



The Acorn

Serving the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society Winter 2010

Another Good Year at the Fair By Anna Thurston

If you didn't make it to the Western Washington State Fair in Puyallup this fall, you missed a good show. Once again, Washington Native Plant Society supported a native plant display at the "NW Outdoors" building. With the support of many volunteers, we lead visitors through five different displays. This was the first year we built the displays and various islands of plantings throughout the building without the support of the Washington Department of Transportation. Woodbrook and Briggs nurseries supplied attractive native plants, and Native Plant Salvage Alliance provided more plants. A layer of beauty bark, donated by H&B Fuels, filled in the voids between the pots and Advanced Botanical Resources, Inc loaned furnishings and salmon totem poles, making a display that drew people into the building. We have been asked to return to do an even bigger event at next year's fair.

The display construction and teardown, care of the plants for the duration of the fair, plus a stint or two in the building's hands-on area wouldn't have happened without the support of new and existing WNPS volunteers, team members from the Washington Conservation Corps and friends at the Pierce Conservation District. Our volunteers included: John and Kate Comis, Nikki Gant, Orin Blomberg, John Neorr, Mary Best, Deb Mitchem, Patricia Menzies, Connie and Rob Mayor, Diana Willie, Dan Fear, Erin Ewald, Sarah Garitone, Rene Skaggs, Melissa Buckingham and I.

Our location next year might be by the doorway, as an even better draw to bring people into the building. If you would like to participate with the fair in the future, either for construction or for staffing the booth during the 17 days of the fair's duration, be sure to let me know at a.thurston@worldnet.att.net Thanks again to all who participated!



Fair volunteers (Anna Thurston)

South Sound Chapter Activities

Woodland Trail Restoration Project Update

The first section of the chapter's Woodland Trail Project achieved a milestone with the planting of 463 native plants on the cleared site on November 14. The restoration site is along the Woodland Trail approximately half way between Boulevard and Dayton streets in Olympia. Great thanks go to our chapter's volunteers for their hard work: Bob Wadsworth, Dan & Pat Montague, Dwight & Sharon Berquist-Moody, Cyndy Dillon, Seth Swanson, Guy Maguire, Bonnie Blessing and Roberta Woods. Check the website for work day updates; for more information or directions, contact Bill Brookreson at 253-564-1137 or b.brookreson@comcast.net.

New Members to the South Sound Chapter

We want to welcome the following new members having joined in September-November, to the South Sound Chapter: Jeffrey and Shelly Kirk-Rudeen, Linda R. Jones, Elizabeth Lathrop, Seth Swanson, Guy Maguire, Maria Jost, Dave Zink, and Gerit Nyland.

South Sound Chapter Activities

What to do to Lead a Field Trip

Do you have a favorite place you would like to share with other plant lovers? Have you ever considered leading a field trip but you are reluctant not knowing what all it entails? Bill Brookreson and Kevin Head will offer a half-hour introduction (6:30-7 p.m.) on what it takes immediately prior to the chapter meetings in February. It's easier than you think!

Report on Election Board Reorganization

Members approved the revised bylaws at the October meetings by a vote of 16-0. With the approval of revised bylaws, we held an election in October to select a new chapter board. For the first time we used both paper and electronic ballots. Results of that election were: Chair – Reba Olsen, 28 votes; First Vice Chair (Thurston) – Seth Swanson, 30 votes; Vice Chair (Pierce) – Cyndy Dillon, 28 votes; Secretary – Byrna Klavano, 30 votes; and Treasurer -- Sue Summers, 30 votes. There were two write-in votes for chair. Electronic voting appears to have worked well. We received 18 electronic ballots, 4 were copied from e-mail and mailed. We received 8 ballots from paper mailings. Ballots were counted by Mary Henry and Margaret Purcell. Thanks to all who participated.

