



# *The Acorn*

*Serving the South Sound Chapter of the  
Washington Native Plant Society  
Winter 2015*

## **Chapter Program Year Begins with a Picnic**

For the fourth consecutive year, the South Sound Chapter began its activity year on September 10, with a picnic meeting at Powderworks Park in DuPont. Again, we were fortunate to have excellent weather. Members dined on hamburgers, vegetable burgers from the grill and a variety of tasty shared treats. We also had the chance to honor two of our outgoing officers, Cyndy Dillon and Byrna Klavano, with cake. An assortment of door prizes rounded out the evening.



## **Fall Native Plant Sale Pleases our Buyers**

Our Fall Native Plant Sale was held on October 4 at the Capital Museum Coach. Once again, we had a good turnout of volunteers and buyers. This fall, our sale was slightly smaller than in the past relying primarily on two vendors -- Tadpole Haven and Firetrail Nurseries. Bonnie Blessing-Earle was also pleased that she coordinated with Erica Guttman to sell plants left over from Native Plant Salvage's Water-wise Plant Sale the weekend before. The gross sales were slightly over \$5,000 and yielded, after all expenses, a profit of slightly over \$1,000.

We were challenged this sale by the absence of two hard-working board members, but several chapter members fortunately stepped in to compensate. On Friday morning, Sue Butkus, Jim Pedrick and Don Guyot joined Bonnie to set up the tables, spread tablecloths and arrange plants in the side yard. Then in the afternoon, as Tadpole Haven and Firetrail nurseries delivered their plants, Gail Trotter, Jane Ely, Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Byrna Klavano, Sue Butkus, Chris Earle and Dan and Pat Montague worked diligently to label and price plants as well as position them with descriptive signs. Saturday, as Jane Ostericher, Jane Ely and Lee Fellenberg expertly handled the payment desk, an energetic team of Mary McGreevy, Byrna Klavano, Reba Olsen, Phyllis Sturges, Kit Ellis and Jeanne Ponzetti tallied purchases. Bonnie recommended plants for different habitats. Many stayed to pack up plants, collect materials and clean the coach house so that we were through in record time. We really appreciate the flexibility and diligence of the entire volunteer crew who faced new procedures but came through with flying colors.



**Why Do We Need Plants? Look for the  for a few of the many reasons.**

## Other South Sound Chapter Activities

### A Thanks and a Large Task Ahead – Program Volunteer Needed

After several years of arranging outstanding programs for the South Sound Chapter, John Neorr has decided to step down as our Presentations Coordinator effective with the fall 2015 programs. John has arranged programs for both Tacoma and Olympia each month for the education and enjoyment of our members. We owe John a great debt of thanks for all his good work and for the energy he has brought not only to the programs but also to other chapter activities.

We are seeking someone to take on that role. John has generously offered to help mentor his replacement in that role. If you have an interest in program coordination, please contact Bill Brookreson at [b.brookreson@comcast.net](mailto:b.brookreson@comcast.net) or John Neorr at [presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org).



**Plants provide us with clothing for materials.**

### Chapter Exhibits at Washington State Fair In Puyallup

Over a million people attended the Washington State Fair in Puyallup this year and once again, the South Sound Chapter was there to spread the word about native plants. We estimate that over 9000 people visited our booth that was situated in the fair's Northwest Outdoors Building. Our booth featured many different native plants, a display board describing the Washington Native Plant Society, and a kiosk of many different bulletins that described various aspects of native plants as well as of the WNPS.



Planning and setup of the exhibit was done by Bill Brookreson, Byrna Klavano, Cyndy Dillon, and John Neorr. Following setup, Byrna continued to provide on-site support during the fair to the more than 40 volunteers who staffed our exhibit for the 17-day event. Our engagement with the public was exciting and provided us a unique opportunity to share our knowledge and enthusiasm about native plants – not to mention a chance later to take in the fair! We plan on doing this again next year, so reserve some time in September to be a part of this fun event.

