



The Acorn

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

Summer 2014

Spring Plant Sale 2014

It's spring and a gardener's fancy turns to thoughts of plants, many native plants. The South Sound Chapter kicked off Native Plant Appreciation Week in style with our Spring Native Plant Sale, Saturday, April 26. Our members and the community caught the spirit as we sold over \$6100 worth of native plants at our sale which realized almost \$2650 for chapter programs and activities. We got some unexpected weather cooperation - a beautiful day. Again this year, the sale was held at the Capital Museum Coach House in Olympia. After the sale, with leftover plants, the chapter donated plants to Quixote Village, which provides housing for a number of people in the community that would otherwise be homeless. The plants will provide native plant landscaping for the housing and is a part of the chapter's desire to return benefits to the community to thank the community for its support.



A special thanks, as always, goes out to wonderful volunteers without whom the sale could not happen: Sharon Berquist-Moody, Byrna Klavano, Dan and Pat Montague, Cyndy Dillon, John Neorr, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Don Guyot, Catherine Hovanic, Sue Butkus, Mary McGreevy, Reba Olsen, Jane Ostericher, Jane Ely, Bill Brookreson and last, but never least, Lee Fellenberg who expertly handles the money. What a pleasure it is to work with this group! Thanks also to those who donated plants and those who bought plants! It was a great day!

Native Plant Appreciation Week Observations

Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed April 27-May 3, 2014 as the 11th annual Native Plant Appreciation Week (NPAW). The week was a celebration of the amazing diversity of Washington's over 3000 native plant species that inhabit deserts, rain forests, high alpine environments, river valleys, and public and private landscaping.

Each year, there were a number of activities throughout the state to commemorate NPAW. The South Sound Chapter kicked off the 2014 celebration one day early with our Native Plant Sale where we had the chance to introduce our wonderful flora to happy buyers. We followed with several others activities.



Plants for Quixote Village

In response to a request from Quixote Village, with the concurrence of the Board, we donated a truckload of unsold plants from our plant sale to Quixote Village. Quixote Village grew from the vision of a self-governing tent camp of homeless adults in Olympia, Washington. The Village consists of thirty tiny cottages, a large vegetable garden and a community building that contains showers, laundry facilities, a communal kitchen and living and dining space. The village wants to landscape the area with native plants.

Miriam Lorch, Quixote Village Volunteer Coordinator, wrote to us, "Thanks so much for the many, many plants and trees that WNPS donated to Quixote Village. . . It really has impressed me how your donation has sparked their interest in gardening. Wonderful!"

Native Plant Appreciation Week Observations

Plant Walk Heritage Garden of Sehmel Homestead Park

On Wednesday, April 30 at 10 am, Jane Ostericher helped to celebrate “Washington Native Plant Awareness Week” by leading a guided walk through the Heritage Garden at Sehmel Homestead Park, Gig Harbor. It was a beautiful day with a small, but very appreciative group enjoying the native plants of the Heritage Garden.



Native Plant Display at the Gig Harbor Pierce County Library

On Monday, April 28, Jane Ostericher and Cyndy Dillon greeted 50 library patrons with a table of 10 native plants, including *Tellima grandiflora*, *Tolmeia menziesii*, *Tiarella trifoliata*, *Geum macrophyllum* and *Dicentra formosa* in bloom. They displayed Starflower descriptive cards, described advantages of native plants and referred people to the NPAW website for hikes, sales, work parties and educational events.



Capital Native Garden Work Party

On Thursday, May 1, Bill Brookreson and his volunteers weeded and planted a number of additional plants in the Native Plant Garden at the Capital Museum.

Tacoma Nature Center Work Party

On Friday, May 2, Cyndy Dillon and her volunteers joined Metro Park staff to plant, water and mulch several Western red cedar, Sitka spruce, pea fruit roses, vine maples, Douglas fir and viburnum along the southeast portion of the trail in open areas to prevent return of invasive Himalayan blackberry and ivy. A photo journalist recorded weeding and planting for a City of Destiny volunteer award to be presented May 28.

Volunteer Opportunities

We have a number of ongoing opportunities for volunteer activity.