At the Executive Board meeting in December, the following budget for 2010 for the South Sound Chapter was adopted:

Income	
Chapter Rebates	\$1200
Donations	250
Sales	400
Misc.	25
	\$1875
Expenses	
Chapter Botanist	\$50
Field Trips	100
Gift Memberships	50
Inventory	300
Marketing/Outreach	250
Newsletter/Website	400
Programs	650
Restoration	50
Misc.	25
	\$1875

Workshops and Conferences

Society for Ecological Restoration NW Chapter & Washington Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2010 Regional Conference February 16-19. Creating Thriving Rural and Urban Communities through Ecological Restoration

This year's SERNW-WWS Joint Regional Conference will be held at the Tulalip Resort in Tulalip, WA. The conference theme is "Creating Thriving Rural and Urban Communities through Ecological Restoration." The conference features three days of technical presentations, five different workshops and eight field trips. The topics of particular interest to WNPS members covered will include: Agriculture and Ecological Restoration, Community Stewardship and Collaboration, Elwha Dam Removal Research and Restoration, Forest Restoration, Invasive Species Management, Plant Propagation, Prairie and Grassland Restoration, Rare Animal and Plant Species Conservation, Riverine Restoration and Monitoring, Shrub-Steppe Restoration, Soils and Soil Science, Urban Forest Inventories and Management, Urban Forest Preservation, and Vegetation Monitoring. Each registration includes one free workshop. Registration and hotel information is available on line at www.ser.org/sernw/Conference_2010.asp.

Native Plant Workshops

Erica Guttman (WSU) has arranged an interesting series of winter and spring workshops.

- **Winter Twig Identification**, Sunday, January 24; Choose from two sessions: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- **Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife**, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, February 18, (Yelm) or Thursday, March 11, (north Olympia area)
- **Save the Sound: Build a Rain Garden**, 6:30-8:45 p.m., Thursday, April 1 (Yelm) or Thursday, April 15 (Tumwater) (Other regional workshops may be offered in 2010.)
- **Naturescaping Field Class**, with Linda Andrews & Erica Guttman; includes a tour of private gardens! Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- **Meet the Trees of Washington Field Class** -- trees, shrubs, perennials & more! Learn about ecosystems unique to South Sound, field trip included! Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

You will need to register in advance for workshops. To get more information or register, contact the WSU Native Plant Salvage Project & Native Plant Salvage Foundation, 360-867-2166 or 360-867-2164, nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com

WNPS 2010 Native Plant Photo Calendars

The WNPS 2010 Native Plant Photo Calendar is now available, offering a whole new year of floral splendor. WNPS members helped produce an outstanding set of images. Ellen Kuhlmann's legends accompany featured photos of the month, providing thought-provoking information about each plant and its ecology. Smaller inset photos and dates of interest to those who are botanically inclined are also included. The photographs were chosen from over a hundred images submitted by WNPS members in a photography contest that is coordinated early in each calendar year.

Calendars may be purchased at chapter meetings; \$5 from each chapter sale will stay with our chapter. You may also buy them online: go to www.wnps.org/ and look for the calendar link under "What's New." Each calendar is just \$10.00, plus \$2 for shipping (one flat rate of \$2 shipping, even for multiple calendar orders). Buy one for yourself and some for family and friends.

Native Plant Study Weekend, May 21-23, 2010

Native Plant Study Weekend 2010 will be hosted by the Central Puget Sound Chapter, May 21-23, at Camp Waskowitz near North Bend. The chapter is planning to concentrate field trips and programs on remnant habitats in the lower Puget Sound area. The goal is to keep the field trips within a one-hour drive of North Bend to minimize driving and maximize botanizing. They are interested not only in public lands but also in privately-owned sites for which we can get permission from the landowner for access. One activity during the weekend will be for attendees to create a plant list for Camp Waskowitz. If you have any suggestions for field trips, please contact the chapter chair, Brianne Cohen, at brianne.e.cohen@gmail.com. Watch for more details and sign-up materials in *Douglasia*.

2010 WNPS Photo Contest

The Washington Native Plant Society is looking for great photos of Washington wild flowers and native plant landscapes. The contest is open to all WNPS members. Each photographer may submit up to five photos. Photos selected will be used as the 2010 Native Plant Appreciation Week featured photo and for the 2011 Native Plant Photo Calendar. Entry deadline is January 20, 2010. For entry rules and forms, visit the WNPS website at www.wnps.org/photo_contest/index.htm.

Native Plant Appreciation Week, April 25-May 1, 2010

Our sixth annual Native Plant Appreciation Week will be celebrated this year April 25 through May 1, 2010. This year, because of budget constraints, the printing of posters has been scaled down. In 2010, WNPS will design a poster and postcard to email to chapters. Chapters can print them to publicize their NPAW events. Watch the NPAW section on the WNPS website for chapter and statewide activities.

