



The Acorn

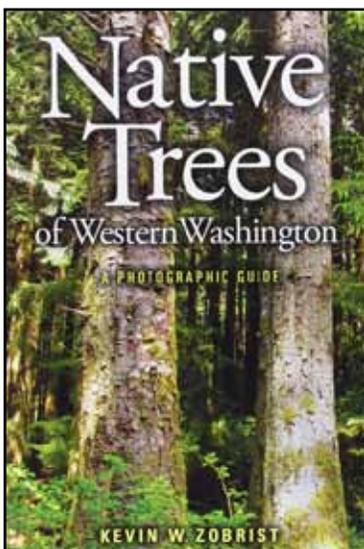
*Serving the South Sound Chapter of the
Washington Native Plant Society*

Summer 2015

Spring Plant Sale 2015

On April 18, we had another very successful Spring Native Plant Sale at the Capital Museum Coach House in Olympia. The sale started at 9 am and was immediately filled with eager buyers. In our six hours of sale, we had over two hundred buyers. Our total sales were over \$8900 and, after expenses, we raised almost \$4000 to support the chapter's programs and community grants. Most importantly, we provided a large number of our beautiful native plants for gardens and restoration projects.

As always, no sale would be successful without a lot of wonderful volunteers: Sharon and Dwight Bergquist-Moody, Janet and Kaley Blessing, Bonnie Blessing-Earle and Chris Earle, Allan Borden, Bill Brookreson and Catherine Hovanic, Sue Butkus, Mary Sue Gee, June Coloff, Kit Ellis, Jane Ely, Lee Fellenberg, Don Guyot, Byrna Klavano, Jacob Lehman, Dan and Pat Montague, John Neorr, Jane Ostericher, Jim and Cherry Pedrick, Phyllis Sturges, Cyndy and John Dillon, and Gail Trotter. Thanks to all of you! Finally, we want to thank Shirley Doolittle-Egerdahl of Tadpole Haven Nursery who brought a number of very special plants and helped make the sale successful.



Native Plant Resources

Native Trees of Western Washington: A Photographic Guide
by Kevin W. Zobrist, Washington State University Press, 2015, \$ 18.95

If you are looking for a small, well-written, scientifically accurate book about the trees of Western Washington, this may be just the book for you. (For many years, those wanting a small book relied on *Trees to Know in Oregon* from OSU Extension.) The book covers 32 tree species divided into four subsections –Lowland Conifers, Lowland Broad-leafed Trees, High-elevation Species and Isolated Populations. Kevin Zobrist is a forestry specialist, and as such he gives some interesting insights. He covers some traditional and modern uses of the species of interest to the ethnobotanist. The maps give a reasonably good idea where each species may be found. I thought the pictures were also particularly well done and helpful.

Other S. Sound Chapter Activities

The Coach House, the Capital Museum and the State Budget

As you who are in the Olympia area know, for the past several years, we have held our Olympia chapter meetings and our plant sales at the Capital Museum Coach House. In addition, we have had a wonderful working relationship with Susan Rohrer, Mark Vessey and the other members of the Capital Museum staff. We have cooperated on programs, such as the Jack Nisbet program last year. Volunteers from the chapter have helped to restore the native plant garden at the Capital Museum as well. As of this writing, the future of the Capital Museum, with budget cuts, does not appear promising. It is not clear what that means for the Coach House and our activities there. We are only one of a number of groups that use the Coach House for meetings and other activities. As it becomes clearer, we will keep you informed in *The Acorn* and in monthly updates. Whatever the result we will work through that. The unfortunate part is that the community may lose access to this treasure and all the programs that Susan and her staff put together, and we would all be poorer for that.

Education Committee Report, Jane Ostericher

Jane Ostericher has continued to act as a resource for the Peninsula School District Science Specialists and has been helping to facilitate the development of "Field Guide" curriculum with Purdy Elementary Science Specialist, Jenna Troyer. She has piloted the curriculum with 3rd to 5th grade classes so far and has been very well received. Recently, she helped Jenna write a grant from WNPS South Sound Chapter for a class set of Pojar & MacKinnon *Plants of the Pacific Northwest* reference books for use with this curriculum and was successfully awarded \$250 for this purpose. Jane plans to help expand the Purdy pilot program to the other elementary schools in the PSD.

WNPS South Sound labels were designed and printed by Jane for use in the Educational Resource Boxes so that all the materials can be identified as belonging to the chapter. Bill Brookreson continues to work on adding to these boxes as he finds appropriate resources.

Grant Report, John Neorr

In 2015, we have awarded two grants of \$250 each – one to Purdy Elementary for field guides and one to Kitsap Master Gardeners for a bench in the fair's demonstration garden. With revenue from the plant sales we will offer additional grants in 2015.

