



# *The Acorn*

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

*Winter-Spring 2016*

## **Starting the Year in the Alpine**

This year, we began the program year in a new way with a special presentation by Andy MacKinnon, *Life Above the Treeline: Plant Adaptations to the Alpine*. The event was held at the Recital Hall at The Evergreen State College in Olympia and was co-sponsored by the college through the efforts of Dr. Frederica Bowcutt. The evening opened with a social hour at 5:45 pm for WNPS members and guests, followed by Andy's presentation at 7 pm. The turnout was well over 150 people - members, public and students.

As always, with Andy, the presentation was very informative and entertaining, and was greeted with great enthusiasm. We look forward to having him back on April 11 to speak with us again (see program description on page 4).

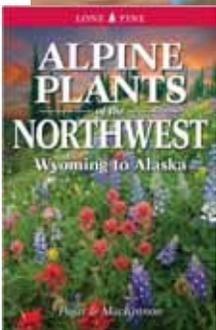
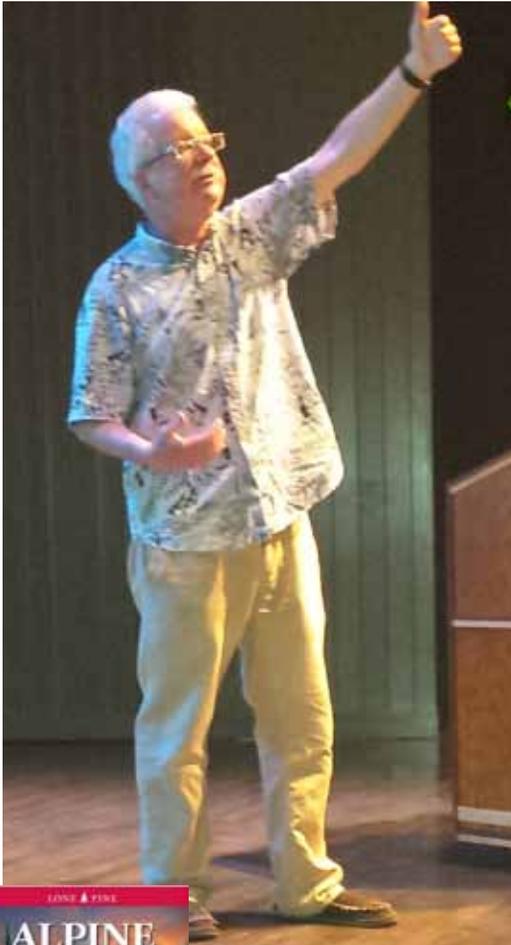
## **Fall Native Plant Sale**

Once again, our Fall Native Plant Sale was a success both as a fundraiser for the chapter activities and to spread the appreciation of our wonderful native plants. The sale was held on October 3 at the Capital Museum Coach House. As with our other fall sales without many flowering plants, the emphasis was on trees and shrubs. Total sales were just under \$4300 from which we realized a profit of over \$1450. The funds provide for community grants and help fund programs and activities such as Andy MacKinnon's appearance. Our Spring Native Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2016, and will be again at the Capital Museum Coach House.

For that success, we thank the community members who come to the sale to learn about and purchase native plants. Most of all, we thank the volunteers who helped set up the sale on October 2 and sold plants and cleaned up on October 3: Don Guyot, Byrna Klavano, Gail Trotter, Sue Butkus, Jane Ely, Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Bill Brookreson, Cyndy Dillon, Dan and Pat Montague, Cherry and Jim Pedrick, June Coloff, Kit Ellis, Reba Van Andel, Lee Fellenberg, Jane Ostericher and Dennis Plank. Without them, it wouldn't happen.

