

THE NATIVE PLANT PRESS

The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS

Vol 18, No 6, September 2017

Chapter Meeting
Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 PM
Mountaineers Headquarters

Plant Sale Returns to Magnuson Park

Saturday, October 7
10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Magnuson Park.
Members can start shopping at 9:00 am!
See details on page 6.

Program: Fungi- The Original Network

By Kim Traverse

It is beginning to seem that beyond the individual interactions between different fungi and different plants, there are also interconnections across many levels of taxa with fungi providing the network. This looks like a form of cooperation and probably information processing too. Maybe the

World Wide Web has been around longer than we thought! Almost all life on Earth depends ultimately on Plants, but there is strong evidence that plants only "crawled" out of the oceans with the help of fungi. Most of what is going on is happening at a scale too small for direct observation by humans and we have normed the small range that we can notice. Differences in scale have profound effects on how everything behaves and our intuition can lead us astray when we consider the microscopic universe that fungi inhabit. Plus, new discoveries are not always merely additive- sometimes they suggest we re-evaluate much of what we were sure of. For instance; the very concept of an individual organism is being assailed by new evidence from genetic sequencing and population ecology. If a tablespoon of soil can contain eight miles of fungi hyphae, what is all that stuff up too?

Kim Traverse has been President of The Puget Sound Mycological Society for the past 3 years. He has been paying attention to and eating wild mushrooms for 45 years but native plants are his first love. Kim is a self-taught naturalist; his early love of nature was inspired by his grandmother, who showed him his first wildflowers and birds. Most of his field experience was garnered volunteering for and serving on the boards of the Michigan Nature Association and The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy which he helped

found. He strongly believes that in addition to the specific missions of organizations like PSMS, WNPS, Audubon, and The Mountaineers, their most important role is getting people connected to the natural world.

Program produced by Shelley Evans and Sharon Baker

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Up and Coming Programs

BBG indicates Bellevue Botanical Garden.

MTR indicates Mountaineers Headquarters.

BBG October 10, 2017 Jennifer Hahn presents *Pacific Feast: Where the Wild Things Are Delicious!* At Aaron Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Native Plant Identification Workshop

By Nelson Salisbury, Chapter Botanist
(Offered only at Westside Meetings)

A free plant identification workshop is offered before each Westside Chapter meeting at 6:00 PM. 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.

Meeting Locations

To be sure you don't miss a meeting, watch the Native Plant Press closely to find out when and where we are meeting each month. In addition,

we will have meeting dates and locations listed on our website.

List of 2017 Meeting Locations

Sep 7 Mountaineers Headquarters

Oct 10 Bellevue Botanical Garden

Nov 2 Mountaineers Headquarters

Dec 7 Mountaineers Headquarters

Change in West Side Meeting Times

We've had requests to change the start time of our programs on the west side from 7:30pm to 7pm. **This change goes into effect this first fall meeting on September 7.**

Board Reports

Fall 2017 Native Plant sale

By Yen Flanagan, Plant Sale Chair

This fall's theme is "**Fall is the best time for planting**". The Central Puget Sound Chapter will host its Fall Native Plant sale on Saturday October 7, 2017 in Seattle at Magnuson Park – 6310 NE 74th street. The event time is from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Members can start shopping at 9:00 am. We are proud to carry the largest local

selection of beautiful native bulbs, seeds, trees, shrubs, perennials and groundcovers that are ideal for gardens in Western Washington. Native plant experts will be on-site to provide gardening tips and advice and to answer questions about planting with native species. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Washington Native Plant Society. For further information, please contact me at yen.flanagin@yahoo.com.

The Plant Sale event would not be possible without the help of volunteers. We need help on both the set up day (Friday October 6) and the event day (Saturday October 7). This is a fun time to meet native plant enthusiasts and experts. For volunteering opportunities, please contact our volunteer coordinator Ann Marten at annmarten@comcast.net.

Message from the Chair

By Chrys Bertolotto

Summer is such a great time in the Pacific Northwest! But, like some of our Puget Sound Lowland plants, I start yearning for rain after too many days of sunshine, heat and drought! I also felt like the smoky days of August were an omen of what climate change means for our Pacific Northwest habitats and for our human and wildlife communities.

