

The Acorn

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



Celebrating Native Plant Appreciation Week 2018

As winter's grey and drizzle is replaced by the sun of Spring, we are very fortunate to live in an area with so many wonderful places to enjoy our blooming native flora and, For the Native Plant Society, Native Plant Appreciation Week this year is April 22-28 but there is no reason for you to confine the celebration.

There are many places to see our wonderful flora. If you have only a few hours or even minutes), there are a number of great places to take a walk close to where you may live. There are literally dozens of choices. In Pierce County, explore the trails of Point Defiance or the Tacoma Nature Center alone or with your friends and family, In Thurston County, walk Priest Point Park, Tolmie State Park or Woodard Bay. In Gig Harbor, there are wonderful parks within minutes such as Sehmel Homestead or Kopachuck State Park.

Thimbleberry (*Rubus parvifloris*)



Where ever you go, take it slowly. Walk Sequelitchew Creek Trail in DuPont and see the blooming white fawn lilies or the trilliums at Priest Point in Olympia. Take time and see the small wonders, those tiny flowers often overlooked like the fringe cup. All these are available to you for an hour or an afternoon.

You can go out alone, with friends or as part of group activity such as our walks at Woodard Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area, Millersylvania State Park, or Lake Sylvia in Montesano. Just go out and enjoy.

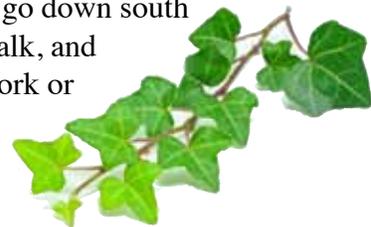
If you have a full day, Mount Rainier or the Olympic Peninsula is a wonderland of trails and plants. Where ever you can go, open your eyes to the wonders around you.

Although it is technically after the week, Prairie Appreciation Day can open the world of the South Sound Prairies for you at Mima Mounds or Glacial Heritage. We kick off the week with our Spring Native Plant Sale at the Coach House on April 21, 9-4. Enhance your yard or garden with some of our native plants. Details are on the website.

To volunteer, join in one of the many restoration projects around us to restore our parks and natural areas. It is a time, with the coming of Spring to celebrate what we have but also to recommit preserving and enhancing it. Have a great Spring and Summer.

China Lake Natural Area Restoration, Stewards Making a Difference!

One of the goals of the Native Plant Stewardship Program is to make a difference in the community. Gail Sklar, one of the South Sound's 2016 stewards has taken that to heart as she leads restoration work at China Lake where Gail has taken on the role of Habitat Steward leading work parties the first Saturday of the month. The Park which is largely undeveloped, has a tremendous problem with invasive species – Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, English holly, and a plethora of others. Gail and her intrepid volunteers, working with MetroParks Tacoma, are making a real difference, especially with the Himalayan blackberry. As you go down south 19th in Tacoma, stop, take a walk, and enjoy the fruits of their hard work or join them the first Saturday of every month from 9:00-12:00.



Other South Sound Chapter Activities

Celebrating Prairie Appreciation Day 2018

23rd Prairie Appreciation Day, May 12, 2018, 10 am – 3 pm. Come help celebrate Spring on our Western Washington Prairies. The main event location will be at the Glacial Heritage Preserve. Admission is free. Handicapped accessible prairie will be available at the Mima Mounds Natural Area. Other sites include Shotwell's Landing Nursery for native plant propagation and the Colvin Ranch to see a working prairie. There is a wide variety of activities. you can learn about and experience: prairie wildflower walks; gardening with native plants; native American use of native plants; birds of the prairies; butterflies and bugs; bees and other pollinators; geology of the prairies; prairie restoration efforts; oak gall ink; and organizations working to preserve the prairies or you can take a self-guided natural history walk.

For the birders, there will be a special event through Black Hills Audubon Society: Birds of the three ecosystems of the preserve (prairie oak savannah, Garry Oak riparian forest, and second growth Douglas Fir edge) before Prairie Appreciation Day begins. Check <http://blackhills-audubon.org/> for details.

