



# *The Acorn*

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

*Fall 2014*

## **Native Plant Study Weekend 2014**

The 2014 Native Plant Study Weekend, July 25-27, featured the flora of the Olympic Peninsula and was centered at the beautiful NatureBridge Learning Center in the Lake Crescent National Park facility. This year's field trips ranged from the high Olympics, to lowland bogs and the seashore. The evening programs, as usual, were interesting and informative.

On Friday evening we heard from Tim McNulty, one of Washington's finest naturalists and poets, and author of *Olympic National Park: A Natural History*. Tim gave a fascinating series of stories illustrating the natural history of the area. On Saturday night we heard from the Elwha Dam plant restoration team on the massive revegetation



efforts that are underway. On Saturday and Sunday, registrants were treated to a wide selection of field trips to enjoy the beautiful flora of the peninsula. Fourteen members of the South Sound Chapter registered. The speakers, the field trips and the fellowship were outstanding!

We owe a great thanks to Olympic Peninsula chapter and special thanks to Sharon Schlentner, the chapter chair, Dan Post, the chapter treasurer, and Fred and Ann Weinmann.

## **Election of Chapter officers**

In 2009 the chapter modified the election procedure for officers to provide for broader participation by providing for e-mail or paper voting for the chapter officer positions. Two of our chapter's officers have decided not to seek reelection, Cyndy Dillon, our chair, and Byrna Klavano, our secretary. Both have done an outstanding job! The nominations committee headed by Cyndy Dillon has a slate of officers but there will also be an opportunity for additional nominations at the meetings in October. The ballot will also allow for a write-in. Even if you do not desire an elected position, there are a number of other appointed positions where you can serve the chapter on the board. Currently we have a full slate of nominees from the committee as follows:



- Chair - Bill Brookreson
- Vice Chair (Thurston) - Bonnie Blessing-Earle
- Vice Chair (Pierce) - Jane Ostericher
- Secretary - Sharon Berquist-Moody
- Treasurer - Jane Ely

By October 20, 2014, an e-mail ballot will be sent to each member for whom we have a current email address and a paper ballot to each member without an email address on file. Contact Lee ([webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org)) if you have not received a ballot by October 27, 2014. Ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2013, and received no later than November 7 to be counted. Results will be announced at the November meetings, on the chapter website and in the newsletter updates.

# South Sound Chapter Activities

## Fourth Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 4, 9 am - 3 pm, Capital Museum Coach House

Mark your calendars for our fourth Fall Native Plant Sale, Saturday, October 4, 9 am to 3 pm, at the Capital Museum Coach House, 211 21st Ave SW, Olympia. Fall is the best time for planting your favorite trees, shrubs and perennials to give them the winter rainy season to get established. We expect to again have a nice selection of Northwest natives to brighten your gardens and landscapes, build bird and animal habitat, and restore our natural environment.

We can always use volunteers to set up the sale on Friday, October 3, and assist in the Saturday sale events. All proceeds from the sale benefit chapter grants and activities. To volunteer, contact Bonnie Blessing-Earle at [bonnie.blessing@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.blessing@gmail.com) or Cyndy Dillon at [cpdillongh@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillongh@comcast.net).



## Education Committee Report from Jane Ostericher

Under Jane Ostericher's leadership, the Education Committee continues to move ahead. In May, Jane and Frank Knight met with the Science Specialists from the Peninsula School District to introduce them to the educational materials in our kits and available from WNPS on-line. Work continues on the kits and with contacts. On July 26, Jane Ostericher and Cyndy Dillon presented a two-hour program at the Pen Met Parks Eco Quest Camp at Sehmel Homestead Park where they presented information on native versus invasive plants and then led 20 students in hands-on restoration work.