I am happy to say Fall (and lovely damp weather) is quickly approaching. And with that, we will have amazing opportunities to work with our stewardship friends from Forterra and the Green City Partnerships to put plants into public spaces in the not-so-distant future! The native trees and shrubs we plant today will work for years to sequester carbon, improve air quality and even reduce polluted stormwater runoff. It isn't a bad side benefit that they create such beautiful, wildlife-rich landscapes that nurture our souls.



Whether you live in Snoqualmie, Tukwila or Seattle, a "Green (Your Town Here) Day" is coming up! They start as early as October 7 in Snoqualmie and culminate on November 4 in Seattle (and Puyallup too, for you South Sounders). I count 8 participating cities, stretching

from Puyallup to Everett. Where ever you live, please join WNPS and our friends in restoring some landscapes that could use TLC! Check out www.forterra.org and look at their events page!

Green Seattle Day is November 4: If you would like to support Master Native Plant Steward, Phillip Osbourne, please consider joining him, community volunteers and WNPS members from 9 AM – 12 PM at Mee Kwa Mooks Park in West Seattle! Check out www.GreenSeattle.org/get-involved to sign up for this great event, OR check out the list of other Seattle parks hosting events – from Camp Long to Yesler Creek Headwaters – in all quarters of the Emerald City. No experience necessary. Thank you, Phillip, for putting out the Welcome Mat for WNPS members to join you at Mee Kwa Mooks!

It would be great to see our Chapter WNPS members come out en masse to the Green (Your Town Here) Day events throughout the region. Imagine if we all turned out – we'd be an army of restoration volunteers! If you do go, I would love to get some photos (send them to sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com).

Hope to see you at Mee Kwa Mooks, or at any of our member meetings at Mountaineers or Bellevue Botanical Garden this fall!

Slate of Officers July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018:

The CPS Board approved the Slate of Officers for member election. They include:

Chapter Chair: Chrys Bertolotto

Vice Chair: Vacant

Treasurer: Kris Morse

Secretary: Sharon Baker

The election took place on June 1 and the Officers were approved. If you are interested in a vacant board position, such as the Vice Chair, please contact me for more information: Chrys Sacco Bertolotto: 206 588-1247 or Sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com.

Eastside Branch News

By Cheryl Wagner

Upcoming Program:

Pacific Feast: Where the Wild Things Are Delicious!

By Jennifer Hahn

October 10, 2017-- 7pm Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, Aaron Education Center.

Learn from forager, wilderness guide, professor and writer, Jennifer Hahn, about sustainably harvesting a cornucopia of delicious, nutritious seaweeds, wild and weedy greens, berries, and tree tips for enhancing health and table in all seasons. Jennifer will also share her favorite native species for a delicious back yard and her "stewardship guidelines for foragers."

With more than 25 years of wilderness travel under her boots and kayak hull—including through-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail from northern California to Canada and kayaking solo from Ketchikan, Alaska, to Washington—writer Jennifer Hahn relies on wild harvesting to keep her pack and kayak light. Currently she is an adjunct professor at Western Washington University's Fairhaven College teaching courses on northwest wild food and works as a naturalist guide in Alaska, Washington and British Columbia's Inside Passage.

Jennifer holds B.S. from Huxley College of Environmental Studies, Western Washington University, and a B.A. in writing and ecology from WWU's Fairhaven College, at which time she studied with Pulitzer-prize author Annie Dillard and worked at Audubon magazine in New York City. She is currently researching seaweed contaminants in the Salish Sea at Huxley College of the Environment.

Her first book "Spirited Waters: Soloing South Through the Inside Passage" won the Barbara Savage "Miles from Nowhere" award for adventure narrative writing in 2001. In 2003, on behalf of the Washington Commission for the Humanities "Inquiring Mind Lecture Series," she traveled across Washington State speaking and serving up wild edibles for her lecture, "Feasting on Flotsam: Eating Between Tides, Fields, and Forest as Cuisine, Culture, and Ecology." Her second book, "Pacific Feast: A Cook's Guide to West Coast Foraging" with the companion work "Pacific Coast Foraging Guide: 40 Wild Foods from Beach, Field and Forest" (a six-fold, laminated guide) debuted in fall 2010. Pacific Feast made the Best-seller's List for NW INDE BOOKSTORES.

BBG Work Party

September 13 9:00AM-11:00AM
Native Plant Discovery Garden, Weeding and trimming. Bring water, gloves and your favorite gardening tools. Please RSVP to Janka Hobbs at urtica@frontier.com.

