

The Acorn

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



*Winter
2019*

Fall Plant Sale

Our Fall Native Plant Sale took place October 6, 2018, at the Lord Mansion Coach House in Olympia. Once again, our selection of native plants, although it was a bit less than in the past, was well received by our customers and we were helped by a rain free sale day. Our total sales of plants and WNPS calendars exceeded \$6,000. The chapter realized about \$1,500 for our grant and special programs. A special thanks to the nurseries that helped by supplying some wonderful plants and all our customers who plant our special native species.



Our plant sale would not work without our wonderful volunteers for presale work and for help Thursday to load a truck, Friday to set up and Saturday to hold the sale. They included: Marian Bailey, Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Allan Borden, Bill Brookreson, Sue Butkus, Peggy Butler, June Coloff, Cyndy Dillon, Penny Douglas, Kit Ellis, Jane Ely, Lee Fellenberg, Roxy Giddings, Catherine Hovanic, Deb Naslund, John Neorr, Jane Ostericher, Dennis Plank, Cherry Pedrick, Jim Pedrick, Dan Paquette, Kurt Reidinger, Gail Sklar, Gail Trotter and Dave Zink.

Chapter Elections

We have tallied the votes for your chapter Board of Directors (formerly, Executive Board) and for the proposed bylaws changes. The change of the board, by the bylaws changes, will take over on January 1, 2019 and serve for the calendar year. Thanks to Lee Fellenberg who counted votes on November 7, 2018. Results of the voting were as follows:

- Total ballots sent out 224 (20 by US mail and 204 electronically)
- Total number of ballots returned 43 (7 by mail and 36 electronically)

Gail Trotter, Chair	43
Jane Ostericher, Vice Chair	42
Deborah Naslund, V. Chair	43
Allan Borden, Secretary	43
Rita Hummel, Treasurer	43
Bylaws Revision approved	42

Kick-off Meeting

This year, we decided to try something different to kick off the program year, a joint Tacoma-Olympia meeting at Titlow Park in Tacoma. The meeting took place on Wednesday, September 12. We opened the meeting with a social hour featuring a number of tasty hors d'oeuvres and fellowship time at 5 pm. This was followed by a presentation from Tom Dargan, Tacoma's MetroParks Project Manager for the Titlow restoration, who later led a short tour. We had a good turnout of 37 for the program. We enjoyed the good food, fellowship, program and the fine facility at Titlow Park. Thanks to Sue Butkus for her fine work in putting this together and Kathleen Mannecia for preparing the fine food.



The South Sound Chapter of the WNPS asks...

Too many plants? Is that even possible?

Other South Sound Chapter Activities

Washington State Fair

This year's Washington State Fair ran from Aug. 31 thru Sept. 23; closed on Sept 4, 5, 11, and 18. The WNPS booth was in the NW Outdoors Building. Our volunteers worked two-hour shifts providing information about native plants to the public 11 am-3 pm.

John Neorr once again took the lead in organizing the participation of WNPS at the fair. Bill Brookreson arranged for native plants not only for our booth but for the Northwest Outdoor Building. Gail Trotter did a wonderful job of recruiting volunteers for the WNPS fair booth.

Chapter State Fair volunteers included: Massy Anaya, Steve Beckstead, Dan Berger, Bill Brookreson, Franja Bryant, Steve Casebolt, Marcie Cleaver, June Coloff, Connie Decker, Cyndy Dillon, Penny Douglas, Jane Ely, Elizabeth Gage, Sarah Gage, Paul Hooten, Regina Johnson, Richard Johnson, Alicia Kellogg, Pat King, Sheila Leslie, Lin Livingston, Denise Mahnke, Jeannette Matthews, Jean Maust, Bernie McKinney, Cathy McKinney, Jennifer Mick, John Neorr, Barbara Ohno, Virgil Pelton, Michelle Peterson, Dennis Plank, Kurt Reidinger, Kathy Riley, Sheila Riley, Gail Skiar, Renee Taylor, Carol Thomas, Gail Trotter, Bonnie Westmark, Diana Willie and Dave Zink.

