



The Acorn

*Serving the South Sound Chapter of the
Washington Native Plant Society*

Fall 2016

Spring Native Plant Sale



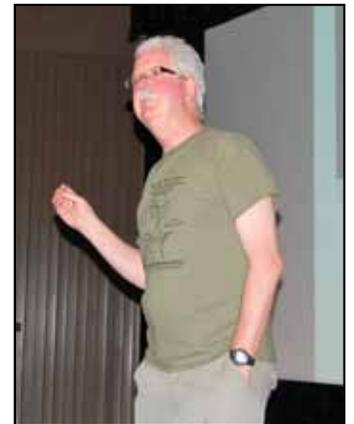
Once again our Spring Native Plant sale was a resounding success. On sale day, April 24, the threatening weather cooperated and the rain held off until after 3 pm. Also, nothing dampened the enthusiasm of our buyers who rapidly depleted the trilliums, Columbia lilies, evergreen huckleberries and other prized plants. We had a lot of happy buyers! Total gross sales were a new high of almost \$9,000. After all expenses, it will yield the funds to allow us to continue our program of grants and of bringing in special speakers such as Andy MacKinnon.

As always, we owe the greatest thanks to our volunteers, organized by Cyndy Dillon, who donated, potted, maintained and transported plants; set up the sale; and stayed until everything was cleaned up. We

owe all our success to their hard work: Dan and Pat Montague, Sharon and Dwight Bergquist-Moody, Don Guyot, Mary Sue Gee, Cyndy Dillon, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Dennis Plank, Catherine Hovanic, Gail Trotter, Jane Ely, Byrna Klavano, Cherry and Jim Pedrick, Angela Winter, Reba Van Andel, Phyllis Sturges, Jennifer Key, Allan Borden, Lee Fellenberg, John Neorr, Jane Ostericher, Linda Kunze and Bill Brookreson.

Mycobeterotrophs: The Fungal Connection **with Andy MacKinnon**

Once again, we were privileged to have Andy MacKinnon address the Washington Native Plant Society and students in the Recital Hall at The Evergreen State College (TESC) on April 11. Andy's fascinating talk was on mycobeterotrophs, plants that rely on mycorrhizal fungi to supply them with carbon and nutrients. It was co-sponsored by TESC through the help of Dr. Frederica Bowcutt. The audience of students and WNPS members – about 150 strong – was highly appreciative. We hope Andy's two talks are only the beginning of a series of high quality speakers we can co-host with Evergreen. These are one of the benefits of our plant sales.



Fall Native Plant Sale



Mark your calendars for our fourth **Fall Native Plant Sale, Saturday, October 8, 9 am to 3 pm, at the Capital Museum Coach House, 211 21st Ave SW, Olympia**. Fall is the best time for planting your favorite trees, shrubs and perennials to give them the winter rainy season to get established. We expect to again have a nice selection of Pacific Northwest natives to brighten your gardens and landscapes, build bird and animal habitats, and restore our natural environment. We also expect to have some new and interesting species, such as Lewisias.

We can always use volunteers to set up the sale on Friday, October 7, and assist in the Saturday sale event. All proceeds from the sale benefit chapter grants and activities. To volunteer, contact Bonnie Blessing-Earle at bonnie.blessing@gmail.com or Cyndy Dillon at cpdillongh@comcast.net.

Other S. Sound Chapter Activities

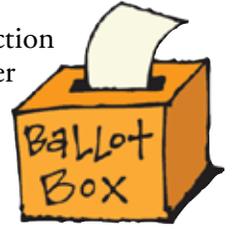
Vascular Plants of the South Sound Prairies Rollout

On April 27, we were pleased to co-sponsor the release of a new book on the *Vascular Plants of the South Sound Prairies*. The book was co-edited by Dr. Frederica Bowcutt from The Evergreen State College and Sarah Hamman of the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM). The book was in the works since 2003. Over 40 students from TESC contributed to the project, as well as scientists from TESC, Centralia College and CNLM. Thanks to their efforts, we now have an illustrated guide to nearly 150 vascular plants, coupled with text on the natural and cultural history of the glacial outwash prairies and their associated oak woodlands from Tacoma to Rochester, Washington. The South Sound Chapter was proud to provide \$500 to support the rollout of this important work thanks to your support of our plant sales.