### Volunteer VIPs by Cyndy Dillon

Our chapter has numerous opportunities to promote native plants from ongoing work parties to special events. Bill leads monthly renovation of the Capital History Museum native plant garden on third Thursday mornings of each month and can count on a band of regular helpers including Jim and Cheri, Sharon, and Roxie, who are diligently removing weeds in preparation for a delivery of mulch. At the Tacoma Nature Center on first and third Friday mornings, our work crew is growing to include Lin, Belinda, Rafael, Crystal, Ken, and two five-year olds, Aralia and Annika. We often have students join us to tackle holly, blackberry, ivy, hawthorn, spurge laurel and other nasty weeds. It's amazing what a weed wrench, a mattock, a shovel and a "never give up" attitude can accomplish. In mid-November, June and John signed up for a Do-It-Yourself fair in Puyallup with John showcasing the Aldo Leopold bench and June directing assembly of peanut butter/suet filled pinecones for birdfeeders. We also had some edible plant identification for visitors and may expand our coordination with other nature societies in the future. Our volunteers are enthusiastic, hard-working nature lovers and we can't thank them enough.

### Grant Committee Report

Two grants were completed in 2014: Centralia College China Creek Restoration and Littlerock Elementary Glacial Heritage Field Trip. We currently have no open grants. We have about \$1700 left in the budget for grants, and John is continuing outreach.



**Plants provide us with food, and genes from wild relatives to improve our crops.**

**Supporting WNPS as You Shop**

**A message from Director Elizabeth Faircloth**

Washington Native Plant Society is now connected with Fred Meyer and their Community Rewards Program. Anyone -- member or nonmember, can link their Shoppers Reward Card online and choose Washington Native Plant Society or our nonprofit number 94887. It is uncertain how much of the \$2.5 million Fred Meyer has committed to nonprofits in WA, OR, AK and ID we will receive, but every dollar helps. Thank you for your support.

**AmazonSmile**

Be sure to remind members, friends, family, etc., when they are shopping on Amazon.com, they can link their account to Washington Native Plant Society. You cannot find the link directly on Amazon.com – you must go through a separate Amazon site: <https://smile.amazon.com/> Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. It is an example of another easy fundraising opportunity for us as members.



**Plants provide us with oxygen.**

**Plants provide us with shade for cooling the Earth.**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**South Prairie Restoration Project  
January 31 and February 7**

Luis Yañez, Habitat Improvement Coordinator, Pierce Conservation District, is seeking volunteers to assist on a South Prairie Creek planting project, from 9 am to 1 pm on two Saturdays, Jan, 31 and Feb. 7. The restoration location is at 24115 126th St. Ct. E., South Prairie. The planting includes about 1000 one gallon plants, plus some live stakes. For more information or to volunteer, contact Luis at 253-845-9770 Ext.108, or at [LuisY@piercecountycd.org](mailto:LuisY@piercecountycd.org).

**Watch your monthly updates for more volunteer opportunities!**

**Workshops/Conferences**

**Watch your monthly update.**

**Conservation – A New Year’s Message**

**By Bill Brookreson**

For those of us who have worked a number of years on conservation issues, it is sometimes easy to begin to feel discouraged. Will we ever resolve all the issues that feel so urgent? Unfortunately, the answer is probably “no.” We are most likely to go from one battle, with some victories and some defeats, to the next one. Is it worth the struggle? I believe the answer is a resounding YES.

How does one come to that, seemingly irrational, conclusion? Take a drive around this beautiful state we call home. Go up I-5 through the agricultural lands of the Skagit Valley and then through the North Cascades. Stop along the way and just let the beauty and the peace of that wilderness sink in. Enjoy the alpine flowers in the spring in the North Cascades National Park. Drop down into the Methow Valley and Winthrop. If you’re there in August, take a little side trip to Hart’s Pass, the highest road in Washington, where the wildflowers along the Pacific Crest Trail are spectacular.

Go on through Omak, across the Okanogan Highlands to Republic and Stevens County. Enjoy those wonderful pine forests right on down through Pend Oreille County to Spokane. From Spokane, go south through the scablands to see the results of Lake Missoula’s flood to the very corner of the state in Asotin County. Turn west through Columbia County and the Blue Mountains, to the wheat and wine country around Walla Walla. Come back along the Columbia River and through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area to Vancouver.

