

The Acorn

Serving the South Sound Chapter
of the Washington Native Plant Society



Winter-
Spring
2018

Native Plant Study Weekend: May 4-6, 2018 “A Rainbow of Wildflowers”

The South Sound Chapter has joined with the Suksdorfia Chapter of WNPS to sponsor the Native Plant Study Weekend 2018. The weekend will highlight the amazing flora of the Columbia Gorge and the heart of the Cascade Mountains. We have scheduled 25 hikes, two keynote speakers and workshops, including one on how to use the new Plant List Database.

5,000 feet up from the Columbia, through dry stands of ponderosa pine and Oregon oak (*Quercus garryana*) and past the cliffs into the shrub-steppe of sagebrush, rabbitbrush and juniper stretching on to the Great Basin. It is a botanist’s dream.

The WNPS Study Weekend will be hosted out of the Best Western’s Hood River Inn in Hood River, Oregon. The Inn has a block of rooms at a conference rate set aside for us. Full event details, including a list of field trips, speaker bios, was scheduled to be delivered to all members on December 15 and posted on the WNPS website. Mail-in registration forms were to be included in this post, as a downloadable tool for registration by check. Hard packets are available by request by calling the WNPS office at 206-527-3210. Official registration will open January first.

Come join us!



Lewisia rediviva

The conference is set at the very center of the Columbia Gorge floral diversity. In the Gorge, there are many different habitats diversified by combinations of elevation, precipitation, topography, geology and more. The Columbia Gorge is the place where the eastern and western slopes of the mountains meet. In one eighty-mile drive, one can cross from west-side Douglas-fir forests, past montane environments rising almost a sheer



Chapter Elections

Election Results: The election results for the 2017-2018 WNPS South Sound Chapter officers were as follows.

- 12 regular mail ballots sent out; 4 returned
- 179 email ballots sent out; 32 returned
- TOTAL RECEIVED – 36

Chair -- Bill Brookreson	34
Vice Chair for Pierce – Jane Ostericher	33
V. Chair for Thurston – Bonnie Blessing-Earle	33
Secretary – Allan Borden	33
Treasurer – Jane Ely	33

Votes tallied by Lee Fellenberg, November 7, 2017

Other S. Sound Chapter Activities

Washington State Fair Booth

The 2017 Washington State Fair ran from September 1- 24 (closed Sept. 5, 6, 12 and 19). WNPS had a booth in the NW Outdoor Building. We were pleased to have 51 volunteers who put in a total of 152 hours greeting fair goers and maintaining our display. This year we had some new items to dress up our display: a table covering that shows our name and a 10-pocket literature stand to hold our handouts. It worked very well. Although the space was no-charge, the chapter contributed \$250 to the Northwest Outdoor Alliance (NWOA) – the ad-hoc group that manages displays in the building. Thanks to all our volunteers who served in the booth, set up the booth, and did the breakdown and cleanup. Special thanks to John Neorr who again served as overall coordinator, Gail Trotter who managed volunteers, and Byrna Klavano who managed booth appearance and displays.

Fall Native Plant Sale Report

With a beautiful day of weather, intrepid volunteers and enthusiastic plant buyers who attended our Fall, 2017 native plant sale on October 28, our sale was again a great success. The sale was held once again at the Lord Mansion (formerly the Capital Museum) Coach House in Olympia, from 9 am to 3 pm, although we sold out of a number of items by 2 pm. This year, we again included a number of special and unusual plants as well as our standard stock. They sold well. We were touched by the number of people who thanked us for having the sale and are looking forward to the spring sale, April 21, 2018. We thank all our buyers and our plant suppliers. With their help, we sold almost \$8,000 worth of native plants. The money makes possible our grants and special programs. Thank you all!

As always, the sale could not succeed without a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who potted plants, donated plants, worked the sale from set up to cleanup, and worked in other ways to make the sale a success: Jane Ely, Gail Sklar, Dennis Plank, Gail Trotter, Byrna Klavano, Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Don Guyot, Pat and Dan Montague, Cyndy Dillon, John Neorr, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Penny Douglas, Jane Ostericher, Lee Fellenberg, Sue Butkus, Mary Sue Gee, Gail Trotter, Laurie Sukola, Jacob Lehman, Nashesha Rowberg, Catherine Hovanic and Bill Brookreson.