## **Spring Native Plant Sale, Saturday, April 23, 2016**

With the coming of spring flowers, the thoughts of gardeners turn to planting. Volunteers are already potting bulbs and other plants to be ready. Again this year, our spring plant sale will be held at the Capital Museum's Coach House, 9 am-3 pm. We need volunteers on both Friday, April 22, for set up and Saturday, April 23, for the sale. If you want to volunteer in preparing plants, for either or both dates in April, have native plants to donate, or have specific plants you would like us to look for as we acquire plants for the sale, contact Bill Brookreson at 253-292-8570, [b.brookreson@comcast.net](mailto:b.brookreson@comcast.net), or Bonnie Blessing-Earle at [bonnie.blessing@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.blessing@gmail.com). To volunteer you may contact Cyndy Dillon at [cpdillongh@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillongh@comcast.net).



Andy MacKinnon is a well-known name. With Jim Pojar, he is co-author of *Plants of the Pacific Northwest* and more recently, *Alpine Plants of the Northwest*.

## Other S. Sound Chapter Activities

### Moss Workshop and Field Trip

For many of us, mosses have always been mysterious. On November 14, they became a little less mysterious thanks to an all day workshop taught by Lee Ellis, one of the state's premier experts on mosses, at the Tacoma Nature Center. The workshop, which was limited to twelve students, was jointly sponsored by WNPS and the Nature Center. It included pictures and hands on examination of great variety of mosses and liverworts.

Many of the students from the workshop followed up with a "moss hike" in the Morse Nature Conservancy led by Mary Sue Gee on November 19, where they had the opportunity to practice their moss identification skills. We hope to have additional workshops in the future if there is interest. Possible subjects include lichens and native ferns.

*(Moss pictured on outside mailer/last page: courtesy of Steve Casebolt)*

### Election Results

The election results for the 2015-16 WNPS South Sound Chapter officers were as follows.

15 regular mail ballots sent out; 1 returned

150 e-mail ballots sent out; 32 returned

TOTAL RECEIVED – 33



Bill Brookreson, chair	33
Jane Ostericher, vice-chair Pierce	33
Bonnie Blessing-Earle, vice-chair Thurston	31
Sharon Bergquist-Moody, secretary	33
Jane Ely, treasurer	33

Lee Fellenberg counted the votes on November 7. Thanks, Lee, for all you have done.

### Washington State Fair Booth

The 2015 WNPS booth at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup was in the Northwest Outdoors Building. Again, we supplied our own plants and hardscape decorations for the booth. The fair ran from September 11 to 27, with set up on September 8 and clean up on September 28.

This year, thanks to Cyndy Dillon's coordination, we were able to have 41 volunteers to cover almost all shifts. John Neorr took the lead in planning the booth. Byrna Klavano provided oversight in maintaining the booth and ordering handouts. It was an excellent opportunity to talk to people about WNPS and native plants! Thanks to all the volunteers.

## Other Plant Sales

**WNPS Central Puget Sound Chapter, Spring 2016 Native Plant Sale** is scheduled for April 30, 2016 at the Bellevue Botanic Gardens. Check the WNPS website for details as they become available.

**Pierce County Master Gardener's Plant Sale** is scheduled for April 23 (9 am-4 pm) & April 24 (9-3), 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 books for sale.

**Tacoma Nature Center Spring Plant Sale– May 7, 9 am – 4 pm.** Landscape your yard with plants that are native to our area. Planting natives ensures the conservation of our precious water resources 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 6, at [www.tacomannaturecenter.org](http://www.tacomannaturecenter.org). Come early for the best selection.

## WNPS State News

### Native Plant Appreciation Week April 24-30, 2016

This week will be the 13th 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 ecosystems are critical to sustaining our native wildlife and the quality of Washington's environment. Native Plant Appreciation Week is really a celebration! This 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, and all the good work being done to protect and preserve it.

Take the opportunity that NPAW provides 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 will kick off NPAW a day early with our spring native plant sale. Watch the website and monthly updates for other scheduled events. We have a lot to be thankful for and a great responsibility to preserve and protect our native flora. That touches the core of what the Washington Native Plant Society is about.