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. Even if you do not desire an elected position, there are a number of other appointed positions where you can serve the chapter on the board. Currently we have a full slate of nominees from the committee as follows:



Chair – Bill Brookreson

Vice Chair (Thurston County) - Bonnie Blessing-Earle

Vice Chair (Pierce County) - Jane Ostericher

Secretary – Sharon Bergquist-Moody

Treasurer - Jane Ely

By October 20, 2016, an e-mail ballot will be sent to each member whose dues are current as of October 1st, and 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 24, 2016, contact Lee Fellenberg at webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org. Ballots must be postmarked by November 2, 2016, and received no later than November 5, to be counted. Results will be announced at the November meetings, on the chapter website and in the newsletter updates.

Native Plant Stewardship Class

The statewide WNPS Native Plant Stewardship Program through the Program Manager Jim Evans offered its first pilot program in the South Sound Chapter area in Spring, 2016. The programmatic goal of this course was to design and deliver a version of the WNPS Native Plant Stewardship training that was shorter and more accessible to working people than the 10-week, 100-hour model used by the Central Puget Sound Chapter (and some offshoot programs in Pierce and Snohomish Counties) up to that time, while still maintaining the high standards of the Native Plant Stewardship ‘brand.’ The overarching educational goal was to impart practical knowledge that could be used to further

conservation and restoration work in local communities, but also to inspire stewards to become involved with such work.

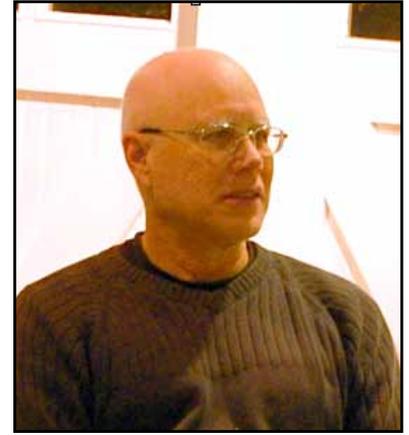
Twenty-seven people, including two auditors started the program. Twenty-two completed the course work, and are now giving back to the community. We congratulate the new stewards: Sarah Aldridge, Shanna Alexander, Steve Casebolt, William Collier, Jenny deMars, Penny Douglas, Erika Furey, Nick Gosling, Barbara Henderson, Gunnar Jaeck, Laurie Juedes, Phyllis Kaiden, Darcie Lampert, Debbie McLaughlin, Alex Papiez, Marrilee Rambeau, Kathleen Riley, Stephanie Schlitz, Michael Scott, Gail Sklar, Kelly Stave, Jim Tuttle, and Dave Zink.

(Group photo on outside of this issue of *The Acorn*.)

More from the Sound Chapter

A Thanks You for Job Extraordinarily Well Done!

After serving as the Presentations Coordinator for the South Sound Chapter for several years, John Neorr has decided to step down. We owe John a huge thanks for nine years of programs in Olympia and Tacoma and some special events with Jack Nesbit and Andy MacKinnon. That was not all John did by any means. John has been a key part of our chapter board coordinating our grant program, working plant sales, and generally being a source of ideas and inspiration. We are pleased that Sue Butkus has agreed to coordinate programs. As inadequate as it seems — Thank you, John, for everything and for giving so much!



Grant Project in Action

We had the opportunity to get some direct feedback from Shoshanna Cohen, of Boze Elementary School in Tacoma, who had received a grant for pollinator project. “Just wanted to share with you guys on the last week of school how beautiful the wagon/pollinator garden project ended up. The teachers are so excited to continue with it next year. Thank you so much for everything. We are truly appreciative.” We need to especially thank Jane Ostericher for her work making this happen. Our plant sale money making a difference! (See additional photo on outside page.)



