



The Acorn

Serving the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society

Winter 2009

The “Trail of the Giants”– Pack Forest’s Walk in the “Old Growth”

If you have the urge for an interesting wintertime hike, Pack Forest’s Trail of the Giants may be just the answer for you. The Trail of the Giants is part of a 166-acre section of “old growth” located near the center of the University of Washington’s 4,300-acre Charles L. Pack Experimental Forest near Eatonville. The trail is at low altitude, 2000 feet or less, so snow is not usually a problem.

The term “old growth” can be a bit deceptive because old growth forests contain a variety of tree sizes as trees die, fall and are replaced. Many of the trees in this area date from the 1800s with some significantly larger and older specimens – several over 500 years old. The stand contains a variety of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), and some Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). This section of Pack Forest survived a fire in 1927 that destroyed much of the forest in the area, although many of the older trees show evidence of fires in the 1700s. Highlights of the trail are two trees over 800 years old, one nearly 230 feet tall.

For a delightful visual introduction to the trail, you may want to visit the Pack Forest website at <http://www.packforest.org/tour/giants.html>. The hike is about 6 miles round trip with maps usually available at the trailhead. As you would expect, sturdy shoes are advisable for the hike with some caution on rainy days for slippery planks on the trail.

To reach the Trail of the Giants, take Highway 7 towards Elbe. The entrance to Pack Forest is 0.3 miles past the intersection with Highway 161. From the parking lot, take the Hugo Peak trail 2.5 miles and then continue along a dirt road to Kirkland Pass and the entrance to the Trail of the Giants. For more information about Pack Forest, visit <http://www.packforest.org/about/>.

South Sound Activities

Looking at New Ideas for the South Sound Chapter By Bill Brookreson

In October, the WNPS South Sound Chapter Executive Committee met to discuss ideas for possible future directions for our chapter. The South Sound Chapter is the second largest chapter in the state and we have a diverse and talented group of members with a variety of interests and skills. After discussion, we settled on three different possibilities to put forward to the members to provide more opportunities for them to utilize and build on their skills, pursue their interests, and, most important, to have fun in the process. We continued the discussion at the November and December chapter meetings. After these meetings, we set up Google groups, e-mail based discussion groups, to continue that discussion. At this point, it just involves those who signed up at the chapter meetings. We need more participants and more ideas.

Ideas are fairly easy. What we need to know is whether the interest of the membership is strong enough to pursue any or even all of them. We are putting forward three ideas for your consideration:



Castilleja, Paintbrush

establishing a Conservation Committee, taking on a restoration project or projects as a chapter, and holding a native plant sale. None of these work without your participation.

Conservation Committee. The first idea has to do with working on advocacy and conservation issues. The Conservation Issues article on “Advocacy and Native Plants” discusses this in much more detail. A number of chapters have committees or individuals deeply

South Sound Activities, continued...

involved in those critical local environmental issues that impact native plants and native plant habitats. How well we deal with the large number of issues in our rapidly urbanizing counties will have a great deal to do with our quality of life moving into the future. Once lost or badly degraded, important native plant habitat is almost never regained.

The most important function of the committee would be to follow those activities at the local level that adversely impact important native plant habitats; and weigh in on behalf of the chapter, and/or bring the state conservation committee into the loop. A committee doesn't need to be large. Three to four people would be very good. More is even better. Also, a committee doesn't need to hold formal meetings and can do most of its business by e-mail using a "Google group" so that everyone is always in the loop. Do we have someone willing to coordinate this committee?

Restoration Project. This is an idea that is particularly close to my own heart and, I suspect, it will be to others. There is a great satisfaction in seeing a degraded park, for example, restored to a beautiful, healthy native plant environment. At a time when so many of our parks are suffering from inadequate funding, volunteer restoration efforts can make a real difference. I am less than a great botanist, but I can remove weeds and plant plants with the best of them. I have been working in Lakeridge Park in Seattle for the last year and a half. Besides being very satisfying, it has been great fun.

Restoration is not for the faint-hearted or for those who are afraid of a little rain and mud (sometimes a lot of rain and mud). It can involve some significant physical labor removing invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry or English ivy. Restoration success takes some time. Invasive species are aggressive and persistent. The real joy comes in planting the native evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, and seeing what a difference it makes. It is not just a short term satisfaction, because you are leaving a heritage. Most restoration groups work one day a month, usually in a public park, for eight or nine months out of the year. Most pick an area to start with rather than trying to take on all of a park, so that the project is manageable and the results are tangible.

We have some particular assets when it comes to restoration projects. We have a number of trained native plant stewards and other knowledgeable people who can provide expertise. We have native plant salvage programs in both Pierce and Thurston counties with whom we can collaborate. We have many wonderful parks that need some help. And finally, we have the Green Tacoma Partnership to share those goals.

Before taking on a restoration project(s), there are some questions that would need to be answered. Do we want one project or one in Pierce and one in

Thurston County? Travel to a project is certainly an issue. Are we willing to commit some of our resources for basic tools? Do we have someone willing to coordinate the effort (set the times for work parties, send out reminders, etc.)? Finally, and most importantly, do we have a core group of five or six people who are willing to keep the project moving?

