



The Acorn

Serving the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society Summer 2012

Celebrating Native Plants, 2012

It was about 8½ years ago that a group of WNPS members were sitting around and got into a discussion of how we might bring more public attention to Washington's native plants and their habitats. From that grew the idea for Native Plant Appreciation Week (NPAW). It was also a chance to make the public aware of the work of WNPS. We found a number of state and federal agencies, NGO's and nurseries that wanted to be involved too. Governor Gary Locke signed the proclamation and Native Plant Appreciation Week was born. This year, Governor Chris Gregoire proclaimed April 29 - May 5, 2012 as Washington's eighth "Native Plant Appreciation Week."

The amount of activity has fluctuated over the years, especially as budgets have been cut in government agencies and our own budget has had challenges. In spite of that, we have seen a very large number of

programs, hikes and other events across the state to celebrate NPAW. Our chapter's activities are detailed in the April Monthly Update and more have been added in this newsletter. Sometimes it seems like a lot of extra work every spring, until we go outside and see what we are celebrating. When we see the Indian plum's blooms announcing spring, when we see the western trillium pushing its delicate flower above ground, the flowering red currant's glorious bloom, the Oregon grape's yellow glory, we cannot help but celebrate. Every day when we go outside, it seems like a new cause for celebration as yet another plant pops up or flower appears.

We live in one of the world's most beautiful areas with a glorious flora. We hope you take advantage of some of the NPAW activities to celebrate. We thank those who led activities. We also hope that this is a reminder to celebrate our native flora for the other fifty-one weeks too!



Red flowering currant



Western trillium

Other South Sound Chapter Activities

Spring Plant Sale: Spring's WNPS South Sound Native Plant Sale, Saturday, April 28, may be imminent or over by the time this issue is received. The sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Capital Museum Coach House, 211 21st Avenue SW, Olympia. We will have a fine selection of native plants. All proceeds benefit chapter activities.

Grant Policy: The plant sale proceeds have given the South Sound Chapter the ability to look at new ways to support our community. The Executive Board, at its March meeting, began the consideration of a grant policy which would provide small monetary grants for worthwhile projects in the community that are consistent with WNPS goals. We hope to have the policy finalized in the near future.

Restoration Projects: The chapter members are continuing to work on a number of restoration projects in Olympia and Tacoma. The Woodland Trail site restoration has reached a maintenance level. We will go back on a quarterly basis to deal with any invasive regrowth. Our next event will be Thursday, May 3, starting at 9 am with site tours from 10-11 am. For more information, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net. The Tacoma Nature Center restoration work will continue on the first and third Fridays of each month from 9 am - noon. For more information or to volunteer, contact Cyndy Dillon at cpdillongh@comcast.net. We are also starting restoration work on the Native Plant Display Garden at the Capital Museum. To get on that contact list, contact Bill Brookreson.

Workshops and Conferences

2012 Urban Forest Symposium Monday, May 14, 2012, 9 am to 4 pm

The UW Botanic Gardens, Washington State DNR, USDA Forest Service, Northwest Horticultural Society and King County are sponsoring the Fourth Annual Urban Forestry Symposium, "Mobilizing Volunteers." The symposium is aimed at groups whose work is mobilizing volunteer planting and care for urban forests. The keynote speaker will be a renowned grassroots organizer, Andy Lupkis, founder of the Tree People of Los Angeles. There will be concurrent sessions on engaging volunteers and planting projects followed by a panel discussion on fundraising and finance strategies. The symposium will be held at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 North 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98105. Cost is \$45 per person. To register, contact Jean Robbins at 206-685-8033 or www.uwbotanicgardens.org.

