



# The Acorn

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

*Winter/Spring 2006*

## Chapter News

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### CHAPTER MEETINGS

**Second Wednesday in Tacoma ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

**Third Monday in Olympia ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

To accommodate South Sound Chapter members coming from the seven+ county-area that we serve, we will be holding presentations both in Olympia and in Tacoma. NOW, serious WNPS'rs can attend presentations in both locations! We'll maintain our previous meeting time, day, and location for **Olympia (third Monday** of each month from **7:00 to 9:00 pm** at the State Capitol History Museum - 211 West 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue) and will add the **second Wednesday** of each month at the same **7:00 to 9:00 pm** period for presentations to be held at the Nature Center in **Tacoma** (1919 South Tyler). We hope you will join us as we have an exciting line-up of top notch speakers! See the winter/spring meeting schedule that follows for descriptions about the presentations and directions to the meeting locations.

### CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Don't miss the South Sound Chapter Field Trips this year! A wide variety of field trips are being offered, from the first-ever Spring Wildflower Meadows/Conversation Cafe Style series to garden visits and workshops. Where contact information is listed, please contact the field trip leader in advance. Registration is required for some trips, and cancellations and changes may occur. Carpooling is encouraged and plant lists are available for some trips. Bring a friend, water and a lunch and/or snacks, raingear and extra clothing. Pets are not allowed on WNPS field trips. For more information or if you'd like to lead a summer or future field trip, please contact Diane Doss at [ddoss@spcc.ctc.edu](mailto:ddoss@spcc.ctc.edu).

### **“Washington Spring Wildflower Meadows/ Conversation Café Style”**

Join wildflower aficionado, Kevin Head, for an exciting series of wildflower forays this spring and summer. Visit with a group of ten people who love being in wildflower meadows, learn botany skills, discuss ecology, marvel at the beauty of Nature, and discuss what's in your heart. **Cost:** Gas and meals for the leader plus membership in Washington Native Plant Society. **Times:** Includes travel to and from field site from the Olympia area and dinner.

Sign up for one or for all trips. The best experience is to sign up for all to understand our beautiful displays and unique ecology of each place. Preference will be for people who sign up for all wildflower trips. For more information and to sign up contact Kevin Head at 360-943-3752 or [khead@ekit.com](mailto:khead@ekit.com).

### **Columbia Gorge: Catherine Creek/Paul's Island Saturday, March 4 ♦ 7:00 am – 9:00 pm**

See Grass widows (*Sisyrinchium douglasii*) in full bloom and see 15 to 20 species, including the endemic *Lomatium columbianum*.

### **Columbia Gorge: Catherine Creek/ Major Creek/Marsh Cutoff Saturday, April 1 ♦ 6:00 am – 10:00 pm**

See second wave of bloom and marvel at the change in four weeks with 50 to 70 species of wildflowers.

### **Glacial Heritage County Park Prairies Saturday, April 29 ♦ 9:00 am – 9:00 pm**

Visit our prairies when early blooms provide the best time to see many species including Shooting star (*Dodecatheon*), Oregon sunshine (*Erythronium*), Chocolate lily, (*Fritillaria*), Purple wakerobin (*Trillium petiolatum*), and *Camas*.

### **Umtanum Ridge/Umtanum Creek/Yakima Valley**

**Saturday, May 20 ♦ 6:00 am – 10:00 pm**

Hike eight miles through fields of spring blooms; see *Pediocactus simpsonii* (Barrel cactus) in bloom.

### **Umtanum Ridge/West Side Ellensburg Pass**

**Saturday, June 3 ♦ 6:00 am – 10:00 pm**

See a whole different bloom on the ridge's West side with fields of Bitterroot (*Lewisia*) and meadows of Lupine (*Lupinus*) and *Phlox*.

### **Silverstar Mountain Overnight**

**5:00 pm Tues – 11:00 pm Weds ♦ June 20 – 21**

Sleep under the stars on the Solstice night near the first alpine meadow to open up in Washington. Hike early morning to see alpine glow on fields of *Xerophyllum tenax* (Beargrass) and spend the rest of the day observing 80 wildflower species.



