and Thurston Counties. We have plant lists that are relatively complete for Bresemann Forest and Swan Creek Natural Area. We have good starts on the Tacoma Nature Center, the Puget Creek Natural Area and the Point Defiance Natural Area.

Our ultimate goal is to have good lists for botanists on the WNPS website. You may have the thrill of discovery like Ben Cody who found the short-spurred rein orchid, *Piperia unalascensis*, at Swan Creek to add to our list. If you would like a copy of any of these lists in their current form or, even better, to start another park or natural area, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net. When "completed," the plant list will be posted at WNPS.org as well.

Election of Chapter Officers

In 2009, with a change in the bylaws, the chapter modified the election procedure for officers to provide for broader participation by providing for e-mail or paper voting for the chapter officer positions. At the October chapter meetings, the proposed slate of officers will be presented by the nominations committee and additional nominations solicited. The ballot will also allow for a write in. Currently we have a full slate of nominees from the committee as follows:

Chair - Cyndy Dillon Vice Chair (Thurston County) - Bonnie Blessing-Earle Vice Chair (Pierce County) - Jane Ostericher Secretary - Byrna Klavano Treasurer - Sue Summers

By October 20, 2011, an e-mail ballot will be sent to each member for whom we have a current email address and a paper ballot to each member without a current email address on file. If you have not received a ballot by October 26, 2011, contact Reba Olsen at reba.so@comcast.net. Ballots must be postmarked by November 2, 2011, and received no later than November 9 to be counted. Results will be announced at the November meetings, on the chapter website and in the newsletter.



Photo with permission of Ben Cody.

Workshops and Conferences

Naturescaping Field Class Set for November 3, 6-9 pm

Learn about sustainable landscaping techniques that will save you time and money while also attracting birds and butterflies to your garden and protecting water resources. "Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife" will be offered on Thursday, November 3, from 6-9 pm in Olympia. Landscape designer Linda Andrews and Erica Guttman of WSU's Native Plant Salvage Project will lead the class. Topics include how to make a landscaping plan; design ideas for outdoor living spaces; manage drainage, slopes and other trouble spots; reduce unnecessary lawn; create habitat for birds and butterflies; and select water-wise plants for all four seasons. The class is free, but advance registration is required as space is limited. For details and registration: 360-867-2166 or nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com.

Another Plant Sale: Native Plant Salvage Foundation Waterwise Plant Sale, Sunday, October 2

The Native Plant Salvage Foundation will hold its annual Fall Waterwise Plant Sale on Sunday, October 2, at the WSU Extension Offices on Mud Bay Road at Harrison Avenue, Olympia.

Check the website at nativeplantsalvage.org for more details.

If you enjoy good companionship and botanizing with a bunch of other native plant lovers, WNPS offers at least two great, state-wide opportunities.

Botany Washington

This year's Botany Washington, May 13-15, was centered in Spokane. We had the beautiful Bozarth Mansion (Gonzaga University) as a base of activity, and the Spokane River hikes within easy walking distance. After a short hiatus, this year was the biggest Botany Washington ever with about 45 registrants. The program was coordinated by Fred and Ann Weinmann with help from Robin O'Quinn of the Northeast Washington chapter. Botany Washington had a number of highlights including a delightful talk by Jack Nesbit delivered during a power outage; and a number of excellent field trips with the choice of visiting shrub-steppe, vernal pools and other wetlands, channeled scablands, and the diverse habitats of the Turnbull Wildlife Refuge. A good time was had by all!





Native Plant Study Weekend 2011

This year's Native Plant Study Weekend, June 10-12, was centered in Winthrop in the beautiful Methow Valley and was sponsored by the Okanogan Chapter. Chapter president Joyce Bergen and her team of volunteers did an amazing job. This year's turnout, like Botany Washington, was the biggest ever and the chapter responded with excellent speakers and over 20 field trips to delight any level of botanist. We had great chances to see and enjoy the unique flora of north central Washington, and to appreciate each other.

If you have not attended either Botany Washington or a Native Plant Study Weekend, you have missed some great



times. The good news is that there is next year. Information about upcoming events will be available in the spring in The Douglasia and online at wnps.org.

WNPS Education Grants

The WNPS Education Committee encourages educators to develop projects about native plants and plant habitats for their classes. Teachers who have been granted awards can serve as mentors for other teachers hoping to do similar projects in their school districts. Education grants are also available for projects linked to gardens, museums, parks and other public displays of or about native plants. Grants for WNPS members, funded by WNPS member dues, are available for education projects that further the goals of the Society. Please contact committee chair Fayla Schwartz or visit the website at http://www.wnps.org/education/education_grant.html if you have any questions. Deadline for submission is November 15.

