
Washington Native Plant Society

South Sound Chapter

Winter 2001



Meeting Highlights and Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Highlights

This past fall we enjoyed some good speakers at our chapter meetings. Susan Buis from Sound Native Plants gave an interesting talk on the challenges of running a native plant nursery. She discussed the different types of nurseries, what restoration projects her business takes on, and walked everyone through the process for wetland mitigation. Also discussed were concerns in using “native” plants not grown locally. Her talk was very interesting and enlightening.

In November, we heard encouraging news from Miranda Wecker, Director for Columbia Pacific Resources Center. Currently the center is conducting research on a bio-agent control, *Prokelisia marginata*, for *Spartina alterniflora* at Willipa Bay. Miranda briefly discussed previous efforts at restoration for Willipa Bay and the concerns in bringing a bio agent for control of this species to the area. She also described field trials to test the effectiveness of this insect as a control agent. The results are encouraging but questions remain on how the insect will overwinter. Miranda highlighted the importance of gaining local support and helping the community to be comfortable with the presence of a new insect. She pointed out this support was key in the success of the project. We hope the center continues to meet with success in their efforts to find a control for *Spartina*.

The December meeting was an experiment that turned out to be very successful. The food was delicious and thanks to everyone who brought something. We had everything from a button collection to slides to poetry. Beverly Heebner has been collecting buttons for many years and she put together a nice display for our meeting. Frederica Bowcutt from The Evergreen State College shared her poetry between slide shows and we had several members bring in slides. Unfortunately there was not enough time to view everyone’s slides. This leaves us with the possibility of trying the potluck and sharing of member accomplishments for another time. We will keep you posted.

Upcoming Meetings

February 7 - Diane Doss, Professor of Botany, South Puget Sound Community College.

Diane will present a broad overview of our region and its flora with an emphasis on the adaptations of our plants to our climate and the general wonderfulness of our native plants. From a little bit of plant chemistry, to a survey of some of our more common species and a few of our flashier natives that have been introduced to horticulture, Diane will give us a real sense of our local floristic friends.

March 7 - Frederica Bowcutt, Professor of Botany, The Evergreen State College.

Frederica is going to expand our horizons a little bit by getting us to think regional in terms of native flora and will be speaking to us about Tan oak (*Lithocarpus*) ethno-culture. This should be an interesting and informative presentation.

April 4 - Kevin Head, Washington Wildflower Meadows- Columbia Gorge, Prairie, Shrub- Steppe and Subalpine
Kevin's presentation will detail wildflower family characteristics and concentrate on peak meadow blooming times for meadows throughout the state. Slides, localities and major showy species will be discussed.

May 2 - Student Projects, The Evergreen State College.

A select group of students from TESC will be presenting the results of their projects from the current school year. This will be a great opportunity for us to hear about these students' work and a great opportunity for them to share their results with a receptive and appreciative audience.

Remember, all meetings start at 7:00pm at the US Forest Service Building on Black Lake Blvd in Olympia.

Conservation

Conservation Committee

Comments on the Mount Rainier National Park general management plan for the next 20 years are due Feb. 9th. Our conservation chair is writing comments for the South Sound Chapter. If you have suggestions, write or call Mary by the end of January (see Contacts page.). If you wish to learn more, Park Superintendent, Jon Jarvis, will be present at a meeting in Tacoma, January 19th at 8:00 p.m. to discuss management challenges and answer questions. The meeting will be held at The Mountaineers Tacoma Branch clubhouse, 2302 N. 30th St off SR705 and Schuster Parkway.

Julie Alessio (705-2669) and Jim B. Strong (491-7640) will help Mary with state legislative issues. Of particular concern to us this year will be budgets for resource agencies which include protection of native vegetation among their activities. Several lobby days are scheduled during the session, at which more can be learned about environmental issues. Both begin at United Churches of Olympia:

January 23rd, 10:00 a.m., WA Wildlife and Recreation Coalition

February 27th, 9:00 a.m., Citizens Lobby Day, numerous conservation and community organizations.

Contacts with your legislators, whichever their party, will be important in this almost equally-divided legislature.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers Needed

We received a request from parents at Wildwood Elementary School in Puyallup to participate in their annual Family Science Night on February 2nd. This is a hands-on discovery fair that caps off a month of science related activities. They have asked if anyone would like to staff an information booth and answer questions. Our chapter has a display board with pictures and information and we have lots of brochures and other information to distribute. If there is anyone from the Pierce County area that would be interested in this opportunity please let Perry Lund know ASAP, or contact Denise Thompson directly at 253-539-9103 or email: Datintac@aol.com. Time is short so please respond quickly on this one. Thank you.

