

The Acorn

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



*Fall
2019*

Spring Plant Sale

Once again, our Spring Native Plant Sale on April 20 was a success. The sale was held at the Lord Mansion's Coach House and was scheduled from 9-3 but we closed shortly after 1 pm when the plants were largely sold out. The selection of plants this year was broad, with some interesting omissions where the plants were simply not available. We provided plants from local nurseries and growers as far away as Peshastin, Wash. Our sales total was just over \$ 8,650 with expenses just under \$ 4,600. The profits, \$3,967, support chapter programs and grants, and our plants support wonderful native plant gardens and restorations. Thank you for your support!

Our Fall Plant Sale date will be September 28 at the Lord Mansion Coach House. Come early and get great plants for fall planting. (details on page 6)

No plant sale would happen without our wonderful volunteers who donated plants, helped transported plants, set up the sale and worked the sale day. Plant Sale volunteers included: Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Peggy Butler, Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Sue Butkus, Allan Borden, Bill Brookreson, June Coloff, Cyndy Dillon, Penny Douglas, Sandy Eilbes, Cheryl Fultz, Roxy Giddings, Mary Sue Gee, Don Guyat, James M. Hansen, Catherine Hovanic, Rita Hummel, Byrna Klavano, Cheryl Messinger, Sharon Moorehead, Deb Naslund, John Neorr, Jane Ostericher, Cherry and Jim Pedrick, David Perasso, Dennis Plank. Kurt Reidinger, Gail Sklar and Gail Trotter. A special thanks to Gail Trotter for organizing and feeding our volunteers.



Grants Report

South Sound Chapter Grants 2019 submitted by Peggy Butler

John Neorr has stepped down as Grants Committee Chair and Peggy Butler has assumed that role. Thanks John, for your years of good work! From the revenue from our plant sales, the chapter has granted \$2100 in grants to the community.

We were pleased with the diversity of projects. The "Eye on Nature" grant provided \$1000 for bus transportation to take students to the Nisqually Wildlife Preserve to learn about nature. All the trips for this year have been completed. The South Sound Prairie Seed Predation study provided \$450 to Evergreen student Gina Smith for a study of what creatures have an impact on the seed production in the South Sound prairies. We expect the study to finish in 2020. The Buckley Park Native Plant Project provided \$500 to purchase and support planting of native plants in Buckley Parks. This project will involve scouts, the city community center, and other Buckley residents. The intent is to not only add plants to the parks, but to educate the public about the attractiveness and benefits of native plants. Planting is scheduled for the fall. Finally, we provided \$150 to help support a Snowball Cactus Study. This small grant (which was approved by the SSC Board) was handled in an informal basis (no contract). It was done in coordination with the WNPS state organization which provided a large initial grant. Along with the Wenatchee chapter, SSC granted additional funds for additional equipment.



Native Plant Study Weekend 2019

Native Plant Study Weekend, 2019 was hosted by the Salal Chapter at the Fidalgo Bay Resort Conference Center in Anacortes. Brenda Cunningham, Kathy Murray and their crew did a marvelous job with the largest turnout yet for a study weekend. The weekend featured two very different but excellent speakers. On Friday evening, Leslie Eastwood of the Samish Nation presented, “Feeding the Spirit: Native Plants for Food Culture and Medicine” that gave us some insights into the spiritual connections between the native Americans and our flora. The Samish also catered a wonderful salmon meal. On Saturday, Joe Rocchio, Senior Vegetation Ecologist for DNR, presented, “Hanging on a Thread, the Precarious Nature of Washington’s Bogs in the Face of Natural Succession, Climate Change, and Human Stressors.”



Both Saturday and Sunday provided a wide variety of plant walks from prairies, to shoreline plants, wetlands, and balds. A number of the trips involved ferry trips to islands and visits to special places like Cyprus Island. We had some outstanding field trip leaders that freely shared their expertise.

As always, Native Plant Study Weekend was a chance to visit old and new friends and enjoy our native plants. Next Study Weekend will be sponsored jointly by Central Puget Sound and Central Washington near Ellensburg. Watch for the details and don’t miss it.

