

THE NATIVE PLANT PRESS

The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS

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Chapter Meeting Thursday, October 6 Center for Urban Horticulture*

Field Botany in the Andes Mountains of Northern Peru.

By Mark Egger

In April of 2005, Mark took part in a botanical expedition to sample the flora of the Andes Mountains in northern Peru. With the assistance of Peruvian botanists based in the city of Trujillo, Mark and fellow Castilleja researcher, Dave Tank, made two separate trips into the mountains. The first and longest outing was to the vicinity of the ancient Inca city of Cajamarca and continuing on to the more remote towns of Contumaza and Celendin, the latter on the brink of the dramatic canyon of the Rio Marañon. Most of the areas visited were between 9,000-14,000' elevation in the alpine plant communities known locally as jalcas, high elevation grasslands similar to the paramos of the northern Andes. While the goal of the expedition was to study and document the many and varied Castilleja species of this region, they also observed many other fine plants, including a wealth of species in the showy genera, Salvia, Calceolaria, and Bartsia. Northern Peru is the center of diversity for the latter two genera. In addition, the scenery was spectacular, and the visitors encountered the local people and culture of a region far removed from the usual tourist routes of this remarkable country. Mark is a highly accomplished photographer, so be prepared for a very informative and esthetically stunning presentation!

Mark Egger is a recently retired science teacher and a Research Associate at the UW Herbarium. He has been a member of the CPS Chapter of WNPS since 1983. He has spent the last 32 years studying the genus Castilleja, traveling throughout North America, Mexico, and Central and South America to take approximately 20,000 images of Castilleja or Indian Paintbrush, photographing over 95% of the approximately 200 known species and varieties. He has written or contributed to numerous scientific publications on Castilleja and has published seven species new to science. He is currently preparing a monographic treatment of Castilleja, and in conjunction with Peter Zika and the members of the Carex Working Group, is preparing the treatment of Castilleja for the Flora of North America.

Correction: in an earlier version, Mark's partners in the Castilleja treatment for the Flora of North America were misstated.

Programs produced by Shelly Evans and Sharon Baker

Upcoming programs

November 3: "Landscape Changes Over Time and the Fern Die-off at Seward Park" by Tim Billo.

Field Trip Calendar

The board position for Field Trip Chair is available.

If you would like to take this position please call Chrys Bertolotto, 206 588-1247 or email her at sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com.

Native Plant Identification Workshop

By Nelson Salisbury, Chapter Botanist

A free plant identification workshop is offered before each Chapter meeting at 6:00 PM in CUH, Main Hall. While the workshop is oriented primarily toward beginners, anyone who wants to work on improving keying skills or their familiarity with the northwest flora is welcome. Feel free to bring samples of unknown plants in for identification. We will have plenty of material and tools if you come empty-handed.

* CUH Location

The Chapter meeting will be held on the University of Washington campus at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, (Mary Gates Memorial Dr. NE) Seattle, 98195. We will meet in the Main Hall. To help you find the meeting location, you can find excellent maps at the UW website at www.universityofwashington.edu/maps.

Look for the Northwest Horticultural Society Hall adjacent to Miller Library. Refreshments and socializing begin at 7 PM, followed by a short business meeting at 7:30 PM, and then the program.

Newsletter Contents

CHAPTER MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE*	1
FIELD BOTANY IN THE ANDES MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN PERU.....	1
UPCOMING PROGRAMS	2
FIELD TRIP CALENDAR.....	2
NATIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP	2
* CUH LOCATION.....	2
BOARD REPORTS	4
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	4
EASTSIDE BRANCH NEWS	5
FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE	6
VOLUNTEERS	6
PACKING GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS	6
PLANT SALVAGE	7
VOLUNTEER AT WNPS OFFICE.....	7
PLANT OF THE MONTH: SAGO PONDWEED, <i>STUCKENIA PECTINATA</i>	8
CENTRAL PUGET SOUND CHAPTER	9
WNPS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS	9
WNPS AND CPS CONTACT INFORMATION	10
THE WNPS OFFICE WELCOMES VISITORS:	10
MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND QUESTIONS	10
EMAIL LISTS.....	10
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OPTION.....	11
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION.....	11

Board Reports

Message from the Chair

By Chrys Bertolotto

Clay Antieau, WNPS President, shared his vision of the state of WNPS at the September member meeting. He shared his ideas of our strengths and weaknesses and the external opportunities and threats that surround us. It was a thought provoking presentation that revealed some of the challenges WNPS faces as the organization moves into its second 40 years.

Along those lines, and consistent with the daylong retreat Central Puget Sound chapter board members will be enjoying on 9/17, I thought I would share just a few ponderings about the Central Puget Sound chapter.