Plant Sale. A number of the WNPS chapters have annual native plant sales. Ostensibly, it is a good way to raise funds for restoration projects, conservation projects, etc. In reality, many of those involved just love native plants and want to share their passion for native plants and native plant gardening with others. Putting together a successful native plant sale is perhaps the most complicated of the three ideas to carry to fruition.

There are a number of decisions that would have to be made early. Should we hold a sale: in the spring or in the fall, or both? More people are in the planting mode in the spring but fall is the prime time to plant many native plants and shrubs. Where can we hold a successful sale: in Olympia or Tacoma or somewhere between? What physical site? What plants and/or seeds should we sell? Do we have enough sources (suppliers, propagators, etc.) for plants to make the sale worthwhile? Do we have an available storage area? What about unsold plants? How do we advertise? Nursery wholesalers require some significant lead time to assure that we can have plants available at the sale time, so that any sale before Fall 2009 or Spring of 2010 is probably not feasible.

We do have some good assets in WNPS. We have other chapters that have experience and can help us avoid the pitfalls. We have a number of members who are avid gardeners and enjoy plant propagation. We also have a growing number of citizens outside WNPS that are cultivating and planting native plants for both ecological and aesthetic reasons. A successful native plant sale will require some significant planning and work to pull off and, again, will require a coordinator and a core group of six or seven volunteers supplemented by a larger group on the days of any sale. The first sale is the hardest. After that, if we do it right, we will have customers waiting for the next sale. We could raise enough to fund some very worthwhile activities in the chapter and the community.

Other ideas? Let us know what you think! For these three ideas, we have set up Google group e-mails so that everyone interested gets all the information. We invite you to participate and help make the decisions. If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact me at b.brookreson@comcast.net or 253-564-1137 or any member of the Executive Committee (see members of the "Board" in the Acorn). We will be happy to add you to the discussion groups. Our goal is to make a "go" or "no go" decision on each project by the end of January. **Make your views known!**

Conservation Issues

Advocacy and Native Plants: An Opportunity by Bill Brookreson

The Washington Native Plant Society's mission "is to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats through study, education and advocacy." Study and education are relatively easy to understand and communicate; "advocacy" is not as easily understood. Webster's defines "to advocate" as: "To plead in favor of; or defend by argument, before a tribunal or the public; to support, vindicate or recommend publicly." Advocacy is "the act of pleading for or supporting". The Washington Native Plant Society pleads the cause of Washington's Native Plants, and their ecosystems before land-managing and/or regulatory agencies, and the public.

What does that mean, and why is it important? Occasionally, you will encounter people who only want to work on "bigger issues" like global warming, or saving Puget Sound. They don't have time to work on narrow issues like native plants. What they may not understand is how important native plants are as the cornerstone of most environmental efforts. Native plants are the base of ecological systems. They provide the food, shelter, cover, nesting, and other basic requirements of the native birds and animals which have evolved with them. They filter our rainfall before it carries contaminants into our streams. They provide the shade to lower water temperatures to protect our native salmonids, the large woody debris that is so important, and even the insects and other food for fish. In urban environments, native trees help reduce temperature fluctuations and clean our air. In simplest terms, the ecological systems don't work without them and our bigger issues cannot be resolved without healthy native plant ecosystems.

As advocates, we work to be an effective part of decision making processes that impact native plants and native plant ecosystems. In that role, with many interests at the table, we will not always prevail but we can strive to assure that native plant systems are seriously considered in decision making.

At the state level, much of the WNPS work is carried on through the Conservation Committee. The Fall/Winter 2008 issue of *Douglasia* has a fairly detailed report on the issues that the Conservation Committee has addressed or is addressing. Many but not all of them fit within the three priorities the society has established for conservation – Garry oak habitat, shrub steppe habitat, and invasive species. In pursuing these issues, WNPS has been deeply involved in such things as livestock grazing on public lands, primarily lands of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Natural Resources. We are deeply concerned about conversion of high quality habitat and have become involved, both singly and with other environmental groups, in a number of cases. We have been actively engaged with the Invasive Species Coalition along with other environmental groups, and

on the Washington Invasive Species Council. We are playing a lead role in reconstitution of the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council. The list goes on as far as our resources allow.

Many WNPS members are deeply involved in local issues that are close to their hearts in their communities. They are active parts of those public processes that impact native plant ecosystems. At our chapter level, Mary Fries was our stalwart champion on conservation issues for many years. Her activity and accomplishments were, and are, a great benefit to the state and the community. Unfortunately, Mary's health does not allow her to continue in that active role. What Mary knows is that just thinking about making a difference doesn't make the difference. I serve on the state Conservation Committee and the Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council working at the state level. We cannot track those local issues that are important to conservation of native plants and their systems nearly as well as we would like to do. The South Sound Chapter needs a local Conservation Committee who would like to help make a difference both at the individual level and the chapter level. We can provide you help to get started, as well as, access to state wide issues.

Volunteer Opportunities

Rare Plant Monitoring Program

Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation (Rare Care) is looking for volunteers to assist in monitoring known populations of rare plant species on the state's list of endangered, threatened, and sensitive vascular plants. Rare Care works in cooperation with the Natural Heritage Program of the Department of Natural Resources to provide accurate and up-to-date information on the status of rare plant populations, some of which haven't been visited and assessed for a decade or more. The lack of accurate information on these plants puts them at risk of extirpation as a result of development, invasive species and other threats.