Eastside Activity Report

We had an excellent turnout of 48 individuals at the Sammamish Library on Monday, June 5, for Marcia Rivers Smith's presentation of Gardening with Native Plants. 28 folks participated in the

tour of the Lower Commons Native Garden afterwards. Eastside Branch is planning to bring at least one program a year to the City of Sammamish.

The Eastside Branch will take a stronger role helping to manage the Native Discovery Garden at Bellevue Botanical Garden. Monthly work parties are planned under the steady intrepid guidance of lead Janka Hobbs. Next one is September 13. Watch for updates on Facebook/and/or web page regarding time.

Stormwater Stewards in Sammamish have been busy maintaining and watering their pilot stormwater re-wilding project under the guidance of Sharon Steinbis and Jan Bird.

A joint Central and Eastside field trip led by member Richard Ramsden to Tronsen Ridge was outstanding. An amazing diversity of nature's rock wildflower garden was enjoyed by 16 participants.

Field trip on Pacific Crest Trail at Snoqualmie Pass led by Ray Izumi is scheduled August 19, 2017. See details and sign up information on website.

If there are others on the Eastside doing stewardship projects or community classes on native plant topics please email details to me so they can be included in future editions here.

In addition, if you have any questions about the Eastside Branch and its activities and opportunities, contact Cheryl Wagner at javadoq8@yahoo.com

Plant Donations

By Shanna Hobbs

Please consider donating native plants to the WNPS—every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference! Donations of all types are accepted, including potted or unpotted plants. We have willing volunteers who will come salvage plants from your garden if you do not have time yourself. Your donation is incredibly valuable to the WNPS, and helps keep the mission to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants alive.

If you would like to donate, please contact Shanna Hobbs at sraehobbs@gmail.com, or at 559-731-4426. For plant donations, it is helpful to have the name and number of plants you plan to donate. If you plan to drop off plant donations at the nursery, please contact Rick Thompson at 296-715-9540.

Volunteers

Seed Packaging

Thursday, Sept. 14, 6 – 8 PM. Seed packaging for the Plant Sale will take place around a big table at the WNPS Office at Magnuson Park. Volunteers are needed to help pack up seeds and socialize. No special skill set is required. Snacks will be provided. For more information contact Brenda Clifton brenda_clifton@hotmail.com

Bulb Packaging for the Fall Plant Sale!

Bulbs are received and re-packed at the last minute to preserve quality, so the packing party will be Wednesday, October 4 from 6-8 pm. Meet in the upstairs conference room at the Magnuson Park office, 6310 NE 74th St., Seattle. All materials, plus snacks, will be provided. To volunteer or for more information, contact Tom Johnson at tfjohns@u.washington.edu or 206-525-3176.

Restoration Project

Ongoing Urban forest restoration at Lincoln Park in West Seattle

Twice monthly: the first Saturday & third Sunday from 9:00am - 12:00pm (Sun, May 21; Sat, June

3; Sun, June 18) 8011 Fauntleroy Way SW. Meet near the kiosk in the north parking lot (Fauntleroy Way SW and SW Rose St).

Lincoln Park, on the shores of Puget Sound, is a 135 acre park with 80 acres of mature, but invaded forest. The Friends of Lincoln Park have been working, as a part of the Green Seattle Partnership, since 2005 to restore balance in our forest by removing invasive plants and planting natives. We have made very good progress, but we need your help to continue our work and maintain areas we've already placed in restoration. Lincoln has excellent native plant (and bird) diversity, so it's a great opportunity not only to contribute to the health of our community, but also to improve your plant ID skills. Check out our blog at friendsoflincolnpark.blogspot.com.

Contact: Sharon Baker sabaker41@gmail.com or 206-464-1068.

Washington State Fair Opportunity

Here's how to get FREE TICKETS to the Washington State Fair in Puyallup!

Volunteers are needed to work in South Sound chapter's native plants display in the **NW OUTDOORS** building at the Washington State Fair in September. Volunteers will greet fair goers

and assist with periodic maintenance of the displays. The fair runs from September 1st thru September 24th (closed on Sept 5, 6, 12, and 19). For more information, go to www.wnps.org.

If this opportunity interests you, please email Gail Trotter at getrotter@comcast.net and let her know when you would be able to help. Please provide Gail your home address so she can mail you your ticket(s)!

Nursery

Monthly Work Party (Seattle - Magnuson Park)

First Monday of every month, 10:00am - 2:00pm. The Nursery is located at the North end of Magnuson Community Garden.