Volunteer Opportunities

Native Plant Salvage Alliance (Pierce Co.) Ceases Operations

On November 5, Anna Thurston, the founder and the contract coordinator for the Native Plant Salvage Alliance, announced that the NPSA will cease to operate at the end of 2009. The program began in 2003, and received grant funding beginning in 2005 through the Community Foundation and the Pierce County Conservation District. That funding will not be available in 2010. Since its establishment, NPSA has saved thousands of native plants from destruction and provided them for public restoration and landscaping projects. Anna is exploring other options to continue salvage activities in other forms, but nothing has been announced.

Native Plant Salvage Events (Thurston Co.)

All salvages begin at the site at 9:30 a.m. Volunteers then move to the holding beds after lunch (between 12:30 and 1 p.m.). For weekend salvage dates, hot vegetarian soup and other snacks are provided; and they welcome those who join for the afternoon plant-potting shift! Native Plant Salvage staff will send directions after you sign up:

To volunteer, contact the WSU Native Plant Salvage Project & Native Plant Salvage Foundation, 360-867-2166 or 360-867-2164, or nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com. For more information, go to <http://www.nativeplantsalvage.org/>

- Saturday, January 9
- Monday, January 18 (MLK Day)
- Friday, January 29
- Friday, February 5
- Sunday, February 28
- Saturday, March 6
- Wednesday, May 26, spring perennials, 3:30 p.m. to dusk

Conservation Issues _____

What Is Quarantine 37 & Why Should We Care?

The Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture has the authority to regulate the imports of horticultural and nursery plants. Quarantine 37 (Q-37) contains the rules under which those imports are regulated to block import of potentially devastating pests and plant diseases. Unfortunately, these rules have not been updated in more than eighty years. To quote the Union of Concerned Scientists, "they are neither a match for the current levels of plant imports nor the advances in the science of biological invasions."

Where this really coincides with the priorities of the Washington Native Plant Society is in dealing with invasive plant species that are devastating to our native ecosystems. We have numerous examples of horticultural plants – English ivy, Scot's broom, yellow archangel, and on and on – that have escaped into the native environment and have done immense damage. They have cost taxpayers millions in control costs, as well as having changed the functioning of ecosystems.

The Plant Protection Act of 2000 charged APHIS with addressing these environmental weed threats but the agency has been slow to respond. APHIS began preparing changes in 2004. The proposal which APHIS is considering would create a special category of plant imports that could not be imported until their risks were assessed. Their import would be "not authorized pending pest risk assessment" (NAPPRA).

Anyone who deals with plants knows that there is no perfect solution but the success of risk-based screening programs in other countries demonstrates that regulators can make good decisions on what plants to exclude based on such factors as invasiveness elsewhere; similarity of habitats and climates; the likelihood and amount of plant material that could enter the US; the difficulty of control should it become invasive in the environment; and the potential for economic and environmental damage. The formal comment period ended on October 21. The outcome will be important in all our future efforts to combat invasive plants in our native ecosystems.

Chair Report _____

Starting the New Year By Reba Olsen

It is with a sense of humility, and optimism, that I begin my term as elected chair for the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society. I deeply appreciate your help and support now and throughout this coming year. I am looking forward to working closely with our new vice chairs, Cyndy Dillon and Seth Swanson, and our two returning officers, Sue Summers, our treasurer, and Byrna Klavano, our secretary, in making this an interesting and productive year. We may try some new things or do some old things in new ways. I hope that you all feel free to provide your concerns, ideas and suggestions to your executive board. You, the Washington Native Plant Society members, are what make the society successful.

We would like you to be more involved. We greatly appreciate those who are helping out.

However, we need more willing members, to fill standing committee chair positions for our chapter. In future newsletter issues, I will elaborate on what each chair position might entail: publicity, volunteers, conservation, field trips and botanist. We also ask that people volunteer to work on the committees.

A goal that I have is to communicate more information to you about the actions of the WNPS Board of Directors, on which I serve as a chapter chair. WNPS board meetings are held twice yearly. At the October 2009 meeting, these election results were announced: the officers elected for 2110 are Dean Longrie as president, Jane Wentworth as vice president, Fred Weinmann as treasurer, and Gary Smith as secretary; the change to the bylaws to allow electronic voting was also approved.