### **MLK Day of Service, Native Plant Salvage Project**

#### **Holding Beds Work Party**

**Monday, January 16 ♦ 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

Be prepared to get a bit dirty and dress for the weather! Hot drinks and treats provided; gloves and raingear are available. Please wear sturdy boots that can handle mud. **Location:** DOT facility, 2680 RW Johnson SW, Olympia. Call 360-402-8879 if you get lost! Contact Erica Guttman at 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or [ericag@wsu.edu](mailto:ericag@wsu.edu) for information.

### **Native Plant Salvage Project Salvage Dates**

**Saturday, January 21; Sunday, January 29; Friday, February 10; Wednesday, February 22; & Sunday, March 5 ♦ 9:30 am**

Plant salvages start at 9:30 am at the site. We provide a hot vegetarian lunch then reconvene at our holding beds around 1:00 pm. Please contact Erica Guttman at 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or [ericag@swu.edu](mailto:ericag@swu.edu) for details and directions.

### **Winter Twig Identification**

**Sunday, February 5 ♦ 10:00 am – 12:30 pm or  
1:00 – 3:30 pm**

Register for Session I: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm or Session II: 1:00 to 3:30 pm. Cost: \$5, or \$10 with "Winter in the Woods" book (\$2 savings). Sponsored by the Native Plant Salvage Project. Contact Erica Guttman at 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or [ericag@wsu.edu](mailto:ericag@wsu.edu) for details and to register.

### **Naturescaping for Prairie Landscapes**

**Part I: Thursday, March 9 ♦ 6:30 – 9:00 pm (indoor workshop)**

**Part II: Saturday, April 8 ♦ 10:00 am – 3:30 pm  
(install a prairie naturescape)**

Workshop sponsored by the Native Plant Salvage Project and The Nature Conservancy. Contact Erica Guttman at 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or [ericag@wsu.edu](mailto:ericag@wsu.edu) for details and to register.

### **Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife**

**Saturday, April 29 ♦ 10:00 am – 3:30 pm**

Co-sponsored by the Stream Team and the W.S.U. Native Plant Salvage Project. Learn landscape-design strategies to establish a low-maintenance landscape to protect salmon and water resources, attract birds and butterflies, and handle trouble spots. Contact Erica Guttman at 360-754-3588 ext. 110 or [ericag@wsu.edu](mailto:ericag@wsu.edu) for details and to register.

### **The Evergreen State College Teaching Gardens**

**Saturday May 6 ♦ 1:30 – 3:00 pm**

Dr. Frederica Bowcutt and her students at The Evergreen State College in Olympia are creating an impressive array of gardens at TESC. Visit a waterwise pollinator garden, post-glacial forest, roof garden, and Laurasian Landscape. Dr. Bowcutt will lead the tour of the gardens starting at 1:30 pm. For more information and directions, see [www.evergreen.edu/teachinggardens](http://www.evergreen.edu/teachinggardens). Parking at TESC is free on Saturdays.

### **Deschutes Falls Botany and Scot's Broom Removal**

**Sunday, May 7 ♦ 9:30 am – 4:30 pm**

Rosy plectritis, *Calypso*, *Trillium parviflorum*, *Paxisitma*, *Fritillaria lanceolata*, *Viburnum edule* are among our rewards for removing Scot's broom. Bring binoculars (for birds and binocular-botany, to reduce impact on this sensitive area), lunch, snacks, water, long pants and shirt, gloves, and any available weed wrenches, strong loppers and pruning saws. We'll carpool from the Safeway parking lot on the corner of College St. and Yelm Hwy. Register at 360-596-5594 or [ddoss@spscc.ctc.edu](mailto:ddoss@spscc.ctc.edu).

### **Helen Engle's Wildlife Sanctuary and Garden**

**Saturday May 20 ♦ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

The recipient of the first annual Helen Engle Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Cascade Land Conservancy has created a wildlife sanctuary during her 30+ years of gardening on an acre in the city. **Location:** 4011 Alameda Avenue, University Place (Tacoma). Contact Helen at [hengle@iinet.com](mailto:hengle@iinet.com) for directions.