Conservations Issues

A Sad Time for Parks By Bill Brookreson

For most of our adult lives, no matter whether our economic conditions were bright or not so bright, we have always had our wonderful parks - national, state and local – where we could go relax, play, hike, picnic or enjoy nature on little or no budget. Unfortunately, we are seeing that opportunity eroded away. At the state level, the Parks and Recreation Commission was eliminated from the general fund budget and now, to enjoy a park you must pay a daily fee or have purchased a year-long Discover Pass for \$30 plus handling fees. As a result, parks are grievously underfunded, some closed and all are understaffed. It isn't difficult to see that fees decrease use, and decreased use justifies more closures.

Very recently, we visited Federation Forest State Park on a beautiful August Friday evening. It has a magnificent picnic area along the White River and excellent hikes and an interpretive center. We were the only ones in the entire park which should have been busy. Restrooms were locked and the Interpretive Center, although it was "open," was unmanned. A broken step on the boardwalk to the picnic area was unrepaired. This is for a park that is an absolute gem.

On a trip to Bresemann Forest, a Pierce County Park and a favorite walk, we found a sign at the entrance that maintenance would be discontinued from budget cuts. Our September meeting and picnic will be at the Powderworks Park in DuPont which has a large Garry Oak Preservation Area but no staff or budget to maintain or improve it.

The story is repeated over and over. At a time when we have a national epidemic of obesity and a need to get people away from the virtual word to experience the real work and the beauty of Washington's nature, the very existence of our parks is being threatened. It is a sad time for parks but it is a sadder time for the citizens of Washington.

Volunteer Opportunities

Woodland Trail (Olympia): September work party will be Thursday, September 15, 9 am to 1 pm to remove invasives and prepare for any October replanting needed. For information, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net or 253-564-1137.

Tacoma Nature Center: Work parties will be Friday, September 2 and September 16, both from 9 am to noon for removal of more invasives. For more information, contact Cyndy Dillon at cpdillongh@comcast.net.

More Plant and Seed Sales

WNPS Central Puget Sound Chapter Native Bulb, Seed and Plant Sale Saturday, October 1, 2011

The Central Puget Sound Chapter will hold its annual fall Native Bulb, Seed and Plant Sale in Building 30 at Magnuson Park, 6310 NE 74th Street, Seattle, Saturday, October 1, from 10 am to 4 pm. The fall sale features camas and other lily bulbs, a big selection of native seeds, and potted trees, shrubs, and perennials. The list of species will be posted at www.wnpw.org in September. Because not all plant orders can be filled by our suppliers, the list is updated close to the time of the sale. Books about Pacific Northwest native plants and ecology as well greeting cards with a botanical theme will also be sold. Come early for the best selection, and please bring your own boxes or trays if you can. Magnuson Park is located on Sand Point Way. From I-5, take WA-520 eastbound; exit from 520 at Montlake, left toward the University of Washington; go straight onto NE 45th which turns into Sand Point Way NE. Magnuson Park is approximately two miles north on Sand Point Way.

Hikes and Field Trips _

Take a Walk Along Swan Creek

One of the more interesting nature walks readily available to plant lovers is through MetroParks Tacoma's Swan Creek Natural Area. The walk, for which you should dedicate 2-3 hours, begins along Swan Creek in east Tacoma and proceeds through the riparian area and then winds up into a very pleasant upland second-growth Douglas-fir forest. The trail is, at times, in need of maintenance and care should be exercised. Like all urban parks, it has problems with trash and invasive species.

To date, we have identified 259 different plants in the natural area. There is a great variety. If you are lucky, you may see Torrey's peavine (Lathyrus torreyi), a state-listed sensitive plant



or, like Ben Cody, short-spurred rein orchid (Piperia unalaskensis). In any case, get the plant list (see article "Plant List Project") and have fun practicing your plant ID. The park entrance is located at 2820 Pioneer East in Tacoma. A lot of planning is also going on to improve the area. Visit the MetroParks website at metroparkstacoma.org to learn more.