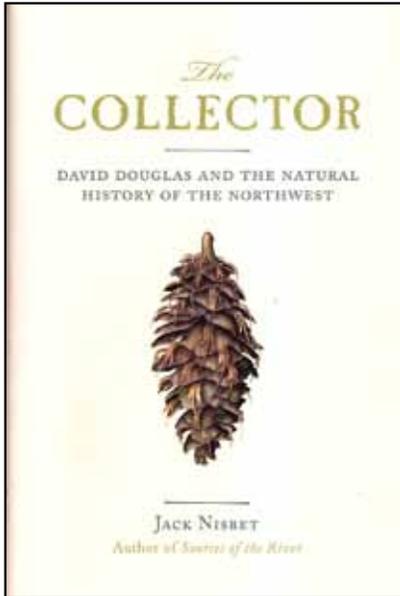
There was extended discussion of the state budget. (If you wish to read the full minutes of this board meeting, you can find them at <http://wnps.org/>) Revenue from donations is moderately down, and there has been an added ongoing expense to hire an accountant. In addition to some reductions in expenses, Dean Longrie, as president of the board, has sent a letter to each chapter to request a money donation to continue WNPS funding for research, conservation, and education grants that cannot be provided in the budget. Our chapter's executive board will make a decision on that request.

This year, individual giving to WNPS is more important than ever. Workplace giving campaigns are underway, and we encourage members to donate through these campaigns. You can specify Earth Share, which divides the funds among a number of good environmental organizations, or you can specify WNPS directly.

If you have questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me directly at chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Native Plant Resources

***The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest* by Jack Nisbet, Sasquatch Books; Seattle, 2009, \$23.95.**

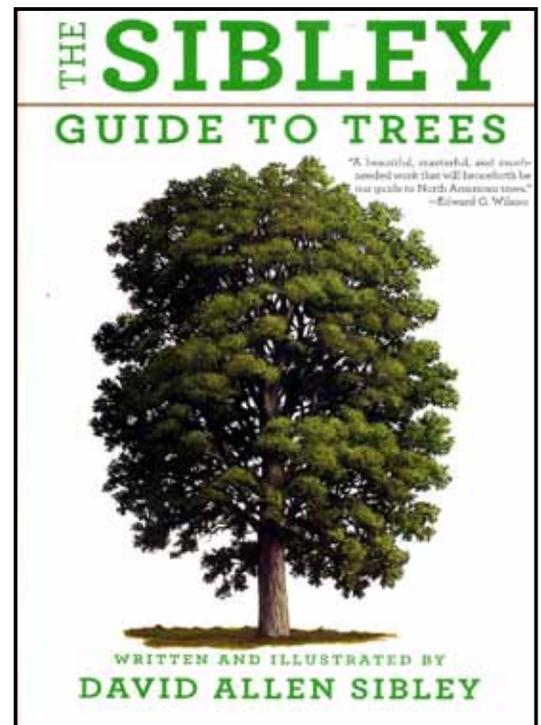


There has been a need for some time for a new biography of naturalist David Douglas. Jack Nisbet has provided an excellent, very readable and well researched biography. *The Collector* provides an intriguing tour of the Northwest as it was in the 1820's and the triumphs (Douglas collected and sent back literally hundreds of plants and seeds for the London Horticultural Society that became mainstays of British gardens) and struggles of the intrepid collector with weather, sometimes unfriendly native peoples, failing eye sight and rheumatism, and simply subsisting in the wilderness. As Native Plant Society members we see the name of Douglas attached to over eighty species of flora and fauna.

Jack Nisbet is a prolific writer, teacher and naturalist who lives in Spokane. His previous works include *Singing Grass, Burning Sage; Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson Across Western North America; The Mapmakers Eye: David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau;* and *Visible Bones; Journeys Across Time in the Columbia River Country.* Jack has been a past presenter at WNPS Native Plant Study Weekend. For more on Jack, you may visit his website at <http://jacknisbet.com/>.

***The Sibley Guide to Trees* by David Allen Sibley, Alfred A. Knopf; New York, 2009. \$39.95.**

Those who are familiar with David Sibley's marvelous bird books, including *The Sibley Guide to Birds* and *The Sibley Guide to Birds of Western North America*, will be delighted with his new *The Sibley Guide to Trees*. The guide covers more than 66 tree species, native and introduced, found in North America north of Mexico. The book contains more than 4100 of Sibley's carefully detailed paintings showing leaves, bark, flowers, cones, needles, fruit, twigs and tree silhouettes to assist in identification. There are also over 500 maps showing the range of the species, natural as well as cultivated. Trees are arranged taxonomically with related species groups together to assist users in recognizing basic species groups. The introductory materials on such areas as taxonomy, tree size, maps, leaves, flowers, fruit, twigs, etc. are useful and well written. This guide, although extensive, is also small enough to take easily into the field and does a good job with northwest trees. For those who love trees and fine botanical art, the illustrations alone are worth the cost of the book.