Fall Picnic

Once again, we opened our chapter's activity year (September – May) with a joint Olympia/Tacoma picnic at Powderworks Park in Dupont on Wed., September 13. We were fortunate to have another beautiful September day for picnicking on brats, burgers and delicious potluck contributions and fellowship. Cyndy Dillon lead a group exploring the Garry oak trails. Bill Brookreson worked the barbecue. Door prizes capped the evening.

Plant Sale

Spring Native Plant Sale 2018

Our Spring 2018 Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 21, 9 am-3 pm, at the Lord Mansion Coach House, 211 21st Ave SW, in Olympia. As we are preparing for plant purchases for the sale, we encourage you to contact us if you have special plants you want us to purchase for you. Those will be set aside for you if they are available. If you would like to be a part of the planning and purchasing, contact Gale Trotter, our volunteer coordinator at volunteers@southsoundchapterwnps.org or Bill Brookreson at chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org.

Central Puget Sound Chapter Spring Plant Sale: April 28, 2018

This one is held at Mercerdale Park on Mercer Island, Seattle. Check the WNPS website for more information.

Tacoma Nature Center Spring Native Plant Sale, May 5, 2018

The Tacoma Nature Center sale will run from 9 am to 2 pm. A list of plants will be posted on the website, TacomaNatureCenter.com, by one p.m. on the day prior to the sale. Come early for best selection.

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. Meetings 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.

February 2018

Monday, February 12 (Olympia), David Peter
Mapping the Historic Prairies of the Olympic Peninsula

David Peter, is a USFS Ecologist in the Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory. He has a PhD in Forest Ecology from the University of Washington. Peter's research spans a number of areas: disturbance effects on forest succession; invasive species ecology; subalpine tree line dynamics, especially effects of white pine blister rust; climate change, and fire regime change on whitebark pine ecosystems; succession related to changes in historical anthropogenic regimes; Oregon white oak ecology and acorn production; and northwest Washington fire history and fire ecology. His current research emphasis is plant community ecology, successional relationships stemming from fire, timber and vegetation management, and changes in anthropogenic regimes; and introduction of invasive species. As a part of his work, Dave will talk to us about efforts trying to identify and map the historic prairies of the Olympic Peninsula--many that no longer exist.

Wednesday, February 14 (Tacoma), Rita Hummel
Transplanting that Makes Cents

Rita Hummel, PhD, Horticulturalist, emeritus Washington State University, brings a broad variety of interests to us. These include developing recycled organic materials as substrates and nutrient sources for nursery and greenhouse container production and landscape use; enhancing water conservation in container production and landscapes; improve longevity of trees and shrubs in the landscape by preventing root structural defects; developing production practices for difficult to grow native plants; and determining woody plant adaptation to rain gardens under Pacific Northwest environmental conditions. As a part of her work, Dr. Hummel has done extensive research on plant varieties for use in landscapes, and the most effective methods for transplanting for success and healthy growth. She will share some of those insights with us.

March 2018

Monday, March 12 (Olympia), Susan Waters
Restoring Pollinators to South Sound Prairies and The Effect of Invasive Plants

Dr. Susan Waters, is a Rare Species Biologist with the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) working to restore butterflies and pollinators to the South Sound Prairies. Waters' interests in ecology and restoration are centered on the importance of species interactions – the interactions between organisms, which affect the structure of ecological communities.

Her research looks at the relationship of pollinators, invasive plants and native plants. In her research, Susan has explored how two important agents of change, invasion of exotic plants and climate change, are influencing our South Sound Prairies. First, she investigated how exotic plant species influence the way pollinators respond to native plants. She found that having high densities of exotic flowers surrounding a native plant can increase or decrease how often pollinators visit native flowers (depending on the native plant species and conditions of the site) affecting how much seed a native plant can produce. Second, she explored how exotic plants blooming earlier, due to climate change, altered the interactions between pollinators and native plants (which are not expected to shift their blooming dates earlier to the same degree as exotic species). She found that when exotic plants bloom earlier, the amount of seed produced by native plants increases or decreases dramatically depending on the native plant species.