If you still have the time and energy, go west at Longview to Pacific County and explore the Willapa Hills and Willapa Bay then follow highway 101 on through Hoquiam, around the Olympic Peninsula and the Olympic National Park and back home.

When you do that, you’ll never wonder why we pursue conservation. We have so much that is worth preserving and protecting. We have inherited so much and we have so much beauty to pass on. To quote Winston Churchill, “Never, never, never give up!”

A joyous holiday to you and yours!



**Plants provide us with medicines – 40% of prescriptions dispensed in the US contain active compounds derived from plants.**

## Hikes and Field Trips

Past and Future Field Trips. Our two recent walks through YMCA's Camp Seymour on Key Peninsula and McCormick Forest Park in Gig Harbor were informative and entertaining as we learned to recognize native plants in different seasons, and hikers contributed their personal knowledge of different flora. At Camp Seymour we also toured the Living Machine recycling system and a marine life center. In McCormick Forest we admired old growth Douglas-firs, and sampled huckleberries and licorice fern roots. We are planning trips for 2015, and are already considering Lake Wilderness, Fort Lewis and Point Defiance, but we encourage more suggestions for destinations. Contact Cyndy at [cpdillongh@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillongh@comcast.net) if you have ideas. Watch your monthly update for the upcoming hikes.

## 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 September 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, as with the September picnic meeting, 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.

<b>February 2015</b>	<p><b>Monday, February 9 (Olympia), Tom Burke</b>  <b>The Flora and Fauna of Churchill</b></p> <p>Join Tom Burke as he relates his experience on spring and fall visits to Churchill, Manitoba. During these trips, Tom was able to see many birds, wild flowers and even a few mammals that we don't see here in the NW. The flora, as well as the fauna in the area is fascinating, as is the history of the area. Some of Tom's photographs include beluga whales, an arctic fox, willow ptarmigan, and the beautiful Lapland Rose-Bay (<i>Rhododendron lapponicum</i>). Having worked with the USFS and Washington Department of Wildlife for thirty years, Tom is now semi-retired, working under contract with various agencies as a consultant on inland mollusks.</p>
	<p><b>Wednesday, February 11 (Tacoma), to be announced.</b></p>
<b>March 2015</b>	<p><b>Monday, March 9 (Olympia), Dan and Pat Montague</b>  <b>Our Personal Journey – Natives in the Yard</b></p> <p>Today the landscaping around Pat and Dan Montague's home near Olympia is awash in native plants. Their beautiful yardscape is a product of many years of working with, and learning about, native plants. Dan and Pat will show pictures of their landscaping, and discuss what has worked for them and what has not. Their talk will feature valuable tips and insights into tackling natives in your own yard. Dan and Pat are long-time members of the South Sound Chapter and volunteer regularly for the Center for Natural Land Management's South Puget Sound Preserves, prairie working group.</p>
	<p><b>Wednesday, March 11 (Tacoma), Ben Legler</b>  <b>Revising <i>Flora of the Pacific Northwest</i></b></p> <p>In 1973, Leo Hitchcock and Arthur Cronquist published "<i>Flora of the Pacific Northwest</i>, with illustrations by Jeanne Janish. Advances in both taxonomy and knowledge of Northwest floristics require a revision of this outstanding work for it to remain the standard against which other regional floras are measured. Ben Legler, Collections Manager at the University of Washington Herbarium since 2002, will present background information regarding publication of the original <i>Flora</i>, why a new one is needed and an overview for how the current revision project is being conducted. This important project is supported by WNPS.</p>