### A Native Plant Stewardship Program for Pierce and Thurston Counties

By James Evans

The South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) is offering a Native Plant Stewardship Program for Pierce and Thurston Counties in Spring 2016. This six-week program will combine classroom learning with field trips to educate stewards about the region's native plants and their roles in local ecosystems. Participants will learn how to use this knowledge to protect and restore our ecosystems. Learning goals of the program include:

- An overview of Puget Sound ecosystems and their environmental settings.
- Identification of key native plants and plant communities of the south Puget Sound.
- An understanding of many of the key roles native plants play in ecosystem functions, such as wildlife habitat, water quality, and more.
- Identification of important noxious and invasive weeds and methods for their control.
- Principles and practices of ecological restoration, including hands-on experience in planting, invasive species management, and other practices.
- How to work individually and as part of a team to maintain and restore habitats for native plants and wildlife. We will include overviews of local conservation organizations and public agencies that need your help!
- Perhaps most importantly, stewards will acquire the tools and resources to continue learning and contributing long after the course has been completed.

There will be six two-and-one-half-hour week-night classroom sessions integrated with three all-day Saturday field trips, for a minimum of 30 hours of direct training. Selected readings and online videos will supplement direct training. Stewards must be members of the Washington Native Plant Society (This is easy! Visit [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)) and commit to providing 30 hours of volunteer work on approved local conservation and restoration projects (equal to the number of training hours).

WNPS is committed to making Native Plant Stewardship Training available to the widest possible range of people. Watch for dates and information on applications and registration in the Monthly Updates and in the next *Acorn* or contact: Jim Evans, State Stewardship Program Manager, Washington Native Plant Society: 206-678-8914; [jimevans@centurytel.net](mailto:jimevans@centurytel.net).



### A Year in Retrospect By Bill Brookreson



Having just completed my first year as chair for the South Sound Chapter, I thought it would be worthwhile to reflect back over what we have done as a chapter during that year. Thanks to the members of the chapter, our numerous volunteers and an excellent group of board members, there is much of which we can be pleased.

Again this year, thanks to the excellent efforts of John Neorr, we have had a wide variety of excellent speakers. John's work is even more praiseworthy when you consider that he has not one but two monthly speakers – in Tacoma and Olympia – to arrange. The highlight of the year was having Andy MacKinnon, in September, talking to well over 150 people about alpine plants. John's creativity has also shown up in the educational moments before the meetings.

Our spring and fall native plant sales have been not only a source of funds for community grants and other chapter activities, but have also been a great community outreach and opportunity to educate people about native plants. They have worked because of all the chapter members who have given their time and effort to make them successful. We owe a special thanks to Bonnie Blessing-Earle who has given her knowledge and energy in helping to guide the efforts.

Nature hikes are always a key part of our enjoyment of our native flora. This year, we have had thirteen hikes. We have also participated in educational events including the Shorebird Festival in Hoquiam, training for the Mt. Rainier Institute and our booth at the Washington State Fair. Cyndy Dillon, our volunteer coordinator, has done a wonderful job setting up hikes and coordinating volunteers. John Neorr and Jane Ostericher have handled our Meetup (over 400 members) and Facebook sites to involve more people.

We have provided presentations on native plants to Audubon, Master Gardeners, and the Envirohouse in Tacoma. Jane Ostericher has headed up educational activities with the schools. John Neorr has coordinated our small grant program to give back to the community. This year we provided a moss workshop by Lee Ellis in Tacoma. Our volunteers have worked on the Capital Museum Native Plant Garden, South Sound Prairies and Tacoma Nature Center doing maintenance and restoration.

Finally, I would be remiss without thanking Lee Fellenberg who handles our website, and gets out the *Acorn* and Monthly Updates and much more; and Margaret Purcell who takes my word document and transforms it amazingly into a polished newsletter.

Being your chair is a real privilege. Working with your board makes it very enjoyable. But all the members who volunteer and participate in our activities are the key to our success. Thank you for your trust. I look forward to another great year.