Susan Waters also founded the Urban Pollination Project, a citizen science project to look at pollinators and food production. She will share her work with us.



March 2018	<p>Wednesday, March 14 (Tacoma), William Arnsmeier <i>The Ever-Changing Forest</i></p> <p>William Arnsmeier, PhD, U.S. Forest Service, retired; and a Unitarian Minister, has witnessed the changing nature of forestry practices, issues and concerns. His presentation will focus on the important nature of future forests.</p>
April 2108	<p>Monday, April 9 (Olympia), Dr. Gary Chastagner <i>Controlling Sudden Oak Death, Phytophthora ramorum</i></p> <p>The discovery of Sudden Oak Death, <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>, in California and its spread from there created a very important issue for Washington's nursery and forest industries. In response to industry concerns, Washington State University built a quarter-million-dollar biocontainment facility at Puyallup. This facility will greatly increase WSU's capacity to address critical research questions relating to the establishment, host susceptibility, spread and management of <i>P. ramorum</i>. Western Washington is considered to be at high-risk for the spread of <i>P. ramorum</i>. One of the major factors that will affect the potential spread of <i>P. ramorum</i> in western Washington forests is the ability of this exotic pathogen to sporulate on known and potential hosts within these forests. Gary Chastagner, Plant Pathologist at WSU has been involved in the epidemiology and management of Sudden Oak Death, in nurseries, Christmas trees and forests. His research also addresses diseases affecting ornamental bulbs and Christmas trees, and the post-harvest quality of Christmas trees.</p>
	<p>Wednesday, April 11 (Tacoma), Katherine Glew <i>Lichens</i></p> <p>Katherine Glew, PhD, is a lichenologist with the University of Washington. She has studied lichens for over forty years in forest, alpine and island ecosystems and is the Associate Curator of Lichens at the University of Washington Herbarium. Her research includes lichen associations with plants in landscape ecology</p>
May 2018	<p>Monday, May 14 (Olympia), Sarah Jovan <i>Moss As An Indicator of Air Pollution</i></p> <p>Sarah Jovan, PhD, is a Research Ecologist and Lichen Indicator Advisor for U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, OR. Absorbent and rootless, moss and lichen are regularly employed as indicators of air pollution in European cities, but environmental scientists in the United States are just starting to take advantage of this indicator. Jovan will share some of her work with us.</p>
	<p>Wednesday, May 9 (Tacoma), TBA</p>

Workshops and Conferences

Winter Twig ID Field Course, Sunday, January 21, 2018

The Native Plant Salvage Foundation is offering *Winter Twig Identification*, a 2½ hour field class held every year on the Sunday after our Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service. There will be both a morning (10 am – 12:30 pm) session and an afternoon (1 pm – 3:30 pm) session.

These "walking workshops" will take place on a West Olympia area nature trail. Small groups of learners will be matched with knowledgeable instructors to learn the keys to identify over 25 native plants. The skill is useful for gardeners and anyone who enjoys spending time outdoors throughout the year. The class will cost only \$5, and participants will have the option to purchase our *Winter in the Woods* guide to deciduous native plants of Washington for \$7. Registration is required. Workshop details and directions will be sent to all participants following registration. Go to <https://www.nativeplantsalvage.org/winter-twig-id/>



**Reflections on Ten Years
as a Native Plant Steward**

By Bill Brookreson



A little over ten years ago, after nearly thirty-three years of service, I decided to retire from the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The first adventure was a month-long trip to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, but a month doesn't make a retirement. We hadn't been back long when my spouse, Catherine (a very persuasive soul), who was then Administrator for the Washington Native Plant Society, suggested that I take the ten-week course and become a Native Plant Steward in 2007. In return for the training, I pledged to give back one hundred volunteer hours to WNPS and restoration projects.