Green Tacoma Partnership and Forterra "Habitat Steward Orientation" Saturday, June 16, 10:30 am-4 pm

Want to get more involved in restoration? Habitat Stewards are dedicated volunteers who are highly involved in planning and coordinating restoration in their local open spaces. They receive special training and resources, which means no prior experience necessary, only a desire to help restore our natural areas! Program staff will work with each Steward to create their restoration plan for their site of choice and provide the resources to organize volunteer events and carry out restoration goals. Forterra will also provide continued education trainings on subjects such as plant identification, site management plan creation, and running large restoration events. This event will be held at the Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 South Tyler Street, Tacoma. Watch <http://tinyurl.com/89p9wjrk> for details and sign up.

Native Plant Salvage Foundation Events.

Native Plant Salvage Foundation events require registration. You may e-mail them at nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com or call 360-867-2166 if you have any questions about signing up or visit their website at <http://tinyurl.com/6sr5x5j>

- **Saturday, May 5, 2012; 10 am - 5 pm.** Naturescaping for Water and Wildlife Field Class: Learn about water-wise home landscaping
- **Saturday, June 9, 2012; 10 am - 4 pm.** Meet the Trees of Washington Field Class. Learn about the wonders of our lowland native forests as well as other South Sound ecosystems. Learn hands-on plant identification of native trees, shrubs, ferns and flowers.

Native Plant Study Weekend 2012 “Ridges and Ravines- Columbia Basin Study Weekend” June 29-July 1, 2012

The Columbia Basin Chapter and its Walla Walla membership invite you to the 2012 study weekend June 29-July 1, in Walla Walla. Explore the unique and diverse habitats and abundant native plants in the far southeastern corner of the state, from sagebrush drylands to Palouse foothills and on into the Blue Mountains. The chapter has arranged a selection of fifteen Saturday and thirteen Sunday field trips (whole and half day).

Study weekend will feature two excellent evening speakers. Friday will feature, Joan Frazee, US Forest Service Botanist and a former state chair of WNPS, speaking on “Botanical Highlights of the Umatilla National Forest.” Saturday will feature Dr. Tim Parker, Whitman College, speaking on “Conservation in the Face of Climate Change.” A new feature this year will be five one-hour Saturday morning workshops prior to the field trips: “Wildflower Sketching” with Jean Ann Mitchell; “Pressing Plants” with Heidi Dobson; “In Step with David Douglas” with Gary Lentz; “Geology of the Walla Walla Watershed” with Nick Bader; and “Forest Restoration After Fire and the Use of Native Plants” with Del Groat.

Whitman College will be the home base, providing meals, workshop locations, and housing for 140 people. For those preferring to stay off-campus, there are local motels and hotels in Walla Walla, as well as camping at Lewis and Clark Trail State Park, 25 miles from Walla Walla. For those wanting to enjoy more of the area, it is well known for excellent wines and beautiful vineyards. For more details visit <http://tinyurl.com/6qrfyfx>.



Botany Washington 2012 “Explore the Wenatchee Mountains and Beyond” July 6-8, 2012

This year Botany Washington is being co-sponsored by WNPS and the University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum. It will provide an outstanding opportunity for participants of all levels of botanical skill to explore the rich diversity of Central Washington’s flora across a range of elevations through three tracks of field study.

In the “Taxonomic Study” track, participants will be studying *Castilleja* on Colockum Pass with Mark Egger on Saturday and *Eriogonum* on Table Mountain with Pam Camp on Sunday. Participants in this track will need to have botanical and/or professional backgrounds and wish to improve their knowledge and understanding of specific taxonomic groups with botanical experts on these groups. In the “Keying with Hitchcock” track, you will join others who wish to hone their technical keying skills using the Flora of the Pacific Northwest led by an accomplished botanist who will provide expert guidance as you identify species unknown to you by working through Hitchcock’s technical keys. In this track, you need to have basic knowledge of botanical terminology and basic keying skills utilizing the *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* or another comparable technical flora. The “Central Washington Wildflowers” track is more for the non-specialist interested in exploring the native flora of different regions in Washington in a more informal setting. It will include field trips on Saturday and Sunday to areas of local floral interest with botanists knowledgeable about the local flora. There will be two excellent evening programs as well.