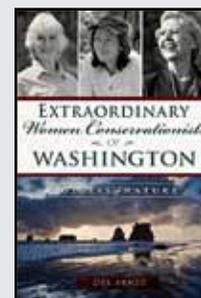
## Workshops/Conferences

This November, we had a workshop for mosses. For 2016, we hope to schedule a workshop on lichens and/or ferns. Watch your monthly updates and Meetup for details.

## Chapter Meetings

**Meeting Times and Locations:** We are very pleased to offer another series of interesting and educational speakers for our winter/spring meetings. Chapter meetings are 7-9 pm. Meetings are normally scheduled on the second Monday (Olympia) and the second Wednesday (Tacoma) of each month from October through May. Meetings consist 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. Meetings are free and open to the public. Please contact John Neorr at [presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org) if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

February 2016	<p><b>Monday, February 8 (Olympia), Mark Darrach</b>  <b><i>Rare Plants of the Blue Mountains</i></b></p> <p>As a botanist for the US Forest Service in the Umatilla National Forest, Mark Darrach has spent nearly ten years observing the wide variety of fauna found in the Blue Mountains of southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. He will share with us a look at the rare plants he has observed in his one-million-acre office.</p>
	<p><b>Wednesday, February 10 (Tacoma), Patty Carter</b>  <b><i>Puyallup Historical Fish Hatchery</i></b></p> <p>Only 14 blocks from the Washington State Fair, the Puyallup Fish Hatchery operates today, as it has since 1949, nestled on 80 acres of beautiful natural habitat with great hiking trails. In 2012 the Puyallup Hatchery was given new life when citizens came forward at a time it was about to be lost, got involved and created the Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation. Join Historical Foundation Director, Patty Carter, to learn more about this important part of Pacific Northwest history – its past and its future.</p>
March 2016	<p><b>Wednesday, March 9 (Tacoma), John Hayes</b>  <b><i>Mount Rainier Institute – Training Tomorrow’s Environmental Stewards</i></b></p> <p>Nestled in the beautiful Pack Forest near Eatonville, is a residential learning center that uses the natural and cultural resources of the forest and nearby Mount Rainier National Park to provide outstanding nature-based education experiences to our next generation of environmental stewards and leaders. Join John Hayes, Mount Rainier Institute’s Environmental Education Program Manager, to learn more about the Mt. Rainier Institute, which was born as a partnership between Mount Rainier National Park and the University of Washington. John will provide an overview of the Institute and provide additional details about its multi-day programs focusing on science/ScienceTechnologyEngineeringMathematics(STEM) education.</p>
	<p><b>Monday, March 14 (Olympia), Dee Arntz</b>  <b><i>Extraordinary Women Conservationists of Washington: Mothers of Nature</i></b></p> <p>In this presentation, author and Washington conservationist Dee Arntz will recount the important stories of the courageous women who helped bring about Washington’s environmental conservation successes. Bonnie Phillips, Melanie Rowland and Helen Engle battled harmful timber cutting. Polly Dyer and Emily Haig worked to expand Olympic National Park and organized efforts to establish North Cascades National Park. Women helped create the Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters. As a state representative, Jolene Unsoeld led the fight against Boeing and other major corporations to pass the state Model Toxics Control Act. Following the meeting, Dee’s book, <i>Mothers of Nature</i>, will be on sale and Dee will be available for book signing.</p>



April 2016

**Monday, April 11 (Olympia), Andy MacKinnon**  
***Mycoheterotrophs: The Fungal Connection***

Popular author and lecturer, Andy MacKinnon, returns and will lead us in exploring the world of mycoheterotrophs, plants that rely on mycorrhizal fungi to supply them with carbon and nutrients. Once we learn about what they are and how they work, Andy will take us on a virtual tour of the mycoheterotrophs we are likely to see in the Pacific Northwest.