I had for several years been Catherine's most willing volunteer. As a steward, I, and two others, took on a 2½-acre area of Lakeridge Park to remove invasive and plant native plants. The hundred hours were in about two months but the project turned out to be as much fun as work. My first two partners left after a year, but two new stewards started in 2008, Peter Mason and Del Davis. Del passed away, but Peter and I are still working the Deadhorse Canyon Project, well over four thousand hours and ten years later.

One thing led to another. That led on to a project on the Woodland Trail in Olympia and the Native Plant Garden at the Lord Mansion. In Tacoma, another steward, Cyndy Dillon, took on the Nature Center at Snake Lake and that was too much fun to miss. Now occasionally, China Lake is on the schedule. It is amazing satisfying to see the difference a little work can make.

When you are a Native Plant Steward, you feel the joy of giving to the community. I have had the pleasure of giving presentations on native plants to a large variety of groups and representing WNPS in a variety of venues. Stewards have gotten involved in all sorts of activities from being a chapter officer, to leading a stewardship committee in WNPS, to holding plant sales.

In all the activities, I have received much more back than I could ever give. I have worked with amazing, dedicated volunteers in restoration projects like Peter, Del Davis, Cyndy Dillon and many more than I have space too name. I have worked with wonderful people like Dan and Pat Montague who have helped me in more ways than I could list or thank them adequately.

The people of WNPS are a special group. When I became a Native Plant Steward ten years ago I couldn't imagine how rewarding it would be to serve with such a group. You have honored me one more time electing me as your chair. I look forward to another busy year. Thank you for that honor. I will give you my best. You deserve that and more.

**A Conservation Conversation
By Gail Trotter, WNPSSC Conservation Chair**

As the new Conservation Chair for our chapter, I wanted to share some thoughts with you. I see these as the WNPS goals for conservation:

- ✦ To protect Washington's native habitats
- ✦ To control invasive species that threaten these habitats
- ✦ To restore damaged habitats
- ✦ To support petitions and legislature proposals that further these goals
- ✦ To support our and other conservation groups' activities

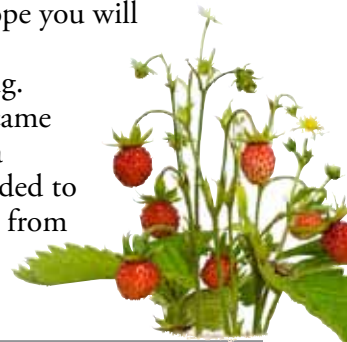
As I volunteer in restoration, I am interested in how each person I work with is drawn into their volunteer work and what they bring and what they feel. Some have such a tuned-in sense of sight that they can quickly identify plants in all stages, from those very small young leaves to drying stocks and pods with seeds at season's end. As Jonathan Swift wrote, "Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others." While I do not have these broad identification skills, I have learned to see the prime weeds



needing to be removed. Those that have the gift of discernment in hearing help the rest of us know what birds or animals are around as we work out in the field. Others share their knowledge of the smell of a plant, introducing another fun element to the day's conservation work. Personally, I am glad for taste on a hot day of pulling weeds when we find a wild strawberry patch which provides a burst of delight. I am a tactile person. I find touch is what I connect with most in doing conservation work. I enjoy the feel the seeds against my fingers as I clean the seeds. I love the feel of the ripe grass heads as I rake my fingers through collecting seeds to increase the gene pool at the Seed Farm. There is also the feel when I know a Weed Wrench has the correct tension and the weed will pop all the way out.

What of your senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch) are you drawn to use and what conservation activities do you enjoy applying those senses. I hope you will share and engage in those activities.

A final short note: Learning is lifelong. My scattered genus *Navarretia* seed came up in my yard this year and an azalea layered down shoots on a plant I needed to move. Plants are resilient. I can learn from them and return that knowledge back to meet our conservation goals.