Picture courtesy of Rod Gilbert

Chapter Meetings _

Meeting Times and Locations: We are very pleased to offer another series of interesting and educational speakers for our fall meetings. Chapter meetings are 7-9 pm. Meetings are normally scheduled on the second Monday (Olympia) and the second Wednesday (Tacoma) of each month from September through May. Meetings consist of a quick review of local items and announcements, and a presentation lasting approximately an hour. Programs are geared for all levels of botanical knowledge. Unless otherwise noted, as with the September meeting (see below), all Tacoma meetings are at Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 South Tyler Street, Tacoma. All Olympia meetings are at Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 21st Avenue SW, Olympia. Meetings are free and open to the public. If you have a suggestion for a future presentation, please contact John Neorr at presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

Monday, September 12, Joint Tacoma and Olympia Meeting Powderworks Park in Dupont, 6 pm start

This year, we are trying something a little different, a joint kick-off-the-year meeting in September. For this meeting we have reserved a central location, Powderworks Park in DuPont. We have a covered picnic shelter and a large Garry oak preservation area to explore. For this meeting only, we will start at 6 pm. We will furnish hot dogs (and a vegetarian alternative), interesting condiments, chips, paper plates and eating utensils. Bring something to share and your drinks (no alcohol allowed). There will be a grill for any who want to use it.

Come and meet members of the chapter. Hear about this year's activities and programs. We will have door prizes to give away. For those who can come a bit early (we have the space reserved from 3:30 to dusk), we will have a special prize for the one who can assemble the largest list of the plants found in the park.

Directions to Powderworks Park: South from Tacoma or North from Olympia on 1-5, take Center Drive (Exit 118) into DuPont. Keep right at the fork for Center Street. Precede about 0.9 mile. Turn left on Bob's Hollow Lane. The park is on the left at about 0.2 miles. Watch for our sign.

Monday, October, 10 (Olympia), Carri Leroy "Genetic variation in foundation tree species: Influences on litter quality, in-stream decomposition, and interactions with nutrients and salmon carcasses."

Although it is obvious that trees of different species perform different roles in ecosystems, the role of genetic variation within species is less obvious. Trees are some of the most genetically diverse organisms in existence and this diversity is especially important for species that structure whole ecosystems. This talk will focus on the influences of genetic diversity on leaf litter chemistry, decomposition and colonization by litter dwelling organisms in streams. In addition, we will examine the interacting influences of nutrients, leaf mixtures and the presence of salmon carcasses on leaf litter decomposition.

Carri is a stream ecologist and has been a faculty member at The Evergreen State College since 2006. She received her B.S./B.A. degrees in Environmental Science and International Studies from Oregon State University, and an M.A. in Sustainable Communities and a Ph.D. in Biology from Northern Arizona University. She has published over 25 peer-reviewed papers since 2004 and is a strong proponent of involving undergraduate students in the research process. Carri is also the co-director of the Sustainable Prisons Project (www.sustainableprisons.org) which serves to bring science and nature to incarcerated men and women in Washington state correctional centers.

Wednesday, October 12 (Tacoma), Michael Kucher "A Lot of What We Know about Puget Sound Country is Wrong"

Michael Kucher was raised on a glacial moraine that separated Connecticut from the Atlantic Ocean, better known as Long Island, NY. It was a pleasant surprise for him to learn how much of Puget Sound's topography was shaped during that same glaciation, 15,000 years ago. An even greater and more agreeable surprise came as he realized that certain approaches to New England and New York's ecological history as described in William Cronon's seminal book, Changes in the Land (1983), and Tom Wessels's Reading the forested landscape: a natural history of New England (1997) could be adapted and applied to unraveling the history of human impacts on the ecology of Puget Sound Country. Not only easily, but (he hopes) fruitfully.

In his talk, Kucher will attempt to demonstrate that the same sort of misconceptions that once stood in the way of understanding the history of New England's landscape continue to prevent us from understanding changes in our own. In his talk, Kucher will focus on one aspect of his work, how the eradication of the beaver (Castor canadensis) has led to strange ideas of what is "natural" in our corner of the world, including the very notion of dwelling in an "evergreen state." Kucher received his undergraduate education at the Lang College of the New School for Social Research in 1987 and completed his Ph.D. in history at the University of Delaware in 2000. He has taught at UW Tacoma since 1997.