Andy MacKinnon is a research ecologist with British Columbia's Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, West Coast Region. He has worked on and off, for the BC government since 1982, in research for the BC Forest Service (much of that in ecosystem classification) and in land use planning in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii. He's also an adjunct professor in Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University and teaches field courses for the University of Victoria and University of British Columbia in Bamfield and Haida Gwaii.

*Please note: The specific venue for this meeting in Olympia has not yet been determined.*

**Wednesday, April 13 (Tacoma), John Soennichsen**  
***Washington's Channeled Scablands***

In this presentation, author John Soennichsen will discuss Washington's Channeled Scablands, an area of dramatic geology and features such as massive coulees, abandoned waterfalls, narrow canyons, deep potholes, striking basalt buttes and incredibly large boulders dramatically perched in the unlikely of places. Unlike many popular national destinations where one prominent natural feature is located within a fairly small area—such as a mountain, a canyon, or a lake—the scablands consist of a variety of attractions and are spread out over a region nearly two thousand square miles in size.

Covering much of the material found in his book *Washington's Channeled Scablands*, John will discuss the five regions that comprise the scablands. He will talk about the distinguishing features of these regions, and how best to plan your visit to see and enjoy the various geologic and other attractions found there. See <http://johnsoennichsen.weebly.com/johns-bio.html> for more information. John's book will be on sale at the meeting.

*Please note: The specific venue for this meeting in Tacoma has not yet been determined.*

May 2016

**Monday, May 9 (Olympia), Lee Ellis**  
***An Introduction to Mosses***

Have you ever asked yourself, "What exactly is a moss?" or "How do mosses differ from other plants?" This lecture will start with an historical look at mosses, then a survey of moss structure and biology, and a look at their relationship to other plants. A walk in the woods will never be the same! Local moss enthusiast Lee Ellis became hooked on mosses after taking a class taught by Elva Lawton, author of *Moss Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. Lee now volunteers in the UW bryophyte herbarium, in addition to doing moss surveys, teaching moss classes and leading moss field trips.

**Wednesday, May 11 (Tacoma), Rolf Gersonde**  
***SERNW - Protecting and Restoring NW Ecosystems***

The Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) Northwest Chapter was founded in 1993 as a private non-profit organization. It has since grown into a dynamic interactive professional society dedicated to the art and science of restoration. SERNW President, Rolf Gersonde, will present an overview of SERNW and will describe both completed and ongoing projects that are protecting and restoring ecosystems throughout the Cascadia bioregion, which includes Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Alaska and Northern California.

**Hikes**



Hikes and outings as they are scheduled are posted on the WNPS South Sound website and announced online at Meetup. If you have a hike that you would like to see scheduled or, even better, if you would like to lead a native plant hike, contact Cyndy Dillon at [cpdillongh@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillongh@comcast.net) who coordinates our hikes and volunteer activities.

# Native Plant Resources

## Creating a Bird and Wildlife Friendly Yard

One of the questions we often get asked is how to create a more bird- or wildlife-friendly yard environment. There are a number of excellent resources to help in that effort. A good place to begin is with our own WNPS website. The Starflower Habitat Education Activities and Resources (<http://tinyurl.com/gnsjuwh>) is a great place to begin. The site has a section of “Native plants for Wildlife” with lists of native plants for butterflies and for hummingbirds, natives that provide seeds and berries and natives that provide shelter.

Another excellent on-line source is on the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Website – The Backyard Sanctuary Program. (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/backyard/>). The site has a number of very useful materials and suggestions. Individual entries include: Attracting Backyard Wildlife, Landscape Design for Wild life, Woodworking Projects for Wildlife, Hummingbirds and How to Attract Them, Winter Wildlife Feeding, Ponds and Birdbaths, Butterflies and How to Attract Them, and Snags – The Wildlife Tree.



- Plant more trees and shrubs. 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, a garden pond, or another source of water. A safe place to bathe and drink will act as a magnet to many animals.
- Add birdhouses, or better yet, try to leave snags on your property. Cavity-nesting birds have been especially impacted by urban development. A birdhouse of the proper dimensions can substitute for snags where these birds used to nest.

