To promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington’s native plants and their habitats through study, education and advocacy

SPECIAL PROGRAM.
"In Praise of Woody Diversity"
with Mark Turner

Tuesday, November 11, 7:00 pm; Natural History Exhibit Building; Port Townsend Marine Science Center; Fort Worden

Mark is a long time member of our Native Plant Society, a state board member and author (along with co-author and society member Ellen Kuhlman) of Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest. You will be treated to superb photography! Woody plants, our trees and shrubs, come in a staggering range of sizes and other characteristics. The Pacific Northwest is home to over 550 species of woody plants, from gigantic coast redwoods to the diminutive Cascade willow, an alpine species that never gets more than 6 inches tall. We have nearly 50 willows, 10 oaks, 15 brambles, and nearly 30 currants or gooseberries. Flowers can be stop-the-car showy or nearly invisible. Some shrubs produce tasty fruit and others will make you sick. Habitat plays a big role in all this diversity, and the Northwest has a rich mosaic of habitats. In this lecture illustrated with his award-winning photography, Mark Turner will share a selection of his favorite plants that illustrate the diversity of Northwest trees and shrubs. Mark’s previous book, Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest has been a popular field guide for several years. Both books will be available for purchase and signing.
Tides, Taxes and Change are Inevitable

By Sharon

Our December meeting is election time for our chapter. This process has traditionally been a very low key event for our small chapter. We have had an exceptional year in that we have successfully hosted the study weekend at Lake Crescent. It takes a huge amount of effort to do so, and some people have played very key roles in it. Dan Post proved to be an exceptional registrar. He and Fran Post helped me tremendously in the details that come up in running an event such as this. Dixie Llewellin did a superb job of organizing field trips at a critical time. Dixie also designed our fine study weekend t-shirt. Fred Weinmann organized the evening programs, and wrote up all of the *Douglasia* articles, figured out our registration process and was truly the person who knew the timeline in the entire study weekend process; and he and Ann Weinmann followed through on many of the details. Many other chapter members also contributed their time and effort to make the study weekend a success. My role in this event was to keep things on track. It has been my primary role as chair as well.

I have been chapter chair for eight years now. It has been an amazing experience for me. Wendy McClure and I co-chaired the chapter at the beginning of this term and her steady persistence and resolute joy in all things botanical are a treasure. It was at the previous study weekend at Lake Crescent ten years ago that I knew I wanted to be more involved in this group and shortly after agreed to co-chair. I feel strongly that for the health of the organization it is time to move on from this position. If you have any desire to get more involved in this wonderful group this is an excellent time to do so.

Addendum by Fred: I sometimes hesitate to speak for the Chapter, but in this case there is no hesitation. We are thankful for Sharon’s 8 years as Chapter Chair (I did not realize it was so long) and her constant dedication to the goals of the Native Plant Society. It is fitting that Sharon should say sayonara to her position as Chair in the wake of a successful study weekend; but she did much more than preside over one major event. She kept the Chapter organized. In particular she consistently herded us together for a quarterly board meeting in order to bring some order to our Chapter’s events. She also maintained a lengthy list of email addresses and routinely reminded us of upcoming events; and managed our coordination with the Marine Science Center where we held our evening programs along with tending to many other details. Thank you Sharon.

Scheduled Events

**Tunnel Creek, Saturday November 15:** 9:00 am; Meet at the Quilcene Forest Service Ranger station. It is always good to get out and walk in the low hills this time of year, weather permitting. Tunnel Creek is a good area for mosses; a little wetter than other areas on the eastern side of the Olympics. One time on a moss field trip we only made it a half a mile, but we plan to go further. We will look at the winter foliage, identify a few mosses and admire the mushrooms. Bring your moss books! Storms brew in November so this hike is weather-dependent. To sign up for this field trip contact Sharon Schlentner: sschentner@waypointcom or 360-379-9810 or Ann Weinmann: aweinmann@cablespeed.com or 360-379-0986.
More events

Holiday Potluck, Slide Show; Tuesday, December 9; 5:00 pm; Natural History Exhibit, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, Fort Worden: Set up and Socialize starting at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. Celebrate a successful botanical year with good food, good company, and a variety of images. Bring a potluck dish, place setting and slides. Bring your favorite photos of plants and events from the around the world, across the country or your back yard. The photos should be on either a CD or thumb drive. This is also the time when we assess our goals as a group and hold our annual elections. Any suggestions regarding projects or field trips for 2015 are welcome. Hope to see you there! Contact Sharon at sschlentner@waypoint.com 360-379-9810

Fort Worden State Park: Traditional Teddy Bear Hike: January 1, 2015, 10:00 am. Meet at North Beach Park before 10:00 am. We will walk through Chinese Gardens, up Military Hill and atop the cistern; along Bluffs Trail; past the big willow and Hidden Pond as we celebrate the Wilderness Within. This is a sociobotanical walk, but we will do a little botanizing if we please. The hike will be 1-3 miles depending on weather. Contact Fred or Ann Weinmann at 360-379-0986 or fweinmann@cablespeed.com for further information.