Events are coordinated by Friends of Puget Prairies. Volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/ydylw59z>

You are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch since no food will be available. Also: Please bring a donation for the Thurston County Food Bank – no glass, please. Go to <http://prairieappreciationday.org/> for more details and directions, or call either 360-458-5450 or 206-498-3273

Workshops and Conferences

Know Your Grasses: The Identification and Appreciation of Grass

June 27, 28, 29, 2018; 9-5; Fri. 9–1 pm, University of Washington, Hitchcock Hall, Seattle, Room 244. The workshop is sponsored by the Herbarium at the Burke Museum (WTU) and Washington Native Plant Society and led by Clay Antieau. It consists of an intensive, hands-on approach that blends classroom work with 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 subdivisions, and many grass genera and species. The workshop also connects you with useful on-line tools such as identification keys and photo resources. Cost is \$350; \$315 for WNPS and Burke Museum members. Too register, go to www.wnps.org/workshops/grass-workshop.html.



Wood Bay Field Trip – Know Your Plants before You Act

After the wonderful Woodard Bay Natural Area field trip, we posted several pictures on Facebook. One of the pictures was of queen bumble bees working in a patch of palmate coltsfoot, *Petasites frigidus*. Unfortunately, this plant was misidentified in the picture as *Tussilago farfara*, a non-native invasive plant, which is also known as coltsfoot (don't rely on common names).

As a result, in the patch where we had previously photographed bumblebees pollinating our native coltsfoot, someone, with the best of intentions, pulled up most of these plants and cut the flowers off all the rest!



Petasites frigidus (Coltsfoot)

This incident illustrates a couple of things. First, the importance of correct plant identification; and second, the importance of checking with management before removing plants from public land. It is also worth noting that in this day of novel ecosystems, some endangered species now rely on nonnative plants for habitat and food. For instance, the Island Marble butterfly feeds on a weedy nonnative mustard and pupates on Scotch broom. Both of these plants are invasive species.

In addressing our approach to invasives, we need to act thoughtfully – correctly identifying the plant and using appropriate means to remove it.

More South Sound Chapter Activities

Grants Report by John Neorr

Grants in 2017. The chapter awarded 4 grants in 2017. The Pollinator Garden - Lakota Middle School, Federal Way, \$500 grant funded a pollinator garden that is in and thriving. Only \$250 was spent. The Schneider Prairie Restoration, Olympia, \$500 grant work is in progress (\$250 spent). The grant was to a coalition among Thurston Conservation District (TCD), Griffin Middle School, and Neighborhood Association. Several work parties have taken place, our funds are to be used for signage. We granted \$500 to the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust (CBRLT) to purchase a table computer which is being employed successfully to record onsite trust surveys. CRBLT made a presentation to the chapter



on their project. Finally, we granted \$400 (\$200 spent to date) to the South Lake Hewitt (Olympia) Neighborhood Park NP restoration. The majority of the area has been cleared, planted out and sheet mulched, majority of plants purchased. They are looking for additional plants.

Grants in 2018. We have awarded three grants in 2018. We have awarded \$500 to upgrade the signage on the Sehmel Homestead Nature Trail in Gig Harbor. The project is underway, A committee is working on sign design and installation. With State President concurrence, we awarded \$1000 for bus transportation for the Nisqually River NWR “Eye on Nature” project. The project is underway with volunteer training starting in March. We will support school trips for up to 750 students that will take place April-June. Students are from Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county schools. At least four WNPSSSC members are volunteers as well. Thirdly, we awarded \$500 (\$250 expended) for a pollinator garden for Valhalla Elementary School in Federal Way. The garden will be an integrated part of 2nd and 3rd grade science programs. Our grant will be used for tools, soil, seed, plants, fertilizer, fencing, and signage. The garden planning is underway with gardening to take place in March and April.

We continue to look for good projects to support.

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 Lord Mansion Coach House, 211 21st Avenue SW, Olympia. Meetings are free and open to the public.



Please contact Sue Butkus (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.

A Conservation Conversation with Gail Trotter, WNPSSC Conservation Chair

Over the last few years I had a great opportunity to volunteer with veterans who were in an internship program involved in conservation activities including restoration and farming. They shared how they enjoy having boots on the ground and working outdoors while learning the details of conservation jobs.

Kim Mai Pham works at the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs' (DVA) is the internship coordinator for the Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC). She shares with us information about this great program:

- Enacted through state legislation in 2005, the VCC aims to connect veterans to WA State's natural resources while educating veterans about environmental conservation through hands-on work experience. At the heart of the VCC Program is the concept of nature therapy, or eco-therapy, which has shown that spending time in nature makes people healthier.
- In 2014, The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) partnered with the VCC to launch an internship program to help preserve and restore prairie habitat around Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) to protect endangered species that call the South Sound Prairies their home, while also improving military readiness by ensuring the ability of JBLM military units to sustainably continue training activities.
- Since then the VCC Internship Program has partnered with 15 environmental conservation organizations statewide to offer internships that provide veterans the freedom to pursue training and work opportunities that focus on individual achievement. The internship program meets the veterans where they are at in terms of mental and physical health, as well as educational, employment, and economic status. The goal is to empower veteran interns to take the direction that



they choose is right for them, all the while being supported by the comprehensive resources of the VCC network of partners and providers.