Base Camp will be the Lazy F Camp situated on 110 acres of mixed forest in the Manastash Canyon of the eastern Cascade foothills near Ellensburg. Accommodations are rustic and will be dormitory style. We have reserved three cabins and a lodge that will accommodate up to 40 individuals. Participants will bring their own sleeping bags and other weekend essentials for a camp experience. Six meals including Friday and Saturday evening’s dinner, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, and Saturday and Sunday sack lunches will be provided and are included as part of the Botany Washington package. General questions should be referred to Catherine Hovanic or contact WNPS office at 206-527-3210, 1-888-288-8022 (toll free in Washington) or visit <http://tinyurl.com/83fu7de>.

Educational Grant Applications due by May 15.

Persons seeking WNPS Educational Grants are reminded that all applications are due no later than May 15 at the WNPS office. Requirements and detailed instructions may be found at <http://tinyurl.com/88kxz4w>. Information on Conservation Grants and Research Grants is also available on the WNPS website home page.

Enjoying Picturesque Plant Hikes By Cyndy Dillon

This year WNPS South Sound Chapter is expanding our offering of native plant hikes to share our enthusiasm in identifying plants with members and the public. We started off with a walk in Gig Harbor at the McCormick Forest on Sunday, March 18, which seven attended. Carol Smith and I joined State Master Gardener of 2011, Jan Pittman, to lead the group about two miles through the dense salal, evergreen huckleberry and low Oregon grape thickets; down a steep, muddy path, across a bridge over McCormick Creek; then back up the hill, encircling a grove of old growth Douglas fir and western red cedar.

Red elderberry, salmonberry, cascara and red flowering currant were just leafing out, but the Indian plum blossoms and leaves were well along. Carol pointed out devil's club, northwestern twayblade, coralroot, lush patches of rattlesnake plantain and spent Indian pipes to expand the McCormick Forest plant list. Jan showed us where to locate deer and lady ferns and Vancouver groundcone, as well as describing native plant diseases, including the huckleberry/fir rust cycle and salal fungi. Bill Brookreson found

pathfinder and discussed native plant landscaping with new members Sonia and Robert Cole. Prescient Lois Sweany was musing that she wanted to find some more wild ginger, introduced to her earlier on the trail. Just seconds later she rounded a bend and found a nice patch. After 2 ½ hours, the group was ready to escape the wet cold, but we are anxious to return again to identify a few plants that stumped us.

Beginning in Late April, we will have a nice selection of hikes. Phyllis Sturges will lead a prairie hike April 29 and Jane Ostericher will tour Sehmel Homestead Heritage Garden on May 2. Bill Brookreson will lead a hike along the Lower South Fork Skokomish on May 5, and in June, Bill and Kathy Kravit-Smith will introduce us to Ashford County Park. All these provide great opportunities to hone your plant identification skills, learn about accessible new trails, meet fellow plant enthusiasts, spot invasives to report to park authorities and build those valuable plant lists. Please let us know if you have a favorite trail to share with others. One just can't get enough strolls through our wonderful forests.

Native Plant Resources

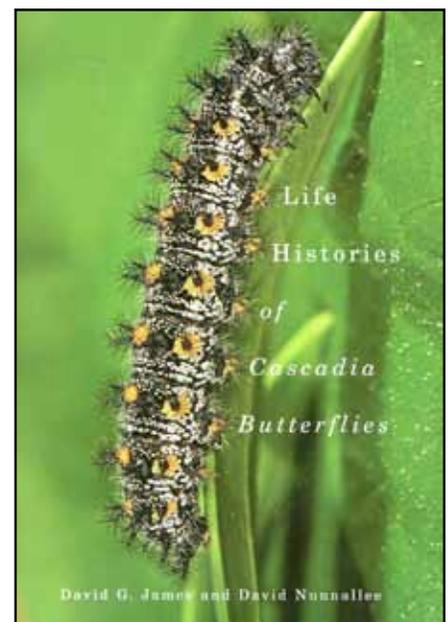
Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies

by David James and David Nunnallee, Oregon State University Press, 2011, \$35.