Southern Hemisphere Botany by Chapter members Dan Post, Wendy McClure, Ann Weinmann and Fred Weinmann; Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 pm; Natural History Building, Port Townsend Marine Science Center; Fort Worden. Our world traveling Chapter members will bring us botany stories and photographs from the southern hemisphere: Tasmania, southern Australia, and Western Australia. Be prepared to hear about familiar families with different genera but also some families which may be new to your vocabulary e.g. the Xanthorrhoeaceae. Also big trees of Eucalyptus spp. and big inflorescences of the Proteaceae. Contact Fred Weinmann at fweinmann@cablespeed.com or 360-379-0986 for further information.

Art Exhibit by Chapter member, Randena Walsh; Northwind Arts Center, 2409 Jefferson Street, Port Townsend

Exhibition: October 31 - November 30, 2014
Gallery hours: Thursday - Monday noon - 5pm
Reception: November 1 from 5:30 - 8:00pm
Art Talk: November 2 at 1:00pm

Randena's drawings and paintings will feature birds and animals in watercolor and pastel. Go to www.randenawalsh.com to see some of Randena's work.

Albright nursery: Greetings friends of the Elwha Revegetation Project: October marks the 5-year anniversary of our nursery's move to the Matt Albright Native Plant Center in sunny Agnew...The celebration of this event took place October 10. And, of course, this season marks an even more monumental event - the completion of the DOUBLE dam removal on the Elwha River and the return of the mighty salmon. Fall is here and the fish are returning! This season is particularly exciting as the last of Glines Canyon Dam is out and the true reward is starting to appear by the dozen. Please continue to visit us at the nursery on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9am and 4pm to help us clean LOTS of seed and begin to prep and pack plants for their return to the Elwha. Jill Zarzeczny. Elwha Revegetation Project.Olympic National Park. Jill_Zarzeczny@nps.gov.Tel: 360.565.3047
It's the Trees Stupid! Redieux
by Fred

We have recently returned from Australia, land of biodiversity and big trees. Australia boasts the second tallest tree species in the world, the mountain ash or swamp gum (*Eucalyptus regnans*). The third tallest species is our own coast Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. We spent considerable time in western Australia hiking in the Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*), Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), Red tingle (*Eucalyptus jacksonii*), and Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) forests. The trees were impressive! Also impressive were the people we met in the campsites and on the trails and in the small towns. They were extremely friendly and very proud of both their big trees and the reputation of Western Australia as a world renowned biodiversity hot spot. Several people we met had visited the Pacific Northwest (one person had visited Port Townsend) and everybody marveled at the beauty of the United States Pacific Northwest. Sometimes visiting a foreign country helps one to appreciate the beauty of their own part of the world; and there is no place in the world with a greater concentration of trees representing the largest of their species than the Olympic Peninsula.

Any survey of the plant communities of the Olympic Peninsula would describe nearly the entire peninsula as forested. Exceptions occur where it is too high (alpine areas) too dry (the rain shadow) or too wet (some wetlands). Our common forest trees include western redcedar, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, silver fir, sub-alpine fir, big-leaf maple, Pacific madrone and red alder. Notably absent from the flora of the OP is noble fir.

Not only do we have trees but we have big trees! Of the 44 native tree species listed in Robert Van Pelt’s book, *Champion Trees of Washington State* (University of Washington Press, 1996), for 18 species or over 40%, one or more of the 1st 2nd or 3rd largest state trees are recorded from the Olympic Peninsula. For 10 species, the largest tree in the state is recorded from the OP. Among the biggest trees we find the most remarkable examples. For western redcedar, the three largest trees in the state are on the OP, for Douglas fir two of the three largest, for grand fir the two largest, for mountain hemlock the three largest, for western hemlock 2 of the three largest, for Sitka spruce the three largest and the list goes on. These record trees are all recorded from an area that includes just 9% of the total surface area of the state.

In the past two years I have discovered two nearby trees which can be added to the list of big trees on the Olympic Peninsula. On the Bulis forest preserve just south of Port Townsend I have found a Scouler's willow which might be the largest in the state. The formerly largest Scouler's willow growing on Bainbridge Island has died and been cut down. The Bulis forest tree is an impressive 13 feet in circumference, 65 feet tall and has a crown width of 40 feet. While the tree has not been officially measured, these dimensions would make it the largest of its species in the state of Washington at 232 official points. (The convention for official tree sizes awards one point for every inch in circumference, one point for every foot in height and one point for every 4 feet in crown width.) Also, we have discovered a giant grand fir growing along the Tunnel Creek trail which is nearly 7 feet in diameter. While we have not been able to make an accurate measurement of the height of the tree, this diameter is the third largest girth reported for a grand fir in Washington.
Enjoy the beauty of Washington’s wildflowers throughout 2015 with our Native Plant Calendar. Our 2015 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. They will be available at our scheduled events or you can contact Dan Post at dan.fran@frandango.org.
Name:______________________________________________

Address:____________________________________________

City:____________________State_________Zip___________

Phone:__________________Email:______________________

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Please remit by check payable to WNPS and mail to:
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6310 NE 74th St., Suite 215E, Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: 206-527-3210 or 1-888-288-8022; email: wnps@wnps.org

Olympic Peninsula Chapter, WNPS

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