Botany Washington 2019 by Deborah Naslund

Botany Washington is an annual WNPS event, co-sponsored with the University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum. The goal of the event, as stated on the WNPS website, “is to provide an outstanding learning opportunity for participants of all botanical skill levels.” This year’s event, “Late Spring on the Eastern Slope of the Cascades”, was held June 7- 9 near Cliffdell, Washington off Highway 410.

This was the first time I have attended Botany Washington. Wow! I can’t believe what I’ve been missing all these years! I consider myself an amateur botanist, with little formal training but lots of enthusiasm. Which is why, in the past, I shied away from attending Botany Washington, assuming (incorrectly!) that it was for “the professionals”. While the event certainly offers excellent resources for professional botanists, plant ecologists, restoration ecologists, conservation biologists and other professionals, I found it extremely welcoming to all plant lovers no matter their level of knowledge or training.

The weekend included programs on Friday and Saturday night as well as field trips both Saturday and Sunday. The Friday night program was an excellent overview of the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative (<http://www.tapash.org/>) and their Little Naches Restoration Project presented by Laura Potash, Tapash Collaborative Program Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy. Saturday night’s presentation was given by Dr. Jon Bakker, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington on “Thirty Years of Vegetation Change in the Sagebrush Steppe” based on his research on the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, Yakima Training Center.

The field trips offered ranged from highly technical studies of grass identification, the taxonomy of the genus *Lomatium*, and the *Boraginaceae* and *Hydrophyllaceae* (borage and waterleaf families), to more casual wildflower walks in nearby natural areas. So hard to choose! I hit the jackpot with a workshop on using the newly revised *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* by Hitchcock and Cronquist given by none other than one of its editors, David Gliblin. His insights and patient guidance really increased my confidence in using the technical keys, something I hadn’t seriously tried in many years. On Sunday I was fortunate to join the group hunting for rare plants along the American River, led by Walter Fertig, Rare Plant Botanist, Washington Natural Heritage Program. Our target species was *Heterotheca oregona*, which was known from several patches along the river. To our amazement and delight, we discovered and surveyed two new locations!

Many thanks to Denise Mahnke, WNPS Business Manager and David Gliblin, Ph.D, Collections Manager, UW Herbarium, and all the people who helped make this an excellent experience. I’ll be back!



Cypripedium montanum
(Naslund photo)

Other South Sound Chapter Activities

Election of Chapter Officers, 2019

In 2009, the chapter modified the election procedure for officers to provide 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 will be solicited. The ballot will also allow for a write-in candidate. We currently have a slate of ballot nominees from the committee as follows:

Chair – Gail Trotter
Vice Chair (Thurston County) – Deborah Naslund
Vice Chair (Pierce County) -- Gail Sklar
Secretary – Allan Borden
Treasurer – Rita Hummel



By October 22, 2019 an email 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 26, 2019 contact Lee Fellenberg at leefellenberg@gmail.com. E-mail ballots need to be received no later than November 2, 2019. Regular mail ballots need to be postmarked no later than November 2, 2019 and received no later than November 6, 2019. Results will be announced at the November meetings, on the chapter website and in the newsletter updates. Terms begin January 1, 2020. Please take the time to vote.

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 October through May. Meetings consist of a quick review of local items and announcements, and a presentation lasting approximately an hour. This year, we will have some changes to note in September and December.

Programs are geared for all levels of botanical knowledge. Unless otherwise noted, as with the September meeting and the joint December 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 Gail Sklar at presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

September Kickoff Meeting

Sept 10, Tuesday: Joint meeting at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

- Meet at the Environmental Education Center
- Between 3 and 4 PM Plant walk leaders will start staggered guided plant walks.
- We have a 5 page plant list come and see how many you can find. Bring binoculars if you want to look at birds too. Walks will start:
 - 3 PM - Longer — out towards McAllister Creek.
 - 3:30 PM - Medium — along the riparian areas near the Nisqually River.
 - 4 PM - Shorter — out by fresh water riparian areas
 - 4:45 PM - Cookies and sharing at Environmental Education Center
 - 5 PM a talk about the refuge by Davy Clark, Education Program Manager for refuge at Environmental Education Center



Visit: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Billy_Frank_Jr_Nisqually/visit/plan_your_visit.html for fees and driving directions. No entry fee if you have an approved pass.