## Grant Committee Report from John Neorr

Under John Neorr's leadership, the Grant Committee, using the monies provided by our plant sales, has continued providing resources to the community for native plant related projects. To date for 2014, we have helped fund four projects with grants of up to \$500:

1. Nisqually Reach Nature Center, nearshore vegetation brochures and demo garden plant labels
2. South Sound High School's native plant garden supporting environmental science and Washington State History Class
3. Centralia College Outdoor Club's China Creek Restoration for Kiser Natural Outdoor Learning Lab (KNOLL)
4. Littlerock Elementary School's field trip to Glacial Heritage and related activities

All the projects are completed or near completion. We are now considering other grant requests.

## Glacial Heritage Trip Report

We received a delightful group of pictures and write-up for the Glacial Heritage Field Trip. The students received a pre-trip lesson on the natural history of the South Sound Prairies, plants and animals of the prairies, and ecological threats. Once on the prairie, the fifty students split into four groups, each group having time at each station. One group activity involved the importance of each level of the food chain; another on the balance of predators versus prey; a third group on the history of native plants; and the



fourth group's students learned how scientists research animals and insects on the prairies using technology by participating in a simulation using real tracking tools. At each station, students learned how their actions can help or hurt the prairie ecosystem and ways they can help, such as through reducing non-native species like scotch broom. When they returned to school, students wrote down what they had learned. It was an excellent experience for the students made possible by your support for the plant sales.

## 2015 WNPS Native Plant Calendar

With the changes in the office, the 2015 Calendar picture is not yet available but the calendars should be here for the October meeting. As in past years, you can enjoy the beauty of Washington's wildflowers throughout 2014 with our Native Plant Calendar. Our 2014 Calendar offers 13 months of terrific photos and a whole new year of floral splendor. This year's calendar also includes smaller inset photos and dates of interest to those who are botanically inclined. The calendars make wonderful gifts as well and the \$10 cost supports both the chapter and the state organization. For other great gifts, you can consult <http://www.wnps.org/shop/index.html>.

## WNPS Education Grant Proposals

Grant proposals are due November 15. The Education Committee encourages educators throughout our state to develop projects about native plants and plant habitats for their classes. Education grants are also available for projects linked to gardens, museums, parks and other public displays of or about native plants. <http://tinyurl.com/88kxz4w>



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Restoration Efforts at the Tacoma Nature Center Honored

On May 28, 2014, the restoration work at the Tacoma Nature Center, headed by Cyndy Dillon, was honored with the Environmental Sustainability Award in the City of Destiny Awards Ceremony. The award was presented at Cheney Stadium by Councilman Ryan Mello and accepted, on behalf of the stewards by Bill Brookreson and Belinda Paterno.

### Restoration Activities

Restoration work will continue this year at the Tacoma Nature Center and the Capital Museum Native Plant Garden. Watch your updates for specific times and dates. To get on the email list for the Nature center, contact Cyndy Dillon at [cpdillon@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillon@comcast.net) and for Olympia projects Bill Brookreson at [b.brookreson@comcast.net](mailto:b.brookreson@comcast.net).

### Interested in Working in a Herbarium?

The Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound has a herbarium with 13,000 plant specimens, the great majority from the Pacific Northwest. The herbarium has been in existence for over sixty years and has many historic specimens. We are concerned that some of the old specimens may not be correctly identified, and we would very much like to have one or more volunteers with expertise in plant identification to work on the collection to update the identifications. Of course most are correctly identified, and this could be a great learning experience. If you are interested, contact Dennis Paulson, Director Emeritus of the museum and presently involved with caring for the herbarium. Email: [dennispaulson@comcast.net](mailto:dennispaulson@comcast.net). Dennis is in the museum one day/week and can arrange his schedule to get anyone started with this project.

## Conservations Issues

### Why Be Careful of What You Plant By Bill Brookreson

At our house, we love plants, especially native plants but we have a wide selection of non-native plants as well. When we select plants, we do so carefully. We are paying a high price for some historic bad choices. A classic example is the homesick man in Sooke, BC who planted something to remind him of home, Scot's broom. We can see what happened from that single plant. Many of the serious problems in the environment began as garden ornamentals - Japanese knotweed and its relatives (*Polygonum spp*), herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolum*) and the list goes on.