First and foremost, the CPS chapter is a volunteer-powered entity. Your chapter board members work with committed groups of volunteers (or sometimes alone!) to further the mission of the entire organization. Everything you see offered by CPS, could not happen without the unpaid help of many people. This gives us great potential because we have over 500 members, and also is a challenge if that volunteer energy falters.

We aren't clear on who we are. We serve a diverse group of members – high caliber botanists, backyard gardeners, restoration-oriented individuals, mission-driven people like me. So, it is hard for us to neatly package our chapter story to universally resonate with such a diverse bunch. To me, the CPS chapter activities seem to cater more to the amateur botanist and native plant enthusiast. I don't often see professional botanists who live in our communities engage with chapter activities. We welcome you!

Money, money, money! It is the age-old challenge for non-profits. We have an amazing history of plant sales that provide nearly all of the money that pays for...well everything! We also receive a small percentage of CPS chapter membership dues that is largely used to support the running of the WNPS office and our access to it. This means we're addicted to plant sales! While they look fun and exciting the day of the sale, it does take a lot to pull these together. There are exciting opportunities out there – like municipal and foundation grants and partner agencies that might pay us to do really great work! But we have to make an effort to let these groups know we're here, and

why we matter. Our Fundraising Chair position has been vacant far too long and is ripe with opportunity!

There is a hardcore group of WNPS volunteers who are willing to roll up their sleeves to get things done. To them, I say THANK YOU! You are awesome! To those of you who have always wanted to get involved, meet a great group of people and make a difference in this world, then please reach out. We need a constant flow of newly interested, energetic people to keep going. In the meantime, those of us on the board pondered big issues on 9/17, and we let you know what we come up with. Stay tuned!

Eastside Branch News

By Sid Gupta

'Gardening with Native Plants,' presented by the CPS Chapter's own Marcia Rivers Smith, will discuss the 'What, Why, How, and Where' of using native plants in landscaping. It will cover a variety of different garden situations and suggest native plants that might be used in each. The focus will be on native plants that are available through local nurseries or plant sales.

Marcia Rivers Smith has been a Native Plant Steward for 20 years and served on the WNPS Central Puget Sound Chapter Board for several years. Her volunteer focus has been educating others about gardening with native plants, but she has also led plant identification walks. She and her husband have lived on 5 acres in Preston for over 25 years, where they have used native plants to reduce the use of water and chemicals in their landscaping as well as to attract wildlife.

Upcoming Program

Gardening with Native Plants:
The 'What, Why, How, and Where' of using native plants in landscaping.

Date: Wednesday, October 12th at 7:00 PM
Location: Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, Education Center, Room C

Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG) Native Plant Work Parties

WNPS has partnered with the Bellevue Botanical Garden! We receive free facility usage for sales & educational programs. In return we provide volunteer work crews, technical advice, and expert guidance.

October 21 from 10-Noon

Meet at main entrance: 12001 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98005

This work party will likely involve planting into the Native Discovery Garden. This year, the Central Puget Sound Chapter awarded a \$500 grant to the BBG to pay for additional plants with the goal of increasing diversity and influencing the general public towards more sustainable landscape practices.

Please bring your own protective gear, such as gloves, and water. Tools will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own favorites as well.

Our work parties have been quite successful, as our volunteers have long cultivated their love of native plants. We are able to accomplish an incredible amount in just two hours. The Botanical Garden has a huge public audience, and we are helping to move this free, public space towards a more natural, less interventionist landscape aesthetic. It's a very rewarding experience. Join us! RSVP or send questions to Pati at: 3anpati@gmail.com.

Field Trip Schedule

Trail Trip Leaders Wanted:

The board position for Field Trip Chair is available. If you would like to take this position please call the WNPS office at 206-527-3210 or email us at info@wnps.org. Trail Trips are on the WNPS website <http://www.wnps.org/>

Volunteers

Packing Gifts for the Holidays

Want to connect with a group of like-minded plant nerds?

Join our packing party to pack our beautiful Mark Turner greeting cards and roll wildflower posters for the upcoming gifting season.

When: Monday, October 10, 2016
Time: 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Where: WNPS Magnuson Park office
6310 NE 74th Street, Suite 215E (upstairs)

Coffee, tea and snacks will be served.
Please join us!

To RSVP: email info@wnps.org or call Elizabeth at 206-527-3210.

Plant Salvage

Do you have plants that need separating? Could you donate some of these plants for our fundraising sales or share with others? Would you like to help others who need this task accomplished? I'm interested instarting a "Salvage" group. There are very few King County parcels left as sites for salvaging plants as we have done in the past, so this group would mainly serve the members and facilitate sharing of plants. The months of activity would be November through March, with times and locations to be determined. If interested, please contact Grace Stiller 206-795-5783 or gracestiller@comcast.net.