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 from October through May on the second Monday of each month in Olympia and on 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. 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 although the future here is tied to state budget. Meetings are free and open to the public. Please contact John Neorr (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. We have a special kickoff meeting planned for September. Watch monthly updates and the newsletter for details.

Special September Kick-off Meeting.

On September 30, John Neorr, who has a way of scheduling exceptionally interesting and fun meetings, has done it again. John has secured Andy MacKinnon, coauthor with Jim Pojar of *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast* and their new book, *Alpine Plants of the Northwest*, to give us a presentation on alpine plants. Those of us who have heard Andy know that he is a delightful speaker. All the details of place are being worked out. Watch your monthly update and Fall *Acorn* for details. This is a presentation you will not want to miss.



Hikes and Field Trips

Chapter members continue to work on arranging hikes and other native plant walks. These will be announced on the 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.

Upcoming Events

June 1, 2015, Capital Museum Coach House at noon. Heidi Bohan will describe the seasonal harvesting of plants and animals by native people in the Pacific Northwest and the importance of this cycle in the culture of the Coast Salish people.

June 11, Capital Museum Coach House at 7 pm. Jack Nisbet shares stories of the genesis of our region that reveal the symbiotic relationship of people and place in this corner of the world. Jack's new book, *Ancient Places: People and Landscape in the Emerging Northwest* will be released May 19.

June 18-December 6, Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. *People of the Adze: Shoalwater Bay Carving Program.* The Shoalwater Bay tribal community resides along a network of inlets and waterways on Willapa Bay. The Shoalwater Bay Carving Apprenticeship program, begun in 2012, is resurrecting the traditional carving style of the lower Columbia River, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor watersheds--a style that is largely utilitarian in design and features highly decorated everyday-use objects. The exhibit, opening June 18, includes examples of these objects, carved by the apprentices, along with carving tools they learned to make and use as part of the program. During the run of the exhibit, apprentice carvers and program manager Earl Davis will work in the re-created carving studio that is part of the exhibit.



Plant and Seed Sales

WNPSSSC Fall Plant Sale

We have scheduled the Fall Plant Sale for October 3, 2015. Central Puget Sound's sale will also be October 3. Fall is a great time for planting.

WNPS State News

Changes - Elizabeth Faircloth Leaving

There will be yet another change in the WNPS office. On April 18, the WNPS State Board was notified that WNPS Administrator Elizabeth Faircloth has submitted her resignation. Elizabeth's last day in the office will be May 15.

In the interim, Office Administrator Barbara Harrell has agreed to serve additional hours to cover the office functions. We will be undergoing a transition period in the state office as a new administrator is recruited and hired. Those who have worked with Elizabeth have been impressed with her ability to work with people. We thank her for her work with the Washington Native Plant Society and wish her well in her future endeavors.



Native Plant Appreciation Week 2015

Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed April 26 - May 2, 2015, as the 12th annual Native Plant Appreciation Week (NPAW) in Washington. Governor Gary Locke proclaimed the first NPAW in 2004 at Washington Native Plant Society's request. Governor Gregoire and Governor Inslee have continued the yearly proclamations.

Native Plant Appreciation Week is 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 even backyard landscapes. We hope you took the opportunity that NPAW provided to spend a few hours enjoying our wonderful flora in whatever way is meaningful to you, whether it be attending a formal program or just taking a quiet walk in a natural area or park. We have a lot to be thankful for and a great responsibility to preserve and protect it. That's really touches the core of what the Washington Native Plant Society is about.

Botany Washington and Native Plant Study Weekend

Botany Washington 2015 will be held on June 5-7 in the foothills of the East Cascades in Chelan County. Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center will be the center of operations. Again, BotWa will be cosponsored by the Washington Native Plant Society and the University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum. Registration has closed. The Native Plant Study Weekend will be held on August 14-16 at Mt Baker in Whatcom County. Watch the *Douglasia* and the WNPS website (wnps.org) for details, and register early for the best selection of field trips and accommodations.

Mount Rainier Institute By John Hayes, Mount Rainier Institute Director

A pygmy owl at dusk... a Pacific wren in the old growth forest... raven wings slicing through the air... sun flecks dancing on sword ferns... these are everyday sights and sounds one might experience at University of Washington's Pack Forest located just outside of Eatonville. Last fall there was something new- the sounds of kids joyfully interacting with nature could be also heard in the forest.

Students from throughout the region had the opportunity to experience nature through the newly launched Mount Rainier Institute. The University of Washington created the institute in partnership with Mount Rainier National Park. Mount Rainier Institute is a multi-day overnight environmental education program that uses the natural and cultural resources of Mount Rainier National Park and Pack Forest to provide outstanding nature-based education experiences that are rooted in science and nurture the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders.