Those of us who attended the 2011 Native Plant Weekend in Winthrop had the pleasure of hearing David Nunnallee give a presentation on the life histories of butterflies, see some of his remarkable photography, and hear about his (and David James) upcoming book, *Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies*. That remarkable book is now available not only for the dedicated lepidopterist but also for every nature lover that has marveled at northwest butterflies and the plants with which they have co-evolved.

The book is the result of a decade-long effort by David James, an associate professor of entomology at Washington State University, and Seattle's David Nunnallee, co-founder of the Washington Butterfly Association and a remarkable photographer. Virtually all of the 158 butterfly species occurring in southern British Columbia, Washington, northern Idaho, and northern Oregon are included in the book. Each includes color photographs of each stage of life—egg, every larval instar, pupa, and adult accompany text covering adult biology, immature stage biology, description of immature stages, and discussion of each species including its plant habitat. As David James noted, "Such detailed coverage of a regional butterfly fauna has not been published in North America or Europe, so it's a unique book."

An interesting conversation with David James about the project may be seen at EarthFix Conversations: Photographing the Northwest's Butterflies, on the NPR website at <http://tinyurl.com/6ndrl9n>. David Nunnallee will be appearing as a part of the Central Puget Sound Chapter's Native Plant Appreciation Week activities, Thursday, May 3, 7 pm, at the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. The meeting is open to all.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Committee Report By Cyndy Dillon.

Already in 2012, thanks to John Neorr's assiduous planning and innovative ideas, we have enjoyed several fascinating presentations in Olympia and Tacoma, including an informative Washington Conservation Corps talk by member Luis Yaniz. The plant sale committee is making good progress toward the April 28 spring sale in Olympia, particularly with Bill Brookreson's tireless, all-weather salvage expeditions and Bonnie's coordination with nurseries. Our work parties at Tacoma Nature Center and on the Olympia Woodland Trail have been very productive. Coming soon will be an opportunity to renovate the Coach House native plant beds.

Bill, Lee Fellenberg, Reba Olsen and Mary & Margaret keep us well-informed through timely newsletters and updates. Additionally, we are developing a volunteer database to facilitate contact of volunteers from previous events and to accurately track labor contributions of our involved members. Don't hesitate to ask to be added to volunteer email distribution lists for upcoming events from Native Plant Week (April 29–May 5) through the end of the year, if you can help.

More Plant and Seed Sales

Central Puget Sound Chapter's Annual Spring Plant Sale

Held on Saturday, May 12, at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St, Bellevue, the sale, this year will be open to WNPS members at 9 am and to the general public at 10 am - 4 pm. The CPS Chapter's annual Spring Plant Sale always has an outstanding selection of native trees, shrubs and other native plants. This year, they promise over 100 species including ground covers, perennials, shrubs and trees that are ideal for our ecology. Botanical and Gardening books will be for sale and WNPS experts will be available to answer questions. Information: www.wnps.org, 206-527-3210, lindaellis@wnps.org. Shoppers are asked to bring their own boxes or trays.

Prairie Appreciation Day, Saturday, May 12, 2012

Prairie Appreciation Day offers not only an opportunity to enjoy our wonderful South Sound prairies but also an opportunity to volunteer. The annual event is held on Glacial Heritage Preserve in Thurston County. If you wish to volunteer for Prairie Appreciation Day we would like at least a half-day commitment. Please contact Marion Jarisch, PAD Volunteer Coordinator at marionjarisch@comcast.net. It's a great opportunity to enjoy South Sound's wonderful prairies. More information is available at <http://www.southsoundprairies.org/>

