



The Acorn

Serving the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society

Fall 2012

WNPS SSC Spring Native Plant Sale

This year's WNPS SSC Spring Native Plant Sale on April 28 kicked off Native Plant Appreciation Week with a bang. The sale was again held at the Capital Museum Coach House. Spring is a special time for our flowering native plants and that was reflected in the enthusiastic buyers. This year's sale grossed \$ 5,959 and netted \$ 2,812.15, after expenses, to support chapter activities, a new grant program to give back to the community and our other outreach activities.

Our sale could never take place except for the work of our plant sale chair Bonnie Blessing-Earle and all our wonderful volunteers who helped with everything from publicity, to plant acquisition and sale activities, to final cleanup - Chris Earle, Bill Brookreson, Cyndy Dillon, John Dillon, Michael Fox, Reba Olsen, Lee Fellenberg, Sue Summers, Byrna Klavano, Dan and Pat Montague, Jeanne Ponzetti, Jane Ely, Sharon Berquist-Moody, Jane Ostericher, John Neorr, Richard Tinsley, Karen Laing, and Montana Earle (and friends). Deepest thanks to you all for your support!



Fall Native Plant Sale **Saturday, October 6**

Mark your calendars. The South Sound Chapter's Fall Native Plant Sale will be Saturday, October 6. Again, the sale will be held at the Capital Museum Coach House, from 9 am - 3 pm. We expect to have a wide selection of plants for fall plantings. If you have special requests or would like to volunteer, contact Bonnie Blessing-Earle at bonnie.blessing@gmail.com or Bill Brookreson at 253-564-1137, b.brookreson@comcast.net.

Other South Sound Chapter Activities

Election of Chapter Officers

In 2009 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 Co.) - Bonnie Blessing-Earle
- Vice Chair (Pierce Co.) - Jane Ostericher
- Secretary - Byrna Klavano
- Treasurer - Sue Summers

By October 20, 2012, 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, 2012, contact Lee Fellenberg at webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org. Ballots must be postmarked by November 2, 2012, and received no later than November 8 to be counted. Results will be announced at the November meetings, on the chapter website and in the newsletter updates.



Capital Museum Garden Restoration

In 1993, WNPS joined with several other groups to help establish the Delbert McBride Ethnobotanical Garden at the State Capital Museum in Olympia. Since then, the garden has suffered from weed invasion and deterioration of a number of the plant displays. The chapter has been asked by Susan Rohrer from

the museum to help in the restoration work. We will be weeding and planting through the fall. For more information, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net or 253-564-1137. Watch the *Updates* for work party times.



South Sound Chapter accepting grant applications. The South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society is now accepting proposals for grants for conservation and education projects. Individual grants will be a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$500. Grants must further the WNPS mission to:

“promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington’s native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy.”

The application deadline is October 1, 2012, and awards will be announced no later than November 1, 2012. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their application first with an SSC Board member or grant committee member prior to submission. Go to <http://www.southsoundchapterwnps.org/projects/projects.htm> for information about SSC grants. An application form can be found at www.southsoundchapterwnps.org/grant-form.pdf

Other South Sound Chapter Activities

Plant List Project

Developing plant lists for the parks and natural areas of the South Sound area will always be a work in progress since nature is seldom static and there is no perfect time to see everything that may grow in a particular site. That aside, our plant lists continue to grow both in the number of sites and the plants in particular sites.

We now have plant lists for the following: Bresemann Forest, Point Defiance Park, Puget Creek,

Ashford County Park, Ellis Cove Trail in Priest Point Park, Swan Creek Natural Area, McCormick Woods in Gig Harbor, Schmel Homestead Native Garden, Black Lake Meadows, Powderworks Park in DuPont, and Tacoma Nature Center. All of them can be more complete! Hone your identification skills on these or other parks and natural areas. Contact Bill Brookreson at 253-564-1137 or b.brookreson@comcast.net for more information or to get involved.

