

Washington Native Plant Society

The Acorn

*Serving the South Puget Sound Chapter
Winter of 2004*



CHAIR WELCOME

Anna Thurston

Welcome New and Renewing Members

To all members we offer thanks for your investment in our activities.

As we start year 2004, we are working to bring you quality presentations and activities in areas of interest that satisfy both the beginner as well as the professional botanist. Your membership dollars make it possible to do this while we also work to support the people who keep us informed.

If your membership has recently lapsed, we hope you'll consider the value its renewal has in helping us fulfill our mission to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats, through study, education and advocacy.

Welcome to the following new and renewing members:

Anne Moisanen, Beverly Pierson, Carol Nygren, Carolyn Fenn, Dana Coggon, Danielle D'Auria & Lee Kanter, Don Rogers, Edith & Julia Hecht, Jaime Wright, Janet Kelly, Jesse Barham & Ameer Bahr, Judi Radford, Judy Lantor, Karen Gattrell, Kathleen Raettig, Kathryn VanWagenen, Krisden Harrison, Larrie Lavoy & Anne Marshall, Michelle Coda, Nadine Chiechi, Rosemary Crawford, Sharon Bell-Moore, Shawn Decew, Sue Summers & Alan Ferguson, Susan McDougall & David Biek, Susan Wertz, Suzannah White, Sharon Owen of Seeds Northwest, and the Native Plant & Salvage Club of the Tacoma Community College.

CONSERVATION REPORT

>>>>ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS CODE & POLICY UPDATE WORKSHOP<<<<<

Save the date! Wednesday, January 21, 2004 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Seattle Center Northwest Rooms, Shaw Room.

How should development on and adjacent to environmentally critical areas (ECAs) of Seattle be regulated? ECAs include the City's wetlands, areas important for fish and wildlife, riparian corridors (such as creeks), geologic hazard areas (such as landslide-prone, steep-slope and liquefaction-prone areas), flood-prone areas, frequently flooded areas, and abandoned landfills.

The City of Seattle is commencing the first major update to ECA regulations and policies since they were first adopted in 1992. The Department of Planning and Development is hosting a public meeting to discuss the ECA update. This work supports Mayor Greg Nickels' priority of building healthy and environmentally sustainable communities. You are invited to participate.

A workshop flyer is posted at www.seattle.gov/DCLU/news/EC_A_workshop_flyer.pdf on the Web, which you may wish to print and distribute. For more information about the ECA Code and Policy Update, go to www.seattle.gov/dclu/news/20031216a.asp or contact Miles Mayhew, Seattle Department of Planning and Development, tel. (206) 615-1256 or e-mail miles.mayhew@seattle.gov

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

>>>>SEED PICKING AT MOUNT RAINIER<<<<

In 2003 Washington Native Plant Society members volunteered 665 hours for the Mt. Rainier National Park re-vegetation program. They transplanted seedlings and cuttings at the greenhouse from April through July, collected seeds from the restoration areas in the park in September, and cleaned seeds and stuck cuttings in October and November. A total of 79,722 plants were grown from seeds collected in 2002. These plants were distributed to the various restoration sites in August and September of 2003: Highway 410 roadside near Tipsoo Lake (13,432), the two closed campgrounds at Sunrise (51,161), the trail relocation site on Mazama Ridge above Sluiskin Falls (13,945), plus two other sites (1174). Help is needed this coming spring 2004 to transplant seedlings. Preferred days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday beginning in April. Volunteers are greatly appreciated at the greenhouse. If you think you can help this spring, please contact: Libby Roberts at the greenhouse: 360-569-2211 x6170 or e-mail: Libby_Roberts@nps.gov or Dan & Pat Montague, Olympia: 360-709-0866 or e-mail: montague30@comcast.net

>>>>SWAN CREEK PARK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY<<<<

More volunteers are needed to weed "stinky Bob" (*Geranium robertianum*) and other invasive plants growing in the Torrey peavine site at Swan Creek Park in Tacoma. See the Earth Week event announcement (under News and Other Items of Interest section of this newsletter) for the kickoff. Weed-pulling needs to continue at intervals throughout the growing season because of Herb Robert's prolific seed production and continuous germination. If you would like to help, call Mary Fries at 253-272-9192, or contact Valerie Anderson at valerie.a@wildmail.com and we will place you on the calling list for arranging dates. Some weekdays, some Saturdays will be scheduled.

>>>>PRAIRIE RESTORATION GLACIAL HERITAGE PRESERVE<<<<

Second Saturday of every month Workdays start at 10:00 a.m.