Botany Washington – BotWa June 8-10, 2018

Again this year, Botany Washington will be a joint effort of the Washington Native Plant Society and the University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum (WTU). The 2018 event will take place on the Long Beach Peninsula, with base camp in Ocean Park, WA, at the Ocean Park Conference and Retreat Center. This 157-acre facility is located on the beach. Field trips will include the state parks located on the peninsula, as well as Willapa Bay wildlife refuges.



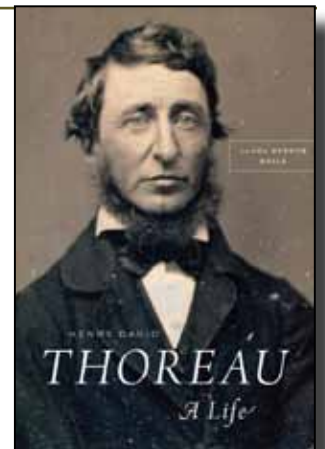
We will be exploring the floristic and taxonomic diversity of the Washington Coast. Botany Washington will provide botanists, plant ecologists, restoration ecologists, conservation biologists and other professionals with access to experts and an opportunity for in-depth study of selected taxonomic groups. It is also an opportunity for individuals new to the Flora of the Pacific Northwest to gain additional practice in technical keying with the support of expert guidance. Details are in progress to define the full itinerary and selection of workshops for the event. Registration will be opening February first.

Native Plant Resources

Henry David Thoreau: A Life

By Laura Dassow Walls, University of Chicago Press, 2017, \$35

There have been any number of biographies of Thoreau, a few, like Robert D. Richardson's *Henry Thoreau: A Life of the Mind* (1986), are exceptional; most are not. Walls' new biography, *Henry David Thoreau: A Life*, is perhaps the closest yet to a definitive biography. Thoreau was a many-faceted man. Walls' research and rigor are impressive in capturing the complexity of the person that was Henry Thoreau. She also does an exceptional job of placing Thoreau in the company of the towering figures of the era from Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorne to Frederick Douglass and John Brown. Through the book you can follow Thoreau's development as a thinker and writer. Written well and rich in its detail, the book is an impressive achievement.



Volunteer Opportunities



One of our goals as a chapter is to give a wide variety of opportunities for members to get involved in something that gives them satisfaction and enjoyment. This coming year, we will have a wide variety of such things. In April when we will have our Spring Native Plant Sale, we will need volunteers for everything from potting plants for the sale, to setting up the sale, to working the actual sale day.

Next May, we are cosponsoring the 2018 Native Plant Study Weekend in the Columbia Gorge with the Suksdorfia Chapter. We are looking for people who would like to help with the many parts of putting together a Native Plant Study Weekend. And there are the restoration projects, mostly removing invasive plants and, in the wet season, planting more native plants, that we highlight each month in the Monthly Updates – Lord Museum Native Plant Garden, Tacoma Nature Center, China Lake, Wapato Lake, Ryan's Park and the South Sound Prairies. They all need more volunteers. We are very pleased that Gail Trotter has taken on the job of Volunteer Coordinator. Please keep enjoying yourselves, and keep Gail very busy.

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 fieldtrips@southsoundchapterwnps.org. 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, go to the WNPS website's plant lists <https://tinyurl.com/d7ve59z>



South Sound Chapter WNPS

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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.

**Native Plant Appreciation Week
April 22-28, 2018**

This will be the 15th annual Native Plant Appreciation Week (NPAW) in Washington. Governor Gary Locke proclaimed the first NPAW in 2004 at Washington Native Plant Society's request. Governors Christine Gregoire and Jay Inslee have continued the proclamations. The week is a celebration of the amazing diversity of Washington's over 3000 native plant species that inhabit deserts, rain forests, high alpine environments, river valleys and even backyard landscapes, and all the good work being done to protect and preserve it. We hope you take the opportunity that NPAW provides to spend a few hours enjoying our wonderful flora in whatever way is meaningful to you, whether it be attending a formal program or just taking a quiet walk in a natural area or park. We will kick off NPAW a day early, April 21, with our spring native plant sale. Watch the website and monthly updates for other scheduled events.



Alnus Sinuata, Sitka alder