Plant and Seed Sales

Central Puget Sound Chapter's Annual Spring Plant Sale Saturday, May 8, 2009, 10 – 4

The Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale again this year at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St, Bellevue. Although the plant list has not been finalized, the CPS Chapter's annual 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. Shoppers are asked to bring their own boxes or trays.

South Sound Chapter Meeting Calendar February – May 2010

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. Please contact John Neorr at presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

February 2010

Monday, February 8 (Olympia), Erica Guttman “Winter Twig Identification”

Brush up on your old skills or learn new skills at this session for newcomers and veteran twig lovers alike! Erica Guttman from WSU Extension’s Native Plant Salvage Project will introduce you to the secrets to easy twig identification, and then we’ll work in small groups to find the clues to identifying 25 common lowland deciduous woody plants. This is guaranteed to be a fun, hands-on workshop! Erica Guttman has been a hands-on environmental educator for 25 years, and has led the WSU Native Plant Salvage Project since 1997. She teaches about and has authored publications and videos on topics as diverse as sustainable landscaping, marine shoreline stewardship, low-impact development and rain gardens. But one of her favorite publications is her *Winter in the Woods* guidebook, and one of her favorite things to do is share her passion for winter twigs on chilly walks in the woods.

Wednesday, February 10 (Tacoma), Peter Zika “Sedges and Rushes in Western North America”

Peter Zika says our oft-neglected sedges and rushes could use a little love from native plant aficionados. His talk will emphasize the genera *Carex* and *Juncus*, discussing their pollination, dispersal, ecology, rare species, evolutionary relationships, and some recent taxonomic changes since the publication of the sedge and rush volumes of *Flora of North America*. Peter will bring some sedge reference books and the new OR/WA sedge guide. Bring your sedges or rushes to the meeting and Peter will be happy to help you identify them before or after his talk.

Peter received his undergraduate degree in botany in 1983 at the University of Vermont, where there are several thousand sheets of his mounted material in the “Peter F. Zika Collection” at the university’s herbarium. He has worked as a rare plant botanist in Vermont, New York and Oregon for The Nature Conservancy’s Natural Heritage Programs. Currently, he works at the UW Herbarium at the Burke Museum as a plant taxonomist. Peter has published more than eighty scientific notes, articles and books and was the author of several genera for the second edition of *The Jepson Manual*.

March 2010

Monday, March 8th (Olympia), Reini Stettler “From the Secrets of Cottonwood to a Better Understanding of Trees and Forests”

Dr. Reini Stettler will give an illustrated talk on his recently published book, *Cottonwood and the River of Time: On Trees, Evolution and Society*. The story of the cottonwood, like all trees, whose life cycle is remarkably attuned to a river’s natural dynamics, is one of perpetual change. Through the long cycles, as rivers meander and glaciers advance and retreat, trees have adapted and persisted. How they do this, and how we can gain insights into the underlying processes through the lens of cottonwood, will be the focus of Reini’s presentation. He also will explain how a native cottonwood tree from the Nisqually River delta gained international fame and is now being studied by researchers worldwide.

Dr. Stettler is professor emeritus of forestry at the University of Washington. He has spent a lifetime studying plant growth and development and the diversity of forest trees. For more than thirty years he taught and conducted research at the Seattle campus, and traveled the world in pursuit of the genus *Populus*. His and his co-workers’ research has been published widely. He has been a visiting lecturer at institutions in Europe and Asia and the recipient of several national and international awards. Dr. Stettler will have copies of his book for sale at the meeting.