For more information contact Penny Kelley or Dan Grosboll at 360-273-1820 or pennydan@earthlink.net

Please come and join us at the Thurston County Black River Mima Mounds Glacial Heritage Preserve as we work to restore the wonderful and rare South Puget Sound Prairie ecosystem. Workdays are quite varied and include planting native species, pulling Scot's broom, cleaning bird boxes, seed collection, fence mending, and many other activities. Make sure to call for information prior to arrival. The workdays are jointly sponsored by The Nature Conservancy of Washington & Thurston County Parks and Recreation

>>>>VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS - OLYMPIA <<<<

This group hosts work parties every other Saturday and every Wednesday year round. Call (360) 753-8365 for a schedule of activities, or visit them on the web at <http://www.ci.olympia.wa.us/par/volunteer/parks.asp>. One work party for which specifics are available is for MLK Day. See below for details.

January 19th - 9:00-Noon - Grass Lake Refuge Native Vegetation Restoration - Come help restore native vegetation to Grass Lake Refuge in Olympia for MLK Day! Tasks will include removing scotch broom and blackberry, mulching recent native plantings, and possibly planting some native trees and shrubs. We'll be meeting at the 6th Ave entrance, which is at 3450 6th Ave. Please call Volunteers In Parks at 753-8365 to sign up.

For all Volunteers In Parks Projects, volunteers under 14 need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and volunteers under 18 need to have a parent or legal guardian sign a waiver of liability (available at the project site). Refreshments, tools, and work gloves are provided for all work parties. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear sturdy boots or shoes.

>>>>FRIENDS OF FORT STEILACOOM PARK & NATURE<<<<

This group was initiated in June 2001, as a registered "Adopt-A-Park" organization with the Pierce County Parks Department. The group's Mission Statement is "Work with others to preserve and enhance the diverse natural beauty of Fort Steilacoom Park for present and future generations." You are invited to attend and participate in their planning and field work activities as they collaborate to enhance Ft. Steilacoom Park by pulling weeds, planting native trees and plants, and working with the Parks Department as they pursue an overall site development plan. Monthly meetings are: every first Wednesday of the Month at 7pm at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Rd SW of Gravelly Lake Dr. Work parties are held every 2nd and 4th Saturday to remove invasive plants (scotch broom and ivy). Volunteers at any stage of the project are very welcome. Contacts: Doris Johnson 588-8428 or Ursula Hall 584-3870

>>>>VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITIES AT NISQUALLY WILDLIFE REFUGE<<<<<

Volunteers needed for Native Plantings

The Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is seeking volunteers to provide guidance and maintenance for the native plantings established there. For more information, please contact Dave Falzetti at: Dave_Falzetti@fws.gov or contact Dave at the refuge by calling (360) 753-9467

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex February 26-27, 2004

Upland Forest Restoration with Komachin Middle School at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

For the third year in a row, Komachin Middle School will help the Nisqually NWR plant 7,000 Douglas fir trees on an upland site west of McAllister Creek. Volunteers are needed to work with groups of 4-5 students while they plant trees. For more information, or to sign up, please contact David Falzetti at the Refuge Office, 360-753-9467.

Become a Refuge Weed Warrior!

Nisqually NWR is looking for highly motivated volunteers to become "Refuge Weed Warriors," our first line of defense against non-native, invasive species on Refuge lands and waterways as well as throughout the surrounding communities. We will be holding a Weed Aware Workshop in April (date TBA). Refuge Weed Warriors will be trained to identify, survey, monitor, and control various invasive plants, and to track their activities using a GPS unit. For more information, please contact Danielle D'Auria at the Refuge Office, 360-753-9467.

>>>>REMOVAL OF INVASIVE WEEDS IN TACOMA<<<<<

Work parties to remove invasive ivy and blackberry from the Tacoma Nature Center and from Pt. Defiance Park are planned by the Tatoosh group of the Sierra Club. You are invited to join the mission. Work parties are scheduled for the last Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon. The Parks Department provides the gloves and tools. This is not hard work but it is necessary, and it will greatly benefit the ecology of our treasured parks. You do not have to be a member of the Sierra Club to join the fun! For detailed information and exact work party location contact LeeAnn Perry at (253) 761-2983, or by e-mail at: leeannperry@harbournet.com

January 31st Pt. Defiance
March 27th The Nature Center at Snake Lake
May 29th The Nature Center at Snake Lake

February 28th The Nature Center at Snake Lake
April 24th Parks Appreciation Day at Pt. Defiance
June 26th Pt. Defiance

CHAPTER NEWS

>>>>SEED PLANTING WORKSHOP<<<<<

Fourteen members of the Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter participated in a seed planting workshop on November 22nd. Varied interests and experiences were shared on the best ways to propagate plants from prairies as well as from other areas of western Washington. Many seeds were planted and we await the results that should come up in the spring.