Volunteers visit the sites and note the location and condition of the populations. Volunteers need some botanical training, a commitment to native plant conservation, good observational and navigational skills, a sense of adventure and a few free days during the field season (March-October). Volunteers provide their own transportation. If you are interested in more information on this important work, you may see the complete volunteer position description at http://depts.washington.edu/rarecare/RPM_volunteer_position_2008.pdf. Applications are due by February 8. Those accepted are required to attend a one-day training program in Seattle on February 28, 2009. You may contact Rare Care at 206-616-0780 or rarecare@u.washington.edu.

Chair Report

Change of Times // Change of Minds by Anna Thurston

As a visiting step-child, I used to be engaged in what I regarded then as slave-labor; in the vegetable garden weeding, or pushing the noisy lawn mower around our family's acre-wide parcel. There was also the care and feeding of our friendly pig, Bacchus, and a small flock of chickens from which I gathered lovely warm brown eggs. Chucking bales of hay into the attic of our barn was tough work, but also kept me busy and out of trouble.

This kind of activity was also a foreshadowing of my future. Now I am engaged, beyond my wildest dreams, in plants and planting. "Work" (especially weeding) that used to make me angry is now something that I relish for the sake of the peace that comes when I am doing it. Although I've had to develop a yoga/stretching routine that minimizes the long-term stress of such physical labor, my devotion to plants and nature continues to keep me out of trouble in both my physical and my mental health.

As I age, my interest in the details of not just flora and fauna, but also history, politics and communications (subjects in which I often fared poorly in my school years) have also evolved. It seems that other people are experiencing similar shifts in their interests, especially in the face of an engaging electoral season (which I've no doubt most of us are glad is over!). Although I've heard from people who don't agree with the national or local results, I've been thinking about where the future might take us during this historic period.

One thing that impresses me about our nation's president elect is his call for reunification and communication. That regardless of our race, our ideologies, our schooling, our income, our interests - or more simply, our differences - that we find ways to at least communicate towards the possibility of working together towards common goals. That reaching out to communicate requires listening to other's opinions - especially if we don't agree. Listening presents us with perspectives about which we may not have been previously aware. In the case of native plants, it means I need to hear and understand why we don't all want to stop building our economies, or more extreme, to move into a cave to preserve Nature.

Can we be open-minded enough to let new and potentially uncomfortable truths influence how we move forward from "now"? Can we communicate effectively what current science "knows" in a way to give our adversaries a bigger picture? Can we find a way to reach some level of consensus? Can we find the goals we have in common? Whether religious, social, economic, or otherwise, we all tend to have some common end when it comes to maintaining our quality of life, not only for ourselves but also for future generations.

This kind of communication is valuable, especially when we find ourselves pitted against stronger or more divergent financial and/or physical interests. This is the foundation I am working to build as I consider the endeavors of the WNPS, whether it is our mission

of advocating for native plants against invasive species, or minimizing the loss of open space where rare and endangered species are in the path of development.

As the South Sound Chapter of the WNPS embarks on new paths towards advocacy, I encourage all of us to engage in the process. We have been good at delivering educational information for our members, but it's becoming increasingly important for us to reach out beyond our members to people who have little or no prior experience or interest in plants or nature.

What is the way to reach out to gain the attention if not the involvement of those beyond our small minority? While many of us have an advantage of growing up with our hands in the soil, it is our enthusiasm that will encourage others to experience the fun they can have for themselves. I hope each of you will find a way not only to attend our meetings and field activities, but also to contribute to the making of those events. It will allow us to learn more about each of you and help us build a deeper and stronger community of people who love native plants and the world in which they can flourish.

WNPS South Sound Chapter Financial Report

The South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society's financial status was considerably improved in 2008 by the proceeds of the Native Plant Study Weekend. The proceeds give much more flexibility for 2009 program activities. The following is a preliminary summary of the 2008 income and expenses. **The chart does not reflect \$425.82 donated by Lee Fellenberg in 2008 for the printing (\$287.14) and postage (\$138.68) for the Acorn. Thanks Lee for your generous, continuing support.**

Expenses 2008		(Donated)
Speaker honoraria	445.00	0.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00
Meeting Facilities	720.00	0.00
08 Calendars Bought	0.00	0.00
Other Inventory Bought	300.00	0.00
Promotions	665.89	0.00
Total Expenses	\$2130.89	0.00
Total Value Chapter Expenses		\$2130.89
Income 2008		
State Rebates	867.00	0.00
\$\$ Donations (Thriftway)	17.07	0.00
07 Calendars sold	20.00	0.00
08 Calendars sold	0.00	0.00
Native Plant Weekend	5743.00	0.00
Bank Interest	0.00	
Total	\$6647.07	
Balance		\$4516.18

Salvage Program Activities

Native Plant Salvage Alliance

The Native Plant Salvage Alliance (NPSA) is not only alive and well but vigorously working to salvage native plants in areas slated for development, for use in restoration projects throughout Pierce County. We appreciate funding support from the Pierce County Conservation District, distributing funds through the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation's Green Partnership Fund and the City of Tacoma.

For volunteers, NPSA salvage events provide three opportunities. First, they can serve their community by providing plants for restoration projects on public lands; second, when the salvaging has been completed for the NPSA program, they get time to salvage native plants for their own restoration projects; and, third, they get an opportunity to acquire native plants to enhance your own gardens or yards. For those who cannot participate in the actual plant salvage, there is an NPSA opportunity to work in potting and propagation of the salvaged plants. Beyond all that, it's a chance to have a good deal of fun working with others in a worthwhile activity.