NPS State News

Native Plant Study Weekend 2012

This year's Native Plant Study Weekend, June 29-July 1, coordinated by the Walla Walla subchapter of the Central Washington Chapter of WNPS, was centered on the beautiful campus of Whitman College in Walla Walla. This year's theme was "Ridges and Ravines: The Diversity of the Blue Mountains." The weekend featured two excellent speakers, Joan Frazee talking on the "Botanical Highlights of the Blue Mountains" and Dr. Tim Parker speaking on "Conservation in the Face of Climate Change." In a new feature, Saturday morning began with three workshops, Gary Lentz on "In Step with David Douglas" (done in costume and character); Jean Ann Mitchell on Wildflower Sketching; and Del Grout speaking on Forest Restoration. These were followed by sixteen field trips on Saturday and thirteen full and half day trips on Sunday. The weather was very cooperative, the fellowship enjoyable and the learning activities excellent. The South Sound Chapter was very well represented. Thanks organizers for an outstanding weekend!



Volunteer Opportunities

Watch your monthly updates for volunteer opportunities.



WNPS Botanists enjoying Chase Mountain



Critical Area Ordinances: Why should we care? By Bonnie Blessing-Earle

Prairies, oak woodlands, riparian areas, rare plant species, agricultural lands, safe well-water... what do these have in common? These are just a few of the reasons my husband and I moved to Thurston County. In many cases, these are also on private lands that are regulated by Critical Areas Ordinances. In Thurston County, a heated debate over government regulation of private lands has been ignited, or actually was ignited years ago when the Critical Areas Ordinances were adopted.

The intent of the Critical Areas Ordinances is to preserve the natural environment and to protect the public's health and safety. The Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) in 1990. The GMA required counties and cities to adopt comprehensive land use plans and development regulations to coordinate and manage growth and development, as well as protect the state's natural resources. Under provisions of the GMA, local jurisdictions must designate and manage regulated critical areas. The five "critical areas" include critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife conservation areas, geologically hazardous areas, wetlands and frequently flooded areas. Restrictions on use may include buffers that restrict development near sensitive areas, etc. A person who plans to subdivide their properties after retirement may find they cannot do so.

When can society as a whole impose restrictions on private property? Some features of private property are held in common, or protect common resources.

Chair Report

Citizen Science, You Can Participate. By Cyndy Dillon

Recently I found an opportunity to become a "citizen scientist." On July 25, Dr. Julie Combs, Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Citizen Science Program Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council offered an EDRR class for invasive weeds in four Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA). Volunteers could sign up to record specific invasive plants they detected while hiking. Byrna Klavano, my husband John, and I attended the class in Olympia; so WNPS SSC was well represented. Four trial CWMA's were designated - Nisqually River Watershed, Chehalis River Watershed, Highway 12-SR 410 and South Central Washington. A well-illustrated guide identified 30 Class A, Class B and Monitor List aquatic, wetland emergent and terrestrial weeds.

How does it work? Two days after the class, John and I set off along the west side of Lake Wynoochee and, sure enough, found a culprit right on the trail, an *Ilex aquifolium* seedling. Many of the targeted invasive plants are unfamiliar to me, but not English holly,

These common resources may include fish and wildlife, and their associated habitats. Other regulations directly protect humans by preventing development on geologic hazards or groundwater.

Why should fans of native plants care? Uncontrolled growth leads to loss of natural areas. Acres of camas and violets have been converted to Kentucky bluegrass or commercial developments. Prairie protection needs to be made permanent rather than optional. Under interim ordinances, some unique habitats are protected on private property. For instance, oak areas of one acre in size may need a habitat management plan (Ordinance 14260). Other ordinances require buffers on riparian areas, sensitive wildlife areas, and aquifer recharge areas (Thurston county code 24.25.010). Details in these ordinances may matter. For instance, while clearing and grading may not be allowed without an approved plan, lawn mowing and gardening are allowed in buffers and in some cases within the sensitive area. Oaks are protected if they are "functionally connected" to other oak areas.

What does that mean? Will government regulation protect these resources for the future, or do property owners? In fact, supporters of individual property rights assert that landowners are better stewards than government regulators, yet we see the immense loss of prairie species. Washington Native Plant Society goals include education of the value of rare plant species. What is our role - at least to educate our members on why they should care!

which I've been weed-wrenching for months on family woodlands. The holly is quite distinctive from the *Berberis nervosa* (Low Oregon grape), which we also found along the trail. We documented details about the area searched on Excel report forms, reported the location of the invasive with GPS coordinates and submitted photos. Then agencies responsible for the area know where to go to remove the threat. In our case the remaining trail was quite pristine with abundant *Oxalis oregana* (redwood sorrel), *Coptis asplenifolia* (fern-leaf goldthread), *Achlys triphylla* (vanillaleaf) and *Tiarella trifoliata* (three-leaf foamflower), usually providing sufficiently dense ground cover so invasive plants had little chance to establish.