>>>>6TH ANNUAL PIERCE GARDEN TOUR<<<<<

On June 19th, 2004 the Pierce College in collaboration with Lakewold gardens will be holding a tour of gardens featuring gardens composed primarily of native plants. The tour is planned to take place in the Town of Steilacoom, named after the native plant known as *Lithophragma*. This will also be a part of Steilacoom's sesquicentennial celebration, and will hopefully follow on the heels of a potential state-wide proclamation of Native Plant Awareness week.

The South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society has been invited to support the garden tour with an installation of an educational display of native plants. We are currently seeking volunteers to help us implement the various details of this display project. We are also negotiating the possibility of native plant sales from within the display. If you would like to participate in the planning, installation, day of display, or tour at large, please contact Anna Thurston - Chair, South Sound Chapter WNPS by phone at: 253-566-3342 or by e-mail: a.thurston@worldnet.att.net

>>>>PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESSION OF THE SPECIES<<<<<

APRIL 24, 2004 PLUS UNASSIGNED WORKSHOP DATES PRIOR TO EARTHDAY

These are dates you may want to put in your calendar! Join the South Sound Chapter when we plan to participate in the Olympia Procession of Species parade in celebration of Earth Day. Several workshops for design of Procession costumes will also be offered in advance of the procession, although dates and locations have yet to be finalized.

What is the Procession of the Species Celebration? It "is a joyous, spontaneous artistic pageant where community members celebrate their relationships with each other and with the natural world." The Procession program facilitates seven weeks of art, music, and dance workshops that inspire personal understanding of and local action for wildlife protection. On Procession day, residents don their creative expressions and proceed through the streets of Olympia. Carrying banners, windsocks, and giant puppets, they participate in a cultural exchange honoring the awe and splendor of the natural world.

From January through April, volunteer meetings are held and coordinator positions are filled for these working groups: Art, music, and dance workshops, bookkeeping, Community Art Studio staff and committee, computer support, distribution, environmental outreach, evaluation, fundraising committee, general outreach, graphic design, internships, logistics, music, office manager, outreach to K-12 schools, photography and videography, Procession art guide, public relations,

recycling scavenger, registration, special events, t-shirt design and sales, and volunteers. You can join any effort at any time, for as long as you like. The Procession community art studio is staffed completely by volunteers!

If you and/or your kids would like to participate with the South Sound Chapter's part of the procession imagine yourselves as a native plant or two or more! Then think of ways that you can create costume of those plants that you can craft at one or more of the workshops offered by Procession planners. Next, contact us to let us know you want to play! Rod Gilbert is the lead for this fun activity. You can reach him by e-mail at: roderickgilbert@comcast.net. Look also for updates about the South Sound Chapter's procession team on our website when workshop dates become available - we'll be posting details there and contacting interested individuals by e-mail too.

If you plan to attend a workshop, it helps to register before hand by calling the Procession office (360-705-1087). Leave a message with your name and phone number, your address (with ZIP code) if you wish to be on the Procession's mailing list, and your e-mail address if you have one to share. For more information and a visit to the 2003 Procession photo gallery check out their website <http://www.procession.org/2004background/index.html>.

>>>>CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ♦ CHAIR, MARY FRIES<<<< <

The Chapter Conservation Committee needs help with tracking issues with the 2004 state legislative session, in order to determine positions to take on regulatory or budget items which have the potential to affect native plants. Attending hearings, reading newspaper reports and those by other environmental organizations, contacting your legislators are among ways to do this. Contact Conservation Chair, Mary Fries, during our chapter meetings or at 253-272-9192.

Native plant field trips & related activities

Even though it feels and looks like winter, the South Sound Chapter is gearing up for a full range of spring and summer field trips!!! We will be hosting local trips, not-so-local trips, and summer BBQs for South Sound members. We'll also be posting information from related organizations that may interest you as well. Members are invited to add more!