Monthly Workdays at Glacial Heritage

For the last several years, volunteers have been coming out to Glacial Heritage on the second Saturday of every month to help with prairie restoration efforts. Through continued hard work and dedication volunteers and The Nature Conservancy have helped to save this thousand acre prairie from being lost to scotch broom and other invasive plants. There is always a need for volunteers. If interested please contact Lisa Younger, volunteer coordinator for The Nature Conservancy at 206-343-4344 ext 331 or lyounger@tnc.org

Rare Plant Monitoring Volunteers
Notice from Sarah Reichard, University of Washington (206-616-5020)

This year the Rare Plant Care and Conservation Program at the University of Washington, in conjunction with the Washington Natural Heritage Program (NHP), is launching the Rare Plant Monitoring Program. This program will involve volunteers in data collection on Washington's rare plant populations (Home Page - <http://depts.washington.edu/rarecare/>).

The application can be found at: <http://depts.washington.edu/rarecare/volunteermonitoring.htm>. Please note that the application can be downloaded and mailed in - it cannot be submitted electronically. If you are interested in participating in the Rare Plant Monitoring Program, please fill out the application and return it to us. We will add your name to our list of potential volunteers. If you are accepted into the program we will notify you at least one month prior to the training session.

We hope you will join us in the Rare Plant Monitoring Program. We look forward to receiving your application. Please do not hesitate to call Laura Zybas at 206-616-0780 if you have any questions. Email: lzybas@u.washington.edu

Upcoming Workshops & Events

Would there be any interest in participating as a group in this year's Procession of the Species? We could do a native flower theme and march with all the other wild revelers. Give this some thought. If we did it we'd be looking for someone(s) to step forward as an organizer. This year's procession is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st. We can discuss this at the February 7th meeting. Call (360-357-8590) or email (perrykim@home.com) Perry if you have ideas on this.

The Procession of the Species is just one piece of the Upcoming Earthweek celebration. This year organizers are looking to stretch the activities out over a longer period (5 weeks). The Parade will kick things off and activities will run through May. We have been asked to participate in any way we can. We could do booths, workshops, fieldtrips, etc. Please get with Michelle Anderson (360-709-0053) or Dave Brastow (360-357-9058) if you have any ideas or would like to help in any way. This is a great opportunity to reach a number of people in a real positive setting.

Native Plant Salvage Project
Upcoming Workshops

Winter Twig Identification – Sunday February 4, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Watershed Stewardship – Thursday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m.. This workshop is co-sponsored with Stream Team & City of Tumwater.

Planning Your Home Revegetation Project (Two-part workshop) – Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday, March 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Funded by U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Naturescaping Field Class – Saturday, April 7 at 9:30 a.m. Co-sponsored with Stream Team & City of Tumwater

Please contact Erica Guttman at 704-7785 for details & registration.

Prairie Appreciation Day

Friends of Puget Prairies will be celebrating their 6th annual Prairie Appreciation Day. The date of this event is May 19th and it will be held at the Littlerock Elementary School. This years celebration will see some changes to the field trip agenda and there are plans to include more interactive events at the school. The organization is always looking for volunteers. If interested, call Penny Kelley or Dan Grosboll at 360-273-1820. This event will be part of the Earthweek celebration. More information will be available on March 1st at www.olywa.net/earthweek/

News and Other Items of Interest

New Members

John Bishop, Vancouver
Stacy Borden and Family, Olympia
Janice Campbell-Stout, Puyallup
Pete Douty, Olympia
Joani Easterlund, Tacoma

Anne Goslin, Tacoma
Mara McGrath, Castle Rock
Peter Ryan, Lake Oswego, OR
Jim Senko, Lakewood
Patricia Starzyk, Olympia

New Caretakers at Glacial Heritage Preserve

As of November 20th last year, Thurston County Parks and Recreation hired on two new caretakers for the Glacial Heritage Preserve. Many of you may be familiar with this prairie, located 30 minutes south of Olympia. Although closed to the general public, use of the site is allowed simply by placing a phone call to the county and obtaining permission for a visit. The caretakers have requested we put a small reminder in the newsletter asking folks to remember to call. The number for the county parks office is 786-5595.

Assistance Needed

I am looking for a person who would like to be my Practicum Advisor for my Masters Project. I am planning to lead four springtime wildflower meadow hikes to Meadows. Also I will lead four discussion evenings for hike participants on Washington Wildflowers: Why Meadows and Why Here. That is my Thesis. Please contact Kevin Head at khead@ekit.com or at 360-943-3752 home.

Contacts

For membership information, contact the state chapter at 1-888-288-8022 or wnps@wnps.org
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