When asked why bringing students to places like Mount Rainier Institute is important, the Institute director, John Hayes, said "because it helps students be healthier, happier and smarter." Interacting with nature has been shown to increase self-esteem, improve psychological health and reduce stress; kids are happier. Students also learn self-discipline and cooperative behavior and hiking and learning in nature provide great exercise; kids are healthier.

Perhaps most relevant to the institute is that environmental education makes kids smarter. Learning in the outdoors stimulates creativity, improves problem solving and is a natural way to learn science. The American Institutes for Research (2005) compared the impact on students who experienced overnight outdoor education programs versus those who had not. They found that students who participated in outdoor education programs improved their science scores by 27%. Helping kids connect to nature, building community, improving science literacy and learning about National Parks are all goals of Mount Rainier Institute.

In its first full season last fall over 350 participants from schools in Yakima, Tacoma, Federal Way and Eatonville participated in the program. Students did authentic research projects comparing old growth forests to younger forests, learned about glaciers while at Paradise in Mount Rainier National Park, and of course got the opportunity to eat s'mores around a campfire. As one participating teacher put it, "it's science heaven."

Mount Rainier Institute programs are aimed at 4th-12th grade students. Programs can range between one and five days long and include time spent in Mount Rainier National Park. Registration for school programs is now open. To learn more contact jhayes90@uw.edu, 253- 692-4161 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/lc7lwd4>



Volunteer Opportunities

One of the goals of the South Sound Chapter of WNPS is to provide a wide variety of opportunities for people to volunteer in activities that they enjoy, and which can serve the community as well as the society. Most of those opportunities will be found in the Monthly Updates and on the website. Ongoing activities include:

1. **Tacoma Nature Center** where Cyndy Dillon leads work parties on the first and third Fridays of the month. For details contact Cyndy at cpdillongh@comcast.net.
2. **Capital Museum Native Plant Garden** where Bill Brookreson leads work parties on third Thursdays. For more information, contact Bill at b.brookreson@comcast.net.
3. **South Sound Prairie Restoration.** Center for Natural Lands Management at Glacial Heritage Preserve continue to help enhance the South Puget Sound Prairies. Work parties are every Tuesday from 9 am to 3 pm and the second Saturday. Contact ssvolunteers@cnlm.org for more information, or call (360) 570-0762.
4. **Washington Salish Native Plant Garden** at Tumwater Falls Park. The Washington Salish Native Plant Garden faces Deschutes Falls and is directly behind the Falls Terrace Restaurant. This ethnobotanical garden is a collaborative effort with the Chehalis, Nisqually and Squaxin Island Tribes and the Tumwater Falls Park in an effort to provide a sampling of our rich and diverse native plant species used by Salish families for food, healing, clothing and other day-to-day uses. The garden is looking for volunteers to assist in maintaining the small, delightful garden and act as docents for special events. For more information on how to volunteer, contact Sarah Zerkel at sarahzerkel@hotmail.com or 206-367-3265. You may also visit the garden, do some weeding if you like, and meet Sarah on May 21 at the garden after 9:30 am.

Chair Report

The Outside Season -- Spring and Summer

By Bill Brookreson

It's very hard to not get excited by the coming of spring. Every day, when I go out for a walk or in the garden, it seems that something else has burst into bloom. This spring has been particularly interesting with lots of early surprises. In Lakeridge Park in Seattle, where I have been part of a restoration team, on a slope where we removed English ivy we have had a delightful surprise – now there are dozens of western trillium (*Trillium*

ovatum) and uncountable Pacific bleeding hearts (*Dicentra formosa*). Makes all the sore knees and muddy clothes very worthwhile.

After the wet, grey winter, can you look out your window and not have the urge to play in the garden or go off on a trail through the woods or our South Sound prairies? I can't. If I could, I wouldn't want to! We have a huge number of options. If you have only a morning or afternoon, we have a number of wonderful parks in Pierce and Thurston Counties, such as Point Defiance and Priest Point Park to visit and explore. We have many short, beautiful walks, such as Sequelitchew Creek Trail in DuPont and McLane Creek Natural Area outside Olympia. Within a fairly short drive, we have literally hundreds of great walks in Capital Forest, the Olympics and the areas around Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens. You need not do the same hike twice!

If you want to improve your plant identification skills, pack your *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast* (Pojar and MacKinnon) or, if you have a smart phone, the *Washington Wildflowers* application (<http://www.pnwflowers.com/app>) makes for lighter traveling and is very useful. Our south sound website (<http://tinyurl.com/n7g5v8k>) has a number of local plant lists that we are always looking to increase. The state website has many more statewide plant lists at <http://tinyurl.com/d7ve59z>. Pack the sun screen, the camera, your water jug, and enjoy!