Grant Committee Report, John Neorr

No new grants have been awarded since August 2018 report. Five grants have been active this year:

1. Schneider Prairie Restoration - Grant expired
2. South Lake Hewitt Neighborhood Park native plant restoration - Complete
3. Sehmel Homestead Native Plant Trail - Complete, report submitted, funding complete
4. Valhalla Elementary School Pollinator Garden - Gardens planted, school now requesting garden removal because of changed circumstances.
5. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Eye on Nature Program - Complete, report submitted



Stewardship Committee

The South Sound Chapter has formed a Stewardship Committee chaired by Bill Brookreson. The Committee's role will be to promote and support stewardship projects in the South Sound. If you are interested in being a member of the committee, contact Bill at 253-292-8570 or b.brookreson@comcast.net.

Plant Sale

South Sound Chapter, Spring Plant Sale, April 20, 9 am-3 pm. Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on April 20 to kick off Native Plant Appreciation Week. You may arrive early to line up for the plant selection to begin at 9. Once again, we will be at the Lord Mansion Coach House. We expect to have a wide variety of native plants to choose from. If you have particular native plants you would like to have at the sale or you have plants to donate, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net or (253) 292-8570. We are also looking for people who would like to be a part of the purchasing and sale processes. Contact Bill if you are interested.

Central Puget Sound Chapter Spring Native Plant Sale will be April 27 at Mercerdale Park on Mercer Island. For details, check the WNPS.org website.

Tacoma Nature Center Spring Plant Sale will be held on May 4 from 9 am-2 pm at the Tacoma Nature Center.



Hikes and Field Trips

Chapter members continue to work on arranging hikes and other native plant walks. These are announced on our website and in the monthly updates. If you have a favorite hike you would like to share and lead, please contact Cyndy Dillon at cpdillongh@comcast.net Cyndy has done an outstanding job arranging hikes in almost every month of the year.

Native plant hikes are a great way to learn more about our wonderful flora and to enjoy the company of other plant enthusiasts. We also try to recommend hikes you can do on your own. If you enjoy having plant lists to check your skill level, go to the WNPS website's plant lists <https://tinyurl.com/d7ve59z>



A New Year's Message from Gail Trotter

Happy New Year - A delightful feature of winter is the days start getting longer. I find it a great time to plan what native plants can go in the yard and take time to prepare the yard by removing those weeds that have popped up. I noticed in my yard, where a new sidewalk is to go, that small green weeds are shooting up in this gravel area. The weeds were not there in those dry days of summer. Just a little water and low light and up they come.

This year I hope to complete some rain gardens and to manage the storm runoff in my yard. I remember when I first moved in and observed how wet my lot was in the winter and spring, and I had the new experience of clay soil. I declined rain gardens when I had a site consultation since I thought how could rain gardens work in



this wet land. I have changed my mind and am now embracing the idea. I also would like to attract more wildlife. This winter I am going to read through *Native Plants in the Coastal Garden* to help me with both these goals. What are your goals for your yard and what are you reading?

Another great opportunity in winter in our area is the Winter Twig Identification Field Course, Sunday, January 27, 2019. For more information and registration see: Go to the website; other contact information is (360) 867-2167; nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com

I hope as the days get longer you can take advantage of getting out and seeing the changes of the season and can take advantage of the winter South Sound Chapter programs, native plant hikes and volunteer opportunities.

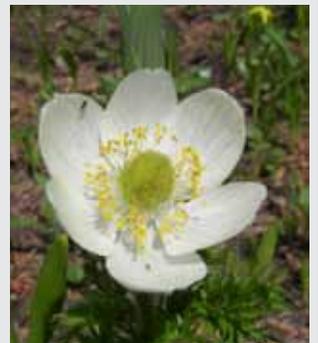
Chapter Meetings

Meeting Times and Locations. We are very pleased to offer another series of interesting and educational speakers for our winter meetings. Chapter meetings are 7-9 pm. They are normally scheduled on the second Monday (Olympia) and the second Wednesday (Tacoma) of each month from September through May. Meetings consist of a quick review of local items and announcements, and a presentation lasting approximately an hour. Programs are geared for all levels of botanical knowledge. Unless otherwise noted all Tacoma meetings are at Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 South Tyler Street. All Olympia meetings are at Lord Mansion (formerly the Capital Museum) Coach House, 211 21st Avenue SW. Meetings are free and open to the public. Please contact Sue Butkus at presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

Monday, February 11 (Olympia) Donovan Tracy

The Mopheads of Mount Rainier, a Photographic Study of Anemone occidentalis

This talk will focus on the Western Anemone/Pasqueflower, a very popular flower, primarily because of the wonderful curious mopheads when it goes to seed. Donovan is a volunteer with the UW Herbarium, and co-author of the wildflower guide, *Alpine Flowers of Mt. Rainier*, with David Giblin, the herbarium's collection manager. He developed and maintains the website *Flowers of Rainier* (www.flowersofrainier.com) which features over 250 species and 10 wildflower hikes.