WNPS State News

The Loss of Sarah Reichard, Friend and Colleague.

It was just at the end of July that many of us were stunned to learn of the death of Dr. Sarah Reichard. Sarah passed away in her sleep while in South Africa leading a UW Botanic Garden Tour. Sarah was one of the national great leaders in invasive plant ecology, management and policy, and in rare plant conservation.

As Julie Combs wrote of her: “Dr. Reichard was truly unique in that her academic scholarship was balanced with a fierce dose of public scholarship that reached audiences on a world-wide scale both inside [and] outside of the [National Academy of Science]. She was a passionate scientist who paved the way and created opportunities for woman in science and worked diligently to solve complex problems in the important interdisciplinary field of Conservation Biology.

Dr. Reichard was a tenured professor at the University of Washington in the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences (SEFS), the Director of the UW Botanic Gardens. She has mentored hundreds of eager students over the years and has served on countless boards, working groups and advisory committees related to important issues in

the realm of invasive plant ecology, management, policy and education. Her research focused on understanding the biology of invasive plants and using that understanding to develop risk assessment methods to prevent their introduction and spread.”

Sarah’s accomplishments are too numerous to list. She co-authored a National Academy of Science report *Predicting Invasions of Nonindigenous Plants and Plant Pests*. She was co-editor of *Invasive Species in the Pacific Northwest*, and author of numerous research papers. She served six years on the Federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee and was on the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. She was the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council’s (PNW IPC) vice president. She spoke to our chapter about her newest book, *The Conscientious Gardener: Cultivating a Garden Ethic*. She founded and directed Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation and was key to funding for the Miller Seed Vault storing seeds for species protection.

Those who love native plants and the environment are much the richer for knowing and working with her, and much the poorer for her passing. Our thoughts go out to her husband, Brian, who was with her in South Africa.

Botany Washington 2016

Botany Washington was held this year at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, May 13-15. The event was co-sponsored by Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) and the University of Washington Herbarium (WTU) at the Burke Museum. It focused on the floristic and taxonomic diversity of the eastern Olympic Peninsula lowlands. Participants were offered four areas of study, with one field trip per day at this weekend of study and camaraderie. This year, there were four options:

- 1) Taxonomy Study of *Poaceae* (grasses) led by Clay Antieau; and the *Fabaceae* (pea family), *Caryophyllaceae* (rose family), and *Ranunculaceae* (buttercup family), with special attention to given to the genera *Cerastium*, *Lathyrus*, *Trifolium*, *Ranunculus* and *Vicia*, led by David Giblin;
- 2) Keying with Hitchcock, using the draft version of keys for the revised Flora of the Pacific Northwest;
- 3) Wildflowers of the Puget Trough – field trips to enjoy the flora of the area; and
- 4) Habitat Restoration – reviewing restoration projects in the Port Townsend, at Point Wilson, Kai Tai Prairies and Discovery Bay.

On Friday evening, Dr. Eric DeChaine, associate professor at Western Washington University, presented his research on evolution of the arctic and alpine tundra flora. On Saturday evening, Dr. Catharine Copass, Vegetation Inventory Project Coordinator at Olympic National Park, presented her work classifying and mapping plant communities at Ebey's Landing Historical Reserve.



Native Plant Study Weekend 2016

The Native Plant Study Weekend 2016, June 17-19, was centered in Leavenworth and co-sponsored by the Wenatchee Valley and Central Washington chapters of WNPS. The study centered on the amazing flora of the Wenatchee Mountains. The weather was not entirely cooperative with rain, and even some snow on Saturday, but a beautiful day on Sunday. Plant lovers were not deterred!

As with most study weekend, the program speakers were excellent. On Friday evening, Dr. Richard Olmstead delivered a brief salute to Art Kruckeberg, and an address on *How Modern Phylogenetics has Changed the Families We Know and Love*. On Saturday, Jack Nesbit presented *Chasing Biscuitroots*, tales of our native Lomatiums. At the Saturday barbecue dinner at Red Tail Canyon Farm in Leavenworth, WNPS recognized two new “Fellows” – Gary Smith and Pam Camp, the highest honor the society bestows, for their long time contributions to WNPS.

