

THE NATIVE PLANT PRESS

The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS

Vol 17, No 6, September 2016

Chapter Meeting Thursday, September 1 Center for Urban Horticulture*

September Program: Whither WNPS.

By Clay Antieau

In its 40th year as Washington's strongest voice for promoting the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats, what does the future of WNPS look like?? Like many non-profit environmental organizations, the relevance and effectiveness of WNPS is being challenged on numerous fronts. In this presentation, WNPS President, Clay Antieau, will share his views on the strengths and weaknesses that characterize WNPS--as well as the opportunities and threats that lie beyond. Come prepared to share your thoughts about the future of WNPS!

Clay Antieau M.S., Ph.C. is a Horticulturist, Botanist, and Environmental Scientist who enthusiastically combines these disciplines to offer unique abilities and perspectives in project work and environmental education. Clay currently works for Seattle Public Utilities as an environmental permit specialist. He's a Fellow and current President of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS), a Past President of WNPS, a Past President of the Northwest Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, and a former Director of the Washington Trails Association.

Programs produced by Shelly Evans and Sharon Baker

Message from the Co-Chair

Franja Bryant

As the new co-chair of our WNPS Central Puget Sound Chapter I'm happy to welcome you back to another full and stimulating academic year of serving together as a "voice" for Washington's native plants. Remember the Lorax – the Dr. Seuss character who "speaks for the trees?" That's us! The Central Puget Sound Chapter has raised its voice in support of our botanical environment in many different ways this past year – and together we'll continue to do this.

Let's count the ways the Central Puget Sound Chapter has been speaking up for Washington's native plants:

- **9600 native plants** (approximately) found homes in local yards and gardens through our spring and fall native plant sales.
- **1650 people** heard our message when we provided information booths at **8 events** such as Earth Day celebrations, community fairs and the Northwest Flower & Garden Show.
- **500 people** were reached through **13 informative talks** by outstanding speakers at our regular meetings held in Seattle at the Center for Urban Horticulture and on the Eastside at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.
- **10 plant ID field trips and habitat explorations** were offered to unique places.
- **3 work parties** in cooperation with the Issaquah Garden Club, installed native plants through our partnership with the Bellevue Botanical Garden.
- **1 grant** was given to add native plants to the Bellevue Botanical Garden's *Native Discovery Garden*.
- **1 Bellevue Botanical Garden intern** was advised and supported in his plan to use natives to landscape a new area in the garden.

These are just a few of the ways our chapter has been actively supporting our WNPS mission to *appreciate, conserve and study* Washington's native flora. But, wait! There's more:

We still have **current needs for:**

- a **Conservation Chair** (a very important role in speaking for the plants!)
- a **Publicity Chair** (another opportunity to shout our message from the roof tops!)
- a **Fundraising Chair** (since it is said that money speaks!) to help us continue the work described above and to help our voice to be shared and heard.

If a chairmanship isn't your thing – helping at our October 1 plant sale, or staffing an information booth at an upcoming event will also help us “speak for the trees [and flora].” Just contact the WNPS Office (www.wnps.org) and they will pass the word on to the appropriate chairperson.

We hope that you'll take the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of membership in WNPS and our Central Puget Sound Chapter, and that you'll join us in actively speaking up for native plants in any way you would like. You don't have to be a plant expert – just be willing to

share the skills you already have, some of your time (great or small), and your enthusiasm for the plants and plant habitats of our beautiful state.

Program Calendar

October 6: **Botanizing in Peru** (tentative title) by Mark Egger.

November 3: **Landscape Changes over Time and the Fern Die Off at Seward Park** by Tim Billo.

Field Trip Calendar

See the field trip section for details.

Wallace Falls State Park

Saturday, Sept 10, 2016

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.

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Eastside Branch News

By Sid Gupta

We hope that you're all having a great summer so far! If you're feeling glum about the (eventual) onset of fall, fear not! On October 12th, the Eastside Branch returns with another exciting program held at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

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

We hope to see everyone there! In the meantime, share your ideas for helping the Eastside Branch grow! Whether it's program topics, pie-in-the-sky project ideas, or existing efforts you think we should know about, we'd love to hear about what's on your mind!