- **February 21st 9:00 am – 3:00 pm - Salvage Plants to benefit Tacoma Parks.** Native plant salvaging is a great way to learn about how to grow your own, while helping your community keep its green using fewer resources. Meet at the Tacoma Parks Administration building, wear gardening clothes and come prepared for cold, wet weather (We'll keep you warm with hot drinks and soup!). Tools/gloves will be provided. For questions or to sign up contact Anna Thurston at 253-566-3342 or by e-mail at a.thurston@worldnet.att.net.
- **Weekends of March 10 & March 17 - Art workshops for creation of costumes for the Procession of Species parade (4/24, see below for more details).** For questions or to sign up contact Anna Thurston at 253-566-3342 or by e-mail at a.thurston@worldnet.att.net.
- **April 3rd, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm - 2nd Annual Pierce County Livable Communities Fair** to be held at Pacific Lutheran University in Parkland, Washington. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/text/services/assist/livablepc/Livable%20Community%20Fair%202004.htm>
- **April 24, Procession of Species parade, Olympia - All WNPS members are invited!** “The Procession of the Species is a joyous, spontaneous artistic pageant where community members celebrate their relationships with each other and with the natural world.” For more information about the Procession check out their web site at: <http://www.procession.org/2004background/index.html>
If you want to sign up to participate with the WNPS Procession team contact Rod Gilbert at 360-456-4013 or by e-mail at roderickgilbert@comcast.net.
- **End of April/All of May – Tahoma Audubon’s Annual Birdathon Fundraiser** – Birdathon outings allow participants to learn about bird migrations and the plants with which our feathered friends associate while raising the funds that make habitat protection and education possible. You can learn more by calling Tahoma Audubon at 253-565-9278, or you can visit the TAS website at: <http://www.tahomaaudubon.org>.
- **May 1st - Spring Native Plant Sale** at the Tacoma Nature Center – 1919 South Tyler Street - Tacoma,. For more information call 253-591-6439 or contact the Nature center by e-mail at: tnc@tacomaparks.com.
- **May 7 - 10, 2nd Annual Native Shores Wild Food Rendezvous** - This 4-Day intensive to be lead by John Kallas, Ph.D. will be held in Lincoln County, within earshot of the ocean. It will examine the roles sea vegetables, seashore life and coastal wild plants play in survival, primitive living, simple living, and everyday life. Cost is \$290; discounts are available for early registration & special circumstances. For more information visit: www.wildfoodadventures.com, or call (503) 775-3828.
- **May 22nd, 9:00 am –12:00 field trip to Deschutes Falls County Park** – Rod Gilbert will lead this outing. This park is not usually open to the public and has wonderful views of the Deschutes River tumbling through a rocky ravine. It is near Bald Hills Natural Areas Program, and contains many interesting plants that are uncommon locally. Bring lunch, water, appropriate clothing etc. 20 attendants max and first preference to SS Chapter members. Contact Rod at (360) 456-4013 or roderickgilbert@comcast.net to sign up, or get more information.
- **May 24-30 or May 17-23** – Potential proclamation to be signed by Governor Locke to initiate a **Washington Native Plant Awareness Week** - Look for details on our website at: www.southsoundchapterwnps.org .
- **June 5th, Native Plants & Ethnobotanical presentations** at Washington State Historical Museum, Olympia – This event will also include guided tours of the Delbert McBride Ethnobotanical garden. The Museum is at 211 West 21st Avenue - Olympia. For more information, call 360-753-2580 or visit their website at: <http://www.wshs.org/wscm/>
- **June 19, Steilacoom Garden Tour and Native Plant Display** – Pierce College hosts their 5th Annual garden tour, this year focusing on native plants and providing radio presentations with Ciscoe Morris and other Native Plant professionals. WNPS will be participating with a display to be located in downtown Steilacoom, which is one of the five sites to be included in the tour. We are seeking volunteers to staff the display, and more to attend the tour. For info or to sign up contact Anna Thurston at 253-566-3342 or by e-mail at a.thurston@worldnet.att.net.
- **June 26th, 9:00 am –? - Fort Lewis Wetlands Tour** - Rod Gilbert will lead a trip to two or more distinct wetlands at this biologically diverse military facility. Bring lunch, water, appropriate clothing etc. and rubber boots (hip waders if you have them). Attendance limited to 12; first preference to SS Chapter members. Contact Rod at (360) 456-4013 or roderickgilbert@comcast.net to sign up, or get more information.