Much of the material comes from two excellent books by Russell Link: *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* and *Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*. Both are readily available from your favorite book dealer or from WDFW at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/book/>.

Another excellent resource that we previously reviewed is Douglas W. Tallamy’s book, *Bringing Nature Home, How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. Wild creatures exist in a complex web of interrelationships, and often require different kinds of food at different stages of their development. When native plant species disappear or are replaced by alien exotics, the insects disappear, thus impoverishing the food source of birds and other animals. The book includes color photos; a listing of landscape-worthy, wildlife-attracting native plants by U.S. region; summary table of host plants of butterflies and showy moths; and experimental evidence for the ability of native as vs. alien plants to attract beneficial insects.

Finally, *Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America’s Bees and Butterflies* published by the Xerces Society can broaden your perspective as well as giving lists of useful plants for native pollinators that increase the diversity of your garden.

With a bit of planning, you can not only have a beautiful garden but also help birds, small wildlife and critical native pollinators as well as having fun.



## Volunteer Opportunities

The South Sound Chapter has a number of ongoing volunteer activities. Watch the Monthly Updates for more details and other opportunities.

**Tacoma Nature Center.** On the first and third Fridays of each month, with a couple of exceptions for special events, Cyndy Dillon heads up restoration activities at the Tacoma Nature Center from 9 am to noon, removing invasive plants and planting native plants. Contact Cyndy at [cpdillongh@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillongh@comcast.net).

**Capital Museum Native Plant Garden.** On most third Thursdays Bill Brookreson heads up maintenance work on the Capital Museum Native Plant Garden in Olympia from 9 am to noon. Contact Bill at [b.brookreson@comcast.net](mailto:b.brookreson@comcast.net).

**South Sound Prairies.** You are invited to join the Center for Natural Lands Management at Glacial Heritage Preserve to help enhance the South Puget Sound Prairies every Tuesday from 9-3 and every second Saturday. For information contact [ssvolunteers@cnlm.org](mailto:ssvolunteers@cnlm.org) or call (360) 570-0762.

# Chapter & State Contacts

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**Conservation Committee Chair - Vacant**

**Volunteer and Field Trip Committee Chair**  
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**Administrator**  
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 Seattle, WA 98115-8171  
[wnps@wnps.org](mailto:wnps@wnps.org)



I'd like to join or renew my membership in the  
**WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

New Membership       Membership Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to receive Douglasia \_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to receive WNPS email

Please check the desired membership category:

Member Category and Dues		
Individual	\$35	Friend \$50-\$99
Family	\$45	Special Friend \$100-\$499
Club/Organization	\$65	Best Friend \$500-\$999
Student	\$20	Sustaining Member \$1,000
(Name of institution)		Patron \$5,000

Membership entitles you to one chapter affiliation; for each additional affiliation, please add \$7.00.  
 Check the Chapters with which you wish to affiliate.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Puget Sound (King & S. Snohomish Co.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Olympic Peninsula
<input type="checkbox"/>	Central Washington (Yakima & Ellensburg)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Salal (Mt. Vernon & Skagit Valley)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities & Walla Walla)	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Juan Islands
<input type="checkbox"/>	Koma Kulshan (Bellingham)	<input type="checkbox"/>	South Sound (Pierce Co. & Thurston Co.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	NE Washington (Spokane)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suksdorfia (Vancouver & Columbia Gorge)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Okanogan (Winthrop)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wenatchee Valley
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	At Large

Please remit by check

Dues as selected above: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Chapters X \$7 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WNPS and mail to:

Washington Native Plant Society  
 6310 NE 74th St., Ste 215E, Seattle, WA 98115  
 Phone: 206-527-3210 Email: [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org)  
 or go to [www.wnps.org/membership](http://www.wnps.org/membership) to pay on-line



**Photos: Mosses (provided by Steve Casebolt) , WNPS booth at the Washington State Fair, and fall native plant sale at the Capital Museum Coach House in Olympia**



*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.*