### Keying Grasses

**Mon, May 22 or Wed, May 24 ♦ 5:30 – 8:20 pm**

This is a Botany 210 lab at SPSCC, with a few openings for Hitchcock-adept plant-people who want to develop basic grass-keying skills. Register with Diane Doss at [ddoss@spscc.ctc.edu](mailto:ddoss@spscc.ctc.edu).

### Meet the Trees of Washington

**Saturday, June 3 ♦ 10:00 am – 3:30 pm**

Especially geared to newcomers to our local area. Learn our local deciduous and evergreen trees and the role they play in protecting water resources and providing habitat. Co-sponsored by Stream Team and WSU's Native Plant Salvage Project. Contact Erica Guttman at 360-754-3588 ex. 110 or [ericag@wsu.edu](mailto:ericag@wsu.edu).

### Mid-Summer Grays Harbor Field Trips

Watch the chapter website for dates of canoe and kayak trips to Elk River and the Chehalis River Surge Plain, little seen natural areas in Grays Harbor. Trips will be led by Birdie Davenport, Natural Areas Manager, 1-888-437-6171 #5002 or [roberta.davenport@wadnr.gov](mailto:roberta.davenport@wadnr.gov).

### Columbia Coast Field Trips

In February, check <http://www.reachone.com/columbiacoastplants/>, Kathleen Sayce's website, to learn about this year's field trips on both sides of the Columbia River near the coast.

### Other WNPS Chapter Field Trips

Check the WNPS website, [http://www.wnps.org/chapter\\_info/chapter\\_trips.html](http://www.wnps.org/chapter_info/chapter_trips.html), for field trips scheduled by other chapters. The North Olympic Peninsula Chapter, in particular, organizes field trips that are quite accessible to South Sound Chapter members, on the south and east sides of the Olympic Peninsula.

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### 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PRAIRIE APPRECIATION DAY

**Saturday, May 6 ♦ 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Prairie Appreciation Day will take place at the Glacial Heritage Preserve in Thurston County on Saturday, May 6, 2006, and will include a variety of activities for families, Nature lovers, and outdoor enthusiasts. This event is coordinated by Friends of Puget Prairies and sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. *This event is free and open to the public.*

The day-long event will include trails of varying length through prairie and oak woodland. For those who prefer to enjoy the sights and sounds of the prairie at their own pace, there will be a 4-mile self-guided trail with

signposts along the way highlighting outstanding features of the landscape. A shorter trail will have stations along the way staffed by experts on butterflies, wildflowers, geology, history, and prairie restoration. Look for raffles, games and fun learning opportunities at each station. Every station will also include hands-on activities just for kids. Nature-oriented organizations will have displays and informational material for your enjoyment. There will also be a hay wagon to give folks a fun ride around the Preserve.

This event has been planned to coincide with the spectacular blooming of blue camas. Many other prairie flowers will also be showing their colors including, buttercups, chocolate lilies, balsamroot, violets and other wildflowers. In addition, this will be a great time to spot prairie wildlife including birds such as the northern harrier hawk, American kestrels, and western bluebirds.

**Directions:** Glacial Heritage Preserve is located a few miles south of the town of Littlerock in Thurston County. From Interstate 5, take exit 95 (Maytown/Littlerock) and head west to Littlerock to the T-intersection at Waddell Creek Road and Mima Road. Go south (left) on Mima Road 2.7 miles and take a left onto the gravel road signed for Prairie Appreciation Day. Parking spots will be designated near the Preserve entrance. Signs will mark the way from Littlerock.

**For information:** Contact Leslie Brown, The Nature Conservancy, at 206-343-4344 or [leslie\\_brown@tnc.org](mailto:leslie_brown@tnc.org), Wilma Benz, TNC Volunteer, at 360-438-3883 or [introuble@orcalink.com](mailto:introuble@orcalink.com), or Penny Kelley or Dan Grosball, Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department, at 360-273-1820 or [pennydan@earthlink.net](mailto:pennydan@earthlink.net). The Prairie Appreciation Day website at [www.prairieappreciationday.org](http://www.prairieappreciationday.org) has more information.

### WNPS STUDY WEEKEND

**Friday – Sunday, June 23 – 25**

The WNPS Northeast Chapter will host the 2006 Study Weekend June 23 to 25, at the Chewelah Learning Center near Spokane. Information about field trips, speakers, and registration materials will be in the winter issue of *Douglasia*, to be mailed to WNPS members in early March.