September 2019

October 2019

Wednesday, October 9 (Tacoma), Ellen King-Rice

Jewels in the Forest

Ms King-Rice's presentation, *Jewels in the Forest* is; a colorful introduction to lichens, mushrooms and mosses of the Pacific Northwest. Ellen King Rice is the author of *Undergrowth* and *The EvoAngel*. She is also a former wildlife biologist and a sub-cellular fungal fanatic. Come and enjoy this different world.

Monday, October 14 (Olympia), Ellen King-Rice

Jewels in the Forest

See above

November 2019

Monday, November 11 (Olympia). Jon Bakker

Prairies of Western Washington

Our Western Washington prairies are one of our most threatened ecological systems but a botanical treasure. Join Jon for a presentation on these prairies of Western Washington. Jon Bakker is a Rachel A. Woods Professor at the University of Washington School of Environmental and Forest Sciences.

Wednesday, November 13 (Tacoma), Donovan Tracy

The Mopheads of Mount Rainier, a Photographic Study of Anemone occidentalis

This talk will focus on the Western Anemone/Pasqueflower, a very popular flower, primarily because of the wonderful curious mopheads when it goes to seed. Donovan is a volunteer with the UW Herbarium, and co-author of the wildflower guide *Alpine Flowers of Mt. Rainier* with David Giblin, the herbarium's collection manager. He developed and maintains the website *Flowers of Rainier* (www.flowersofrainier.com) which features over 250 species and 10 wildflower hikes.



Dec. 2019



Monday, December 9 (Olympia)

Join us to celebrate the holidays with a joint Olympia/Tacoma meeting featuring presentations of members travels and plant adventures in 2019. Share your favorite hors d'oeuvre, fellowship and door prizes.

January 2020

Wednesday, January 8 (Tacoma), Gary Chastagner

Sudden Oak Death

Dr. Chastagner will discuss the threat of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) to Washington's plants. Gary Chastagner is a WSU - Puyallup, Plant Pathologist & Extension Specialist.



Monday, January 13 (Olympia), Joe Rocchio

Bogs

One of the most fascinating features of Western Washington are our remaining bogs. Joe will discuss their fate, "Hanging on a Thread: The Precarious Nature of Washington's Bogs in the Face of Natural Succession, Climate Change, and Human Stressors." Joe is the senior vegetation ecologist for the Washington Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program.

Fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), a Beneficial Native Plant

by Reba Van Anandel

Years ago, I observed that bees abundantly visit snowberry blossoms; there are a large patch and three smaller patches of snowberry in my yard. Since then, a small batch of native fireweed started in my yard and expanded to three other patches, one of which is very near my chair on the deck. Observing the bees and hummingbirds that visit fireweed has been exceptionally delightful this year.

Besides being drawn to fireweed blossoms, mason bees also nest in the dried stems; so, they and other bees were the visitors to the blossoms, as well as hummingbirds and an occasional butterfly. Fireweed plants develop long stalks that gradually produce blossoms, and later seeds, from bottom to top. They bloom for about six weeks, followed by more weeks of releasing fluffy seeds into the air. With tall stalks they tend to bed over, even some to the ground with the weight of their blossoms. As the seeds develop and fly, bees still visit the last blossom on each stalk.



A Note for the Political Season

We are in an extremely contentious political time. As citizens, you have every right to hold and advocate for your political and social views. For legal reasons, however, there needs to be a bright line between personal views and Washington Native Plant Society's views. As the political season heats up, it is particularly important to understand that line.