- The VCC internship program missions are:
 - To advocate and foster self-directed connections between veterans, their communities, and Washington State's natural resources.
 - To benefit and promote the well-being of many veterans who are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder or have other mental health or substance abuse disorders whether related to their service in the armed forces or not.
 - To assist veterans in obtaining training, certification, and employment in the field of environmental restoration and management.
 - To help restore WA State's waters, forests, and habitat through the participation of veterans.
- The VCC Internship Program is open to veterans of every military branch and seeks to minimize barriers to participation by having no age requirement and requiring no prior experience with the conservation work to be done. The internship also offers training aligned with the professional and personal development of each intern, flexible schedules to accommodate veterans concurrently participating in educational programs, and opportunities to engage with community members during volunteer service projects.

Kim Mai Pham (DVA) role as the internship coordinator includes recruiting, hiring, and intern management during the internship. If you are a veteran interested in the VCC, e-mail Kim at kim@dva.wa.gov for more information about any current and future internships, and how to apply.



Chair Report

Promoting the Value of Native Plants: We are Not Alone By Bill Brookreson

When it comes to promoting the value of native plants to the environment, it is comforting to know that we are not alone in our work. The National Audubon Society, in its promotion of the “Year of the Bird” has made planting of native plants an important part of their work. If you go to www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds you will find “Plants for Birds: A program of Audubon's Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants.”

The article encourages you to “Find Native Plants For Your Area. Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. With Audubon's Native Plant Database, you can find the best plants for the birds in your area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment.”

If you press “Search for Bird Friendly Plants Now”, you access the Audubon Native Plants Database. Enter your email and zip code to “explore the best plants for birds in your area, local resources and links to more information. By entering your email address, you'll receive an emailed list of the native plants you've selected, get additional tips on creating your bird-friendly habitat...” Audubon’s goal is one million native plants for birds in the ground.



Plant Sale

Central Puget Sound Chapter Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, April 28, 10 am – 4 pm. Mercerdale Park, Mercer Island. WNPS members may shop an hour early, from 9 am to 10 am for best selection. For more information see the Central Puget Sound web page

Pierce County Master Gardener’s Plant Sale is scheduled for April 28 & 29 (9 am – 4 pm), 2016 at the WSU Almendinger Conference Center, 2606 W. Pioneer Way, Puyallup. The sale will feature vendors and plants grown by Master Gardeners, as well as gardening books for sale.

Tacoma Nature Center Spring Plant Sale– May 5, 9 am – 2 pm. Landscape your yard with plants that are native to our area. Native plants ensure the conservation of water and provides habitat for local birds, mammals and insects. A list of available plants will be posted on the website by 1 pm on Friday, May 5. www.tacomannaturecenter.org. Come early for the best selection.

When you search for my zip code, 98466, you get “best results of 33 native plants that are particularly good, a description of the plant’s habitat and the birds it supports. As an example, beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), in various stages, supports waxwings, thrushes, wrens, orioles, cardinals & grosbeaks, finches, crows & jays, vireos, wood warblers, sparrows, chickadees and titmice. The full list has 122 plants. The Full Results list contains plants that are native to your area, including some that may be less important bird resources, harder to find at your local nursery, or have more specific growing. The site also allows you to filter your results by types of plants, resources, and the bird families you'd like to attract, or search for specific plant names.

If you are interested in birds and want to create a better habitat, this site is a wonderful resource that I encourage you to utilize along with our own Starflower sections on specific bird plants at our website, wnps.org. We are all after the same goal, a healthy, sustainable environment. Audubon is one of many valuable partners in that effort. We are not alone!

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>



Native Plant Resources

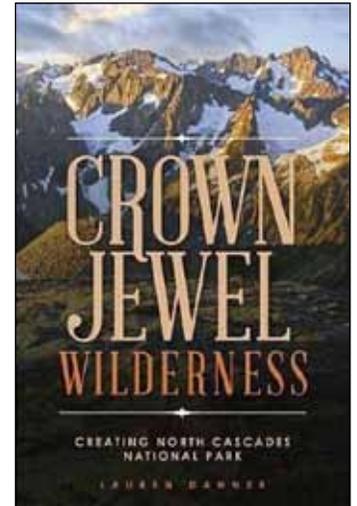
Crown Jewell Wilderness: Creating North Cascades National Park

Author Lauren Danner. Washington State University Press, 2017, \$29.95.