The Tacoma Nature Center has work parties led by Cyndy Dillon the first and third Fridays of the month from 9 am until noon. More details are available from Cyndy at cpdillongh@comcast.net.

The Center for Natural Lands Management at Glacial Heritage Preserve works to help enhance the

Immanuel Presbyterian Plant Swap

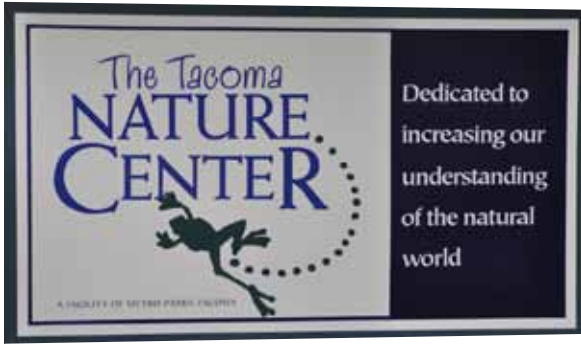
On Saturday, May 3 in spite of intermittent showers, a dozen people stopped by the WNPS SSC table displaying saxifrages to learn about planting with native plants and pick up NPAW cards for other local events. A few brought plants that they picked up at the exchange for identification, including red alder and Indian plum.

South Puget Sound Prairies. Work parties for are Tuesday from 9 am to 3 pm and the second Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. There are also opportunities for volunteer work at Shotwell's Landing Nursery on Friday's 9 am to 3 pm. Contact ssvolunteers@cnlm.org for more information, or call (360) 570-0762.

Watch the monthly updates and the South Sound website for other opportunities.

Other South Sound Chapter Activities

Tacoma Nature Center Stewards Honored

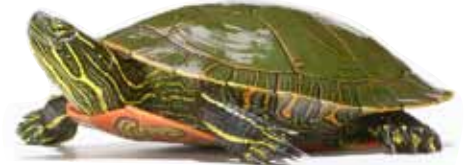


Mayor Marilyn Strickland and the Tacoma City Council will recognize Tacoma's top volunteers this year during the 28th annual City of Destiny Awards on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, from 6-9 pm. This year's event is being hosted at Cheney Stadium in partnership with United Way of Pierce County's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Tacoma Rainiers.

The City of Destiny Awards program is spearheaded by a City Council appointed City Events and Recognition Committee comprised of local community leaders from a broad array of backgrounds and areas of expertise. This committee develops the City of Destiny Awards nomination tools and selection criteria, selects the winners and plans the annual awards event.

This year, the Tacoma Nature Center Stewards, under the leadership of WNPS Native Plant Steward Cyndy Dillon will receive the award for Environmental Sustainability. Cyndy Dillon has led the volunteer efforts to remove invasives and plant native plants at the Snake Lake Nature Center since 2009.

This year's recognition, including a 5 pm reception in the Summit Club and a 6:15 pm on-the-field recognition ceremony, will precede the Tacoma Rainiers' May 28th game with the Salt Lake City Bees.



Flora of the Pacific Northwest

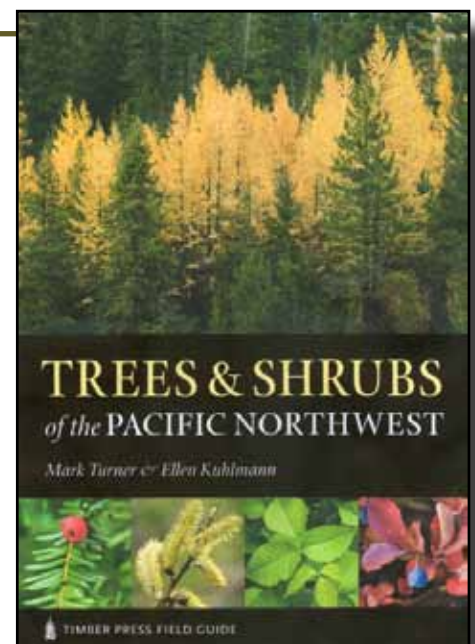
Since its publication in 1973, Hitchcock and Cronquist's *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* has been the canon for Washington botanists. Generations of students, researchers and other botanists have relied on "Hitchcock." The University of Washington Herbarium (WTU) at the Burke Museum has officially embarked on an update to the one-volume *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. Collections Manager David Giblin and Informatics Specialist Ben Legler are leading the project, and will be drawing upon the expertise of colleagues throughout the region for input and guidance. The goal is to deliver a draft of the book to the publisher by Fall 2016 for release in Spring 2017. The project is now fundraising to support the dedication of 50% of Ben Legler's time to the effort. Because of the importance of this project, the South Sound Chapter's board has allocated and sent a \$1000 donation to support this effort.