Notes from the field & garden

Priest Point Park

By Kevin Head

Priest Point Park lies two miles north of downtown Olympia on East Bay Drive. The park hosts a mature Douglas-fir forest with significant stands of deciduous forests (alder, big leaf maple, madrona). The northern section of the park has a serpentine trail system weaving up and through the forest with many fabulous views of Budd Inlet. The park presents a colorful mosaic throughout the seasons. Vibrant green of licorice fern comes to life on alders and maples in October/November and fades in late April/May, while the green flames of Indian Plum greet visitors in late January and early February. The emerald carpet (waterleaf) that lines the trails begins in February and with the first trilliums appearing later that month. Trilliums reach their prime in March. The park is a haven for these lovely lilies and some bright fairy queen always puts out reminders to not pick the flowers. The Swamp Lanterns (Thank you Mary Fries) may start in late January, but are growing strongest in the wet creeks throughout February and March. March also brings pockets of violets, toothworts, salmonberry and red-flowering currant. Patient observers will hear their first hums of our Rufous Hummingbird while the birds eagerly feed on currant nectar after a thousand+ mile journey. Big Leaf Maple flowers fade in April and new leaves create a canopy bower. Trilliums change to pink and crimson, and their lily forest cousins *Disporum*, *Smilicina* and *Streptopus* begin to bloom as with the approach of May.

The seasons continue with the dance of light and the change of forest cover. Birds raise their clutches and sometimes fox pups can be seen playing on the tidal washes. By solstice the park moves into summer, seed production reaches its peak and the air vibrates with eagle calls and crow chatter. This special park is nourishing Olympia's burgeoning population. Signs of neglect are appearing, however, as more people use Priest Point Park. There are two major problems that affect the park; unleashed dogs and English Ivy.

Dogs frequently run off leash throughout the woodlands and English Ivy is epidemic, destroying beautiful habitat at an alarming rate.

Mindful dog owners are few within Priest Point. Those that keep their pets on a leash and pick up after them are appreciated

More often, I encounter crotch sniffing, barking dogs whose owners always assure me of their harmless and friendly dispositions. Dogs run off leash through forbs crashing after sounds and scents only to come back wagging their tails unaware of the nesting winter wrens or the crushed *Smilicina* or the stress they have caused that impacts the survival of wild creatures such as the Douglas squirrel. Please don't get me wrong, dogs do provide warmth, companionship, and nurturing. Dogs can be joyful characters in stressful times. Dogs are fun, but owners who see Fido living out a pseudo wildlife adventure need to rein in their beast. I call upon dog owners to talk to your fellow owners who abuse park rules; please speak up for appropriate dog etiquette.

The other major problem might be viewed by some as a metaphor, or a microcosm of, world conditions. To me, Ivy is to Priest Point Park, as big box stores and bioengineering are to economic diversity and biodiversity. Ivy is gaining steadily in the north part of the park. It has overtaken the nurse logs that host forbs and ferns. Ivy has grown to the tops of trees and ivy laden maples have toppled down. The fresh velvet carpet is being replaced by a dull ever-present green. Trilliums are being smothered, and trilliums lack their luster in a bed of ivy versus waterleafs. An all out consciousness change is needed to bring about a shift in our mindset towards ivy. Consciousness change, versus rule implementation will promote a wide paradigm shift and a viable forest. Unfortunately many nature conscious friends see ivy as appealing. They don't see the homogenization and loss of our biodiversity as troubling. It is my hope that native plant enthusiasts will speak up about biodiversity whenever we are in public.

We have been taught to believe in progress and change as positive forces in our lives. Yet Scotch broom, non-native grasses, and human development have slowly eaten away our Washington prairies. Ivy is doing that to Priest Point. It is time for a consciousness change that will bring about real biodiversity in the park. Our grandkids will walk the trails and marvel at a true old growth forest within sight of Olympia. It is possible. Pick some ivy the next time you are in the park. It is cathartic. You will warm your heart and body and create openings for the next springtime bloom. Call friends and have an ivy picking party. Or become a park volunteer. Remember also to tie up your dog.

Rare Prairie Plants of South Puget Sound.

By Rod Gilbert

What does rare mean? It needs context. Today, South Puget Sound prairies are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the U.S. Only seven percent of this prairie landscape remains in highly fragmented 'islands' and only three percent is considered by the Washington Natural Heritage Program to be largely covered with native plants. In one context, one might consider all the native plants that occur in prairies as 'rare' although some are obviously more common than others. Some prairie plants also occur on 'balds' or rocky outcrops around the Puget Sound, although the plant composition is usually quite different than that found in prairies. For example, the native bunchgrass fescue (*Festuca idahoensis* v. *roemerii*) is now considered a separate taxon (*F. roemerii*) and is currently restricted to lowland prairies and balds (but now absent in the mountains), though it is obviously the keystone species of the prairies. Other plants, for example *Castilleja hispida*, may be very rare on the prairie but common elsewhere in its range. Others may be common on a particular prairie, but absent from all the others.