South Sound Prairie Restoration

You are invited to join the Center for Natural Lands Management at Glacial Heritage Preserve to help enhance the South Puget Sound prairies. The prairies are a rare ecosystem which historically extended from south Tacoma all the way to the Chehalis River drainage. Join us by helping in a variety of activities including: removing invasive scotch broom, cleaning seeds, fixing and installing habitat boxes, collecting native seeds, and planting native plants. You can learn about the dynamic restoration process, and how to identify native prairie species. We meet every Tuesday from 9am-3pm and every second Saturday of the month from 10am-3pm. No experience necessary! Contact ssvolunteers@cnlm.org for more information, or call (360) 570-0762.

Chapter Meetings

Because plant lovers like to botanize while the days are long, chapter meetings are not scheduled during summer months (June-August). The fall meetings will be announced in our next addition of the Acorn newsletter, arriving in September. Meetings are normally scheduled on the second Monday in Olympia of each month from October through May and the second Wednesday in Tacoma. Starting at 7 pm, each meeting consists of a quick review of local items and announcements, and a presentation lasting approximately an hour. Again this year we will have a special September "Kickoff Meeting" at a central location. Watch for details in the Fall 2012 newsletter.

All chapter programs are geared for all levels of botanical knowledge. Unless otherwise noted, 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. We hope to see you (and your guests) at future gatherings! Have a good summer botanizing.

A 20th CENTURY HEROINE, A Celebrator Note Marking the 50th Anniversary of the Publishing of Rachael Carson's "Silent Spring" By Helen Engle

The last century's undeniable heroine was a small, unassuming naturalist and science writer by the name of Rachel Carson. She had a remarkable ability to write poetic and lyrical prose that enchanted the public. As a longtime, experienced marine biologist she wrote *Under the Sea Wind*, *The Sea Around Us*, and *The Edge of the Sea*. *The Sea Around Us* was on the national best-seller lists for 86 weeks, in 39 of which it was in first place. She was promoted to Editor-in-chief of the US Fish & Wildlife Service publications, reports, and scientific studies.

As a well-known and popular author she became a prophet of almost biblical proportions with her publication of *Silent Spring* in 1962.

The opening chapter of the book describes how an entire area could be destroyed by indiscriminate spraying of poisonous chemicals. She called for public awareness of what was happening and care and restraint with regard to the use of toxic chemicals. Her book provoked an immediate response by some of the most powerful interest groups in the nation including the wealthy chemical industry and the farm bloc. She was attacked and accused of doing "shoddy" research and of allowing her moral fervor to skew what should have been unbiased science.

But not once in the 50 years since publication of *Silent Spring*, have any of Rachel Carson's fifty-five pages of documentation of the scientific studies referenced in the book, been found incorrect or exaggerated.

Rachel Carson said, "The sprays, dusts and aerosols are now applied almost universally to farms, gardens, forests and homes – non-selective chemicals that have the power to kill every insect, the good and the bad, to still the song of birds and the leaping of fish in the streams – to coat the leaves with a deadly film and to linger on in soil – all this, though the intended target may be only a few weeds or insects. Can anyone believe it is possible to lay down such a barrage of poisons on the surface of the earth without making it unfit for all life? They should not be called 'insecticides,' but 'biocides'."

Rachel Carson had a demure, lady-like demeanor, but she is credited as a spark that launched the modern environmental movement. Her courageous work gave voice to a growing network of conservationists, scientists, and concerned citizens who came together in the 1970s as a strong environmental movement.

Fast forward to today. Five billion pounds of pesticides are used every year in the United States – that's about 16 pounds per person. In the years since the publication of *Silent Spring* thousands of new chemicals have been introduced into the environment, often without adequate review for toxicity. We learn that everywhere on the planet the water, the air and its very earth reveals contamination with manmade chemicals. Do you believe there will be no impact on our native flora and fauna? The lessons of *Silent Spring*, fifty years old, are still pertinent.



Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.