Native Plant Resources

Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest: Timber Press Field Guide, Mark Turner & Ellen Kuhlmann

If you, like me, really enjoyed and appreciated *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest* by Mark Turner and Phyllis Gustafson, you are looking forward to Mark's newest book, *Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest*. Timber Press describes the book as follows: "In *Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest*, Mark Turner and Ellen Kuhlman cover 568 species of woody plants that can be found in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and northern California. This comprehensive field guide features introductory chapters on the native landscape, plus entries that detail the family, scientific and common names, flowering seasons, and size of each plant. Each entry also includes color photographs of the plant's habitat and distinguishing characteristics, plus a range map.

Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest is for hikers, nature lovers, plant geeks, and anyone who wants to know more about and be able to identify the many plants of the Pacific Northwest. What it doesn't say is that Mark is an amazing photographer and Ellen an excellent writer. Together, the book should be a great addition to every WNPS member's library. I know it will be in mine.



Timber Press, 2014; \$27.95. Due to be released May 14, in stores June 1.

Other South Sound Chapter Activities

Grant Committee Report From John Neorr

Thanks to the revenue from our plant sales, six grants have been awarded since December 2012. These are in various stages. The New Market Skills Academy's Plant Demo Garden project, and the Center for Natural Lands Management school trips to Glacial Heritage have been completed. Nisqually Reach Nature Center's Nearshore Vegetation Demonstration Garden and the South Sound High School's Planting Native Plants in Existing School Garden projects are in progress and we are waiting for new progress reports. We had a great opportunity to help with the Centralia College Outdoor Club's China Creek Restoration Project for which we purchased about \$500 worth of plants from the King County Conservation District sale. The plants were delivered and planted on March 1. The China Creek project is an ongoing restoration and will serve as an "Outdoor Laboratory" for students for years to come. We have a report and pictures on our contribution. Finally, we have approved a grant of \$280 to Little Rock Elementary for a trip for students to Glacial Heritage in May, followed by native plant plantings at the school. Thanks to your generous support to our plant sales we can continue to return to the community as we look for more grant opportunities.



Education Committee Report From Jane Ostericher

The Education Committee met on February 6, 2014, and covered a number of topics relevant to the development of our educational activities. Bill Brookerson presented the Resource Boxes on which he has been working. There are two boxes of resource materials, one for primary and one for secondary teachers or other users. The boxes are still under development. Subsequently, Frank Knight and Jane Ostericher shared the boxes and other WNPS resources on the web with the Purdy Elementary Science specialists, Mathew Mills and Becky Pfifer who seemed quite enthused. They borrowed the boxes to review and share with their counterparts. The completed Resource Boxes should be available for Fall. Frank Knight is working on a lesson plan that will involve identifying and mapping native trees on school campuses and then using a multi-disciplinary approach

that would meet state learning targets/standards. He is in the process of contacting Project Learning Tree representatives in Washington State for guidance on this.

Jane is also seeking individuals to be part of a "speakers bureau." To assist potential speakers, we have prepared materials on native plant identification, native plant gardening, and ethnobotany. We also hope to prepare additional materials on South Sound prairies and shade gardens. John Neorr is working on making materials available online as well. We hope also to have an expanded educational web page. In addition, Jane is compiling a list of contacts with other environmental organizations to encourage expanded cooperation on common issues. The committee is also working with John Neorr to have short educational segments before program meetings. If you would like to get involved, contact Jane Ostericher at vicechair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org.

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" in DuPont. 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.

