

# 2007 Annual Report

Columbia Basin Chapter  
Washington Native Plant Society

Prepared by Robert Fortman

## **Educational Activities**

### Displays at Public Places

The Columbia Basin Chapter participated in the 2007 Home and Garden Home Show in February. We shared a booth with Friends of Badger. We had large poster boards with photographs and text explaining native plants and why they are useful. We had literature and handouts for the public to take. We did not have a display of live plants at this event. It was attended by a single person from each organization.

We participated in the annual Master Gardener's June Faire in June in Kennewick at the demonstration garden. This was a one day affair. We had the full display setup this time. We had the full compliment of photos and text on large poster boards, books and literature for sale and complimentary use. The booth was tended by three people minimum. We had a large selection of native plants for sale. The booth was well attended by customers and many questions were answered about how to get started with a restoration project.

We participated in the annual Tumbleweed Music Festival in Richland at Howard Amon Park. Our booth setup was exactly as at the June Faire in Kennewick. We had an even bigger selection of plants for sale than at the Garden Faire. The turnout at our booth was even better than the June Faire.

### Participation with Groups for Political Action

The Columbia Basin Chapter of the WNPS has joined and is now a partner in the Open Spaces Coalition. (OSC). The mission of the OSC is to create a network of underdeveloped natural open spaces that preserves our community hillsides, ridge tops, canyons, shorelines, waterways and shrub-steppe habitat. The OSC seeks to unite participating organizations and individuals to accomplish this mission by combining our strengths to establish an overall strategy for achieving its mission, educating the public and speaking with one voice while allowing individual participating organizations to implement this strategy in their own characteristic ways.

## **Field Trips**

### *October 2006*

- Full Moon hike up Badger Mountain by Greg McCann (Harvest Moon, October 6)

*April 2007*

- Arid Land Ecology (ALE), Rattlesnake Mountain by Janelle Downs
- Horse Heaven Hills. Eight trips by Bob Fortman during Earth Month

*May 2007*

- Badger Mountain Wildflowers by Janelle Downs
- Saddle Mountain by Steve Link
- Horse Heaven Hills, Two more trips by Bob Fortman, the 1<sup>st</sup> one during Native Plant Appreciation Week and an unscheduled last minute request a week later (the last one had 6 mothers and 33 kids!)
- Full Moon hike up Badger Mountain by Greg McCann (Flower Moon, May 1)
- Full moon hike up Badger Mountain by Greg McCann (Blue Moon, May 31)

*June 2007*

- None

*July 2007*

- Full Moon hike up Badger Mountain by Greg McCann (Buck Moon on July 29)

*August 2007*

- Full Moon hike up Badger Mountain by Greg McCann (Sturgeon Moon on August 28)

*September 2007*

- Full Moon hike up Badger Mountain by Greg McCann (Harvest Moon September 26)

**Program Meetings**

*November 2006*

Janelle Downs and William Gustafson of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory gave a presentation on “Climate Changes on the West Coast: Implications (Speculation) for Regional Vegetation”.

*December 2006*

Annual Christmas potluck

*January 2007*

No meeting

*February 2007*

Wendy Gible of Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation gave a presentation titled “Conservation of Rare and Imperiled Plants”.

*March 2007*

Katrina Strathmann, Restoration Biologist with the Yakima Nation Wildlife Resource Management Program spoke about “Restoration on the Yakima Reservation”.

*April 2007*

Janelle Downs and Mickie Chamness took us for a short walk and gave a presentation on recognizing and identifying wildflowers and other native plants at Horn Rapids County Park. The talk was titled “WSI – Wildflower Scene Investigation”

*May 2007*

Jean Ann Mitchell, artist and native plant expert from Milton Freewater, focused on wildflowers in the Blue Mountains and identification of our native wildflowers.

*June 2007*

Sharon Grant of the Friends of Badger was our featured speaker. She discussed the trials and tribulations and ultimate success in acquiring 574 acres on the top of Badger Mountain. This land will forever be set aside from development and available for outdoor activities and contributing to the open spaces around the area.

We also had elections for the new Board members and voted on bylaw changes.

*September 2007*

The Tri-Cities group joined the Walla Walla group for a hike in the Wallula Gap National Natural Landmark area. We then traveled to McNary Wildlife Environmental Education Center where we had a picnic lunch and enjoyed the wildlife.

*October 2007*

Ken Gano, Restoration Ecologist with Washington Closure Hanford, talked about “Revegetation of Remediated Waste Sites on the Hanford Site”.

**Current Board of Directors and Officers**

President- Bob Fortman

Vice-President- Marita Lih

Secretary- Donna Lucas

Treasurer- Murrel Dawson

Restoration/Salvage- Mickie Chamness

Programs- Janelle Downs

Publicity- Mary Ann Simmons

Education- Shannon Hays-Truex

Web Site Editor- Greg McMann

Archivist – Dave Nelson

Field Trips- Greg Parks

Books-Amy Bjerke