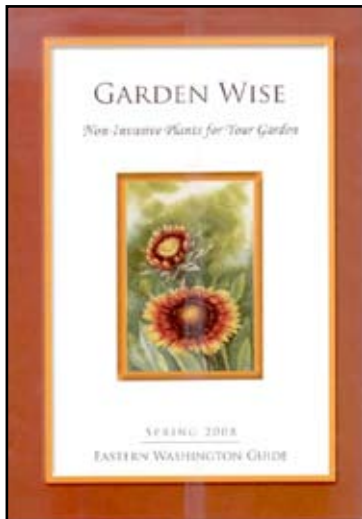
Volunteers of all ages are welcome, although children under age 14 require supervisory adults in attendance. Tools, wheelbarrows, gloves, snacks and other refreshments are provided. Volunteers need to provide their own containers for plants they take home. Appropriate (warm and dry) clothing and sturdy (preferably waterproof) shoes are recommended.

To volunteer or get on the NPSA mailing list, contact Anna Thurston at 353-566-3342 or by e-mail at anna.thurston@sstewardship.org. To learn about what is currently scheduled, visit the NPSA website at http://www.sstewardship.org/current_activities.htm.



Two stewards salvaging for a restoration project
Photo Anna Thurston

Native Plant Resources



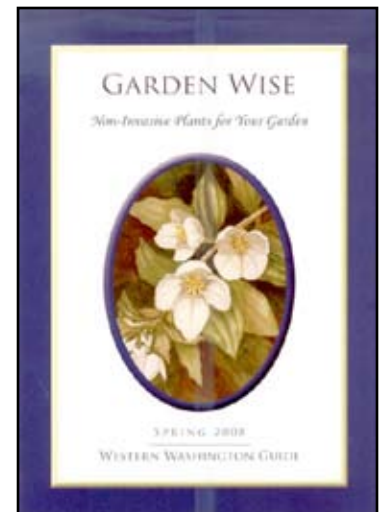
Garden Wise, Alternatives to Invasive Exotics

Have you ever gone into your favorite nursery and been distressed by seeing plants that we know to be invasive exotics such as English ivy or butterfly bush for sale? Have you wanted plants like ground covers and wondered what non-invasive, native plants could be used in the place of the invasive ones? Look for a copy of ***Garden Wise*** for answers. There are editions for Western and Eastern Washington audiences. Copies are available from the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society and participating nurseries.

Garden Wise was originally compiled in 2006 by Alison Halpern, Seth Cool and Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson to provide non-invasive plant alternatives for the gardener. It was produced by a consortium of groups

including the Washington Landscape and Nursery Association, the Washington State Noxious Weed Board, the Washington Invasive Species Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Northwest, University of Washington, the Washington Native Plant Society, and the King and Whatcom counties' Noxious Weed Boards.

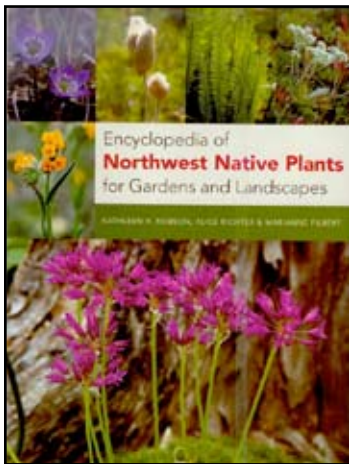
You can support this effort: 1) Learn what species are invasive in our area; 2) Ask only for and plant only non-invasive plants in your garden; 3) Don't trade, plant or exchange non-invasive species; 4) Ask your nurseries and botanical garden to only sell or display non-invasive plants except for educational purposes; and 5) Be an advocate and educate others about invasive plant species in our area.



Native Plant Resources

Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes

by Kathleen A. Robson, Alice Richter, and Marianne Filbert, Timber Press, 2008, \$49.95

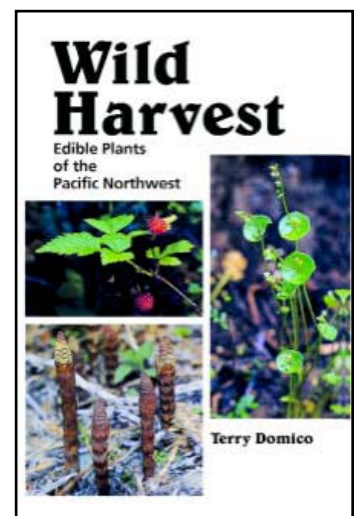


If you are looking for a very well put together, beautifully illustrated reference book on native plants for Northwest gardens and landscapes, you would do well to consider the new *Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscape* from Portland's Timber Press. The primary author, Kathleen Robson, operates the Nothing but Northwest Natives Nursery in Woodland, WA and has B.S., M.S. and PhD degrees in Botany.

The book describes plants native to the Pacific Northwest from alpine plants to the shrub steppe. The book is well illustrated by nearly 600 excellent photographs by Alice Richter. The Encyclopedia covers ferns, conifers, annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees giving information on cultivation, propagation, and native habitat and range for each. A final section on "Plants for Special Situations and Purposes" such as drought tolerant plants and plants for erosion control is also quite useful. *Encyclopedia of Northwest Native Plants for Gardens and Landscapes* is available at most bookstores and internet book providers.