On two subsequent hikes to Green Lake and Natches Loop, we found no invasive plants. But the Invasive Plant Council is equally interested in this information so they can focus on problem areas. We hope to get Julie Combs to speak on EDRR at one of our upcoming monthly meetings.

(concluded on page 5)

Chair Report concluded...

If you have a chance, you may want to apply your interest in native plants to any one of a number of endeavors, including volunteering for citizen scientist projects, teaching a child to identify native flora, asking your legislator to protect the Natural Heritage program or answering questions at the WNPS SSC table during the Western Washington Fair. Undoubtedly, it will be a rewarding experience.

More NPS State News

Botany Washington 2012

Botany Washington (BotWa) 2012, July 6-8, for the first time was co-sponsored by WNPS and the University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum. BotWa was centered at the pleasant Lazy F Camp outside Ellensburg. It differed from past BotWa's in that it offered separate tracks for the botanist who wanted to improve specific skills and for the more general native plant enthusiast. The theme was "Explore the Wenatchee Mountains and Beyond."

The two "technical tracks" involved study of the *Castilleja* (paintbrush) on Colockum Pass with Mark Egger on Saturday and *Eriogonum* (buckwheat) on Table Mountain with Pam Camp on Sunday; and keying using Hitchcock's Flora of the Pacific Northwest with David Giblin and Joe Arnett. The general track involved field trips to study the area's diverse flora. Evening talks were by Dr. Richard Olmsted on the impact of current systematic research on our plant families, and Mark Egger on the *Castillejas*. The floral displays that we enjoyed were outstanding whether on the flora field trip or on the field trips for the technical tracks. The organizers (Catherine Hovanic, David Giblin and Pam Camp), the presenters, and the study and trip leaders all did an outstanding job creating an exceptional botanic weekend.



More Plant and Seed Sales

WNPS CPS Fall Planting Celebration

The Central Puget Sound Chapter will hold a Fall Planting Celebration in Magnuson Park, Building 30, 6310 NE 74th Street, Seattle, on Saturday, September 22, from 10 am to 4 pm. The event is an expansion of the traditional Fall Native Bulb, Plant and Seed Sale. The Celebration will be fun and educational.

- Chapter volunteers will hold a **Native Bulb, Seed, and Plant Sale**. The list of species will be posted at wnps.wordpress.com in September.
- Jeannie Taylor, Retired Seattle Plant Propagator and Senior Gardener, will show how to collect and sow seeds as part of free plant propagation demonstrations.
- To address your questions about preparing your garden for the winter, native plant experts from WNPS will be on hand and informational books will be for sale.
- To show what a successful native plant garden looks like, volunteers will offer free tours of the native plant border at Magnuson Park.


From I-5, take WA-520 eastbound; exit from 520 at Montlake (no toll taken), 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.

Native Plant Salvage Foundation Plant Sale, Sunday, September 30, 11 am to 4 pm. To volunteer, email Erica at erica@nativeplantsalvage.org and she'll put you in touch with the committee. Proceeds support some of the costs of their program, funding everything from shovels to AmeriCorps members.

Visit <http://nativeplantsalvage.org/nativeplants/18460-upcoming-events> for details

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. Please contact John Neorr at presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