Most invasives came with good intention. Kudzu, (*Pueraria spp.*) was introduced to the United States as an ornamental bush and an effortless and efficient shade producer at the Philadelphia Continental Exposition in 1876. In the 1930s and '40s, the vine was rebranded as a way for farmers to stop soil erosion. Southern farmers were given about eight dollars an hour to sow topsoil with the invasive vine. Now it's a disaster.

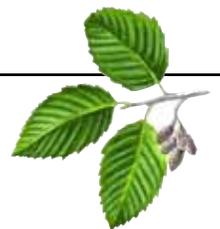
A study at Cornell University estimated that invasive species - plants, animals and microbes - cost American businesses and taxpayers at least \$122 BILLION every year. In our own state, we have spent many millions of taxpayer dollars and hundreds of thousands of hours fighting invasive weeds.

As you consider what to plant, one excellent helpful source is "*Garden Wise: Non-Invasive Plants for your Garden.*" There are both Eastern and Western Washington editions. It discusses a number of invasive plants that are in the nursery trade and gives a nice selection of non-invasive alternatives - most of them native plants. Gardening is a joy. Just be thoughtful.

# Chapter Meetings

Meeting Times and Locations: We are very pleased to offer another series of interesting and educational speakers for our fall 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, as with the September picnic meeting, 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](mailto:presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org) if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

<b>Sept.</b>	<p><b>Wednesday, September 10, Joint Tacoma and Olympia Picnic Meeting</b>  <b>Powderworks Park in DuPont, 6 pm start</b></p>
<b>October 2014</b>	<p><b>Wednesday, October 8 (Tacoma), Mark Turner</b>  <b>Fifty Native Trees &amp; Shrubs for Northwest Garden</b></p> <p>Trees and shrubs are the backbone of any garden. They provide structure, shade, food and shelter for wildlife, and year-around interest. Very often, gardeners think first of exotic trees, overlooking most of our natives. Learn to go beyond Oregon-grape, kinnikinnick, and red-osier dogwood in your garden. There are good choices for wet sites, for sun or shade, for cool west-side gardens and for parched eastern Washington sites. Learn the strengths (and weaknesses) of both evergreen and deciduous species. You don't have to go 100% native, but including locally adapted trees and shrubs can save you money on your water bill while making your yard more attractive to wildlife. Mark Turner draws on his work in the new field guide, <i>Trees &amp; Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest</i>, in this program.</p> <p>Mark Turner is the owner of Turner Photographics and has been a professional photographer since 1993, specializing in gardens and native plants for books, magazines, and commercial clients. He also creates lifestyle portraits for northwest families. He is the photographer and co-author of <i>Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest</i> (Timber Press, 2006) and <i>Bellingham Impressions</i> (Far Country Press, 2007), and the smartphone app, <i>Washington Wildflowers</i>. His work has been published in <i>Sunset</i>, <i>Garden Design</i>, <i>Birds &amp; Blooms</i>, <i>American Gardener</i>, <i>Horticulture</i>, <i>This Old House</i>, <i>Organic Gardening</i> and other magazines and in books from Timber Press, Sunset Books, Cool Springs Press, Rodale, Meredith, and Lone Pine publishers. Mark teaches flower photography classes several times each year at Siskiyou Field Institute, North Cascades Institute, and other northwest locations.</p>
	<p><b>Monday, October 13 (Olympia), Mark Turner</b>  <b>Fifty Native Trees &amp; Shrubs for Northwest Garden</b>  <b>See description above.</b></p>
<b>November 2014</b>	<p><b>Monday, November 10 (Olympia), David Nicandri.</b>  <b><i>Rhyme of the Great Navigator: Echoes of Captain Cook in the Journals of Lewis &amp; Clark</i></b></p> <p>In the self-enclosed micro-universe of Lewis and Clark studies, the Corps of Discovery's greatest moments are seen as unique, one of kind, or otherwise extraordinary. However, when studied in comparison to other expeditions, the experience of Lewis &amp; Clark is seen not as an exception, but a part of continuum of effort and manner of expression. In this talk David Nicandri draws on the ways the voyage and literature of Captain Cook's three voyages anticipated or prefigured events or explanations of the Lewis &amp; Clark expedition.</p>