Those who have enjoyed the North Cascades National Park and/or had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Danner's presentation to the Olympia meeting of the South Sound Chapter will want to read this fine book that was the basis of her presentation. *Crown Jewell Wilderness* is a story about how citizen activism was able to lead the way to the creation of Washington's third national park.

Efforts to establish a park began as early as 1892, but only gained traction after World War II as economic affluence sparked national interest in wilderness preservation and growing concerns about the impact of harvesting timber to meet escalating postwar housing demands. In the 1950's the conservationist movement coalesced around a Glarier study group.

The conflict between the National Park's Policy favoring tourism development and the Forest Service policy favoring logging with the environmentalist's concerns in a changing political environment presents a fascinating history that culminated in the 1958 compromise that created the North Cascades National Park. It is a fascinating read for those interested in environment and history and the role of WNPS members like Joe and Margaret Miller.



Trees Pacific NW, written by Cliff Cantor

This is a smartphone application available from the Apple Store or Google Play Store at no cost. The application is available by searching for *Trees PNW*. The application promises to be an excellent tool for learning Washington's trees. The application covers a wide variety of trees of the Pacific Northwest from BC to Oregon with descriptions of 46 different trees. It also enables you to sort by only conifers, broadleaf trees, trees on the west side, trees on the east side, coastal trees, low elevation, mid elevation and high elevation trees as well as the complete list. Each tree description is well illustrated by several pictures of different stages and parts and each has a description of range, size, ecosystem, similar species and uses. Douglas fir, as an example, has 12 different pictures to illustrate tree characteristics. Subalpine fir has 11. Pacific yew has 5 All are very helpful.

The application takes a few minutes to download all the pictures so you need WIFI for the download. After that, it is available without a cellular or WIFI connection. I found it to be an excellent tool and recommend it.

On Going 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:

Tacoma Nature Center where Cyndy Dillon leads work parties on the first and third Fridays of the month. Contact Cyndy at cpdillongh@comcast.net.

Ryan's Park Work Party (Tacoma). Luis Yanez, Habitat Steward for Friends of Ryan's Park leads work parties the first Saturday of the month. For more information: luis_cia@yahoo.com.

China Lake Natural Area. Gail Sklar leads a work party in the China Lake Natural Area, 1811 South Shirley Street, Tacoma the first Saturday of the month. Contact Gail at gjsklar@gmail.com.

Wapato Lake Park. On the 4th Saturday of the month, Park Steward Chris Beale has a work party in the Wapato Lake natural area. To. Contact Chris at 253-320-5623 or restorewapato@gmail.com.

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 or call (360) 570-0762.

Lord Museum Native Plant Garden where Bill Brookreson leads work parties on third Thursdays.

Updating the *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* – The Project Nears Completion

The University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum is producing a Second Edition of the *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, based on the original manual published in 1973 by C. Leo Hitchcock and Arthur Cronquist. Work on the Second Edition of the Flora began in 2013 as new information on plants and plant families changed with the growth of DNA analysis and other discoveries. The Second Edition has been fully updated to include all native and naturalized taxa presently known from the region, with up-to-date nomenclature and classifications, while maintaining the original's familiar layout, styles, and use of illustrated keys. All treatments and illustrations were completed in October, 2017. These cover 159 families, 1,141 genera and 5,335 terminal taxa, representing about 827 pages of content. New illustrations have been completed for 1,379 taxa.

The process has been costly. Total project costs for content production (revising treatments and keys, acquisition of new illustrations, and illustration

placement, initial layout work) were ca. \$450,000. The Herbarium continuing to raise the \$30,000 needed for publication preparation (copy editing, technical editing, layout, indexing, etc.) and printing. Our chapter has donated a significant amount to the effort. Right now the galley proofs are being reviewed and corrections made. The expected release date is mid-year 2018. For all our botanists, this is exciting news.

Website Revision and New Plant List Site. Over the next months you will see a lot of changes to the WNPS website thanks to the hard work of Sarah Verlinde and the new plant list database that has been developed. Keep your eyes on the website as we move ahead.

Become a Member or Renew Your Membership
The easiest way to become a member or renew your membership is on line at WNPS.org. If you have any questions, contact the WNPS office or Bill Brookreson chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org

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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.



Woodard Bay Hike