

*WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - NORTHEAST CHAPTER*  
*STUDY WEEKEND*  
MAY 19-21, 2017

**FRIDAY:**

**KURT MERG** is a Restoration Ecologist working out to the Spokane Office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. His academic background is in plant animal interactions and he has published on the role of plant polyploidy in plant-pollinator interactions. As part of his role with WDFW, he coordinates the Palouse Prairie Project for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Program. The goal of this program is to increase Palouse Prairie habitat by re-establishing diverse stands of grasses, forbes and shrubs on private land. Kurt also serves on the Channeled Scabland Cooperative Weed Management Area Steering Committee. At our Friday evening welcoming address he will be sharing some of his experiences in combating the notion that Palouse prairie plants are “impossible” to re-establish by adapting traditional agricultural techniques to the special needs of native plants.

**SATURDAY:**

**JACK NESBIT** is a local author, historian, and naturalist who has written several books on the human and natural history of the Columbia Plateau region. He has authored books featuring the life and adventures of David Thompson, one of the first Europeans to explore the Columbia River, and David Douglas who pioneered botanical exploration of the Pacific Northwest. His book *Burning Grass, Singing Sage* focused on the birds, insects, plants and reptiles of the Columbia Basin shrub steppe, dispelling the notion that this semi-arid region as a dry barren wasteland. More recently his book *Ancient Places* weaves together essays on the ice age floods that shaped the channeled scablands, meteorites, fossil beds, traditional native fishing sites, biscuit root, and ants, among other elements of the eastern Washington landscape.

**GENE KIVER** is a professor emeritus in the Geology Department at Eastern Washington University. Gene began his career as a geologist specializing in glacial geology. In the 1970's he was part of a small team of geologists who first mapped the ice caves on the summit of Mt Rainier. Throughout his career at EWU, Gene has been involved in untangling the story of the Ice Age Lake Missoula floods, and was one of the founding members of the Ice Age Floods Institute dedicated to educating the public about the unique geologic history of the Columbia Basin.

As our keynote speakers on Saturday Jack and Gene will present a story of the role of giant fissures in the earth, massive floods, Native American traditions, explorations and invasions by Euro-Americans, introduction of alien plant and animal species, and preservation of ancient flora and traditions that shape the eastern Washington landscape.