Rainforests and Rivers - Olympic Peninsula Study Weekend

This year's Native Plant Study Weekend, July 25-27, will be held at a familiar site. The base camp for Study Weekend 2014 will be at the NatureBridge learning center, on the shores of Lake Crescent. This is the same location as a decade ago—same beautiful lake, same beautiful place, and same access to the Olympic Peninsula flora. The managers have added a new building with a modern conference room, which will provide a superb venue for evening programs.

Due to the capacity of the NatureBridge facility, registration is limited to 120 people on a first-come, first-served basis so that the event filled early. Study Weekend is a great bargain. The full registration includes the registration fee, on-site lodging for two nights and six meals. Lodging will be in several cabins with three people per room, all in lower bunks. Meals include dinner on Friday and Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. No camping is allowed at NatureBridge. Olympic National Park's Fairholme Campground is seven

miles west of NatureBridge. WNPS will donate a portion of the registration fee to support the University of Washington Herbarium's revision of Hitchcock's seminal reference, *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*.

In addition to the many outstanding field trips, there are two excellent evening presenters. On Friday evening attendees will hear from Tim McNulty, one of Washington's finest naturalists and poets. McNulty is the author of *Olympic National Park: A Natural History*, which is now in its second edition. This book is the authoritative guide to the natural history of Olympic National Park. On Saturday night attendees will hear from the Elwha Dam plant restoration team. This massive vegetation restoration is being led by Dr. Josh Chenoweth. They will also hear from David Allen, who is leading the plant propagation work for the greenhouses and propagation facility at the Matt Albright Native Plant Center. This massive undertaking will involve hundreds of thousands of plants.

Workshops and Conferences

Sedges and Rushes Identification Workshop

Sponsored by the Washington Native Plant Society and the University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum, the workshop will be held 9 am to 5 pm, Tuesday, June 24 – Thursday, June 26, 2014 in Room 246, Hitchcock Hall, University of WA, Seattle, Washington. The instructor will be Peter Zika, Research Associate, University of Washington Herbarium. Workshop fee: \$270 for WNPS and Burke Museum members; \$300 non-members. The class is limited to fifteen participants. Registration deadline: **June 15** (no refunds for registration cancellation after June 1).

Come to this workshop to understand *Carex* and *Juncus* diversity, to learn the common species and how to identify the rare ones, and how to tackle other problems and solutions in sedge and rush identification. Participants

will use Peter's new checklist and key to *Carex* and *Juncus* in Washington. In addition, they will use the new color illustrated textbook for OR/WA sedges, and work with lots of fresh material in the lab and on field trips. Basic sedge and rush terminology, morphology, ecology, evolution, and keying techniques will be covered. Participants will spend time dissecting and keying specimens in the laboratory using a microscope and many specimens will be available for review, dissection, and comparison. Much of Wednesday's session will be spent in the Cascade foothills working on field identification of sedges and rushes. For more information contact David Giblin: dgiblin@u.washington.edu, 206-543-1682. Contact Elizabeth Faircloth for Registration Information: wnps@wnps.org, 206-527-3210.

Meeting the Challenge: Preventing, Detecting and Controlling Invasive Plants

The Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council, the University of Washington Botanic Garden and the Oregon Department of Forestry are presenting a two-day conference: Meeting the Challenge: Preventing, Detecting and Controlling Invasive Plants, September 16-17, 2014. The conference will be held at the University of Washington Botanic Gardens. The conference sessions will focus on the latest advances in technology for controlling invasive plants, the impacts and ecological interactions of invasive plants in a diversity of ecosystems, the development and utilization of mapping tools in prediction and early detection, and determination of the potential pathways and vectors of invasive plant introduction. The conference will include two keynote speakers and three concurrent sessions. Contact the conference e-mail for general questions at InvasivePlantsConf@gmail.com or call (206) 685-8033. Questions regarding registration should be directed to Sasha McGuire at urbhort@uw.edu or (206) 685-8033.

More Plant Sales

Watch your monthly updates for information about fall sales.