April 2014	<p><b>Wednesday, April 8 (Tacoma), Julie Combs</b>  <b>Early Detection of Invasive Species</b></p> <p>The first line of defense against an invasive species is preventing its introduction into the environment in the first place. However, should an invasive species appear on the landscape, early detection and rapid response (EDRR) efforts increase the likelihood that it will be removed before it becomes widespread. Dr. Julie Combs of the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council (PNW-IPC) will discuss the PNW-IPC Citizen Science Program and the incredible difference EDRR volunteers are making to document and control invasive plants on public lands.</p>
	<p><b>Monday, April 13 (Olympia) Donovan Tracy</b>  <b>Photographing Wildflowers in Mount Rainier National Park</b></p> <p>Virtually in our backyard, Mount Rainier National Park has long been considered one of the best places on earth to view and photograph wildflowers. Photographer Donovan Tracy has developed his skills through hundreds of days in the field and will share what he's learned photographing at Mt. Rainier Park. Techniques covered in his presentation are suited both for novice photographers to serious amateur photographers who desire to more thoroughly study and photograph plants in their natural environment. Donovan will also review a wildflower hike featured on <a href="http://www.flowersofrainier.com/Index%20Enter/index.htm">www.flowersofrainier.com/Index%20Enter/index.htm</a>.</p>
May 2015	<p><b>Monday, May 11 (Olympia), to be Announced</b></p>
	<p><b>Wednesday, May 13 (Tacoma), Kevin Head</b>  <b>The Alpine Trail in Switzerland</b></p> <p>The Alpine pass route crosses Switzerland from Sargans near Liechtenstein to Monteux bordering Lac Lemman. The distance is nearly 350 kilometers and takes twenty days to cross by foot over fourteen alpine passes. The route passes the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains, and affords stays in idyllic towns throughout the journey. Kevin Head, photographer extraordinaire, did this trip with his wife (Julia Brayshaw) last summer and will present slides of the route and of wildflowers of Switzerland.</p>



**Plants provide us with habitat for food and animals.**

**Election Results**

The election results for the 2014 WNPS South Sound Chapter officers were as follows.

TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS SENT OUT: 138  
TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS RETURNED: 40

**Final tally of votes from South Sound Chapter Washington Native Plant Society Election 2014:**

Bill Brookreson, Chair	39
Jane Ostericher, Pierce Vice Chair	37
Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Thurston Vice Chair	38
Sharon Bergquist Moody, Secretary	37
Jane Ely, Treasurer	38

All votes were counted by Lee Fellenberg on November 9, 2014.

**Thanks, Lee, for all you have done.**

**Plant and Seed Sales**

**WNPS South Sound Chapter Spring Plant Sale**

Mark your calendars. This year's Spring Native Plant Sale will be Saturday, April 18, at the Capital Museum Coach House, 9 am - 3 pm. If you would enjoy being part of the planning, the setting up on April 17, or the sale itself, contact Bill Brookreson: 253-292-8570 [b.brookreson@comcast.net](mailto:b.brookreson@comcast.net) or Bonnie Blessing-Earle: [bonnie.blessing@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.blessing@gmail.com).

**WNPS Central Puget Sound Chapter, Spring 2015 Native Plant Sale is set for May 9, 2015.**

**Check the WNPS website for details.**



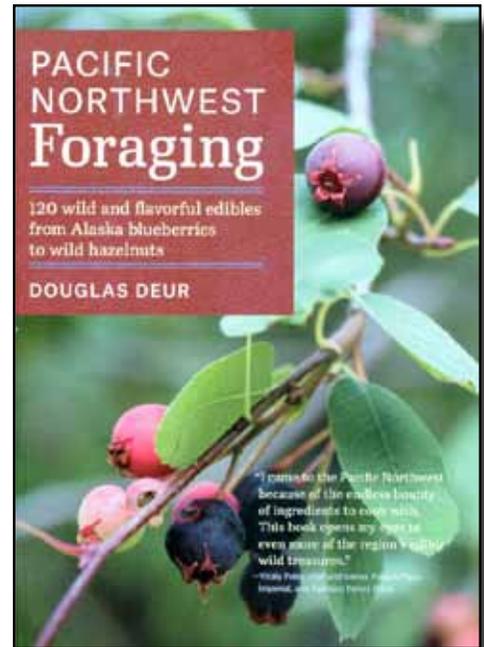
**Plants provide us with water: they help distribute and purify the planet's water. They also help move water from the soil to the atmosphere through a process called transpiration.**

## Native Plant Resources

### *Pacific Northwest Foraging: 102 Wild and Flavorful Edibles from Alaskan Blueberries to Wild Hazelnuts*

Douglas Deur, Timber Press, 2014; \$24.95.