Wednesday, February 13 (Tacoma), Dr. Gary Chastagner Turkish Delights—the Search for the Perfect Christmas Tree

Gary Chastagner, a noted WSU plant pathologist, with a PhD from UC Davis, has worked on bulb diseases, procedures for controlling the virus *Phytophthora ramorum*, and in recent years, Christmas tree diseases and post-harvest quality. He has been on a world-wide search for the perfect Christmas tree; ones that look good and hold their needles from harvest through the holiday season. He will share his search with us.

February 2019

March 2019

Monday, March 11 (Olympia), Dr. Jerry Franklin
Biodiversity in Forests

Dr. Franklin is co-author of *Conserving Forest Biodiversity, Creating a Forestry for the 21st Century, Salvage Logging and Its Ecological Consequences, and Towards Forest Sustainability*. He's a great speaker and story-teller with a holistic approach to forest practices, the NW Forest Plan and related policies, global warming, fire management, threats to our forests by invasive species, and the status and treatment of northern spotted owls by taking out barred owls, plus more.

Wednesday, March 13 (Tacoma), Darren Streng,
Controlling Pytophrthora Ramora: A model program at Bloedel Reserve

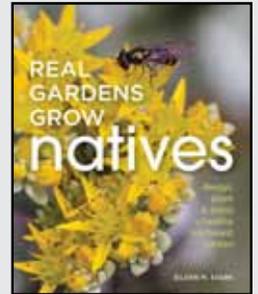


Darren Streng is the botanist at the Bloedel Reserve, a botanical garden on Bainbridge Island. He splits his time between caring for the moss garden and managing their pest and disease control program, including overseeing the ramorum blight control measures. Darren also writes gardening articles for the *Kitsap Sun* newspaper and *West Sound Home & Garden* magazine.

April 2019

Monday, April 8 (Olympia), Eileen M. Stark
Native by Design: Gardening to Invite and Support Biodiversity

Eileen Stark is the author of *Real Gardens Grow Natives*. She is the book's author and main photographer. She is an ecological landscape designer, writer and photographer who provides consultations and design services in the Portland metro area.



Wednesday, April 10 (Tacoma), John Sullivan
Challenges for a Landscaper—the All Native Garden

John Sullivan will be talking about the challenges he faced in developing an all native garden. As lead designer for Olympic Landscape, a family owned landscaping company near Tacoma, John brings over 40 years of experience to landscape design creating beautiful, and unique outdoor living and gathering spaces and specially-themed gardens for homeowners.

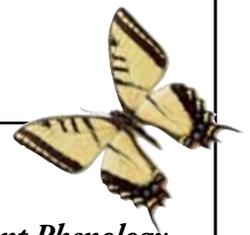
May 2019

Monday, May 13 (Olympia)
Mega Forest Fires

Olympia— Date, time, and place to be announced

Wednesday, May 8 (Tacoma), Dr. Regina M. Rochefort
The Cascades Butterfly Project: Tracking Butterfly Abundances and Plant Phenology to Better Understand the Impact of Climate Change on Subalpine Ecosystems

Regina Rochefort retired from the National Park Service in April 2018, after 41 years. She was the most recently science advisor and plant ecologist at North Cascades National Park Service Complex; and prior to that, she was the Botanist at Mount Rainier and Everglades National Parks and a fire ecologist at Big Cypress National Preserve. She received her PhD from University of Washington while studying the effects of climate change on subalpine and alpine plant communities.



Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Advisory Committee

Bonnie Blessing-Earle is representing the chapter on the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Advisory Committee convened by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Bonnie attended the November 15 meeting. Here is her report:

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking input on how to balance recreational activities, wildlife, plants and butterflies at Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, as they revise their wildlife plan for the area. A cross section of citizens who enjoy Scatter Creek was represented. A final plan is being developed with input from these citizen advisory groups on how to balance the differing uses.

WDFW project goals include maintaining healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations while providing quality recreational opportunities. The wildlife plans are periodically updated. The stated objective of the plan in November 2006 was to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats. For WNPS particular concerns, it specifically included to "Protect and Restore Prairie Habitat." Scatter Creek has Oregon white oak and prairie that is uncommon in Western Washington. Such habitat supports rare wildlife such as Taylor checkerspot butterflies and Mazama pocket gophers. One endangered plant species, *Sidalcea virgate* (rose checker-mallow), occurs at Scatter Creek.