September	<p>Wednesday, September 12, Joint Tacoma and Olympia Picnic Meeting Powderworks Park in DuPont, 6 pm start</p> 
	<p>Monday, October 8 (Olympia) - John Trobaugh <i>Replenishing Washington's Forests - Challenges of Plant Propagation and Subsequent Care of Seedlings</i></p> <p>John Trobaugh is the Nursery Program Manager at Webster Forest Nursery. The Webster Nursery produces between eight million and ten million seedlings annually to be planted after timber harvests on DNR-managed state trust lands statewide. It also provides between three million and five million seedlings for small private land owners to help them meet the replanting requirements of the State Forest Practices Act.</p> <p>John has his B.S. degree from Oregon State University and a M.S. in Silviculture from Wisconsin. He managed the Georgia-Pacific bareroot nursery, tree improvement program and northeast regional (Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maine and New Brunswick, Canada) silviculture for eight years; the Georgia-Pacific container nursery, tree improvement program and western regional (Oregon and California) silviculture for six years; and since 2004, manages Washington Department of Natural Resources Webster forest seedling container and bareroot nursery.</p>
October	<p>Wednesday, October 10 (Tacoma) - David Nunnallee <i>Native Butterflies and Native Plants</i></p> <p>In this presentation David will explore, with high quality photographs, the intimate relationships between Washington's native butterflies and our native plants. All of our 150+ butterfly species are dependent on plants, both for nectar to nourish the adults and for host plants to feed their caterpillar offspring. We will discover which plants are used by each of the thirteen major groups of butterflies found in Washington. But some plant groups are far more important to butterflies than others; we will explore these as well as some of the individual "super plants" which host multiple butterfly species.</p> <p>Mr. Nunnallee recently co-authored a book the "Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies" with David James (Reviewed in the Summer Acorn). The final part of the presentation will describe the fifteen-year process which resulted in this book and will discuss some of the resulting discoveries, with emphasis on the host plants.</p> <p>A retired engineer, David has long had an intense interest in natural history including butterflies, birds, native plants, dragonflies and fossils. He has actively studied butterflies in the Pacific Northwest for two decades, and has been rearing and photographing butterfly larvae for fifteen years. He frequently leads butterfly field trips within Washington State, and is a co-founder of the Washington Butterfly Association. An accomplished photographer, he has more than a thousand published butterfly photographs in books, field guides, web sites, newsletters and permanent public displays. He often speaks to natural history audiences and has given keynote presentations at several conferences.</p>

Monday, November 12 (Olympia) - Dr. Amy Ramsey Kroll
Forest Pathology in Washington State: Who, What, When, Where and Why?

Spend an evening learning about the world of forest pathology in Washington State. This presentation will include an introduction to the field of forest pathology and a discussion about how pathogenic fungi interact with different tree species in Washington forests. Several of the most common pathogens will be presented, with a focus on those most common in western Washington.

Dr. Amy Ramsey-Kroll is a Forest Pathologist with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She began working for the DNR in 2005, after completing her M.S. degree in Forest Resources at the University of Washington. Her graduate work focused on root fungi in Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine trees. Amy studied botany as an undergraduate. She enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, hiking and camping.

Wednesday, November 14 (Tacoma) - Dr. Linda Ann Vrobik
Native Plants, Botanical Art, and Stories of the Siskiyou Mountain Region of Southwestern Oregon

The Siskiyou Mountains are well known for their botanical diversity and number of endemic species, as well as for spectacular plants like the California Pitcher Plant, *Darlingtonia californica*. Join Linda Vorobik, PhD botanist and botanical artist, as she takes us through a photographic journey, visiting several habitats of this amazing region. Linda will relate stories of the 2002 Biscuit Fire and aftermath, *Darlingtonia* ferns, rare rockcress (*Arabis*) species, and of course, will share her botanical artwork and speak of the wildflowers and wild places that have been her muse.

Dr. Vorobik researches rockcress species (*Arabis*, *Brassicaceae*) and is Principal Illustrator for *The Jepson Manual*, second Edition (B. Baldwin, Editor, et al.). For more information and samples of her art, see www.VorobikBotanicalArt.com.

Linda's art will be on display and for sale during her talk.

Monday, December 10 (Olympia)
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 than 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.



Wednesday, December 12 (Tacoma)
Holiday Celebrations and Member Presentations

See description above

Monday, January 14 (Olympia) - David Wilderman
Characteristics of Washington's Shrub-steppe Ecoregions

For several years, WNPS has had as a priority the preservation of shrub-steppe in Eastern Washington. David Wilderman is a Program Ecologist with Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas Program. Come and learn about this endangered ecosystem and efforts to preserve it.