November 2014

**Wednesday, November 12 (Tacoma), David George Gordon**  
***Life in the Slow Lane: Understanding Slugs and Snails in Gardens and the Wild***

In his book, *The Secret World of Slugs and Snails: Life in the Very Slow Lane*, David George Gordon invites readers to “step into a world that, until now, you’ve only stepped on.” During David’s presentation, he’ll share his insights about West Coast slugs and snails, their curious behaviors, relationships with native plants and fungi, and the many niches they fill in the natural world. He’ll also explain how to forge a meaningful and lasting peace with these slimesters and offer tips for controlling their damage to our flower gardens and vegetable plots. A book signing will follow his talk.

December 2014

**Monday, December 8 (Olympia), Holiday Celebrations and Member Presentations**

Chapter members involved in native plant activities and projects are invited to informally present what they have done or are working on. Presentations can include pictures, slides or other materials and can be as informal as simply speaking about your work. We request that speakers limit their presentations/talks to no more than 10 minutes. In addition to these member presentations, we hope to have trip leaders present brief overviews of the trip(s) they have led. Beverages will be provided. Bring your favorite hors d’oeuvre to share.

December 2014



**Wednesday, December 10 (Tacoma)**  
**Holiday Celebrations and Member Presentations**  
**See description above**



January 2015

**Monday, January 12 (Olympia), Nathan Reynolds**  
**Cowlitz Tribe Prairie and Huckleberry Restoration Projects**

Ecologist Nathan Reynolds will speak about some of the habitat restoration projects that the Cowlitz Tribe is undertaking, both alpine huckleberry meadows and lowland prairie/oak woodland habitats. In particular, he will focus on the ethnoecology of these places, to demonstrate that many habitat types only existed because of the indigenous management regime, and that successful restoration often means a return to techniques approximating indigenous management.

January 2015

**Wednesday, January 14 (Tacoma), Dave Nicandri**  
***Cook’s Third Voyage and the Evolution of the Northwest Passage***

James Cook and the Evolution of the Northwest Passage as a Cartographic Image. Drawn from Nicandri’s work in progress book on Cook’s voyaging in the high latitudes, and the map collection of the Washington State Historical Society, this illustrated lecture shows the progression of European depiction of the Pacific basin from the 16th century forward, emphasizing the pivotal cartographic implications of the great navigator’s third and final voyage in quest of the Northwest Passage and its aftermath.

**More Plant and Seed Sales**

Central Puget Sound Chapter’s “Fall Plant and Bulb Sale.” Saturday, October 4, 10 am - 4 pm. Hunter Tree Farm, 7744 35th NE, Seattle. The Central Puget Sound Chapter of Washington Native Plant Society hosts this annual fall sale of a wide variety of hard-to-find native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, bulbs and ground covers that are ideal for gardens in Western Washington. Come early for best species selections! For more information call 206-527-3210 or email [http://www.wnps.org/chapter\\_info/chapter\\_sales.html](http://www.wnps.org/chapter_info/chapter_sales.html)