Rachel Carson

Hikes and Field Trips

West Rocky Prairie Walk

Sunday, April 29, 2012.

To celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Week, join Phyllis Sturges for a hike in Thurston County to a less well-known prairie, West Rocky Creek. Enjoy the spring blooms in the meadows and in a beautiful Garry oak woodland where there are wonderful birds. This prairie, located near Maytown, is managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The pocket gopher is a special focus for research and protection; and there are research plots for native plants, including the golden paintbrush. Twenty-five prairie species have been identified on WDFW and port property. Federal- and state-threatened water *Howellia* (*Howellia aquatilis*) and federal species of concern/state-sensitive water-top aster (*Aster curtus*) are located on the WDFW managed area. A three-page plant list for West Rocky Prairie listing 116 species can be downloaded from the WNPS website <http://tinyurl.com/7s7rnux>

In order to access the prairie there is a mile-long walk on a gravel road that is usually closed to vehicles. We will hike 3-5 miles. Meet at 10 am in Olympia to car pool. Bring a lunch, water and rain gear (if needed). This hike is open to the first fifteen people who sign up. Call 360-438-5752 or email psturges@comcast.net.

Sehmel Homestead Park Heritage Garden

Guided Tour, May 2, 2012, 10 am

Join Jane Ostericher for a guided tour of the Sehmel Homestead Heritage Garden in Gig Harbor. The Heritage Garden is a project of the Pierce County Master Gardeners. The Sehmel Farm dates back to a land grant in 1891 and was actively farmed until the 1990s when efforts began to preserve the site for future generations. Master gardeners began work on the Heritage Garden in 2007. The Heritage Garden is a mix of native plants, many supplied by the Master Gardeners, and nearly 50 varieties of mature rhododendrons. You can expect to see many spring favorites including *Ribes sanguinum* (red-flowering currant), *Trillium ovatum* (Pacific trillium); *Amelanchier alnifolia* (serviceberry), and *Dicentra formosa* (Pacific bleeding heart). A native plant key will be available for the tour. After the tour, you can also visit the Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden and the three miles of trails in the seventy acres of natural area

that the park contains. Meet at the garden entrance.

The park is located at 10123 78th Ave NW (78th Ave NW & Sehmel Rd) in Gig Harbor. From I-16 west bound, take the Burnham Dr. NW exit; take the fifth exit out of the first (east) traffic circle, cross back over route 16 and take the second exit out of the second (west) traffic circle. After going two miles on Sehmel Dr. and turning left onto 78th Ave, you need to go about 100 yards and turn left into the park. Once in the park, drive down the hill to the stop sign, turn right and park near the woods at the entrance to the Heritage Garden.



In the South Skokomish old growth

South Fork Skokomish Trail, May 5, 2012

Celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Week with a walk-in-the-woods along the Lower South Fork Skokomish Trail # 873 in the Olympic National Forest in Mason County northwest of Hoodspport with Bill Brookreson. The trail meanders through majestic old growth forest along the South Fork Skokomish River for 15 miles to the Park boundary. It passes through a fine example of Hemlock/Douglas fir forest northwest of Hoodspport. Besides the abundant native flora, there is a chance to see native deer and elk herds.

The entire trail is 10.3 miles long and ties in to the Upper South Fork Trail about .3 miles northwest of Harps Shelter. We will go for about two hours and return. The trail's beginning elevation is 800 feet and the high point is 1250 feet so snow should not be an issue. The trail is considered of "moderate" difficulty.

Hikes and Field Trips, continued

I would recommend good hiking boots and poles or walking sticks. There is a small creek to cross. The trail is maintained annually and is in good condition.

To get there, travel six miles north of Shelton on Highway 101 and turn west on the Skokomish Valley Road. Continue five miles to FS Road #23. Turn right and continue for nine miles to FS Road #2353. Turn right onto FS Road #2353 and drive one mile to the trailhead. A Pass is REQUIRED to park at trailhead. We will car pool from the park and ride near the Martin Way exit on I-5 departing at 9:30. For those interested, we will have a group meal at the end of the hike at Taylor's Station restaurant on the return.