Wild Harvest: Edible Plants of the Pacific Northwest **by Terry Domico. Hancock House Publishers, 2008. \$9.95**

Those who have worn out their copy or looked in vain for this book when it was out of print will be pleased to know that Terry Domico's field guide has been reprinted. The book advertises itself as, "For everyone from backpackers to backyard harvesters, *Wild Harvest* is a field guide to wild edibles with their seasons and cooking suggestions." The 86-page guide is packed with information, and has 43 photos and 41 illustrations to help inform. The book is available from Hancock House Publishers, 1431 Harrison Avenue, Blaine WA 98230-5005. Toll-free phone orders 800-938-1114 or 604-538-1114. E-mail sales@hancockhouse.com and website www.hancockhouse.com. Terry will be our speaker at the chapter meeting on May 13 in Tacoma.



WNPS State News

2009 WNPS Photo Contest

The Washington Native Plant Society is seeking top-notch photographs of native plants to use in the activities of the Society to promote the beauty, importance, and usefulness of native plants in Washington. Selected photographs may be used to accompany newspaper articles, for a 2009 Native Plant Appreciation Week poster and associated publicity, and/or in a possible 2010 Native Plants of Washington calendar. Photographs may be in color, black and white, or tinted. Transparencies and prints from film and digital images will be accepted. Prints may be self-made or printed by a commercial lab. Up to five photographs may be entered by each photographer.

Even if you have submitted your photos before, please don't hesitate to send us some of your other great photos. The photo contest is open to all WNPS members. Both amateur and professional photographers may enter. Photo contest deadline is January 20, 2009. Winners will be announced in late February, 2009. Kevin Head of our chapter was one of last year's winners.

For complete rules and entry form, visit the WNPS website http://www.wnps.org/photo_contest/index.htm.

State Conservation Grant Funds Available

The WNPS State Conservation Committee is soliciting proposals for Conservation Grants of up to \$500 that further the goals of conservation of Washington native plants. Through its grant process, the committee's goal is to support or enhance on-the-ground conservation or restoration projects. Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2009.

For more guidelines, format and where to send your application, see http://www.wnps.org/conservation/conservation_grant.html

For more information or to discuss your proposal contact:

John Browne, Co-Chair
Conservation Committee
206-463-9641
jbrowne001@centurytel.net

Field Trips

Saturday, March 7th

Catherine Creek and Coyote Wall The Search for Early Bloomers

Join Kevin Head in going to the first place of seeing beautiful wildflowers in the Columbia Gorge. At Catherine Creek the flower season begins in some years in January, but by early March you are seeing fields of Grass Widows and other early spring beauties. Participants will meet in Olympia at 7 a.m. and carpool. Expect all sorts of weather and we will have a dinner in Hood River after the walks. Expect to walk about three miles in beautiful Oak country and return at about 10 p.m. Contact Kevin Head at khead@ekit.com or 360-943-3752. Trip is limited to the first 12 people to sign up.



Saturday, April 18 Umtanum Ridge The Search for Blooming Cactus

Participants will meet in Olympia and carpool. The trip will depart at 6:30 a.m. and return about 11:00 p.m., with dinner in Ellensburg. Contact Kevin Head at khead@ekit.com or 360-943-3752. Trip is limited to the first 12 people to sign up.



Saturday, May 16. Bald Hills Sampler

The trip will depart from Olympia at 7:00 am and hike to Deschutes Falls and nearby balds. Contact Kevin Head at khead@ekit.com or 360-943-3752. Trip is limited to the first 12 people to sign up. Bald Hills plant lists are available on the WNPS state website at http://www.wnps.org/plant_lists/counties/thurston/thurston_county.html.

Saturday, June 6 Umtanum Ridge and Meeks Table

Participants will meet in Olympia and carpool. The trip will leave for eastern Washington at 6 a.m. and return about 11 p.m. with dinner in Ellensburg. Contact Kevin Head at khead@ekit.com or 360-943-3752. Trip is limited to the first 12 people to sign up. A plant list for lower Umtanum Canyon is available on the WNPS website at http://www.wnps.org/plant_lists/counties/kittitas/kittitas_county.html.

More Local Attractions Or Cheap Dates for a Botanist

Point Defiance Park – Tacoma. The purpose of these articles is to give plant lovers some places to spend a few hours and enjoy his/her passion for native plants with a minimum of travel. Bresemann Forest was featured last time for Pierce County with the assumption that everyone was already familiar with Point Defiance Park. We were reminded that this is not necessarily so.

Point Defiance is the gem of the Metro Parks Tacoma. Point Defiance, originally a military reservation, was turned over to the City of Tacoma as a park



in 1888 by then-president Grover Cleveland. The evolution of the park is a fascinating history in itself. For those interested in the history, visit <http://thepark.thenewtribune.com/history/>

For families and children, the park features a wealth of attractions from the zoo and aquarium, to the Fort Nisqually exhibit. For the botanist, it is also a treasure chest. For the briefest of visits, you can visit the Native Plant Garden maintained by the Tacoma Garden club. It features a very nice selection of well-signed northwest natives.