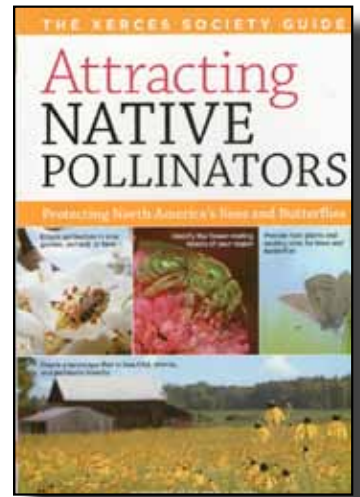
Wednesday, January 9 (Tacoma) - Kathryn Kravit-Smith
Native Plant Usage and Restoration in Pierce County Parks

The mission of Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services is to "regionally deliver quality recreation opportunities, inviting parks facilities, trails and open space to the residents of Pierce County." That includes a number of natural areas. In January, Kravit-Smith, the Director of Pierce County Parks and Recreation will update the Washington Native Plant Society on how they are doing on that mission by sharing information about the departments' capital program, the conservation futures program, the upcoming comprehensive planning effort, recreation programs and other park initiatives.

Native Plant Resources

The Xerces Society Guide: Attracting Native Pollinators, Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies by Eric Mader, Matthew Shepherd, Mace Vaughn, Scott Hoffman Black, and Gretchen LeBuhn, Story Publishing, 2011, \$29.95.

This is a book that is a challenge to review, not because it has too little substance but because it has too much, given our space constraints. This is a significant expansion and update to the *Xerces Society's 2003 Pollinator Conservation Handbook*. The importance of pollinators is obvious. About 75 % of all flowering plants rely on pollinators in order to set seed or fruit, and from these plants comes one-third of the planet's food. The decline of pollinators presents a serious threat not only to our ecological health but also our food supply. The scope of the book is very broad. *Attracting Native Pollinators* is a valuable, comprehensive guidebook for gardeners, small farmers, orchardists, beekeepers, naturalists, environmentalists, and public land managers on how to protect and encourage the activity of the native pollinators of North America.

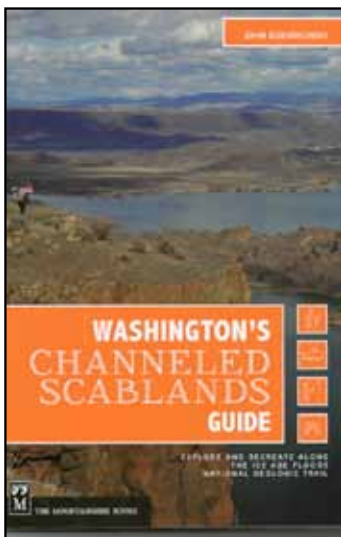


The book is illustrated with hundreds of color photographs and specially created illustrations. It is divided into four very detailed sections:

- **Pollinators and Pollination** explains the value of pollinators, and includes chapters on the natural history and habitat needs of bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, and wasps.
- **Taking Action** provides information on ways to help pollinators and to create nest sites and safe foraging areas. It includes guidance on conserving pollinators in all kinds of landscapes: gardens, natural areas, farms, recreation land and even eco-roofs.
- **Bees of North America** provides help with identifying the more abundant and important bee species, and supplies detailed profiles of more than thirty commonly encountered genera. This section alone is worth having the book!
- **Creating a Pollinator-Friendly Landscape** shows how various kinds of land, including your own urban garden, suburban parks, and farms, can be enhanced to support diverse pollinator populations. Sample planting designs and fifty pages of illustrated plant lists facilitate selection of the best plants for any region.

If you an interest in pollinators and native plants, this book is a must read.

Washington's Channeled Scablands Guide, by John Soennichsen, Mountaineer Books, 2012, \$17.95.



One of the truly remarkable areas of Washington's diverse ecology is the channeled scablands National Scenic Area of Eastern Washington. John Soennichsen's book is a must for those wanting to explore this fascinating but not well-known area.

The channeled scablands were the result of the catastrophic floods across the Columbia Plateau some 15-18,000 years ago. It is named for the large expanses of "scabby" rock left behind, along with huge coulees, dramatic waterfalls such as Palouse Falls, deep potholes and great basalt cliffs.

For the native plant lover, the area includes some of the finest Washington shrub steppe remaining. (The Nature Conservancy Moses Coulee/ Beezley Hills Preserve is a great example.) Serviceberry, chokecherry, bitterbrush and saltbush abound. There is also a wonderful selection of wildflowers throughout the scablands including penstamens, balsamroots, sunflowers, lupines, larkspur, Indian paintbrushes, lomatiums, blue flax, phlox, lavender daggerpods, iris and gromwell. For those into the world of lichens, the rocks are a treasure trove.