As always, there was a wonderful selection of native plant hikes and activities. There were 28 different hikes and activities offered. As always, the fellowship with other members was a delight as well. Next year, the study weekend will be in the Spokane area.

**Upper photo on left: Botanizing in rain and snow
Lower photo: Honoring Gary Smith, WNPS Fellow**



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, 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 Sue Butkas at presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

Monday, October 10 (Olympia), Truls Jensen

Inspiration from On-High

Truls Jensen has been very active with the North American Rock Garden Society. He will speak to us on how plants have adapted to the extreme environmental conditions of high mountains and what that tells us about selecting and caring for garden plants as our climate changes. All those concerned about climate change will find Truls' talk fascinating.

Truls and his wife Emma Elliot own and operate Wild Ginger Farm in Beavercreek, Oregon where they grow and sell alpine, native and woodland plants. Truls was born in Norway and, after moving to the U.S. as a child, was drawn to the Sierra Nevada of California where he explored and backpacked extensively. His interest in nature led him to study biology and ultimately earn a PhD in Entomology. As a scientist he conducted ecological field research for the University of California, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Natural History Survey. You may visit their website at <http://wildgingerfarm.com/>

Wednesday, October 12 (Tacoma), Mark Egger

Castillejas, the Indian Paintbrush

Mark Egger will guide us through the fascinating world of the Castillejas and share a few pictures of his incredible photo collection.

Mark is a retired public school science teacher who has given his expertise to become a research Associate at the Burke Museum in Seattle. As Mark describes himself, "I am a life-long naturalist and biologist with a special interest in botany and birds. I am "best known" in the naturalist community as a specialist on the plant genus *Castilleja* (Indian Paintbrush), . . . My primary photo collection is on Flickr, and I invite you to come visit my site. My Castillejas photos number in the tens of thousands and are arranged in 260 species sets. Every *Castilleja* species and variety in North America is presented, as well as many of the species from Mexico and Central and South America."

Visit https://www.flickr.com/people/mark_egger_castilleja/

Monday, November 14 (Olympia), Donovan Tracy

Sub-alpine Meadows of Mt. Rainier

Donovan Tracy is an exceptional photographer who has amassed an amazing collection of photos of the flowers of Mt. Rainier. Donovan is the co-author with David Giblin, collection manager of the UW Herbarium, of the Burke Museum's *Alpine Flowers of Mt. Rainier*, a field guide first published in 2011. The guide features 90 flowers commonly found above the tree line. Easy to use and durable, *Alpine Flowers of Mt. Rainier* is a valuable resource for further appreciation of the splendor of Mt. Rainier's flowers in the higher elevations. He will speak to us about Mt. Rainier's sub-alpine meadows.

To view his work, visit Donovan Tracy's website at Flowers of Rainier, <http://www.flowersofrainier.com/Index%20Enter/index.htm>. His web site includes photographs and descriptions of 235 species of flowering plants within Mount Rainier National Park.