In 2006, public recreationists specifically endorsed maintaining public access until a suitable replacement area is found. Using the plan goals, WDFW has worked to recover native species and control weeds such as Scot's broom and tall oat grass and to further protect sensitive prairie habitat, monitor and coordinate recreational activities and maintain designated horse trails.

Recreational uses vary. Upland game hunters and their dogs hunt 4000 pheasants released annually by the state. Trials held at Scatter Creek showcase dogs' abilities. Horsemen ride a small area of roads. The Audubon Society hosts bird watching field trips



for common birds as well as the uncommon vesper sparrow. School children visit in spring. Local real estate agents describe the lovely wildlife area as an asset to home seekers.

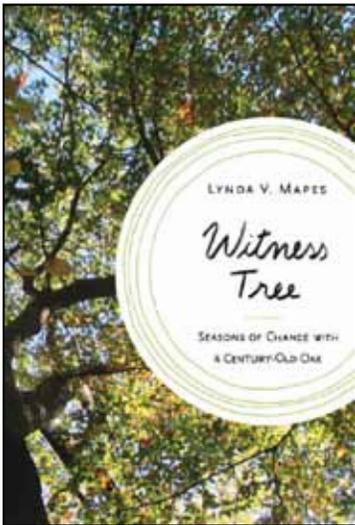
All stakeholders seemed to appreciate the rare short grass prairie and Oregon white oak. Blooms of balsamroot, shooting star, checker-mallow, small-flowered trillium, white-topped aster, lupine, and camas color the prairies in spring through early summer. Vernal pools and Scatter Creek support unusual plants. WDFW is continuing restoration with weed control and native plant enhancement. The area also includes habitat for the Taylor checkerspot butterfly and Mazama pocket gopher.

Upland game hunters asked for science-based recommendations, and would share their timing, methods and what they believe are impacts to the area. One hunter said they would be open to discussing additional timing, or seasonal and area restrictions, if needed. Audubon noted that not all activities belong everywhere, and that we cannot always determine the full impact. Horsemen supported a wider road network. All of us potentially spread weed seeds on our hooves, paws and shoes.

As native plant society members we support restoration of the prairie and continuing control of invasive species, such as mouse-ear hawkweed, tansy ragwort, diffuse knapweed, oxeye daisy, Scot's broom and non-native grasses such as tall oat grass. More complicated for restoring and conserving Scatter Creek is our response to the other public users of this area.

What are the impacts of dog training, upland hunting, recreational hiking and horse riding on the spread of noxious weeds and retention of native plants, butterflies and gophers? I am asking for your ideas. What do you think? How should Scatter creek be managed for complex interests? What role does public access have in continued preservation of native plant ecosystems?

I will return to the advisory group with your concerns and comments. Feel free to comment to me at bonnie.blessing@gmail.com.



The Witness Tree: Seasons of Change with a Century Old Oak by Linda Mapes, Bloomsbury Press, 2017, \$27

The Witness Tree is a fascinating book on several levels. The tree is in the Harvard Forest part of Harvard University and is a study of the impact of climate change. There is perhaps no forest so carefully studied as Harvard Forest, so that a great deal of historic information is there for Linda Mapes to enrich her study that comes out of her time as a Bullard Fellow in forest research as a resident at Harvard Forest. The book provides a picture of the long-term impact of global warming on our forests focusing on one ancient oak. Linda Mapes is the environmental reporter for the Seattle Times and the author of books on the Elwha Dam removal as well as this book. Besides being a good read for those concerned with global warming, it is also a delightful, very well written study of nature in the tradition of such writers as John Muir and Aldo Leopold. Mapes writes with skill and grace. It is well worth your time to read!

Become a Member or Renew Your Membership The easiest way to become a member or renew your membership is on line at WNPS.org. If you have any questions, contact the WNPS office or Gail Trotter chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Photo of Trillium on the right is included because:

1. It's beautiful
2. it reminds us of the wonder of spring, and
3. for once, we had a little extra space in *The Acorn!*



Workshops and Conferences

Stewardship Required: The Power of Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Long-term Function of Urban Natural Areas

Wednesday and Thursday, January 30-31, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), 3901 NE 41st St., Seattle.