The real joy is walking the several miles of trails or the five-mile drive where the selection of native plants, changing with the seasons, delights the eye and heart. In addition to the plant life, along the way



Field Trips continued... _____

you may also see wonderful bird life, including eagles, and everything from raccoons (lots) to deer and foxes. For a walk in Point Defiance, don't forget your camera; there is always the picture you will regret not taking.

Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve – Thurston County. The Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve may be small in size but it is large in its value to the naturalist. There you can view shore birds, chum salmon and raptors; and, for the botanist, visit a salt marsh. In October 2008, the Department of Natural Resources christened an interpretive center at Kennedy Creek to make it even more accessible.

As with most Natural Area Preserves, Kennedy Creek is very sensitive and is not intended for heavy public use. As Doug Sutherland, the out-going commissioner said, "This preserve is a place for people to come and enjoy, observe and have a quiet moment." The interpretive site is designed for that low impact use with a small looped trail, complete with interpretive signs, on the bluff overlooking the mudflats.

For the botanist, Kennedy Creek NAP vegetation presents an interesting mix with three types of high quality salt marsh:

- High intertidal, high salinity marsh supports both the mud rush and the tufted-hairy-pacific silverweed communities;
- Low intertidal, high salinity, silty marsh supports the salt grass-jaumia-pickleweed community; and
- Low intertidal, low salinity, silty marsh supports the Lyngby's sedge community.

For those who are also birders, Kennedy creek is a key resting, feeding and wintering location. Bring your camera and quietly enjoy nature in peace. From November through March, the Kennedy Creek preserve is a great place to watch merlins and peregrine falcons hunting shorebirds. On weekends in November, visit the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail to watch spawning chum salmon about one-half mile upstream of the Kennedy Creek estuary.

To reach the interpretive site for the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve, travel north from Olympia on U.S. Highway 101 past the Thurston-Mason County line. Turn right onto Old Olympic Highway near milepost 356. The interpretive site is one-quarter mile on the right.



Plant and Seed Sales _____

Salal Chapter's Annual Spring Plant Sale Saturday, April 25, 2009, 10 - 2

The Salal Chapter (Skagit County) of the Washington Native Plant Society will hold its annual Spring plant sale at the WNPS Native Plant Display Garden located at the Washington State University NWREC facility in Mt. Vernon. WSU-NWREC is located

at 16650 State Route 536 west of Mount Vernon. The plant list is not yet determined. Check the WNPS website <http://www.wnps.org/chapters.html> under local chapters, plant sales for more details.

Central Puget Sound Chapter's Annual Spring Plant Sale Saturday, May 9, 2009, 10 – 4

The Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale this year at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St, Bellevue. Although the plant list has not yet been finalized, the CPS Chapter Spring Plant Sale always has an outstanding selection of native trees, shrubs and other native plants. The plant list will be posted on the WNPS website. Serious native plant gardeners are advised to come early for the best selection of native plants and plant books.

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.
Rachel Carson

South Sound Chapter Meeting Calendar, February 2009 – May 2009

Meeting Times and Locations:

We are very pleased to offer another series of interesting and educational speakers for our spring meetings. Chapter meetings are 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Meetings are normally scheduled on the second Monday of each month from October through May (Olympia) and the second Wednesday (Tacoma). 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.

February

Monday, February 9 (Olympia), Rachel Maggi
Garry Oak Restoration Projects with USDA Farm Bill Programs –
A Glimpse of the Past and Planning for the Future

Garry Oak restoration has been a priority conservation activity in several USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs that were implemented under the 2002 Farm Bill. In spring of 2008, the US Congress passed the next generation Farm Bill that will continue to provide opportunities for restoration of rare and declining habitats on private land. Rachel Maggi, NRCS Western Washington Biologist, will present examples of Garry oak restoration techniques that were implemented under the 2002 Farm Bill and a summary of restoration opportunities under the new Farm Bill.

Wednesday, February 11 (Tacoma), Rita Moore
Ethno-botany of Pre-contact Seattle Indians

Rita will present a program on local (Seattle) Indian history and how native plants are/were incorporated into their lives. Less information is available on these Indians because they were the earliest affected by the settlement of Seattle by non-whites. In her presentation, Rita fills in that historical background and provides information on most common usage of native plants. Rita Moore is a long-time, active Washington Native Plant Society member. Among her many WNPS and community activities, Rita is a Native Plant Steward (2001), a WSU Extension Watershed Steward (2001), a WSU Extension Forest Advisor, National Wildlife Federation Steward (2008), a WNPS Growing Wild consultant, a member of the Society for Ecological Restoration and member of the WNPS State Conservation Committee.

March

Monday, March 9 (Olympia), Jean Takekawa
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Estuary Restoration –
The Future of the Nisqually Delta

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is in the process of restoring 762 acres of the Nisqually estuary. Come learn more about the science behind the project, the benefits expected from the re-creation of an estuary, the partnership helping to make it a reality, and the schedule as construction progresses. This is the largest estuary restoration project in the Pacific Northwest and it is an important step in the recovery of Puget Sound. Jean Takekawa is the Refuge Manager at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes Nisqually NWR, the Black River Unit, and Grays Harbor NWR. She has worked on national wildlife refuges for thirty years. Her work included eight years as a Wildlife Biologist at Loxahatchee NWR in the northern Everglades in south Florida, followed by ten years at San Francisco Bay NWR, made up of nine coastal refuges from the Oregon border south to Monterey Bay.