November 2016	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, November 9 (Tacoma), Dr. Sarah Spear Cooke — <i>Wetlands</i></p> <p>Dr. Cooke has fifteen years of experience in wetlands ecological research and environmental consulting along with twenty years of experience in ecological and geological research in the Pacific Northwest. She specializes in wetland creation, restoration and enhancement projects, both in design and implementation. Dr. Cooke's expertise includes wetland inventories, delineation and mitigation designs, baseline studies, monitoring programs, rare plant surveys, soil assessments, watershed analysis, vegetation mapping, and environmental assessments in the region. She has a very broad range of experience and expertise</p> <p>Cooke Scientific (CS) is an experienced ecological consulting firm that offers a broad spectrum of wetland and stream related services. Dr. Cooke is the former instructor for the Wetland Certification Program at the University of Washington. She is also the author/editor of <i>A Field Guide to the Common Wetland Plants of Western Washington & Northwestern Oregon</i> and co-author of <i>Wetlands and Urbanization: Implications for the Future</i>.</p>
December 2016	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, December 12 (Olympia), Holiday Celebrations and Member Presentations</p> <p>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 presentations/talks 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 and door prizes will be provided. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre to share.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, December 14 (Tacoma) See description above</p>
January 2017	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, January 9 (Olympia), Sarah Hamman <i>South Sound Prairie Restoration</i></p> <p>The South Sound Prairies are a fragile and shrinking environment threatened by development, invasive species (including Douglas-fir) and changing climate. The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) staff, aided by numerous community volunteers, has taken the lead in preserving and restoring these prairies. Come and learn more about the challenges we face and the steps being taken to address them.</p> <p>Sarah Hamman is the Restoration Ecologist for the Center for Natural Lands Management, a conservation non-profit based out of Washington and California. Her work is aimed at restoring rare species habitat in PNW prairies using rigorous science and careful conservation planning. Sarah holds a B.A. in Biology from Wittenberg University and a Ph.D. in Ecology from Colorado State University. Sarah is also an adjunct professor at The Evergreen State College, where she teaches Fire Science and Society, and Restoration Ecology, for the Master of Environmental Science program. Sarah and Frederica Bowcutt have co-edited the valuable new book, <i>Vascular Plants of the South Sound Prairies</i>. Our chapter supported the rollout of the book in 2016.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, January 11 (Tacoma), Jessica Stone <i>Restoration of the Parkland Prairie</i></p> <p>The Parkland Prairie Nature Preserve is a 4.5-acre parcel owned by Pierce County Parks and Recreation in the Parkland area. Located at the intersection of Tule Lake Rd. S. and Yakima Ave S., the preserve contains a degraded urban patch of prairie dominated by noxious weeds. Pierce County Parks and Recreation has teamed with the Pierce County Beekeepers Association to reclaim and improve the preserve by removing noxious weeds, installing forage-rich plants to help pollinators, and creating an accessible and educational place for the public to enjoy.</p> <p>Jessica Stone is the Natural Lands Steward for Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services. She is heading up the restoration effort in cooperation with the Pierce County Beekeepers. They are currently designing six areas: a display garden, a Rubus garden, central prairie, oak woodland, riparian area, and Douglas-fir woodland. WNPS is supporting the project.</p>

Chair Report

Sometimes you hear something that is expressed more succinctly than you can do. That was what Jim Evans said as he wrapped up the first of our new stewardship program classes. I want to share that with you. It captures why we do what we do.

Jim's closing remarks – Conservation challenges in the 21st Century, and the importance of citizen involvement

“Six weeks ago we started this course by looking at this quote from E.B. White. Each of you came into this course with an interest in in both parts of White's dichotomy. And in fact I don't think it is a dichotomy. It's because we savor the wonder of the world that we're motivated to save our ecosystems, and the plants, animals and other organisms that populate them, that create magic and wonder before our eyes.

Conservation has never been more important. Protecting and restoring our ecosystems in the face of climate change, burgeoning human populations, blind development, and overuse of natural resources, is the Great Work of our time in history. To succeed, we need every tool we've heard about in this course, plus tools we didn't have time to go over, plus a few tools that probably haven't been invented yet. But, we need some

other things that can be learned but can't be taught, at least not easily.

Every time we take action to conserve a place, to restore a plant community or a natural system, to educate a child or a neighbor, we are the living expression of hope, hope that our actions will have a lasting effect, that we make a difference, that we aren't alone, and that, together, what we do will be enough.

Alongside all the technical expertise we acquire, we should remember too, that joy and the sharing of joy and wonder are also tools of conservation and restoration, maybe the greatest ones. Without them, the other tools we try to use will probably not fully succeed.

The mission of WNPS is 'To promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats through study, education and advocacy.' This mission is entirely complementary to the missions of all of the terrific organizations and dedicated people you've heard from in the course of these six weeks.