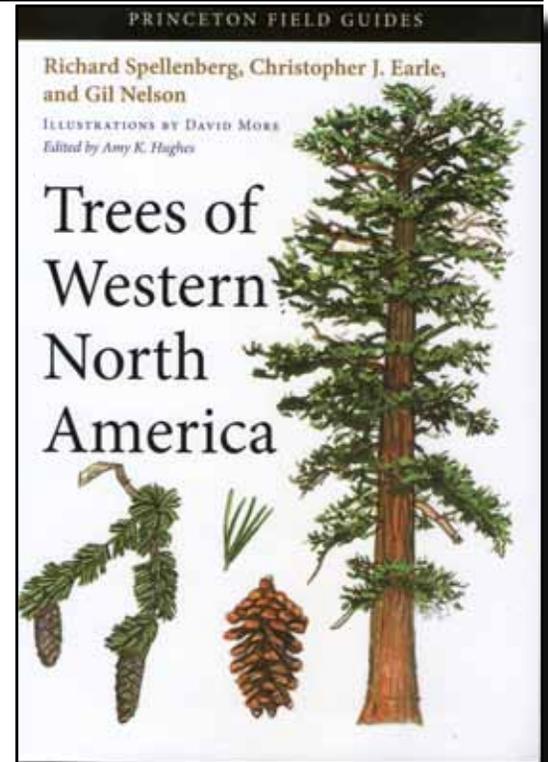
## Native Plant Resources

### *Trees of Western North America*

Richard Spellenberg, Christopher J. Earle, and Gil Nelson

With the publication of *Trees of Western North America* and its companion volume, *Trees of Eastern North America*, we have a reference set that will serve us well for generations. Both of these field guides are beautifully done! Unfortunately, our space constraints, do scant justice to this volume. The book(s) are nicely bound. You will find many aspects of the book to be outstanding for both novice and specialist. The coverage is extensive (660 species) and includes some plants we think of a shrubs such as the hairy manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*). The Eastern volume contains 825 species although there is obviously some overlap. The Field Guide includes both native and naturalized trees such as the Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). The division of species is by plant families. The illustrations by David More are top quality. Princeton University Press, 2014. Princeton Field Guides, \$29.95.

I particularly appreciated that the bark of trees, a great help in identification, was included. The habitat maps are extremely useful as well. The text descriptions are very well written, clear and detailed but not overly scholarly. I really appreciated things like the “Quick ID” note for trees like the willows that are very hard to differentiate. As I reviewed the volumes, I shared it with a number of exceptional botanists from WNPS who only confirmed my high opinion of this work. Chris Earle and the other authors should be very proud of the product of their efforts.



## Chair Report

### Valuable Opportunities with Membership By Cyndy Dillon

As members of WNPS, you are probably familiar with the wide range of opportunities it offers at both the state and chapter levels from presentations, to workshops, to nature walks, to work parties. *Douglasia* and South Sound Chapter's Acorn regularly provide a number of informative articles and exciting events. Websites from chapters across Washington announce their unique activities in which members can participate when beyond Thurston and Pierce counties. We can even find intriguing adventures with plant societies in other states and Canada. Opportunities also abound to join committees designing programs to aid the public at all ages in becoming better stewards of the environment and to encourage wise political decisions to protect native landscapes.

Our chapter's Education and Conservation committees have just begun or will soon start, so now is the time to join up and suggest ideas or prioritize projects. In addition to serving on specific committees, you can contribute to raising native plant awareness through more informal means such

as manning plant society booths at fairs or helping at plant sales. Armed with a wealth of informative flyers, fair volunteers greet visitors to describe our own experiences in native gardening, explain advantages of native plants, identify species, recommend reference books, advise on available grants or mention upcoming plant sales. A dozen chapter members have already signed up to assist with our fall sale at the Capital Museum's Coach House in Olympia on October 4. Then too, contributing an entry for the annual photo contest, giving a plant society calendar as a gift or adding new native plant publications to our personal libraries can expand our knowledge of the awesome nature that surrounds us.

Being a native plant society member enables us to enjoy nature in a wide variety of ways as well as allowing us to make a difference with rewarding responsibilities. Certainly many of us are overcommitted, even those who have retired, but if we can juggle some obligations to free up some time and consider getting a bit more involved, we can promote the nature we love through advocacy, education, restoration and conservation. Lets give it a try--we'll be glad we did.