Wednesday, March 11 (Tacoma), Julie Hover
The Plot Thickens: The Mysteries of Revegetation at Mt Rainier National Park

Ecological restoration of native plant communities in the wake of human-caused damage has been ongoing at Mount Rainier National Park for decades. Restoration specialist Julie Hover will provide an overview of the park's subalpine revegetation program, including efforts to solve some of the mysteries of native plant propagation, survival, and growth through experimentation and monitoring. Julie led the field-based restoration program at Mount Rainier from 1995- 2007 and is currently working as an environmental protection specialist at the park.

Wednesday, April 8 (Tacoma), Dr. Sarah Reichard
The Threat of Invasive Species to Washington's Native Flora

In the Pacific Northwest, invasive plants negatively impact native plants, wildlife and whole ecosystems. They displace native plants, degrade habitat and recreation opportunities, as well as physically and chemically alter soil properties and fire frequencies. Additionally, invasive plants can jeopardize endangered plants, some of which are at risk due to invasive species, and further decrease biodiversity. Dr. Reichard will discuss current efforts to mitigate the threat that invasive plant species pose and actions we can take to assist in that effort. Dr. Sarah Reichard is a professor at the University of Washington and is head of the conservation program at the UW Botanic Gardens. Dr. Reichard has worked extensively on the issue with the Washington nursery industry to encourage voluntary restrictions on the sale of invasive plant species. Among her many publications, Dr. Reichard is a co-author of *Invasive Species in the Pacific Northwest* and one of the region's recognized experts on invasive plant species.

Monday, April 13 (Olympia), Dennis Bottemiller
Variables Involved in Rooting Cuttings and How to Increase Success

Nearly everyone who is interested in plants, whether native or exotic, at some point wants more of them. Cutting propagation is a great way to get more of the plants you want and the purpose of this talk is to illustrate some of the variables in plant growth, culture and physiology which can be manipulated to your advantage for greater success in getting cuttings to root. While most work at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden involves rhododendrons, these principles are important for propagation of most plants that can be grown from cuttings. Dennis Bottemiller has been the Propagator and Nursery Manager for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden for the past ten years where he has been rooting cuttings and growing seedlings of plants from around the world. The species garden is home to the largest collection of Species Rhododendrons in North America and also has outstanding collections of *Magnolia*, Japanese Maples, *Primula* and *Liliaceae* in a 24-acre naturalistic setting including many northwest native plants.

Sunday, May 3 through Saturday, May 9
Native Plant Appreciation Week will be observed statewide.

Check the WNPS website, at www.wnps.org for activities that are scheduled.

Monday, May 11 (Olympia), Paul Cereghino
Lesson's Learned at a Freshwater Tidal Wetland Creation on Hylebos Creek

In 2003 Commencement Bay Natural Resources Trustees led by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration implemented substantial fill removal and revegetation of a 5-acre site adjacent to Hylebos Creek in Fife, Washington. NOAA completed a revegetation design using reference sites, attuned to tidal elevation, and using a variety of propagation methods across hydrologic gradients. That site is now entering its fourth growing season and offers some lessons learned. Paul Cereghino is a Marine Habitat Specialist at NOAA Restoration Center. Since leaving Commencement Bay he has been developing regional conservation plans and implementation strategies as part of the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership. His academic training is in vegetation ecology, following private work in landscape and horticulture industries.

Wednesday, May 13 (Tacoma), Terry Domico
Wild Harvest: Grazing for Edible Plants of the Pacific Northwest

As author Terry Domico notes in his book, *Wild Harvest*, food itself means basic animal existence, but wild food is food for our imagination as well as our bodies. Terry recounts the unique experience of "standing in some forgotten field pulling roots or eating tender spring leaves" as his body connects to the dim past while his mind races to the future. He calls this phenomenon, which springs from the satisfaction of hand-to-mouth experience, "grazing." With colorful slides and amusing commentary Terry will guide potential grazers to some wild, edible plants found around the Pacific Northwest. Terry is well known for his regional ecological assessment work for the conservation and enhancement of critical native plant and wildlife habitats. His articles and photographs have appeared nationally in *Natural History*, *Smithsonian*, *National Wildlife* and other magazines, and in publications by the National Geographic Society. He is also author of a number of books about nature including *Wild Harvest*; the internationally acclaimed *Bears of the World*, *Kangaroos*, *The Marvelous Mob*, *The Last Thylacine* and *Natural Areas of the San Juan Islands*; and was photographer of *The Nature of Borneo*. For more than thirty years (when not exploring Asia's vanishing rain forest or the Australian outback) Terry has made his home in the San Juan Islands where he serves as WNPS chapter chair. **Please Note: This meeting will be held at the Rausch Auditorium at the University of Puget Sound.**

Chapter & State Contacts

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

Vice Chair – Reba Olsen
 253-531-8652
 reba.so@comcast.net

Secretary – Open

Treasurer – Sue Summers
 253-460-5569
 summerssue@hotmail.com

Field Trips – Kevin Head
 360-943-3752
 khead@ekit.com

Newsletter Publishing – Mary Henry
 253-565-0829
 mandm@mandmcentral.com

Newsletter Editing – Bill Brookreson
 702 Columbia
 Fircrest, WA 98466
 253-564-1137
 b.brookreson@comcast.net