Bring your Pojar and camera. Attendance is limited to first 12. Contact Bill Brookreson at 253-564-1137 or b.brookreson@comcast.net to sign up.

Ashford County Park Walk, Survey and Picnic June 2, 2012

Join Bill Brookreson and Kathy Kravit-Smith, Director of Pierce County Parks and Recreation, for a tour of one of the newest County Parks in Ashford on June 2, 2012. Ashford County Park is located along SR 706 just minutes from Mt. Rainier National Park. The park is 30 acres with 1.2 miles of trails, mostly paved with permeable asphalt. The trail honors Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Kent Mundell who was killed in the line of duty.

As part of the development of this delightful park, Pierce County Parks and Recreation has plans for signage for the native plants in the park. We have a tentative list from a fall survey but we would like to complete that list in the Spring. Bring your Pojar, Hitchcock and other identification tools. We will have prizes for those who participate and enjoy a picnic lunch together.

We will depart from the Park and Ride on South Tacoma Way, just south of the Hwy 512 intersection at 9 am and carpool as much as possible.

Black Lake Meadows Loop Trail By Regina Johnson

Black Lake Meadows is a constructed stormwater detention pond built operated by the City of Olympia as the final settling pond for stormwater from the commercial development in the Capital Mall area and Yauger Park. From there, stormwater flows into Black Lake Ditch through a culvert under the loop trail. Black Lake Ditch was dug to drain the wetlands back in the 1930s. It flows out of Black Lake from the north, into Percival Creek and into the Deschutes River at Capitol Lake. Black Lake also drains to the south, through the Black River, into the Chehalis and on to Grays Harbor, making Black Lake one of those rare water bodies that drains in two directions.

The Loop Trail is about a mile long and completely flat. I have been using this as a dog walking trail for a few years and have seen numerous changes. Originally, there was only a stub of a gravel road, and a few hardy souls would trudge through tall grass along the dike separating the stormwater pond from Black Lake Ditch improvising a loop. There was a bird blind overlooking out over the pond, but as the willows grew homeless people moved in and the bird blind was removed. Birds are still numerous, especially in the March-June nesting period.

The city brought in inmate crews to improve the parking area, to finish a rock road all the way around the pond and to add plantings. Unfortunately, the road, which cuts across the pond, floods in high runoff events because of a woefully undersized culvert. Some of the rock surface is somewhat rough so good shoes are recommended. My advice during wet weather, if you're not prepared to wade through a few inches of water, is to do the loop counterclockwise so you find out right away if it's flooded or not.

Many of the woody species are planted. I would say all of the spruce, pine, hemlock, ninebark, swamp rose and twinberry are planted. The maples and ashes are likely original. There is one yew, not planted, on your right just as you walk around the gate at the entrance. There's also just one birch, of undetermined species, growing out of a decomposing conifer stump on the left just before the loop splits. I think I saw the native grass *Danthonia californica* here last summer, so that would be something to keep a lookout for. The fill and rock brought in to finish the loop also introduced some interesting weeds that still need identifying—for instance the Bidens, impatiens, and some kind of lady's-thumb. We have a plant list available from b.brookreson@comcast.net.

There are a lot of wetland birds and waterfowl here. I have also seen beaver and otter and chinook salmon in the ditch. There are tree frogs, salamanders, coyotes, rabbits, hawks, etc. The trail is closed to dogs from March through June for bird nesting season. Olympia Stream Team hosts volunteer planting opportunities here if you if you want to get involved.

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Chapter Botanist – Vacant

Conservation Committee Chair - Vacant

Field Trip Committee Chair - Vacant

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www.southsoundchapterwnps.org

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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.



Hiking in the McCormick Woods