# Chapter & State Contacts

**Chair – Cyndy Dillon**

[chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

253-857-4003

3110 Judson Street, #246

Gig Harbor, WA 98335

**Vice Chair (Pierce County meeting)**

Jane Ostericher

[vicechair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:vicechair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Vice Chair (Thurston County meeting)**

Bonnie Blessing-Earle

[vicechair.thurston@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:vicechair.thurston@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Secretary – Byrna Klavano**

[secretary@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:secretary@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Treasurer – Jane Ely**

[treasurer@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:treasurer@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

360-491-0115

**Immediate Past Chair – Vacant**

**Chapter Botanist – Vacant**

**Conservation Committee Chair - Vacant**

**Field Trip Committee Chair - Vacant**

**Editorial Committee Chair - Bill Brookreson**

[newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

702 Columbia Ave

Fircrest, WA 98466

253-292-8570

**Publicity Committee Chair - Jane Ostericher**

**Volunteers Committee Chair - Cyndy Dillon**

**Education Committee Chair - Jane Ostericher**

**Grants Committee Chair - John Neorr**

**Chapter Web Manager - Lee Fellenberg**

[webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:webmanager@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**WNPS Statewide:**

**President – Dean Longrie**

[deanpl@aol.com](mailto:deanpl@aol.com)

**Executive Director - Elizabeth Faircloth**

**Administrator**

6310 N.E. 74th St., Ste 215E

Seattle, WA 98115-8171

[wnps@wnps.org](http://wnps@wnps.org)



**Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter**

[www.southsoundchapterwnps.org](http://www.southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Washington Native Plant Society State Chapter**

[www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org) 206-527-3210

## WNPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter Affiliation

- Central Puget Sound (Seattle)
- Central Washington (Yakima, Ellensburg)
- Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities)
- Koma Kulshan (Bellingham)
- NE Washington (Spokane)
- Okanogan
- Olympic Peninsula
- Salal (Mt. Vernon, Skagit Valley)
- San Juan Islands
- South Sound (Olympia, Tacoma)
- Wenatchee Valley
- At-Large
- Palouse (inactive)
- Suksdorfia (inactive)
- Each membership includes affiliation with one chapter. Add \$5.00 for each additional chapter.

### WNPS POSTER

“Wildflowers Across Washington”  
A beautiful 24” x 36” full-color poster featuring 36 native species, \$8 (members \$6)  
Shipping \$2.50 each poster

### Membership Category

- \$35 Individual Rate
- \$45 Family
- \$65 Club/Institution
- \$20 Budget
- \$50-99 WNPS Friend
- \$100-499 WNPS Special Friend
- \$500 WNPS Best Friend
- \$1,000 WNPS Sustaining
- \$5,000 WNPS Patron

### ENCLOSED ARE:

My dues: Please Sign me up! \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Chapters (\$5 each) \_\_\_\_\_

\$8 for each poster (\$6 members) \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping (\$2.50/poster) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WNPS and mail to:  
Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE 74th St., Ste 215E  
Seattle, WA 98115



**South Sound Chapter WNPS**

**6220 N 50th St**

**Tacoma WA 98407-2119**



*Printed on acid-free, 30 percent  
post-consumer fiber recycled paper.*

*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.*



*Belinda Paterno, Tacoma City Councilman Ryan Mellow  
and Bill Brookreson Story on page 3*

### **Master Gardener Training Opportunity**

Pierce County Master Gardeners (253-798-7170) are recruiting gardeners for the 2015 class beginning in January to become a Master Gardener or Community Garden Specialist. Volunteers help at plant diagnostic clinics, demonstration gardens, school programs, community gardens or workshops. Please attend an Information Session September 30 (5:30-6:30 pm) at 3602 Pacific Ave, Tacoma to learn more. Native plants are included in the training.