So, go now, appreciate and conserve, study, educate, advocate, support and restore. We're all in this together. And we should savor our journey.”

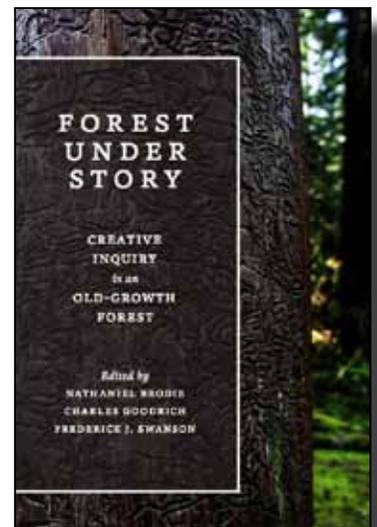
Bill Brookreson

Native Plant Resources

***Forest Under Story: Creative Inquiry into an Old-Growth Forest*, edited by Nathaniel Brodie, Charles Goodrich and Frederick J. Swanson, University of Washington Press, 2016**

Every once in a while, you find a book that is particularly intriguing. Such a book is *Forest Under Story: Creative Inquiry in an Old-Growth Forest*. The site of the work is the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, a renowned research facility in the temperate rainforest of the Oregon Cascades. Since its establishment in 1948, the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest has been a site of intensive and extensive research on watershed processes; forest ecology, especially structure, composition, and function of old-growth Douglas-fir forests and plantation; forest-stream interactions; biological diversity; processes, rates, and controls on nutrient and carbon cycling; and history and effects of natural and management disturbance processes.

The H. J. Andrews is a Biosphere Reserve in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere program. But this is not just a science book. *Forest Under Story* represents a remarkable effort where scientists and writers have collaborated in looking at the land through each other's eyes in a fascinating series of essays and poems to find meaning both in data and the direct experience of the forest. This anthology grew out of the work of the Long-Term Ecological Reflections program. It's work writers includes Sandra Alcosser, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Jane Hirshfield, Linda Hogan, Freeman House, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Kathleen Dean Moore, Robert Michael Pyle, Pattiann Rogers and Scott Russell Sanders. These essays, poems, and field notes portray a landscape of moss-draped trees, patchwork clear-cuts, stream-swept gravel bars and fire-scoured hillsides, and also bring forward the ambiguities and paradoxes of conflicting human values and their implications for the ecosystem in a very thoughtful way. There are ample opportunities for reflection as you read each of the essays and poems. It's not a book for everyone but definitely worth the try.



Chapter & State Contacts

Chair – Bill Brookreson
chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org
 253-292-8570
 702 Columbia Avenue
 Fircrest WA 98466

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

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

Secretary – Sharon Bergquist-Moody
secretary@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Treasurer – Jane Ely
treasurer@southsoundchapterwnps.org
 360-402-3656

Immediate Past Chair – Cyndy Dillon
cpdillongh@comcast.net

Chapter Botanist – Vacant
Conservation Committee Chair - Vacant

Volunteer and Field Trip Committee Chair
Cyndy Dillon
cpdillongh@comcast.net

Editorial Committee Chair - Bill Brookreson
newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Presentations Coordinatore – Sue Butkus
presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Publicity Committee Chair - Jane Ostericher

Volunteers Committee Chair - Cyndy Dillon
cpdillongh@comcast.net

Education Committee Chair - Jane Ostericher

Grants Committee Chair - Vacant

Chapter Web Manager - Lee Fellenberg
webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org

WNPS Statewide:

President – Clay Antieau
clay39@netzero.net



Administrator – Denise Mahnke
 6310 N.E. 74th St., Ste 215E
 Seattle, WA 98115-8171
wnps@wnps.org



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 Check the Chapters with which you wish to affiliate.

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WNPS is 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization. Federal tax ID #91-0972555



South Sound Chapter WNPS

6220 N 50th St

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Botany Washington at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend



Native Plant Stewardship Class



Wagon/Pollinator Garden Project