**Wednesday, March 10 (Tacoma), Dr. Jerry Franklin
 "Restoration of Pacific Northwest National Forests"**

The primary focus of the talk will be on development of a restoration strategy for the national forests of the Pacific Northwest that would not only restore more functional forest land and streamscapes but also improve their resiliency in the face of climate change. The strategy includes taking the endlessly controversial old-growth forests and trees and the roadless areas "off of the table" to allow us to focus on restoration activities for which we have a societal consensus. Old-growth issues have to be approached differently on "moist" habitats than on "dry" forest habitats, where 150 years of human activity, including fire suppression, have greatly modified forest conditions. Early successional ecosystems on forest sites are also a significant concern. Dr. Franklin received his bachelors and masters degrees in forest management from Oregon State University and a PhD in botany from Washington State University. Dr. Franklin has been widely recognized for his contributions to science and conservation. He has been a researcher for the U.S. Forest Service and at academic institutions including Oregon State University and UW, and has authored over 300 scientific articles and books.

**Monday, April 12 (Olympia), Kevin Head
 "A Journey in the Alps"**

Some of the richest flora of France and Switzerland are to be found in the Pennine Alps. This limestone, gneiss and schist mountain range caters to calcium loving plants. The Pennine Alps' climate is similar to Colorado's with afternoon thundershowers in summer bringing abundant rainfall and sometimes even snow in mid July. This moisture nourishes an abundance of diverse plants from gentians to edelweiss, alpenrose to crimson-red primroses. For five weeks Kevin, along with Julia Brayshaw, hiked in France and Switzerland through three national parks and along the demanding Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt as they explored many wildflower meadows. Join Kevin and sit back and enjoy an evening of beautiful mountain scenery and familiar plants from Europe, as he shows photographs and recounts his last summer's journey to the high Alps. He will show the diversity of wildflowers and compare them to our native plants in Washington.

Kevin is a South Sound Native Plant enthusiast who has led trips for the chapter for nine years. He has hiked extensively through the mountain west and desert southwest and has explored wildflower meadows in Norway, the United Kingdom and Greece. He is a teacher for the North Thurston Public Schools. Kevin says he owes his love of plants to his beautiful wife who is the soul and queen of hiking through native wild lands.



Natural Haute Plateau by Grand Veymont of Vercors National Park in France, photo by Kevin Head

Wednesday, April 14 (Tacoma), Fred Weinmann**“Wild Plants of the Olympic Peninsula: A Perspective from the Rain Shadow”**

The Olympic Peninsula, for its size, harbors more than its share of rare and/or endemic plants. While this remarkable flora is typically associated with Olympic National Park, there is another equally fascinating aspect of the Olympic Peninsula flora. This is provided by the rare western Washington climate that is endemic to the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula. Unusual opportunities for western Washington botanizing are found in the rain shadow, particularly in spring months when the sub-alpine and alpine areas of the Olympic Mountains are more white than green. This presentation will provide an overview of the phyto-geography of the Olympic Peninsula and then transition to a close up of the northeast corner of the peninsula where prairies, bogs, balds, beaches, and forests coexist.

Fred received a Master of Science degree in botany and Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Washington. He is the co-author of two books on wetland plants of the Pacific Northwest, and the author of many comprehensive plant checklists including for the King County, Washington and the Quimper Peninsula. He has been active in the Washington Native Plant Society since its formation in 1976, president of WNPS for two terms and chair of the Central Puget Sound Chapter. Fred has led over a hundred botany field trips in the Port Townsend area and in other regions of the state. In 2006, WNPS named Fred and his wife, Ann as Fellows of the Society (i.e. lifetime achievement award). Since retiring he has become an itinerant botanist conducting plant inventories, workshops and classes for a variety of state agencies and conservation organizations.

Monday, May 10 (Olympia), Warren Kinggeorge & Valerie Segrest**“Traditional Gifts of Spring”**

Warren Kinggeorge, born in Auburn, is a member of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, which is a combination of many villages once located on and near Elliot Bay and its many tributaries. In his role as tribal oral historian, Warren collects and records oral history from tribal elders and other community members. This oral history ranges from hunting, fishing and clamming stories on the Puget Sound to berry picking trips in the Cascade Mountains. Warren works with various government agencies to ensure Treaty Right access and to create management plans to maintain and enhance valuable cultural resources. He also works with museums, colleges and private collectors on repatriation of ancestral remains and artifacts.

Amy Segrest, a graduate of Bastyr University, is a passionate nutrition educator with an emphasis on local and wild foods. As an enrolled member of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe she works as a community educator in basic nutrition and traditional foods. In their talk, “Traditional Gifts of Spring”, Warren and Amy will share stories about the traditional practices of local Native Americans in the collection and utilization of native plants. As part of his presentation, they will have on display various plant specimens.