### BOTANY WA 2006

**Friday – Sunday, July 21 – 23 (tentatively)**

Botany Washington is tentatively scheduled for July 21 to 23, 2006 at the North Cascade Institute. Watch for more details in the *Douglasia* quarterly journal.

## INVASIVE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION

WNPS member Peter Zika is nearly finished with his contract work to list all of Washington's invasive weed species. From each county he has identified an average of 37 species for which collection is needed. The WNPS office has created a webpage very much like the plant lists web page (<http://flora.ilangainc.com/>), where individuals may click on any county to find out what noxious weed collections are needed. The list will be in table format with some phenology help and a place for collector names. As a collection is made the collector may email the office and the WNPS office will post the collector's name next to the plant. WNPS anticipates some people will want to adopt a county. Peter's findings, membership involvement, protocol and references to the website information will be all in the winter issue of *Douglasia*.

## RARE PLANT GUIDE

### *Field Guide to Washington's Rare Plants*

WNPS Board member Pam Camp had another meeting with UW Press in November. UW Press remains supportive of the effort to publish a field guide to Washington's rare plants. A more current estimated cost for a paperback will be \$30.00. Pam will be working with Jeanne Ponzetti to edit the descriptive text that was produced for each species. A photo editor is still needed. Work will begin on grant applications to support funding of the printing in January. WNPS will be seeking funding from the Bullitt Foundation and try to identify other possible sources to fund the estimated \$45,000 printing costs. The field guide Working Committee is made up of representatives from DNR, BLM, USFS, and the WNPS.

## RECEIVE CHAPTER NEWS ELECTRONICALLY

You can help the South Sound Chapter save financial and volunteer resources by receiving the newsletter and other occasional postings electronically. To sign up, provide your name and email address to Lee Fellenberg at [leefellenberg@harbornet.com](mailto:leefellenberg@harbornet.com).

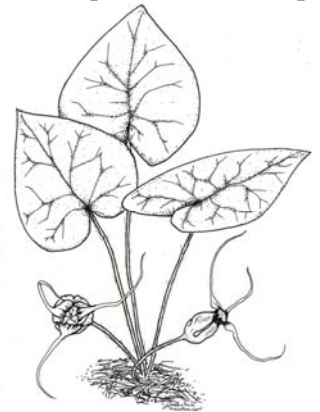
## SUPPORTING OUR CHAPTER BUDGET

Members of the South Sound Chapter can help support our mission and objectives while they shop for food at **Storman's Inc.** outlets in Olympia. Storman's gives back to the community through its **1% Community Rebate Program**, and invites members of participating

organizations to use "Community Rebate Cards" at **Ralph's Thriftway** or **Bayview Thriftway** as well. Members who use rebate cards can designate one percent of their purchase proceeds to the South Sound Chapter of WNPS. To obtain your own Community Rebate Card please contact Rod Gilbert at 360-456-4013 or [rodgilbert1@comcast.net](mailto:rodgilbert1@comcast.net). Thanks to all who already have a card for helping to support the Chapter!

## CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT

As we enter the winter season, the South Sound Chapter has just under \$1,000 of finances available to: keep the group active with speakers at meetings, finance an informative website, and publish newsletters among our members (especially those without email) three times a year. Funds are also utilized to print membership brochures and other literature that supports the mission of the WNPS. Your memberships are especially important to sustain our access to quality speakers while we maintain stocks of expensive-to-print literature for distribution to members and non-members alike. If your membership has lapsed recently, please renew soon and consider giving memberships as a gift that keeps giving.



*Wild ginger by Joanna Richard*

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Members of the Washington Native Plant Society and interested others are invited to post information, photographs, illustrations, and articles about native plant related activities, requests for volunteers, native plant recipes, books reviews, plant hike post-scripts, and related insights to *The Acorn*. Organizations whose focus is similar to the Washington Native Plant Society, and whose activities and presentations might interest our members are also invited to submit to *The Acorn*.

*The Acorn* is distributed to members and is also posted on the South Sound Chapter website. The submission deadline for the summer newsletter is April 1, 2006. Please email to Heather Halabisky at [halabcoles@nventure.com](mailto:halabcoles@nventure.com).