Conservations Issues

Creating a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary By Bill Brookreson

Conservation comes in all sizes. At a time when we are seeing vast amounts of land converted for housing and other people uses, what can we do? There are large restoration projects on which we can invest great amounts of time and money, that are important but there is something we can all do that is much closer to home, and perhaps to the heart--creating your own backyard wildlife sanctuary. Our native plants are the key element in that. You can, with a little planning and work, create your own piece of habitat.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has established the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program to help you. Their website at <http://tinyurl.com/7praa3o> has a wealth of material to help you make your property a better place for song-birds and other wildlife species that have lived in your area long before people began to settle.

The website has articles on *Attracting Backyard Wildlife*, *Landscape Design for Wildlife*, *Woodworking Projects for Wildlife*, *Hummingbirds and How to Attract Them*, *Winter Wildlife Feeding*, *Winter Bird Feeding*, *Ponds and Birdbaths*, *Butterflies and How to Attract Them*, and *Snags- the Wildlife Tree*. The program was developed by Russell Link whose two books, *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* and *Gardening for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* are also excellent resources.

Where to begin? The website has excellent suggestions.

- Plant more trees and shrubs for food and cover. Remember, vegetation is the key to attracting a variety of wildlife. Dead trees (snags) are especially valuable to wildlife; try to keep them on your property if they pose no safety hazard.
- Add a birdbath, garden pond, or other source of water. A safe place to bathe and drink will act as a magnet to many animals.
- Add bird houses, or better yet, try to leave snags on your property. Cavity-nesting birds have been especially impacted by urban development. A bird house of the proper dimensions can substitute for snags where these birds used to nest.
- Control cats that may be prowling around your sanctuary; they can be especially harmful to birds that feed or nest on the ground.
- Keep bird feeders clean and safe, if you choose to feed for your own viewing pleasure.

You may also want to have your property certified by WDFW. The application form is on the WDFW website. Even if you don't decide to go ahead with certification, the questions are worth considering.

Chair Report

Welcome Elizabeth Faircloth, New WNPS Administrator By Cyndy Dillon

In January 2014, Elizabeth Faircloth joined WNPS as Administrator to replace Catherine Hovanic who retired after many stellar years. After graduating from the College of New Jersey with a BS in biology and from Antioch University with an MA in Environment and Community, Elizabeth spent fifteen years with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at the Forest Resource Education Center in Jackson, New Jersey. She was recognized as 2013 Outstanding Environmental Educator by the New Jersey Alliance for Environmental Education. Elizabeth subsequently moved to Portland, Oregon and then Redmond, Washington within the last two years.

During our spring state WNPS meeting in Ellensburg, Elizabeth demonstrated enthusiasm and innovation as she led us in a novel introduction exercise, requiring us to equate our lives with the growth rings of a tree and highlight a nature experience that particularly affected us. She energetically meets the enormous demands of learning a diverse job, and has already challenged us to propose new ways to build partnerships with other environmental groups. She is a dedicated naturalist and engaging "people person."

Despite the daunting requirements of this year's Native Plant Appreciation Week, Botany Weekend and Study Weekend occupying much of her time now, Elizabeth is still actively interacting with all the state chapters to learn their priorities and unique challenges. Additionally, the Society is reenergizing its Conservation strategy to help us more effectively protect our native flora; this will be another time-consuming opportunity for her. Elizabeth has already attended one of our chapter monthly presentations in Tacoma in March and plans to attend an Olympia presentation soon to meet more of our chapter members. She also hopes to visit our April 26 plant sale at the Capitol Museum Coach House and has penciled in on her calendar joining our Sept. 10 picnic at Powderworks Park in Dupont. I encourage you to take these opportunities to get to know her better and expand her growing mastery of Pacific Northwest native plants. Most importantly, welcome Elizabeth and her family with all your personal memorable stories of experiencing the delights of Pacific Northwest native plants.

Hikes and Field Trips

As we get nearer to summer, we will work on scheduling hikes and activities. Watch your updates for details.

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Chapter Botanist – Vacant

Conservation Committee Chair - Vacant

Field Trip Committee Chair - Vacant

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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 Friend
- \$65 Club/Institution
- \$20 Budget
- \$50-99 WNPS Friend
- \$100-499 WNPS Special
- \$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



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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.