The Washington Native Plant Society is a Washington State non-profit corporation, and a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code. In general, 501(c)(3) status allows donors to deduct money donated as charitable contributions. As a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, WNPS operates under strict limitations concerning involvement in political campaigns. WNPS cannot, directly or indirectly, become involved in campaigns for political office, or endorse, directly or indirectly, candidates for political office, whether they are partisan or non-partisan offices. As such, WNPS volunteers may not wear or display political insignia such as buttons, relating to campaigns for office, while on WNPS business or at any event, such as a tabling event, where you are representing WNPS. Volunteers may not answer questions about candidates for office while on WNPS business or representing WNPS. During political campaigns, you may get questions about which candidates the public should support. Those questions cannot be answered while a you are doing WNPS business or representing WNPS.

If a 501(c)(3) organization becomes involved in a political campaign in a manner that violates federal law, that organization can lose its tax-exempt status, a very serious consequence. This is why these issues are so important.

WNPS can, however, become involved in issue campaigns, such as initiatives or referenda, and engage in lobbying relating to issues that are consistent with its goals and objectives, and mission. WNPS does take positions on various initiatives and referenda for policy issues from time to time. Many of these are handled by the Conservation Committee and approved by the WNPS State Board's Executive Committee. If as a volunteer, you are asked about the WNPS position on any such issue where the WNPS has taken a position, the WNPS position can be discussed as a WNPS position.

The WNPS Conservation Committee manages the advocacy arm of the Washington Native Plant Society, and carefully researches each topic it responds to by letter. A FAQ sheet is built and shared with those making approval decisions. All letters are posted on the WNPS website and are available for public view. <https://wnps.org/advocacy-reports>. This page does include an interest form, where members can post issues of concern for the Conservation Committee to review. The Committee is comprised of members from many chapters around the state. The South Sound Chapter is currently represented by Cheryl Fultz, who can bring issues to the committee's attention also.



Volunteer Opportunites

One of our goals as a chapter is to give a wide variety of opportunities for members to get involved in something that gives them satisfaction and enjoyment. This coming year, we will have a wide variety of such things. Watch the Monthly Updates for details.

Building a Land Ethic by Gail Trotter

I have been thinking about how generations pass down their land ethic. I look at my own life and see how Washington Native Plant Society members have impacted my ideas on how to treat the world that sustains me. I am forever grateful and always learning. For the past few years, I have been observing a family of Osprey. They have been nesting on a platform built to keep them off the power lines. Each year the nest gets attention, chicks are fed and then fledge. There is a younger pair an to the area that seem to be working on how they set up house, no chicks yet but maybe next year. While it might not be called an ethic, it is the Osprey's continued practices that bring hope for the Osprey future. The other day I set with a dairy farmer that has taken over the family farm that has, for many generations, preserved the native plants, including the threatened Kincaid's lupine, on their valley farm. What an impact that family has made with their land ethic which has been passed down to each generation.



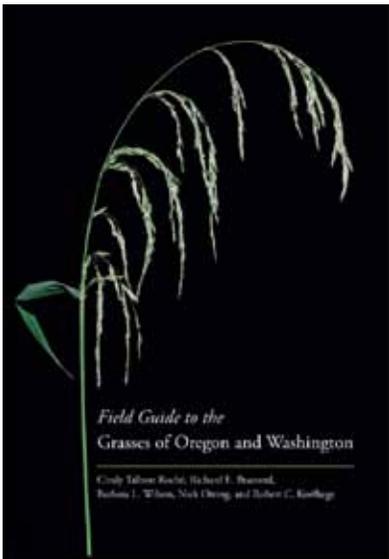
I have been enjoying a recent book, *Saving Tarboo Creek - One Family's Quest to Heal the Land* by Scott Freeman. It is about one family's multigenerational experiences passing down their land ethic and restoration practices. It was so insightful how they address current issues and think through options using their land ethic as guidance to make decisions. Do you have engagements with family or friends which act on your land ethic? Please share those stories with me.