Volunteer at WNPS Office

The WNPS office, in Magnuson Park, is always looking for volunteers to provide valuable, "behind-the-scenes" assistance. In the past six months, 6 volunteers have given a whopping total of 50.5 hours that resulted in critical projects being completed on-time. Tasks range from a one-shot project to a larger, more complex one. You can work solo or with a group, and every task is tailored to your interest and availability. We also try to make it fun and social, and new friendships have already begun as a result. If you want to know what's ahead for 2016, you can call the office (206-527-3210) or send an email inquiry to Elizabeth Gage: info@wnps.org.

Plant of the Month: Sago Pondweed, *Stuckenia pectinata*

By Janka Hobbs

Stuckenia pectinata (*Potamogeton pectinatus*) is a submerged (except for emergent flowers and fruit) aquatic plant with threadlike leaves that favors slightly brackish or alkaline waters up to about 2.5 meters deep. It has a nearly worldwide distribution, from Alaska to New Zealand, and was originally named by Linnaeus. It can propagate both by seed and herbaceously, though it lacks turions, overwintering buds common among other pondweeds.

S. pectinata is extremely important as a food for waterfowl, which explains its worldwide distribution (seeds are transported either ingested by birds, or stuck on their feet or feathers). It is consumed by most species of dabbling ducks; one study discovered that canvasbacks fed on its tubers almost exclusively. In areas where the substrate is exposed seasonally, the tubers are also eaten by grizzly bears. (1)

Sago pondweed has also shown promise in bioremediation, both because it efficiently takes up phosphorus in water, preventing algal blooms, and because it efficiently absorbs heavy metals, removing them from the water column. (2)

Sago pondweed does have the potential to become weedy, growing so thickly that it slows water flow in irrigation systems, or impedes boat traffic in recreational waterways. It can be controlled by pesticides or by raking. (3)

1) Consumption of pondweed rhizomes by Yellowstone grizzly bears, D.J. Mattson, S.R. Podrutzny, and M.A. Haroldson

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70027700>

2) Science of The Total Environment [Volume 392, Issue 1](#), 15 March 2008, Pages 22–29 **Bioaccumulation of heavy metals by the aquatic plants *Potamogeton pectinatus* L. and *Potamogeton malaianus* Miq. and their potential use for contamination indicators and in wastewater treatment** [Kejian](#)

[Penga, b, Chunling Luoc, Laiqing Loua, Xiangdong Lic, Zhenguo Shena,](#)
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969707012697>

3) http://www.aquaticbiologists.com/algae--weed-id-guide/submerged-weeds/sago_pondweed

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WNPS and CPS Contact Information

The WNPS Office Welcomes visitors:

Monday – Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm daily

Friday – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, appointment only.

Please call ahead to confirm availability, especially if traveling a distance.

Office Contacts

Denise Mahnke, WNPS Business Manager, wnps@wnps.org

Elizabeth Gage, WNPS Office & Program Coordinator, info@wnps.org Phone:
(206)527-6310

Full WNPS Staff Information is available online:
http://www.wnps.org/contact_wnps.htm.

Membership, Dues and Questions

Membership Rates in 2016

Individual Membership \$35

Family Membership \$45

Club or Organization Membership \$65

Budget Membership \$20

Student \$20 (name of institution _____)

This is the address members should use for all correspondence regarding membership, dues payments, etc.

Washington Native Plant Society
6310 NE 74th ST, Suite 215E
Seattle, WA 98115
206-527-3210
info@wnps.org

Email Lists

The State WNPS List is a state-wide list for announcements, news and discussion relevant to native plants and the WNPS.

To join, go to: https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WNPS_DiscussionGroup/info and hit the "Join" button, or send an email to wnps_discussiongroup-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. It only takes a couple of minutes!

The new group will be "restricted" in that admission to the group must be granted, but messages will be unmoderated. Once you are a member, you will be able to set your personal preferences for receiving messages (e.g., individual messages as they are posted or a daily digest). You will also be able to unsubscribe yourself if and when you desire.

Electronic Newsletter Option

Many of you have chosen to receive your Native Plant Press electronically, and we thank you! This will save printing and postage expenses that can better go to our Chapter programs and activities. If you did not receive an e-mail about this option and would like to get the electronic version of the newsletter, please send your request to the CPS Staff Person at info@wnps.org.

Newsletter Submission

The deadline for the newsletter is the first Thursday of the preceding month, exactly one month before the meeting. Send submissions to the editor: Rick Bergman

Email: rickbergman@comcast.net

Phone 206-372-9816

Digital photos must be high-resolution or will NOT be accepted.