However, when people talk about the rarity of prairie plants, *Castilleja levisecta* would probably be at the top of their list. It's a prairie endemic and is currently the only Federally-listed prairie plant to occur in these unique habitats. Other native prairie endemics include *Aster curtus* and *Balsamorhiza deltoidea*. In reality though, these may be locally abundant, even though they occur nowhere else. For example, *Aster curtus* is frequently one of the most common natives in the prairies, and is often one of the last natives to persist in poor quality prairie. *Balsamorhiza* may be common on a few prairies but is virtually absent from others. Some taxa, such as *Meconella oregana*, have already been extirpated. For this article I will refer to rareness in terms of actual abundance in the South Sound prairies, regardless of how common a taxon is elsewhere in its range.

Perhaps at the top of my own list would be another prairie endemic, *Aster chilensis* var. *Hallii*. I found two plants for the first time this year on Fort Lewis. It is only the third record of occurrence in Washington (one other being Scatter Creek), and occurs primarily at a few prairie locations in the Willamette Valley. Many of the native annuals are becoming increasingly rare as they try to compete with the spreading sod. *Linaria canadensis* v. *texana* is now possibly extirpated from the Fort, although it also occurs sporadically at Scatter Creek. *Trifolium tridentatum*, more common on balds than in prairie, is also only known from one location, where a few individuals continue to persist each year.

Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter

Montia linearis is known from only one swale, as is *Plagiobothrys figuratus* and *P. scouleri*. *Erigeron strigosus* var. *strigosus*, *Gaillardia aristata* and *Rhinanthus crista-galli* occur at only a handful of known locations. Other species (some are perennial), of which I have seen only a few individuals, include *Senecio macounii*, *Agoseris heterophylla*, *Arenaria stricta* v. *puberulenta*, *Epilobium minutum*, and *Silene douglasii* v. *douglasii*. The latter three only occur in the Artillery Impact Area (AIA), much of which burns each year. Other species that are restricted to the AIA include *Camassia leichtlinii* and *Brodiaea congesta*, both of which occur at only one location, though each has approximately 50+ individuals. *Brodiaea howellii* and *B. hyacinthina* are also very rare, and primarily occur in the AIA, though there are other scattered individuals that occur usually adjacent to oak woodlands.

Species that may be common elsewhere, but now increasingly rare on the prairie include *Gnaphalium microcephalum*, *G. purpureum*, *Potentilla glandulosa*, *Lotus nevadensis* v. *douglasii*, *Perideridia gairdneri*, *Solidago spathulata* v. *neomexicana*, *Psoralea physodes*, *Perideridia gairdneri*, *Aquilegia formosa* and *Dodecatheon pulchellum*. Some species can be very difficult to see unless they are in flower. *Orobanche uniflora* v. *minuta* is not only difficult to observe in flower, but apparently does not flower every year. *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*, *Habenaria greenei*, *Linanthus bicolor* v. *bicolor* and *Armeria maritima* v. *californica*, though conspicuous in flower, are also difficult species to see. This year we did not see a single flowering *Spiranthes*. *Armeria* is only known from a few individuals at four locations. I revisited the largest population (nine plants) this year and was only able to relocate one plant.

Rare species that are associated more with moist prairie include *Erigeron philadelphicus*, *Anemone lyallii*, *Wyethia angustifolia*, *Polygonum bistortoides*, and *Montia dichotoma* of which the latter four occur only at Scatter Creek. The *Erigeron* is only known from one location on the Fort. As the prairies become increasingly converted to non-native plants, especially sod forming grasses, many of the above species are expected to follow the same route as *Meconella*

Authors Note: I've not included common names as they can be confusing, tell you nothing about genera and families, take up extra space; but also because scientific names for plants are already equally confusing! There have been many changes since Hitchcock and Cronquist was last revised in 1976, though it is still the primary vegetation key for the Pacific Northwest. Updated nomenclature, common names, and range maps for plants can be found at <http://plants.usda.gov>