# South Sound Chapter Winter/Spring 2006 Chapter Meeting Schedule

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (TACOMA)**  
**“Native Plants for Northwest Gardens” ♦ Eugene N. Kosloff**

We are excited to have Eugene N. Kozloff present "Native Plants for Northwest Gardens," in Tacoma and have his latest publication, *Plants of Western Oregon, Washington and British Columbia*, available for purchase. Mr. Kozloff pursues biological research for the UW at Friday Harbor Laboratories and is an authority on the natural history of the Pacific Northwest. In recent years, he has studied the flora of the Siskiyou Mountain region of Oregon, an experience that enabled him to illustrate and develop keys for the plants of this interesting area. Join us as he provides a visual tour of western Washington's native plants. This presentation will be helpful to botanists, native plant enthusiasts, ecologists, conservationists, and amateurs alike.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (OLYMPIA)**  
**“Conserving Rare Plants and Places Around Washington” ♦ Joe Arnett**

Joe Arnett, who is serving this year as the Washington Natural Heritage Program (DNR) Botanist, will give a presentation in Olympia on "Conserving Rare Plants and Places Around Washington." Joe has worked as a professional botanist for over 20 years, throughout Washington and beyond, and will include discussion about the important role passionate amateur botanists play towards the development of knowledge and conservation of native ecosystems and species.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (TACOMA)**  
**“Rare and Endemic Wildflowers of the Northwest” ♦ Mark Turner**

"Rare and Endemic Wildflowers of the Northwest" will be the highlight of this month's Tacoma presentation featuring Mark Turner, owner of Turner Photographics. This visual tour will take us to the Olympic Mountains, Steens Mountain, the Klamath/Siskiyou Mountains, and the Columbia Plateau – all home to plants found nowhere else. Join us for a presentation that will give us a preview of Mark's hot-off-the-press book: *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest* (Timber Press, March 2006). Mark will also be featured in a separate presentation to be held in Olympia on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**MONDAY, MARCH 20 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (OLYMPIA)**  
**“Ethnobotany as a Multidisciplinary Science” ♦ Alfredo Gomez-Beloz**

Life does not function in a vacuum: it is affected by everything, including us. As a ceaseless seeker of knowledge and enlightenment, Dr. Alfredo Gomez-Beloz has come to a more holistic understanding of science. He studied the wound healing plants used by the Winikina Warao Indians of the Orinoco River Delta, Venezuela and the use of botánicas by a Mexican population in the US. Dr. Gomez-Beloz has been able to bridge the multiple disciplines of science to offer a more holistic understanding of the world around us through his diverse teaching experiences. Born in Chicago of Mexican parents, Dr. Gomez-Beloz offers a fresh and interesting perspective to the multidisciplinary approach to science, especially ethnobotany, the study of the relationship between people and plants. Dr. Gomez-Beloz will also be featured in a separate presentation to be held in Tacoma on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (TACOMA)**  
**“Your Highway Nickels in Plants and Pathways” ♦ Robert Barnes**

Ever wonder about all of the decisions that affect the plantings along our state highways? Robert Barnes, a lead Landscape Architect for the Washington Department of Transportation, will present "Your Highway Nickels in Plants and Pathways." Designer and expert planting coordinator, Robert Barnes will provide an overview of the highway design process with emphasis on the plants that make our drives dull or dazzling. Especially if you live in Tacoma or Gig Harbor, you'll appreciate the insights that you'll gain about our most used roadways, new pedestrian pathways under construction, and the various partners that make it all possible.