Contact: siidd@gmail.com.

Board Reports

Fall Native Plant Sale

By Rick Thompson, Plant Sale Chair

Date: Saturday, Oct 1st, 2016

Time: 10am - 4pm

Membership Sale: 9:00 AM

Place: Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

The Washington Native Plant Society will host its annual native plant sale on Saturday, Oct 1 at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. This plant sale features a large selection of native bulbs, seed, trees, shrubs, perennials, and ground covers that are ideal for gardens in western Washington. There will be native plant experts to dispense gardening advice, and Chapter members can shop early.

The Plant Sale Committee is always looking for help at our semi-annual plant sales.

For questions regarding volunteer opportunities contact Marissa Wright at mwright2013@yahoo.com.

Our newest committee member Brenda Clifton, is managing our seed sales. If you have seed you wish to donate, or want to help with seed sales contact Brenda at brenda_clifton@hotmail.com.

Our donation coordinator, Ann Stevens is accepting donations of plants, retail plant flats and related items. Ann can be reached at stevensann47@yahoo.com.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the Washington Native Plant Society and its education programs. For more information, please contact Rick Thompson, Plant Sale Chair at g.garryana@gmail.com.

Seed Donations

By Brenda Clifton

The Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society is seeking donations of cleaned, dry, native seed for our fall plant sale. Chrys Bertolotto will accept your seed donation at the chapter meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture on September 1. We will also accept your donation at the seed packaging party on September 8, at 6:00 PM, at the Magnuson Park WNPS office. Please contact Brenda Clifton at brenda_clifton@hotmail.com.

New Staff Member

It is with great pleasure that we announce the hiring of the new staff member supporting CPS and WNPS in the Office, Elizabeth Gage.

Elizabeth brings a variety of experience to her new role as Office and Volunteer Coordinator for WNPS. She spent 8 years in the Netherlands working in marketing and customer service for Time Magazine's Atlantic edition. In this role she worked with direct marketing, databases and order processing. After leaving Time, she moved to Hollister, California where she owned and operated The Bookstore for several years, after which she was recruited to become the first Executive Director of the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce.



Two years with the Stanford Alumni Association's Travel/Study program allowed her to indulge her love of travel as she led trips to Bali, Sicily, and the Eastern Mediterranean, among others. She also worked as the Stanford Alumni Association's Membership Director.

Besides a love of travel, Elizabeth enjoys jazz, history and archeology, and vintage cars. She looks forward to meeting you next time you stop by the office!

Elizabeth will be available to meet at the CUH programs and to support the CPS Board as needed.

Welcome Elizabeth!

Contact: Elizabeth Gage; info@wnps.org; (206)527-3210

Field Trip Schedule

Trail Trip Leaders Wanted: If you have an idea for a trail trip and would like to lead one, contact Susan Dawson at lapianta@aol.com. Trail Trips are on the WNPS website <http://www.wnps.org/>

Wallace Falls State Park

Saturday, Sept 10, 2016

Leader: To Be Announced

Description:

Wallace Falls State Park near Gold Bar features 3 beautiful waterfalls, lower, middle and upper. It's an easy trail to hike and it's your decision on how far up you want to hike. There are wildflowers including lupine and paintbrush.

Time: 9:30 am

Meet at the Bellevue Park & Ride at 720 114th Ave SE (I-405& 8th Street).

Bring lunch and water. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Signup: Susan Dawson email: lapianta@aol.com phone 425-432-3879. If you sign up let me know if you can't make it.

Volunteers

Volunteers needed to package Native Seed

By Brenda Clifton

The Plant Sale Committee is holding a Native Seed Packaging Party on Thursday, September 8, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the WNPS Office at Magnuson Park. Please join us for an evening of easy work packaging native seed and interesting conversation around the office conference table. Your help will be appreciated! Please contact Brenda Clifton at brenda_clifton@hotmail.com if you are planning to attend or need additional information.

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 in starting 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 Barrie Moss: info@wnps.org.