Wednesday, May 12 (Tacoma), Ben Greuel**“The Wild Olympics Campaign”**

Ben Greuel is the Public Lands Organizer for the Northwest Office of the Sierra Club. Before joining the Sierra Club, he worked for the Alaska Wilderness League, organizing for the permanent protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He also spent considerable time guiding fly-fishing trips for youth in Wyoming. His primary work focus is public land management in Western Washington. These duties include being the lead outreach coordinator for the Wild Olympics Campaign, a campaign consisting of nine organizations advocating for additional upper watershed protection on the Olympic Peninsula. His presentation will both detail the specifics of the Wild Olympics Campaign as well as the rationale behind the conservation vision embodied within the campaign. The presentation will also include a brief history of past conservation work on the Olympic Peninsula and information on how you can get involved with the current efforts to protect this special place.

The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope. **Wendell Berry**

Field Trips

Field trip guidelines: A parent or guardian must accompany any person under age 18. Leave pets at home. Carry water. Wear appropriate clothing for the season, sturdy footwear and sunscreen. Walking sticks are handy on steep trails. Most hikes have some elevation gain, but are done at wildflower viewing pace. Respect the landscape. Sign up early: when there is a maximum limit of participants, preference will be given to WNPS members.



Catherine Creek-Coyote Wall Hike Saturday, March 6th, 2010

Join Kevin Head on a wonderful hike at wildflower viewing pace through early meadows of grass widows. This hike is in the beautiful environments of Catherine Creek area in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area. We will spend an hour in the morning exploring the blooming plants of the lower Catherine Creek trails. This will allow us to see ten to twelve different blooming flowers, including one endemic found only in the gorge. The afternoon will be spent walking the Coyote Wall hikes through oak and wetlands areas where we will feel the amazing strength of a building sun (hopefully) and witness the beginnings of the spring wildflower display. There will be moderate elevation gain. Bring walking shoes, lunch and flower guides. Twelve people are the maximum number of people allowed on the trip and we will carpool from Olympia starting at 7 a.m., getting back to Olympia around 10 p.m. Participants will go to dinner in Hood River after the hikes. Sign up by phone calls or email to Kevin Head, 360-943-3752, khead@ekit.com

Glacial Heritage Preserve of Thurston County Saturday, April 24th, 2010

Join us to see the early flowers in the prairies in Thurston County and get a one day jump on Native Plant Appreciation Week. We will see the beginnings of a special place in south Thurston County. The early sightings bring us to a blooming peak of *Erythronium oregonum* and Henderson's Shooting Stars, plus a host of other prairie plants. This hike is a three mile round trip through prairie and oak habitats. We will meet in Olympia at 9 a.m. and carpool to our hike. Bring a lunch and raingear, plus a sitting pad if you want. This hike is open to the first twelve people to sign up. Sign up by phone calls or email to Kevin Head, 360-943-3752, khead@ekit.com

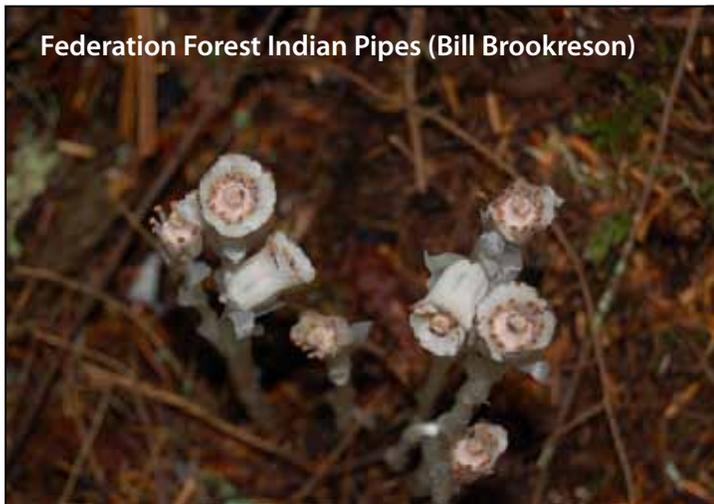
Columbia Hills Natural Area Preserve Saturday May 22th 2010

Join us with a hike into the amazing wildflower meadows of the Columbia Hills NAP. Here we will see acres of meadows shimmering in the wind and sun of the area. If the timing is right we will walk at wildflower viewing pace along an old road up some 1000 feet alongside of some of the nicest meadows of the Columbia River Gorge. We will meet in Olympia at 6 a.m. and carpool to the hike. The drive is long,