[Click here](#) for directions.

Learn about our native plants and work to propagate for future planting. We work rain or shine. Volunteers should dress for the weather and bring a snack and water. We will supply gloves and tools. The nursery is north of the Brig next to the fence.

To sign up or get directions, contact:
Rick Thompson at 205-715-9540, or email q.garryana@gmail.com.

We recommend that you check with the Volunteer page on the web, [http://www.wnps.org/cps/Volunteer today](http://www.wnps.org/cps/Volunteer_today) for other opportunities such as Saturday work parties prior to plant sales.

CPS/WNPS State Office in Seattle - Magnuson Park

Ongoing

WNPS Office at Magnuson Park, 6310 NE 74th Street, Suite 215E, Seattle, 98115

The WNPS office in Magnuson Park is always looking for volunteers to provide valuable, "behind-the-scenes" assistance. 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. As a result new friendships have already begun.

Contact Elizabeth Gage at the WNPS office: info@wnps.org or 206-527-3210

Plant of the Month on Vacation: Agaves in Arizona

By Janka Hobbs



In July, I spent a week in Arizona riding along with two botanists, Wendy Hodgson and Andrew Salywon from the Desert Botanical garden in Phoenix, looking at rare agaves associated with

archaeological sites. Why Arizona in July? That's when the Agaves are blooming! (The trip was a fundraiser for Great Old Broads for Wilderness.)

The genus *Agave* probably originated somewhere in Mexico, with current species ranging from the Southwestern US to Northern South America. There are about 200 recognized species and many horticultural forms. Most agaves are monocarpic: each plant rosette only blooms once in its lifetime, usually producing a huge number of seeds, and often leaving several vegetative pups. Despite the common name Century plant, agaves take between a few years to a few decades to amass enough energy to flower. Agaves have extensive ethnobotanical uses: food, fiber, medicine, and alcohol. The remains of agave roasting pits are common around archaeological sites.

On our trip, we saw (at least) five species that are probable domesticates, and two large wild agaves that live in the same areas. The five species that are found associated with archaeological sites reproduce almost exclusively vegetatively (they have very poor seed set; the existing clumps have been in the same place for perhaps hundreds of years.) They have disjunct distributions (or geographically distant close relatives) that would suggest human intervention in their placement. Several of them are often found growing together. They often bloom at different times, in the same

way that modern domestic plants have early and late varieties to extend the season.

From about CE 800 to about CE 1400, the Salt and Gila River valleys were inhabited by people who we refer to as the Hohokam. The Hohokam built extensive irrigation canal systems, and also built small check dams in the hills to gather runoff for upland crops. The modern canal system in Phoenix is based on the remains of the original canals.

Some of my favorite *Agave* trivia from the trip: Although *Agave murpheyi*, (Hohokam agave) which produces bulbils rather than seeds, is only hanging on at a very few sites, the remains of huge fields of it have been found in Southern Arizona. When harvested just before flowering, the roasted core of the rosette (about 6-7 lbs.) is full of nutrients and reportedly delicious.

Agave verdensis (Sacred Mountain agave) is only found at sites near Sacred Mountain in the Verde River basin. Did it have ritual significance that prohibited trade?

Delmetersi, *yavapaiensis* and *philipsiana*, all presumably cultivated, have a higher sugar and nutrient content than *chloantha* or *parryii*, the geographically closest large wild agaves.

Several of the agaves we found did not fit neatly into known species. Are they new? Are they hybrids? Maybe Andrew and his DNA analysis will be able to tell us soon.

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Elizabeth Gage
206-527-3210
info@wnps.org

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 & Volunteer 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

Have you renewed until 6/30/2018?

WNPS is announcing a membership rate increase as of October 1. Your renewal prior to that will be included in Central Puget Sound Chapter's annual rebate that's based on fees. You can renew online!

<http://www.wnps.org/join.html>

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 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.

Social Media Resources

Web page: Central Puget Sound Chapter

<http://www.wnps.org/cps/index3.html>

CPS Facebook page: Washington Native Plant Society, Central Puget Sound Chapter

<https://www.facebook.com/wnps.centralpugetsound/>

For submissions to Facebook page, contact:

Ted Couillard at jtheo25@gmail.com and cc to Jan Bird at birdandcat@aol.com.

Meetup page: Washington Native Plant Society, Central Puget Sound Chapter
<https://www.meetup.com/Washington-Native-Plant-Society/>

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.