Soennichsen provides detailed fascinating geological information, maps for hiking and eleven auto tours, camping and other services. The information is very clear and practical. The writing style is engaging. It's a book well worth adding to your Washington library.

More Native Plant Resources

1,200 Weeds of the 48 States and Adjacent Canada on DVD.

If you have an interest in weed identification, this is the follow-up to the highly successful 1,000 Weeds of North America CD. As well as the additional 200 species, it also contains many new images and a new graphical user interface which allows you to click on the image of the attribute that you are selecting. This is probably the most comprehensive weed identification reference available for the United States and Canada! It is also available for the Android. It features:

- An easy to use interactive key,
- Color photos of each of the 1,200 species,
- Page number references to over 50 of the most commonly used weed reference books,
- County level distribution maps,
- A fully illustrated glossary of botanical terminology,
- A searchable state/province level geography menu to reduce the database to those species found in your area--to see how many of the 1,200 weeds on the DVD occur in your state or province, and
- Up-to-date nomenclature and synonymy.

For more information, visit <http://xidservices.com/>.



Hikes and Field Trips

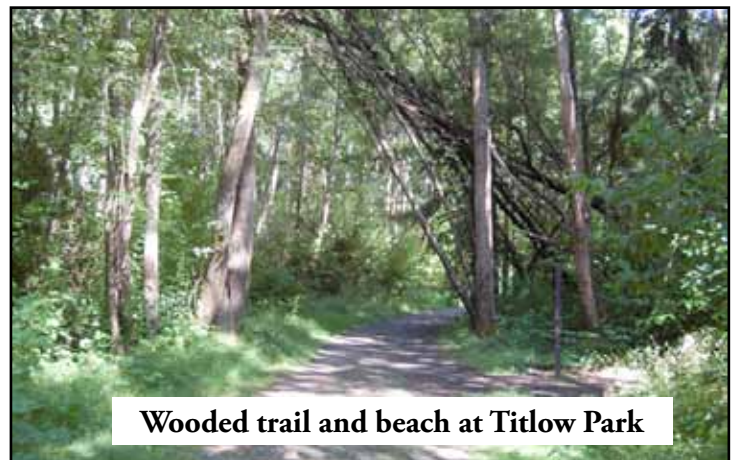
Titlow Park - MetroParks Tacoma

For those who have never taken the time to explore it, Titlow Park and Beach provide an interesting way to spend an afternoon. MetroParks Tacoma's fifty-four acre Titlow Park is located at the base of 6th Avenue (8425 6th Ave) on Puget Sound. It features something for the entire family from the wooded hiking trails, beach, playgrounds, community center, paved boardwalk, restaurants and a fine view of the Tacoma Narrows bridge. After your walk, two restaurants are very close by.

The trails are well marked and provide a pleasant way to spend an hour or so. The plant life is unfortunately heavily impacted by numerous invasive species from Himalayan blackberry and English ivy to hedge bindweed and cherry laurel. The woodland is

primarily deciduous - red alder and black cottonwood with some madrone, Douglas-fir, and western red cedar. There are a quite number of native plants in the understory. The Cooley's hedge-nettle (*Stachys cooleyae*) and hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*) can be particularly showy. We have only the beginnings of a plant list to which we would like you to add.

Located on the sound with ponds, Titlow is also a well-known birding area. It is known as one of the most reliable places in the state to see nesting purple martins from April through September. At other times, you may also observe Bonaparte's gulls, common loons, American wigeon, western grebes and other birds. It's a good place to take both your bird and plant books and spend a fall afternoon.



Wooded trail and beach at Titlow Park

Hikes and Field Trips

Ellis Cove Trail at Priest Point Park by Regina Johnson

Priest Point Park, located on the shore of Budd Inlet in Olympia, was the first park property acquired by Olympia. Pre-settlement, the location was a gathering and trading site for tribes from all around Puget Sound and across the Cascades. In 1848 the Oblates of Mary founded a mission, which ran until 1860 (hence the name). When the mission closed, the land was acquired by local timbermen. The practice at the time was for timbermen to cut off all the virgin timber, and then either sell, donate, or abandon the land – no growing a second crop of trees. The city acquired the property in 1905.

Ellis Cove bisects the park, and the Ellis Cove Trail is one of the more popular attractions. The trail can be accessed from trailheads on East Bay Drive just north of the main entrance, or from a small parking area on Flora Vista Drive where it intersects East Bay Dr. at the far north end of the park.