Monday, November 14 (Olympia), Jennifer Hahn "Pacific Feast: Wild Food Foraging and Cuisine"

When it comes to eating within your own foodshed, wild foraging is as local as it gets. Come explore 50-plus common edible native plants from mountain to sea--with award-winning author and naturalist, Jennifer Hahn. Jennifer will share slides and stories from her new book *PACIFIC FEAST: A Cook's Guide to West Coast Foraging and Cuisine* (www.pacificfeast.com) Discover a host of delicious and nutritious wild and weedy greens, trees, ferns, berries, flowers, mushrooms, sea veggies and shellfish that thrive along the Pacific Coast. Enjoy a refreshing blend of natural history, sustainable foraging guidelines, First Nation uses, personal anecdotes, nutrition, I.D. "field notes," recipes and delicious wild food samples! See our review in the Spring issue of the *Acorn*. There will be a book signing after the presentation.

Jennifer Hahn is a writer, illustrator, wilderness guide, and naturalist from Bellingham. She teaches "Northwest Wild Food" at Western Washington University's Fairhaven College and guides kayak and foraging trips in Alaska and Washington. Her first book, award-winning *Spirited Waters: Soloing South Through the Inside Passage* describes her epic solo kayak from Alaska to Bellingham over two springs and summers.

Wednesday, November 9 (Tacoma), Scott M. Hansen "Puget Creek Restoration Projects"

Puget Creek/Gulch is a 66-acre natural area in Tacoma's North End. It is one of only three salmon-bearing streams within the city limits. Scott will discuss several restoration projects completed or ongoing as part of the effort to restore, protect and enhance this unique environment. These projects, many involving local student interns, have resulted in the successful return of salmon to Puget Creek.

Scott Hanson currently works as the ecologist for The Puget Creek Restoration Society (www.pugetcreek.org) and has been coordinating restoration projects in Puget Creek Watershed for the past 14 years. He holds a BS degree in Wildlife Ecology from The Evergreen State College, as well as master's degrees from Antioch University and City University. He is currently in the dissertation pre-proposal phase of his Ph.D. program in Education at Capella University. A native Washingtonian living most of his life in the Tacoma/Pierce County area, Scott is a Washington Native Plant Steward.

Monday, December 12 (Olympia) AND Wednesday, December 14 (Tacoma) Holiday Celebrations and Member Presentations

Chapter members involved in native plant activities and projects are invited to informally present what they have done or are working on. Presentations can include pictures, slides, or other materials and can be as informal as simply speaking about your work. We request that speakers limit their presentation/talk to no more that 10 minutes. In addition to these member presentations, we hope to have trip leaders present brief overviews of the trip(s) they have led. Beverages will be provided. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre to share.

Monday January 9 (Olympia), Sarah Reichard "The Conscientious Gardener"

Although gardeners are perhaps more intimately involved with the natural world than most people are, they can still fall prey to products and practices that may unwittingly do more harm than good. Drawing from material in her book, *The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic*, Dr. Reichard will discuss horticultural methods and merchandise that will benefit the environment rather than continue to deplete its dwindling resources. From soil amendments and pesticides to wildlife management and native plants, she will cover many different aspects of gardening with an eye toward sustainability. The book is reviewed in this issue.

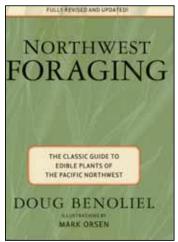
Sarah Reichard is the Orin and Althea Soest Professor at the University of Washington and is Director of the U. W. Botanic Gardens. Her research focuses on plant conservation, particularly the biology of invasive plants and the recovery of rare native species. She is co-editor of *Invasive Species in the Pacific Northwest* (University of Washington Press) and the author of *The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic*.

Wednesday, January 11 (Tacoma), To be announced! Watch the monthly updates for information.

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Northwest Foraging: The Classic Guide to Edible Plants of the Pacific Northwest, by Doug Benoliel with Illustrations by Mark Olsen, Skipstone, 2011, fully revised and updated edition, \$16.95



The revision and reissue of this marvelous little book will be welcomed both by those who have the original issued in 1974, and it is dog-eared and worn, and those who haven't had the pleasure of using it. Doug Benoliel (of Lopez Island) covers over 50 edible plants. Each plant is described according to: form, leaves, flowers, fruits, habitat, and edibility. The book is also graced by Mark Olsen's grey-tone drawings. Those who require color pictures to be satisfied may not find this as appealing but they are very useful. Mark Olsen, the illustrator of the original, reunited with Doug in the new edition. The pictures also have a very handy guide telling the ratio of the picture size to the plant as found at harvest time in nature.