**MONDAY, APRIL 17 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (OLYMPIA)**  
**“Forest management at Fort Lewis” ♦ Jeffrey R. Foster**

Jeffrey R. Foster, ecologist with the Fort Lewis Forestry Program will talk about the various forest management practices used on the Fort's 53,000 acre forests. The Program's three major goals are to: (1) Develop and maintain late-succession forests; (2) Maintain and restore native biological diversity and unique plant communities; (3) Maintain low risks of catastrophic fire. Most of Fort Lewis was designated as critical habitat for the northern spotted owl in 1993, so the majority of our forests are silviculturally manipulated to mimic old growth habitat primarily through variable density thinning. The Forestry Program is "Forest Stewardship Council" certified to reflect the environmentally sound way timber harvests are conducted.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (TACOMA)**  
**“A Visit to the Glacial Heritage Preserve” ♦ Wendy Gibble**

May is the best month of the year to take "A Visit the Glacial Heritage Preserve", one of the Puget Sound's last remaining open prairies. Join us in Tacoma for an introduction to this unusual and undulating landscape as Wendy Gibble, UW Botanic Gardens Rare Care Program Manager, shares the findings from her Master's research on possible causes for the success of the invasive of hairy cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) into the South Puget Sound Prairies. We'll also get an overview of the Washington Rare Plant Care & Conservation Program (Rare Care), located at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. This program is the only conservation program focused exclusively on rare plants in the state. The Rare Care program collects plant material from wild rare plant populations and stores them in a climate-controlled seed vault for eventual reintroduction into the wild. Rare Care also monitors rare plant populations located throughout Washington.

**MONDAY, MAY 15 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (OLYMPIA)**  
**“Favorite Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest” ♦ Mark Turner**

Olympic National Park, Mt. Rainier, North Cascades, and Crater Lake National Parks are popular destinations for many visitors, so we hope to whet your appetite with "Favorite Wildflowers of the Northwest" a presentation in Olympia featuring Mark Turner, owner of Turner Photographics. Each of these popular destinations supports a diverse array of wildflowers spanning many different habitats. Photographer Mark Turner will share many of his favorite flowers from the parks, some common and some unusual, in a program drawn from *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*, being published in March 2006 by Timber Press. If you can't make this presentation, Mark will also be presenting in Tacoma on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**WEDESDAY, JUNE 14 ♦ 7:00 – 9:00 PM (TACOMA)**  
**“Ethnobotany as a Multidisciplinary Science” ♦ Alfredo Gomez-Beloz**

Please refer to the description above under Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> for details on Dr. Gomez-Beloz's presentation.

**MEETING LOCATIONS:**

**Directions to the Washington State Capital Museum in Olympia:** From Interstate 5 in Olympia, take Exit 105, following the "State Capital/City Center" route. Go through a tunnel, (get in the left hand lane) and turn left on Capital Way. Follow the brown and white "State Capital Museum" signs to 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Turn right on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and proceed two blocks. The museum is on the left in a stucco mansion. We meet in the carriage house in back of the mansion.

Washington State Capital Museum  
211 West 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Olympia, WA 98501  
360-753-2580

**Directions to the Tacoma Nature Center:** From Interstate 5, take State Highway 16 towards Gig Harbor. Look for the 19<sup>th</sup> Street EAST, exit and take it, which puts you onto South 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Travel to the first light, turn right on South Tyler, and then left into the first driveway at the Tacoma Nature Center.

Tacoma Nature Center  
1919 South Tyler  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
253-591-6439

# Chair Report

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Anna Thurston



*Trillium by Joanna Richard*

## **Stewards Create Community**

As I prepare for Pierce County's first Native Plant Stewardship Training, I am regularly reminded of all of the truly friendly people who have helped to make the Washington Native Plant Society such an outstanding group with which to share valued and inspired time. Our presentations and field trips, our newsletters and our websites, plus all of the mundane activities that make

it possible to communicate and reach out beyond our edges, all take formidable amounts of time and organization. It would be interesting to add it all up just for the South Sound Chapter, as I'm sure the number of hours would be cause for pause, even before we start to include travel time.

At the state level, there's even more going on to make it possible for eleven active WNPS chapters to collaborate in the pursuit of our mission of promoting the appreciation and conservation of native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy. There are meetings, there is electronic-communication, there are annual events and study sessions. Threaded throughout these activities, people share their passion for native plants through discussion, hands-on learning and after-meeting field trips. One need not be a botanist to play along. It is often the non-botanists who help the botanists among us see another picture of the world. Ultimately, both perspectives enable us to pursue our mission with greater affect.

Don't let me scare away would-be volunteers or members with what looks like lots of work. Indeed, it is, but there is a larger element of heart and spirit at play, which makes it all worth while. As important as the numerous hours that so many people generously offer (without requesting *any* kind of exposure or return) is the community that we collectively create. With more people participating, every person's load is becoming lighter, and every person gets to know more people with whom they might have something fun in common.