There are a number of books about edible plants and foraging in the Pacific Northwest. Some of it comes from Deur's interesting background. A lifelong native plant user, Deur is a research professor at Portland State University, and Research Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit at the University of Washington. He serves as a cultural ecologist for American tribes and Canadian First Nations, and for the National Park Service and other agencies. He has a number of scholarly publications. Douglas Deur and Nancy Turner co-edited *Keeping it Living: Traditions of Plant Use and Cultivation on the Northwest Coast of North America* (2006), the first book-length treatment of Native American plant cultivation traditions in the Pacific Northwest. The preface, *Edible Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, and the *Wild Edibles Season by Season*, are well worth the read before you get into the 102 individual plant descriptions. Each has information on how to identify, where and when to gather, how to gather, how to eat, and warnings (when appropriate) for plants that should not be consumed in too great a quantity. Most, but not all, of the species listed are natives.



**WHY?** *Plants provide us with protection from erosion and flooding.*

## Note of A Passing

### Death of Lisa Berntsen, South Sound Chapter Member

We were saddened to learn that Lisa Berntsen, who was a member of our South Sound Chapter, died on November 1, while on a trek in Nepal in October. Blog postings from her recent trip to Nepal can be viewed at the naturemaven website. She and her husband, Royce Poetter, lived near Gig Harbor and had a condo in Leavenworth. She died of altitude-induced symptoms at a 20,000-foot elevation at the age of 49. Lisa was the treasurer of Braided River, an environmental conservation organization, and the publisher of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge books.

**WHY?** *Plants provide us with wood for building and for paper.*

## Chair Report

### Looking Ahead By Bill Brookreson

Taking over as Chair for the South Sound Chapter is both an honor and a privilege. Over the past several years, I have seen the chapter programs grow under the leadership of our past chairs, Cyndy Dillon, Reba Olsen, Seth Swanson and Anna Thurston. We now have restoration projects, plant sales and community grants, along with hikes and excellent programs. Coming into the office, I am assisted by an excellent Executive Board with Cyndy Dillon, Immediate Past Chair; Jane Ostericher and Bonnie Blessing-Earle as Vice Chairs; Jane Ely as Treasurer; our new secretary, Sharon Bergquist-Moody; John Neorr, who arranges the presentations (an amazing job); and Lee Fellenberg, who maintains our webpage and arranges all the electronic communications including the newsletter, updates, elections and hardcopy mailings. I couldn't ask for a better group with whom to work.

There are many opportunities ahead for the South Sound Chapter. Thanks to the revenues from our plant sales, we have been able to provide several grants to community projects. Our meetings, which are open to the public, have provided knowledge and enjoyment to members and non-members alike. Our plant sales have introduced a number of people to native plant gardening and restoration. We are already preparing for the Spring Native Plant Sale. We are continuing restoration projects in Olympia and Tacoma.

I hope to continue to receive your ideas about future activities. As your board, we are stewards for the society. You, the members, are the Washington Native Plant Society. Thank you for letting me serve.

# Chapter & State Contacts

**Chair – Bill Brookerson**

[chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

253-292-8570

702 Columbia Avenue

Fircrest WA 98466

**Vice Chair (Pierce County meeting)**

Jane Ostericher

[vicechair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:vicechair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Vice Chair (Thurston County meeting)**

Bonnie Blessing-Earle

[vicechair.thurston@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:vicechair.thurston@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Secretary – Sharon Bergquist-Moody**

[secretary@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:secretary@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Treasurer – Jane Ely**

[treasurer@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:treasurer@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

360-491-0115

**Immediate Past Chair – Cyndy Dillon**

[cpdillongh@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillongh@comcast.net)

**Chapter Botanist – Vacant**

**Conservation Committee Chair - Vacant**

**Field Trip Committee Chair - Cyndy Dillon**

**Editorial Committee Chair - Bill Brookerson**

[newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Presentations Coordinatore – John Neorr**

[presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Publicity Committee Chair - Jane Ostericher**

**Volunteers Committee Chair - Cyndy Dillon**

**Education Committee Chair - Jane Ostericher**

**Grants Committee Chair - John Neorr**

**Chapter Web Manager - Lee Fellenberg**

[webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**WNPS Statewide:**

**President – Clay Antieau**

[clay39@netzero.net](mailto:clay39@netzero.net)