Looking forward to seeing you this Fall. Hope you can help at the WNPS booth at the State Fair and Plant Sale this September. Let me know if you would like to volunteer. Gail Trotter chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Native Plant Resources

***Field Guide to the Grasses of Oregon and Washington* by Cindy Talbort Roche, Richard Brainerd, Barbara L Wilson, Nick Otting and Robert C. Korfhage; Oregon State University Press, 2019, \$35.00.**

If you are like me and find identifying grasses a huge challenge, this new field guide is for you. It provide an illustrated guide to 376 species, subspecies and varieties of both native and introduced species of grasses growing wild in Oregon and Washington. The key is well done, the maps of where the varieties have been reported are very helpful and photography is exceptional. You can expect a much more detailed review in Douglasia at some point but for now, look at it an enjoy. It is an outstanding piece of work by some of the best grass specialists in the Pacific Northwest.



Plant and Seed Sales

Fall Native Plant Sale

Our Fall Native Plant sale this year will be on Saturday, September 28, from 9 am - 2 pm. At the Lord Mansion Coach House, 211 21st Ave SW, in Olympia. Again this year, we anticipate having a good and diverse selection of native plants for your garden or project. Fall is the best time for planting as the winter rains help the plants get established for your Spring enjoyment. We will try to have a list of the plants (not always complete) on the website a few days prior to the sale. If there are special plants you would like us to look for as we make purchases, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net. Come early for the best selection. Volunteers are always welcome for the set up on Friday, September 27 and for the sale on the 28th.

Central Puget Sound Chapter Fall Native Sale

The Central Puget Sound Chapter's Fall Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, September 21 at the Mountaineer's Goodman Room, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 from 10 am until 4 pm. WNPS members can shop from 9-10 for the best selection. Watch the CPS website for a list of available plants.

Tacoma Nature Center, Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 9 am-2 pm. A list of plants will be posted on TNC's website, by 1 pm the day prior to the sale. Come early for best selection.

Did you know...

WNPS memberships expire on June 30, not your initial join date.

Your expiration date is printed on the label of the latest *Douglasia*.

Not sure whether you renewed? Email the office at info@wnps.org, or phone to 206-527-3210.

You may renew online at www.wnps.org/store-membership/membership

Renew by September 30 to be included in the computation of rebates for chapter funding.

You may pay by check. Print out and complete the form and send it with your check to:

WNPS
6310 NE 74th St. #215A
Seattle WA 98115

Hikes and Field Trips

Chapter members continue to work on arranging hikes and other native plant walks. These are announced our website and in the monthly updates. If you have a favorite hike you would like to share and lead, please contact Cyndy Dillon at cpdillongh@comcast.net Cyndy has done an outstanding job arranging hikes in almost every month of the year.



Native plant hikes are a great way to learn more about our wonderful flora and to enjoy the company of other plant enthusiasts. We also try to recommend hikes you can do on your own. If you enjoy having plant lists to check your skill, go to the WNPS website's plant lists <https://tinyurl.com/d7ve59z>

New Members and Membership Renewal

We want to welcome new members to the South Sound Chapter: Rick Always, Jeannette Barecca, Mary Beck, Janice Boase and Michael P. Rose, Nancy Brennan-Dubbs, Michael and Kristen Chu, Margaret Cook, Shephanie Eckard, Wendy Eisler, Brendan Haigh, Christine Hernandez, Michelle Horkings-Bingham, Barbara Knapp, Kira Kranzler, Thomas Larson, Scott Markowitz, Sean and Allison McManus, Brianna McTeague, Joanie McWilliams, Doug Murphy, Christine Neumiller, Michelle Regan, Pamela Renton, Sally Richardson, Gina Smith, Mary-Margaret Soares, Steven Sortais, Janell Spirup, Jessica Stone, Chi Tran, Susan Waters, and Paul M. and Deborah L. Weisdepp.

WNPS relies on member support to pursue its mission to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's Native Plants.

Chapter & State Contacts

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Secretary – Allan Borden
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Treasurer – Rita Hummel
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Immediate Past Chair – Bill Brookreson
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Chapter Botanist – Vacant
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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.

WNPS 2020 Native Plant Calendars will arrive in September. Still only \$10. It makes a great holiday gift. They will be available at the plant sale and chapter meetings.



2020 Calendar



Washington Native Plant Society