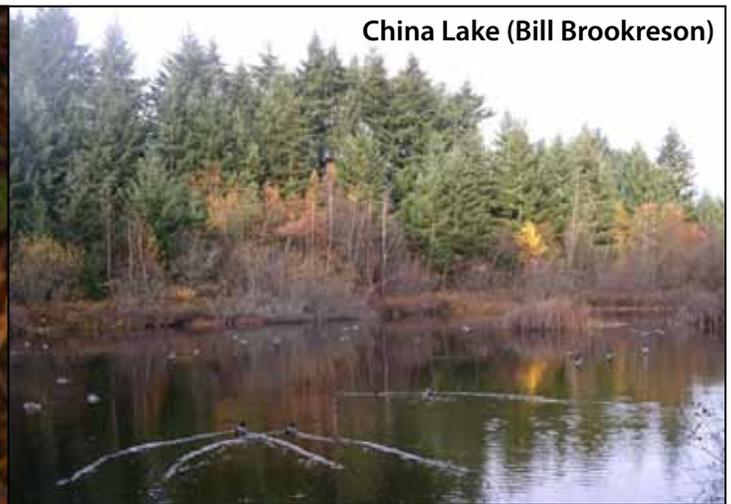
Photos on this page by Kevin Head



but with company it will be fine. The hike is about four miles, two up and two back. Bring a lunch, wind gear, cameras and flower guides. This hike is limited to the first twelve members to sign up. Sign up by phone calls or email to Kevin Head, 360-943-3752, khead@ekit.com



Federation Forest Indian Pipes (Bill Brookreson)



China Lake (Bill Brookreson)

A Federation Forest Walk, Saturday, May 1, 2010

In spring, summer or fall, one of the most delightful places for a plant person to visit is the Federation Forest State Park. Come celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Week and join Bill Brookreson to do a spring walk along the Fred Cleator Interpretive Trails. We will begin with an introduction from park staff to Federation Forest. The two trails which start and end at the interpretive center, will take us through virgin forests, wetlands, and meadows. The trails, with a few diversions, will total about two miles of easy hiking. The interpretive center has an outstanding display and a well signed native garden. The trails also have excellent informational signage. The walk is suitable for families. We have an excellent plant list for the more serious botanists, and we will furnish cookies for all levels of botanist.

We will depart from the Park and Ride on South Tacoma Way, near the I-5 and SR 512 intersection, at 9 a.m. and car pool as much as possible. Federation Forest is about a one hour ride. Those who would rather go singly may meet us at the interpretive center about 10 a.m. The hike should take about two hours, and we will have a picnic at the end before returning. Bring a picnic lunch, your plant books, and clothing appropriate to the weather. To reserve a spot, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net or 253-564-1137.

More Cheap Dates for a Botanist

Thurston County: Capitol Lake Interpretive Center Trail / Restored Wetland

What can you do when you only have an hour or two and still experience native plants. The Interpretive Center Trail on the west side of Capitol Lake is a great answer. Bring a light lunch or a good coffee of your choice (this is Washington) and walk the nature trail beginning at the Capitol Lake Interpretive Center. Parking and access are easy. The paved trail is easily accessible and has a wealth of native plants installed as a part of one of the most successful wetland restorations you will find. The new or experienced native plant enthusiast can enjoy the excellent plant signage installed with the help of an educational grant from WNPS and a group of wonderful volunteers. It's a great place to spend an afternoon.

China Lake Nature Area Metro Parks Tacoma

One of the lesser known natural areas of Tacoma, China Lake Nature Area is located on South 19th Street at the intersection with South Shirley, at 1811 South Shirley St., which is adjacent to SR 16. The park contains one of the larger lakes in Tacoma at eleven acres. The area is considered a natural treasure in an urban area. For the plant enthusiast, it contains both improved and social trails that cross most of the area. The area does not have a great diversity. The area contains remnant Douglas fir/madrone/salal forest but suffers from more than its share of invasive species – Himalayan blackberry, English ivy and Scot's broom. None-theless, it provides a pleasant walk in the woods and a chance to see some of our more common native plants without much traffic.

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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.



A stream from Glaciers de la Vanoise on the GR 5 Vanoise National Park in France, photo by K. Head