Article from AARP Magazine

Nature's Pied Piper

by Jourdan Imani Keith April 2016

In the wide, unshakable silence of Arizona's Painted Desert the shhhh of wind from a single car follows curves around the pastel hills. The sound of a crow, its black shadow gliding over chalky pink and blue cliffs, causes tears to trickle over my cheeks. A tyrannosaurus cloud hangs mid stride on the horizon: elongated neck, knees bent in a stilled chase through the sky above this stretch of [Petrified Forest National Park](#). The land is strewn with ancient fallen trees. Sparkling blue, yellow and green minerals have replaced the rings in their trunks.



As always in wilderness, I feel the past embrace me. Those who live in big cities may find it hard to imagine that national parks offer more than a respite of expansive silence. But our parks offer cultural and historical links that help us understand our lives. I grew up in Philadelphia with a cousin who held tight to his Cherokee heritage; his ancestors lived in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. And as a young employee at Yellowstone years ago, I learned the story of the Nez Perce, pursued by the U.S. Army across that land in 1877. Those histories forged connections that gently shaped the path I would follow.

For me now, tales about the land and its people are crucial components in engaging urban youth in the discovery and protection of our American wilderness. How can city kids connect with wild lands when they see only fragments of green at the littered edges of sidewalks?

In 2004 I founded the Urban Wilderness Project in Seattle. I discovered that sometimes removing the barrier to getting people into natural settings is as simple as providing transportation and warm clothes. That was the case for 80 eighth graders who could see the 14,400-foot, snow-covered peak of Mount Rainier from their school windows but had never traveled the hour and a half to visit. We went to the park on buses, we shared stories, and we put on snowshoes to explore. As we pulled back up at school, one girl hopped off the bus onto the asphalt driveway and told me, "That was fun. I didn't know I liked nature."

Yes, I thought. *My work is done.*

Jourdan Imani Keith traces her storytelling roots to West Africa.

Jourdan Imani Keith is a 2003 WNPS Steward.

Plant of the Month: *Astragalus australis* var. *olympicus* (*Astragalus cottonii*)

By Janka Hobbs

I've had several people ask me if I could write about the plants on the Olympic Peninsula most affected by mountain goats. Mountain goats were introduced to the peninsula as a game animal in the 1920s. They prefer steep, alpine habitat, which is home to a community of unusual plants, many of which are endemic to the area.

The tops of the Olympic mountains served as refugia during past glaciations, sticking up like islands out of the surrounding ice sheet, and allowing a few hardy organisms to hang on. Communities isolated in this way can't interbreed with others of their kind (if they even still exist), and eventually diverge into their own species.

Cotton's milkvetch (*Astragalus australis* var. *olympicus*) is perhaps the rarest of the Olympic mountain endemics. Its entire population (in 5 sub-populations) is restricted to a 4 x 21 km strip of high-altitude scree slopes. It is classified as Threatened by the State of Washington, and is a Federal species of concern. While it is currently identified as a subspecies of *A. australis*, (It is also known as *A. cottonii*) a circumpolar species, its geographically closest relatives are found in

the NE corner of Oregon. It is subject to grazing and trampling by mountain goats, and has been impacted by goat wallows. Since Cotton's milkvetch also suffers from a high rate of seed herbivory from beetles, the added stress may be driving it to extinction.

Another endemic of concern is *Campanula piperi*. Despite its scarcity, remains of *C. piperi* have been found in goat fecal matter; "the detection of this species in goat diets was remarkable because of the plant's limited occurrence and low standing crop." (1)

Olympic National Park is releasing a new Goat EIS sometime this summer. If you would like to get on their update mailing list, find the information at

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=49246> .

References and Further Reading:

(1) Mountain Goats in Olympic National Park: Biology and Management of an Introduced Species

CHAPTER 12: Rare Plants E. G. Schreiner, M. B. Gracz, T. N. Kaye, A. Woodward, and N. M. Buckingham

https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/science/25/chap12.htm

Olympic Park Associates: An Analysis of the Mountain Goat Issue, 1995.

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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.

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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@yahoo.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.