Presentations – John Neorr
 1-253-631-4727
 neorrj@yahoo.com

Web Manager – Lee Fellenberg
 leefellenberg@harbornet.com

Publicity – Sue Summers
 253-460-5569
 summerssue@hotmail.com

Conservation Chair - Open

At Large Volunteers:

Pierce County – Stan & Helen Engle
 253-564-3112
 Hengle@iinet.com

Coastal Counties – Helen Hepp
 360-249-4321
 shhepp@techline.com

Thurston County – Dan & Pat Montague
 360-709-0866
 Montague30@comcast.net

WNPS Statewide:

President – Dean Longrie
 deanpl@aol.com

Executive Director - Catherine Hovanic
 6310 N.E. 74th St., Ste 215E
 Seattle, WA 98115-8171
 206-527-3210 or 1-800-288-8022
 wnps@wnps.org

Native Plant Salvage Programs:

Lewis County – Janet Strong
 360-495-3950
 strongjan@centurytel.net

Pierce County – Anna Thurston
 253-566-3342
 anna.thurston@ssstewardship.org
 www.ssstewardship.org

Thurston County – Erica Guttman
 360-754-3588 ext. 110
 nativeplants@wsu.edu
 www.nativeplantsalvage.org



Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter
www.southsoundchapterwnps.org
Washington Native Plant Society State Chapter
www.wnps.org 206-527-3210



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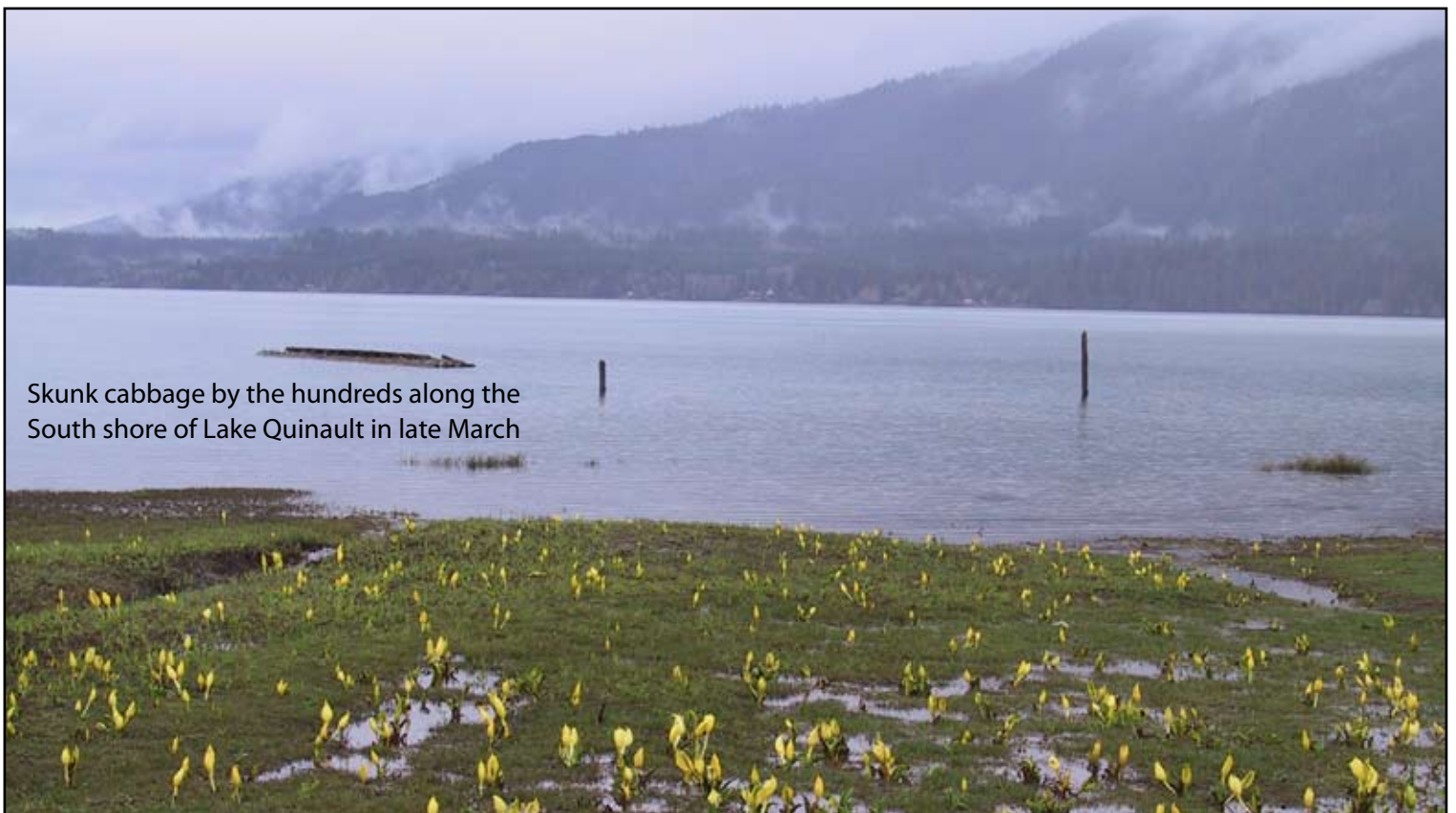
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The mission of the Washington Native Plant Society is to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy.



Skunk cabbage by the hundreds along the South shore of Lake Quinault in late March