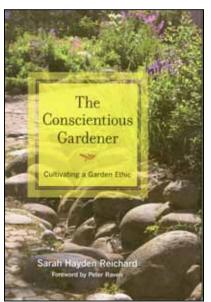
There are not many significant changes from the 1974 edition – a few plants like bittercress and red elderberry have been added to the edible list, and bracken fern has been relisted as poisonous. The reasons for the changes are well explained. Warnings are offered where applicable and there is a good section dedicated to poisonous plants that a novice may confuse with edibles. There are also a number of new recipes, several by

Doug's wife, Tamara Buchanan. Other than that, the format, descriptions and the sections are largely the same. This revised edition of the classic guide to edibles in the wild is user friendly, especially to a beginner and very packable! It is light but durable, small but not too small, with beautiful detailed line drawings that you can use in the field. This should remain a standard for backpackers and foragers.

The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic by Sarah Hayden Reichard, University of California Press, 2011, \$27.50

Many of us who have heard and enjoyed Sarah Reichard speak will particularly enjoy *The Conscientious Gardener*. Like one of her personal heroes, Aldo Leopold, Sarah Reichard puts forth a well articulated ethic for stewardship in the garden in a book that is well written and filled with practical ways to further that stewardship in areas such as pest control, water conservation, living with native animals, mulching, and invasive species. For example, we may rethink use of peat moss because of its environmental costs.

Although Dr. Reichard draws on cutting edge research, the book is not a scientific treatise. It is written for the gardener. Hardscape materials that waste precious rainwater, asbestos-laden potting soils, and invasive alien plants are just some of the dilemmas facing home gardeners on their mission to be better stewards of the earth. It includes a scorecard that allows readers to quickly evaluate the sustainability of their current practices, as well as an extensive list of garden plants that are invasive, what they do, and where they should be avoided. The list of invasives, an area of particular expertise for Dr. Reichard, is quite extensive including information on where the plants are invasive. For those of us who love to garden, the book gives you much to think about, For those who garden less, the book, like Aldo Leopold's Sand Country Almanac, is still a very good read.



Video: Building a Rain Garden: Keeping our Pacific Northwest Waters Clean

In this 32-minute video, you'll learn the important steps to follow to site, design, construct, and maintain a beautiful landscape feature that captures and filters polluted runoff, helps prevent flooding, recharges our ground water aquifers, and creates habitat for birds and butterflies. This video complements the WSU and OSU handbooks on creating rain gardens, expands on some of the ideas in those books and includes helpful resources for homeowners. The video is available through WSU Extension.

Chapter & State Contacts

Chair – Cyndy Dillon chair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org 3110 Judson Street, #246 Gig Harbor, WA 98335 253-857-4003

Vice Chair (Pierce County meeting) vacant vicechair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Vice Chair (Thurston County meeting) Bonnie Blessing-Earle vicechair.thurston@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Secretary – Byrna Klavano secretary@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Treasurer – Sue Summers treasurer@southsoundchapterwnps.org 253-460-5569

Immediate Past Chair – Reba Olsen immediatepastchair@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Chapter Botanist - Vacant

Conservation Committee Chair - Vacant

Field Trip Committee Chair - Vacant

Editorial Committee Chair - Bill Brookreson newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org 702 Columbia Ave Fircrest WA 98466 253-564-1137

Publicity Committee Chair - Vacant

Volunteers Committee Chair - Vacant

Chapter Web Manager - Lee Fellenberg webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org

WNPS Statewide

President – Dean Longrie deanpl@aol.com

Executive Director - Catherine Hovanic 6310 N.E. 74th St., Ste 215E Seattle, WA 98115-8171 wnps@wnps.org

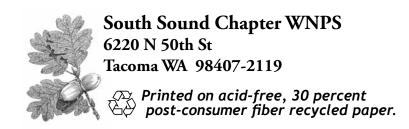
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Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter www.southsoundchapterwnps.org Washington Native Plant Society State Chapter www.wnps.org 206-527-3210



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☐ NE Wasnington (spokane) ☐ Okanogan ☐ Olympic Peninsula ☐ Salal (Mt Vernon, Skagit Valley) ☐ San Juan Islands		** ** ***
WNPS POSTER "Wildflowers Across Washington" A beautiful 24" x 36" full-color poster featuring 36 native species, \$8 (members \$6) Shipping \$2.50 each poster	STER s Washington" color poster featuring 3 (members \$6) sach poster	11P3.015 E
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\$ \$ Make checks payable to WNPS and mail to: Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE Seattle, WA 98115	\$	S1E #334115163315



The mission of the Washington Native Plant Society is to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy.