>>>>EARTHWEEK EVENT IN TACOMA/PIERCE COUNTY<<<<

Metroparks Tacoma and Pierce County Parks will host their annual Parks Appreciation Day on Sat., April 24. (Translation: parks appreciate volunteers and volunteers show their appreciation for parks.) Neighborhood residents, regional park users and interested organizations are invited to help with various cleanup activities, and to consider adopting a park for work needed later. Watch for site information in the newspaper. The morning begins with coffee and goodies donated by various sponsoring businesses, along with introductions. Litter bags and some tools will be provided. Our chapter volunteers will point out native plants and exotics while work is concentrated on easily identified invasive plants, and hop to obtain some future volunteers for removing plants which threaten the rare Torrey peavine. For more current information, call Mary Fries in April, 253-272-9192, or contact Valerie Anderson at valerie.a@wildmail.com

**>>>>WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY RESEARCH & INVENTORY COMMITTEE<<<<
PROCEDURES FOR GRANT PROPOSALS**

The WNPS Research and Inventory Committee has a yearly budget of \$4000 that it disburses to worthy proposals that foster the aims of the Washington Native Plant Society, i.e., "to study and conserve native plants". We are interested in supporting projects that extend our knowledge of the biology of native species or that inventory the flora of an understudied area. Another priority is to support research efforts of graduate students and to help develop the careers of botanists with interests in native plants.

To receive full consideration, proposals should be submitted by January 15 of each year. Members of the Research and Inventory Committee will review the proposals and a decision will be made by April 1. Proposals not received by the February date may be considered later if any funds remain after the first round of awards. So that we can fund several worthy projects each year, proposals should request no more than \$1000 to \$1500 except in unusual circumstances. In general, half of an award is paid when the proposal is funded and the second half is paid when the project has been completed and a final report has been submitted.

Proposals should be about 4-8 pages in length and include the following information:

Introduction: Objectives and significance of the proposed research

Methods: Brief description of study areas, species, techniques, data collection and analysis

Timetable of proposed research: In general, research and reports should be completed within 2 years

Budget: Personnel, equipment, and supply costs

Products: What will result from the proposed research? We expect, at minimum, a project report and a brief account for publication in *Douglasia*, the journal of the society. The preferred result is a publication in the peer-reviewed scientific literature.

Curriculum vitae of all project personnel

Proposals will be rated by members of the Research and Inventory Committee based on: (1) Appropriateness of project to the aims of WNPS, (2) Adequacy of proposed methods to project's aims, (3) Researcher's experience in the types of research proposed, and (4) Importance of the research in relation to requested funds.

Submit 5 copies of your proposal to: Pamela Camp, Chair, Bureau of Land Management 915 Walla Walla, Wenatchee, WA 98801 (509) 665-2100
email: plcamp@or.blm.gov

>>>> CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE<<<< <

Plan now for spring planting! The Pierce Conservation District is now taking pre-orders for its 2004 Native Tree and Plant Sale until January 16, 2004. The purpose of this sale is to promote the use of native vegetation in landscaping. Native plants need no additional water, fertilizer, or pesticides, and they are an excellent way to invite birds into your yard. All proceeds from this sale go to fund District programs. The District is featuring 23 species of bare root plants native to Western Washington including 12-24 inch conifers, deciduous trees, ground covers, and a number of favorite wildlife shrubs. We will also be selling tree tubes to protect the trees from deer and rodent damage. Some plant species sell out quickly, so for best selection order early. Plant materials will be available for pick up March 5 & 6, 2004 in Puyallup. Prices range from \$4 - \$15 per bundle of ten plants. If you would like to request an order form, please call the Pierce Conservation District at (253) 845-9770, ext. 106 or email renes@piercecountycd.org or download an order form from our web site, www.piercecountycd.org.

>>>>NATIVE PLANT STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR<<<<

The Washington Native Plant Society is requesting qualifications from interested persons to coordinate its Native Plant Stewardship Program in King County. This is a paid contract position and qualifications will be accepted through January 23, 2004.

The Native Plant Stewardship Program trains community members to become native plant stewards who, in turn, use their knowledge to restore disturbed ecosystems, urban forests, and educate others, as volunteers for the program. Stewards are trained by a corps of specialists who volunteer their time and expertise.

The Coordinator hired under this contract will be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the spring training and for management and documentation of volunteers and their hours through November 2004. The Native Plant Stewardship Program is in its eighth year. Curriculum and materials are extensively developed and in place with some flexibility for innovation. Actual coordination of the spring Stewardship Training includes coordination and attendance at all classes one evening a week for 12 weeks and field trip arrangements

and participation on four weekend days during this time period. In addition to the spring training and the volunteer coordination, the contractor will be responsible for the planning and implementation of a one-day workshop which serves as follow-up training for past stewards. Content of this workshop will be determined in conjunction with the Washington Native Plant Society and King County Department of Natural Resources.