It is this spirit that creates a healthy work environment for increasingly important community activities among the WNPS and its partners. It is this same spirit that reconnects people to Nature and how understanding it is so vital to a healthy environment around us. Active or not, WNPS members are stewards of the environment when they engage in and share what they know or simply love about Nature. Non-botanists are encouraged to endeavor, not to become botanists (unless they want), but to become even more engaged. And those who are already more involved are encouraged to be outgoing with what you know. We need knowledgeable stewards who can help us reach beyond our membership to people who have lost their sense of Nature.

We need your help to create more community: by volunteering at fairs and at schools where we hope to connect with adults and children; by wielding a shovel to help restore what humans have often pulled apart or left undone; by taking walks with friends in places that you know are special; by taking a class to learn more; by talking about how native plants maintain a sense of place while we protect, restore or enhance the world around us. Help us create community and get to know the spirit of our members. It's an awesome group of people!

# Conservation Report

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Mary Fries, our chapter's tireless Conservation Chair, has moved, and although her typewriter and addresses are buried under boxes she is still at it! Her new address is 319 North Tacoma Avenue, Apt 800, Tacoma 98403. Mary's phone remains the same (253-272-9192) as she continues her commitment to native plant protection issues in Tacoma and Pierce County.

As Mary settles into her new apartment, she seeks volunteers to help support the Chapter with these activities, which includes attendance at various community meetings and review of state, federal, and

local newsletters and announcements of activities that have impact on native plants and their habitat. Examples of activities include the following:

- Metro Parks Tacoma activities related to Point Defiance Park Forest
- Removal of invasive weeds (especially Herb Robert) at Swan Creek Park
- Review of environmental impact reports and assessments for proposed roadways, utilities, and other development

- Seed collection and propagation at Mt. Rainier (contact Dan & Pat Montague at 360-709-0866 or montague30@comcast.net for more information)

- Habitat preservation and restoration activities with Clover and Chambers Creek organizations (contact Nel Batker at 253-537-4838 for more information)

## Volunteer Opportunities

### ADOPT-A-WILDLIFE AREA (AAWA)

Citizens for a Healthy Bay (CHB) is looking for dedicated people who are committed to protecting and restoring habitat areas along Commencement Bay. Their "Adopt-A-Wildlife-Area" (AAWA) program is volunteer-based and invites participants to become stewards of a habitat site along Commencement Bay in Tacoma and to conduct monthly monitoring of that site.

Two training sessions are scheduled in January: **January 26 (5:30 pm – 8:00 pm)** and **January 28 (9:00 am – 11:30 am)**. For more information or to get involved, please contact Elly Schroeder, Volunteer Coordinator at 253-383-2429 or [eschroeder@healthybay.org](mailto:eschroeder@healthybay.org). You can find more information at the CHB website calendar at [www.healthybay.org](http://www.healthybay.org).

## Other Items of Interest

### NATIVE PLANT CLASSES

#### South Puget Sound Community College

Native Plant classes will be offered at the South Puget Sound Community College Spring Quarter starting April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The classes include: "Plants of the Pacific Northwest", Botany 210, 5 credits, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:45 to 8:35 pm, and "Native Plants in the Landscape", Horticulture 220, 3 credits, Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 to 10:20 am and Fridays 9:00 to 10:50 am. For information, contact Diane Doss, 360-596-5594; [ddoss@spscc.ctc.edu](mailto:ddoss@spscc.ctc.edu)

### OREGON WHITE OAK & PRAIRIE HABITAT

#### A Southwest Washington Legacy

If you would like to restore or enhance your Oregon White Oak and prairie habitat, assistance is available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This important habitat type is quickly vanishing in Washington and conservation on private lands is critical. Planners with the NRCS can assist you in developing management plans to maintain or restore the habitat you have and cost incentives are available for some projects through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). For more information please contact: Anitra Gorham, USDA-NRCS Longview Field Office, 360-425-1880 ext. 107 or [anitra.gorham@wa.usda.gov](mailto:anitra.gorham@wa.usda.gov). For more information on oak and prairie restoration please see these links: <http://www.oregonoaks.org/landguide.shtml> and <http://www.biodiversitypartners.org/pubs/Campbell/02.shtml>.