CUH is sponsoring this two-day workshop for those involved in restoring and maintaining urban natural areas. Most people expect established natural area landscapes to be low maintenance. That concept comes back to haunt us when the realities of invasive weeds, aggressive native species, and plant encroachments demand immediate attention. Taken out of the context of wilderness areas, urban natural areas demand attention to the details of plant selection, site design and maintenance standards to keep them functioning well. The significant costs of deferred maintenance that have been documented for urban trees and landscapes apply equally to urban natural areas. This is a rare opportunity to exchange information across the mix of professions responsible for creating and maintaining urban natural areas. A full list of speakers and program agenda is available at <http://bit.ly/urbannaturalareas>. The cost is \$95 for one day and \$175 for both days. Registration is at <http://www.uwbotanicgardenscatalog.org>.

Know Your Grasses Workshop,

June 19 - 21, 2019. Hitchcock Hall, University of Washington.

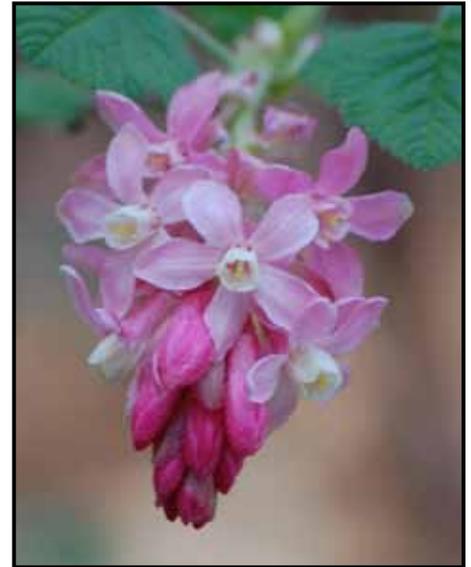
Knowing your grasses is critical to many fields of science and practice, including wetland identification and delineation, ecosystem restoration, erosion control and interpretation of natural history. Beautiful and diverse, grasses are globally important in many ways--fundamental to the past and future survival of humans. The Washington Native Plant Society and the University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum are partnering to offer this annual grass identification workshop led by Clayton Antieau. More information at the WNPS website.

Native Plant Appreciation Week, April 21-27, 2019

It was in 2003 that a group of WNPS members were sitting around and got into a discussion of how we might bring more public attention to Washington's native plants and their habitats. From that grew the idea for Native Plant Appreciation Week (NPAW). It was also a chance to make the public aware of the work of WNPS. We found a number of state and federal agencies, NGOs and nurseries that wanted to be involved too. Governor Gary Locke signed the proclamation and Native Plant Appreciation Week was born.

The amount of activity has fluctuated over the years, especially as budgets have been cut in government agencies and as our own budget has had challenges. In spite of that, we have seen a number of programs, hikes and other events across the state to celebrate NPAW. It sometimes seems like a much extra work every spring, until we go outside and see what we are celebrating. When we see the Indian plum's blooms announcing spring. When we see the western trillium pushing its delicate flower above ground, the flowering red currant's glorious bloom, the Oregon grape's yellow glory, we cannot help but celebrate. Every day when we go outside, it seems like a new cause for celebration as yet another plant pops up or flower appears.

We live in one of the world's most beautiful areas with a glorious flora. We hope you take advantage of some of the NPAW activities to celebrate. We will kick off NPAW a day early this year, on April 20, with our spring native plant sale. Gail Sklar has taken the lead for the chapter for NPAW activities. Watch the website and monthly updates for more scheduled events. We also hope that this is a reminder to celebrate our native flora for the other fifty-one weeks too!



Native Plant Study Weekend 2019

Study Weekend 2018 will be May 17-19, in Skagit County. This year's theme will be Bays, Balds and Bogs. Watch the WNPS website for registration details.

Botany Washington 2019

BotWA will be in Cliffdell, June 7-9. This year's theme will be Late Spring in the East Cascade. Again this year, the weekend will be cosponsored by the Washington Native Plant Society and the University of Washington Herbarium in the Burke Museum. Watch the WNPS website for registration details.

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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.

Flora of the Pacific Northwest; An Illustrated Manual, 2nd Edition. C. Leo Hitchcock & Arthur Cronquist and edited by David E. Giblin, Ben S. Legler, Peter F. Zika and Richard G. Olmstead. University of Washington Press, 2018. The long-awaited revision of the Flora, the critical tool of north-west botanists, is now available. We have cause to celebrate!