**Executive Director - Elizabeth Faircloth**

**Administrator**

6310 N.E. 74th St., Ste 215E

Seattle, WA 98115-8171

[wnps@wnps.org](mailto:wnps@wnps.org)



**Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter**

[www.southsoundchapterwnps.org](http://www.southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Washington Native Plant Society State Chapter**

[www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org) 206-527-3210

## WNPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter Affiliation

- Central Puget Sound (Seattle)
- Central Washington (Yakima, Ellensburg)
- Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities)
- Koma Kulshan (Bellingham)
- NE Washington (Spokane)
- Okanogan
- Olympic Peninsula
- Salal (Mt. Vernon, Skagit Valley)
- San Juan Islands
- South Sound (Olympia, Tacoma)
- Wenatchee Valley
- At-Large
- Palouse (inactive)
- Suksdorfia (inactive)
- Each membership includes affiliation with one chapter. Add \$.00 for each additional chapter.

### WNPS POSTER

“Wildflowers Across Washington”  
A beautiful 24” x 36” full-color poster featuring 36 native species, \$8 (members \$6)  
Shipping \$2.50 each poster

### Membership Category

- \$35 Individual Rate
- \$45 Family
- \$65 Club/Institution
- \$20 Budget
- \$50-99 WNPS Friend
- \$100-499 WNPS Special Friend
- \$500 WNPS Best Friend
- \$1,000 WNPS Sustaining
- \$5,000 WNPS Patron

### ENCLOSED ARE:

My dues: Please Sign me up! \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Chapters (\$5 each) \_\_\_\_\_

\$8 for each poster (\$6 members) \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping (\$2.50/poster) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WNPS and mail to:  
Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE 74th St., Ste 215E  
Seattle, WA 98115



**South Sound Chapter WNPS**

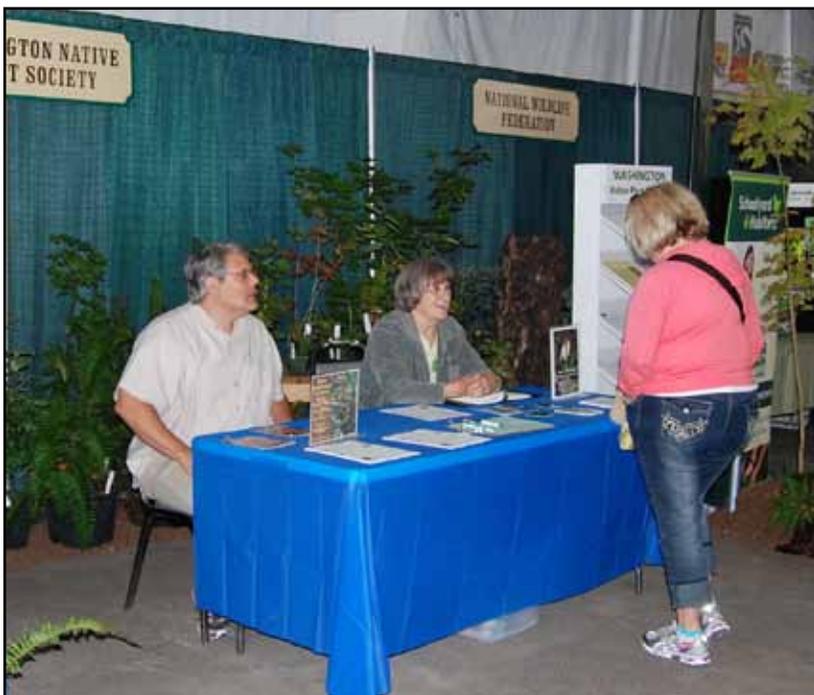
**6220 N 50th St**

**Tacoma WA 98407-2119**



*Printed on acid-free, 30 percent  
post-consumer fiber recycled paper.*

*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.*



## **Why Do We Need Plants?**

**Plants provide us with pleasure.  
Gardening is among the most  
popular hobbies in the United  
States.**