*Vanilla leaf by Joanna Richard*

### CENTER FOR WORLD INDIGENOUS STUDIES ETHNOBOTANY COURSES

The Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS) in Olympia, Washington, is offering an online two-course series in ethnobotany called "The Convergence of Plants and People". The series will be led by Dr. Alfredo Gomez-Beloz, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at CWIS. The first course, **February 18 to May 6, 2006**, is titled "An introduction to Ethnobotany and Ethnonutrition" and will focus on introducing students to a variety of field methods in ethnobotany as well as cultures around the world where plants play a primary role in their lives.

The second course, **May 27 to August 12, 2006**, is titled "Phytotherapeutic Approaches to Health and Wellness" and will focus on the therapeutic benefits of plants, including a discussion on psychoactive and toxic plants. For more information, visit their website ([www.cwis.org](http://www.cwis.org)) or contact Rachel Goeke, CWIS Education Coordinator, at [rachelg@cwis.org](mailto:rachelg@cwis.org) or 360-407-1095.



# Chapter & State Contacts

## Chair - Anna Thurston

227 Contra Costa  
Fircrest, WA 98466  
253-566-3342  
a.thurston@worldnet.att.net

## Vice Chair - Rod Gilbert

360-456-4013  
roderickgilbert1@comcast.net

## Treasurer - Kevin Head

360-943-3752  
khead@ekit.com

## Secretary - OPEN

## Conservation Chair - Mary Fries

319 North Tacoma Avenue, Apt 800  
Tacoma WA 98403  
253-272-9192

## Outgoing Newsletter Editor - Mara McGrath

mara@eco-land.com

## Incoming Newsletter Editor - Heather Halabisky

halabcoles@nventure.com

## Web Manager - Lee Fellenberg

252-752-0732  
leefellenberg@harbornet.com

## Publicity - Sue Summers

253-460-5569  
summerssue@hotmail.com

## Field Trip Coordinator - Diane Doss

360-459-2040 or 360-596-5544  
abieslas@hotmail.com or  
DDoss@spscc.ctc.edu

## Volunteer Coordinator - OPEN

## At Large Volunteers:

### Pierce County - Stan & Helen Engle

253-564-3112  
Hengle@iinet.com

### Coastal Counties - Helen Hepp

360-249-4321  
shhepp@techline.com

### Thurston County - Dan & Pat Montague

360-709-0866  
montague30@comcast.net

### Native Plant Salvage in Lewis County - Janet Strong

360-495-3950  
mcstrong@techline.com

## Native Plant Salvage in Pierce County - Anna Thurston

253-566-3342  
anna.thurston@ssstewardship.org

## Native Plant Salvage in Thurston County - Erica Guttman

1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Ste. E  
Olympia, WA 98512-5607  
360-704-7785  
ericag@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu

## WNPS 'Douglasia' Managing Editor - David Biek

253-927-2654 h / 253-591-5666 w  
davidbiek@comcast.net (personal)  
3830 Nassau Ave NE  
Tacoma, WA 98422

## Statewide President - Dean Longrie

deanpl@aol.com

## State Executive Director - Catherine Hovanic

6310 NE 74<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 215E  
Seattle, WA 98115-8171  
206-527-3210 or 1-888-288-8022  
wnps@wnps.org



Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter - [www.southsoundchapterwnps.org](http://www.southsoundchapterwnps.org)  
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### 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, [plus S and W](#))
- Wenatchee Valley
- At-Large
- Palouse (Inactive)
- Suksdorfia (Inactive)

Each membership includes affiliation with one chapter. Add \$5.00 for each additional chapter.

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A beautiful 24" x 36" full-color poster featuring 36 native species, \$8 (members \$6)  
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TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WNPS and mail to:

Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE 74<sup>th</sup> St., Ste 215E  
Seattle, WA  
206-527-3210  
website: [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)



South Sound Chapter WNPS  
6220 N 50<sup>th</sup> St  
Tacoma WA 98407-2119

*Winter/Spring Chapter Meeting Schedule is enclosed.*

*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.*