The forest at Priest Point Park contains some very nice specimens of all the common species. There are also some very impressive stumps from early logging. The mosses and lichens are spectacular; anyone into bryophytes will have a grand time here. Unfortunately, English ivy is rampant throughout the park. The city has volunteer ivy removal days.

Ellis Cove Trail runs through forest and crosses Ellis Cove at its head. North of Ellis Cove, there is a network of intersecting trails that you could combine into an almost infinite pattern of permutations, especially if you add the beach at low tide. The views up and down Budd Inlet are spectacular. Map signs at some of the intersections give you an idea of where you are. (The maps posted on the south side of Ellis Cove are not up-to-date and do not show the north parking area on Flora Vista.) The trails on the north side are mostly level, but with very short steep sections. The south side trail is up and down. It is very muddy in winter. The most direct route, starting from Flora Vista, is to stay to the left at every intersection north of the cove, and then skip the first left south of the bridge. From the south you would stay right. This will give you nearly one mile each way.

Bearing west when you reach the north shore of the cove will take you around the bluff and into the maze of trails, or onto the beach. This trail intersection is supervised by a wooden bear which has become very hard to separate from the surrounding vegetation as the moss on its head grows.

The madrone trees on the top of the north bluff are worth seeing. They're huge and are doing a very slow-motion swan dive off the bluff into the inlet. Some of them appear to be growing almost straight down like hanging plants. The *Hydrophyllum* (waterleaf) is very impressive too; where the ivy has been cleared off, the waterleaf forms a solid carpet. And there are many kinds of ferns and woodland graminoids (grasses).



There is poison oak in the park primarily on the bluff faces, not along the trails or on level ground. If you walk on the beach, stay back from the bluff unless you're comfortable with your ability to ID poison oak. The trees of Priest Point Park are large and stately, and the network of trails gives you many different choices. The beach is a treasure in this land of private tidelands. Winter wrens call in spring, and Swainson's thrushes in summer. Bald eagles nest in the area. Migrating salmon pass by, and waterfowl overwinter on the inlet and cove. Week-

ends and summer evenings bring fleets of sailboats to watch. The Olympics hover on the northwestern horizon.

The city of Olympia has a list of animals of Priest Point Park on their website: <http://tinyurl.com/bpc45s4>. Wouldn't it be nice if we could add to the plant list I've started, and give it to the city to post on their website?

Directions: On Plum St. in downtown Olympia, go north. Plum St. turns into East Bay Dr. at State Ave. The main park entrance will be on the right. Turn here, and then turn left to cross the overpass and park in a small lot on the right, to take the southern trailhead on East Bay Dr. (no street parking). Or, pass the main entrance to turn left on Flora Vista for the north trailhead.

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Conservation Committee Chair - Vacant

Field Trip Committee Chair - Vacant

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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



WNPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE (____) _____ E-MAIL _____

Chapter Affiliation

- Central Puget Sound (Seattle)
 - Central Washington (Yakima, Ellensburg)
 - Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities)
 - Koma Kulshan (Bellingham)
 - NE Washington (Spokane)
 - Okanogan
 - Olympic Peninsula
 - Salal (Mt. Vernon, Skagit Valley)
 - San Juan Islands
 - South Sound (Olympia, Tacoma)
 - Wenatchee Valley
 - At-Large
 - Palouse (inactive)
 - Suksdorfia (inactive)
- Each membership includes affiliation with one chapter. Add \$5.00 for each additional chapter.

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

Membership Category

- \$35 Individual Rate
- \$45 Family
- \$65 Club/Institution
- \$20 Budget
- \$50-99 WNPS Friend
- \$100-499 WNPS Special Friend
- \$500 WNPS Best Friend
- \$1,000 WNPS Sustaining
- \$5,000 WNPS Patron

ENCLOSED ARE:

My dues: Please Sign me up! \$ _____
 Additional Chapters (\$5 each) _____
 \$8 for each poster (\$6 members) _____
 Shipping (\$2.50/poster) _____
 TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to WNPS and mail to:
 Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE 74th St., Ste 215E
 Seattle, WA 98115



South Sound Chapter WNPS

6220 N 50th St

Tacoma WA 98407-2119



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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.



Castilleja, Indian Paintbrush