The period of this contract will be approximately from February 15th through November 30th, 2004 with most of the work occurring between March and June. Contract will be between \$12,000 and \$13,000 depending on experience.

Other tasks include managing the program phone line and email, providing office support to the stewardship committee, assisting and coordinating presenters, correcting tests and helping with training as needed, keeping program and steward records up to date, assisting stewards with their projects and other needs, matching stewards with new projects as needed, writing a final program report and other tasks as needed to support the work of the stewardship committee and chair.

Top candidates must be articulate, reliable and enjoy working with people. Experience using PC-based software including Word, Access and Excel is helpful. Also highly desired are education in and/or experience with western Washington native plants and ecology, botany and plant identification, stewardship and restoration, managing conferences or lecture series, teaching adults, and familiarity with local community restoration and education projects. Candidates will need to have flexible schedules, be self-motivated, and capable of efficiently organizing time and priorities.

Please send a cover letter, resume and three references to: Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE 74th Street, Suite 215E, Seattle, WA 98115 or to wnps@wnps.org For more information, call Catherine Hovanic at 206-527-3210 or email at wnps@wnps.org

The Coordinator selected will be responsible for recruitment, coordination and management of volunteers, training a new class of Native Plant Stewards and providing follow-up training for existing Steward

>>>>POLLINATOR CONSERVATION HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE<<<<

The Xerces Society and The Bee Works proudly announce the publication of the Pollinator Conservation Handbook. The Pollinator Conservation Handbook is the first comprehensive book on the conservation of native bees, butterflies, and other native pollinator insects and it is an indispensable resource for gardeners, farmers, and managers of parks, recreational areas, and wild lands. The Handbook guides the reader through the steps needed to create and enhance habitat for insect pollinators and contains information on selecting and planting forage flowers, providing nesting and egg-laying sites for bees, butterflies, and other insects, and caring for your pollinator habitat over time. The Handbook also contains an extensive, up-to-date resource section and ideas for educational activities.

Beautifully produced, the Pollinator Conservation Handbook features the spectacular photography of Edward S. Ross, whose work frequently appears in our popular membership magazine, *Wings*. To order a copy of the Handbook, click on the link below to download and print the order form. 160 pages; soft cover; 57 color photographs. To view sample pages go to: <http://www.xerces.org/pch.htm>><http://www.xerces.org/pch.htm> Cost (includes shipping and handling): Members: \$18.45 per copy; Non-members: \$22.45 per copy. To order go to: <http://www.xerces.org/mercform.htm>><http://www.xerces.org/mercform.htm>

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Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter - www.southsoundchapterwnps.org

Washington Native Plant Society State Chapter - www.wnps.org



The Washington Native Plant Society ♦ Earth Share of Washington



Membership form for the Washington Native Plant Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (please check one)

Individual \$25

Budget (Sr/Stdnt) \$15

Family \$35

Club/Institution \$50

Special Friend \$50-\$99

Best Friend \$100-\$499

Lifetime Supporter \$500+

CHAPTER AFFILIATION

Each membership entitles you to affiliation with one chapter; add \$5 for each additional chapter selected:

Central Puget Sound (Seattle)

Central Washington (Yakima)

Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities)

Koma Kulshan (Bellingham)

NE Washington (Spokane)Okanogan

Olympic Peninsula

Palouse (Pullman)

Sallal (Mt Vernon/Skagit Vly)

San Juan Islands

South Sound (Olympia/Tacoma)

Suksdorffia (Vancouver/inactive)

Wenatchee Valley

At Large

WNPS POSTER & LAPEL PIN

"Wildflowers Across Washington"

A beautiful 24" x 36" full-color poster featuring 36 native species,

\$8 (members \$6) + \$2.50/poster for shipping & handling

"WNPS Enamel Lapel Pin"

\$4.25 + \$1.00/pin shipping & handling

ENCLOSED ARE:

My Dues (Please sign me up!) \$ _____

Additional Chapters (\$5/each) \$ _____

\$5.25 per lapel pin (S&H incld) \$ _____

\$10.50 per poster (non-member) \$ _____

\$8.50 per poster (members) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to WNPS and mail to:

Washington Native Plant Society

6310 NE 74th Street, Suite 215E

Seattle, Washington 98115