Native Plant Resources

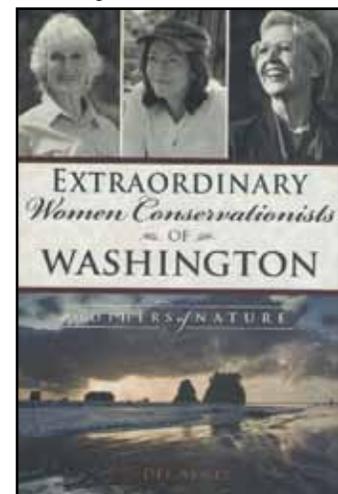
Extraordinary Women Conservationists of Washington: Mothers of Nature

by Dee Arntz, The History Press, 2015, \$19.99

Every once in a while you find a book that touches your mind and your heart. This is one of those books. It tells the story of a number of remarkable women, many old friends and colleagues, who played pivotal roles in the history of the Washington environmental movement. For those who have been long involved, the names are very familiar – they included Bonnie Philips, Melanie Rowland, Polly Dyer, Emily Haig, Jolene Unsoeld, Christine Gregoire, Jennifer Belcher, Estella Leopold, and our own Helen Engle.

These were wonderful leaders in saving our old growth timber, establishing the Cascade National Park and expanding Olympic NP, preserving our water and air quality and a myriad of other actions, large and small, that make this such a special place to live.

The book is only 159 pages. I came in the house, sat down and read it cover to cover and thought how fortunate we have been to have these remarkable women in our state.



Workshops/Conferences

Know Your Grasses: The Identification and Appreciation of Grass

Co-sponsored by the University of Washington Herbarium, Burke Museum and the Washington Native Plant Society, June 17-19, 2015. Location: Hitchcock Hall, University of Washington, Seattle. Instructor Clay Antieau. The workshop consists of an intensive, hands-on approach that blends one and a half days of classroom work with one day of field study using a combination of lectures, guided examination of live and pressed plant specimens (with and without stereo-microscopes), and use of technical identification keys. Participants learn the grass language and distinguishing features of the grass family, its major taxonomic sub-divisions, and many grass genera and species. The workshop connects you with useful on-line tools such as identification keys and photo resources. This workshop focuses on native and naturalized grasses, with an emphasis on the field identification of genera and species commonly observed in habitats of the moist-maritime Pacific Northwest. Workshop cost: \$350; \$300 for WNPS or Burke Museum members. Register online: <http://tinyurl.com/lyrhzrv>.

Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership Conference

October 26-29, 2015, in Tacoma Courtyard Marriott. The Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership meeting, sponsored with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be an excellent opportunity to see the work being done to preserve our Garry oak woodlands, an effort that has been a WNPS Conservation priority.

Proposals for oral and poster presentations are being accepted through July 31, 2015. Registration is scheduled to begin in April with late registration beginning September 1. Updated information and details can be found at cascadiaprairieoak.org/2015conference.

Ferns and Fern Allies Workshop

Identification workshop co-sponsored by the University of Washington Herbarium, Burke Museum and the Washington Native Plant Society, July 28-29, 2015. Sessions will be held 8:30 am - 5 pm, Tuesday, July 28 and 7:30 am - 6 pm, Wednesday, July 29. Locations: University of Washington Campus, 246 Hitchcock Hall, Seattle, and Perry Creek, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Instructors are Ed Alverson and Peter Zika.

The ferns and fern allies are ancient lineages of vascular plants with high species richness in the Pacific Northwest. They can be found in all habitats throughout our region, including coastal bluffs, forest understory, sagebrush-steppe, ponds and streams, and alpine ridges. Findings from systematics studies over the past forty years have fundamentally changed the taxonomy and nomenclature of these plants. This workshop provides a contemporary, in-depth examination of our fern flora, as well as the other groups of spore-bearing vascular plants, the so-called "fern allies." We will cover *Equisetum* (horsetails), lycophytes (clubmosses), *Selaginella* (spikemosses) and Isoetes (quillworts). Class work will be supplemented with an all-day field trip to a natural area in the Cascade mountains to practice fern identification in the field. This workshop is geared for experienced botanists, both professional and amateur. Enrolment is limited to 20. Workshop cost: \$175 WNPS or Burke Museum members; \$200 non-members. For more information, contact David Giblin at 206-543-1682 or by email dgiblin@uw.edu.

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 Check the Chapters with which you wish to affiliate.

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South Sound Chapter WNPS

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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.

Lewisia, photo taken at Catherine Creek

