

N E W S L E T T E R  
WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
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WHERE WE ARE AND HOW WE GOT THERE

The new organization, WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, is barely five months old and yet has come a good way since its February beginnings. There are now over 100 paid members from all over the state--students, amateurs, professional botanists and institutions, forming a broad spectrum of concern for our native flora. Since our beginnings early this year, a Steering Committee consisting of Ted Anderson (Walla Walla), Joan Canfield (Seattle), Melinda Denton (Seattle), Betty Fitzgerald (Olympia), Judy Kawasaki, (Seattle), Art Kruckeberg (Seattle), Dennis Jablonski (Randle), Margaret and Joe Miller (Bellevue), Brian Mulligan (Kirkland), Marilyn Perks (Seattle), and Harold Wood (Seattle) has met to further the well-being of the organization. By-laws for the organization have been drafted, discussed and revised for eventual ratification. They were accepted by the membership at our first membership meeting last month. The first program meeting (April 23) was very well attended with nearly a hundred in the audience to listen to Professor Ron Taylor of Western Washington State College describe a floral transect across the state. His richly illustrated lecture was a most appropriate beginning for the Society: an enjoyable educational experience. The Steering Committee also organized the Society's first field trip led by Dr. Melinda Denton (U.W.). On Saturday, May 1, a large

turn-out enjoyed perfect weather and a rich floral display in the Cle Elum area and at Vantage on the Columbia River.

OBJECTIVES OF WNPS

It is timely to restate some of the objectives of the WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, especially as some of us will be out among the native plants this summer:

1. Sponsoring of field trips which serve the dual purpose of providing an educational outing as well as familiarizing members with unusual plants in critical areas around the state.
2. Conducting inventories of rare and endangered, or otherwise unusual plants throughout the state.
3. Taking action to save endangered areas through publicity, persuasion or on occasion legal action.
4. Providing expert testimony to government bodies, especially in land use planning on issues concerning the survival of native plants.
5. Establishment of local chapters throughout the state to further all of the above objectives

Through the newsletter and event-ual journal as well as local and state-wide meetings, the Society will foster the exchange of ideas for projects and information on native plants. In a nutshell, our major objectives center around preservation and enjoyment of Washington's native flora. All members are encouraged to submit specific project proposals, articles for publication, and other items of botanical interest, to the officers of WNPS. We are particularly eager to have short articles for the newsletter in the months to come. Subjects for articles could include: botanical history or areas of special interest, particular plant species, horticultural uses of native plants, gardens and other collections of native plants, and so forth.

The Steering Committee has asked a nominating committee to seek nominees for the permanent board of directors. Nominating committee members are Margaret Miller, (Chairman) Bellevue, Brian Mulligan, Kirkland, and Judith Kawasaki, Seattle. They will be seeking a slate of 15 board member nominees from our membership list, to include students, amateurs, and professional botanists. The initial board will be elected on the basis of staggered terms: four one-year terms, three two-year terms, and three three-year terms. It is planned that this ballot will accompany the summer Newsletter.

The Steering Committee is grateful to Mr. Joe Miller who is determining how our Society can become incorporated (Articles of Incorporation) and receive tax-exempt status.

#### STATEMENT OF POLICY ON PLANT COLLECTING

It is perhaps presumptuous of the Steering Committee to make policy at this time, and we refrain from doing so. How-

ever, we do wish to go on record in urging all members to refrain from and to counsel others against collecting native plants promiscuously. Wildflower picking should be particularly frowned upon. The best way to collect is via the camera lens. For those that desire to propagate certain perennials, we urge the collection of seed, or the judicious taking of plant material as cuttings.

#### BY-LAWS FOR MEMBERS

All paid members are entitled to copies of the newly adopted by-laws. These are patterned after those of the California Native Plant Society. Please address requests for the by-laws to A. R. Kruckeberg, Botany Department, University of Washington, Seattle, 98195.

#### SUMMER PROGRAM

This is the season for field trips. Two are scheduled for the summer, one on the west side and one east of the Cascade Mts. In early June, (Saturday, June 19), we will stalk the elusive golden Chinquapin. As the accompanying article indicates, this plant's whereabouts in the state are still something of a mystery. Of the two localities recorded in the past, the one on the east side of the Olympics will make a good early summer field trip. The trip will be all day Saturday, with the possibility of an overnight stay and Sunday hike on the Mt. Townsend or Mt. Jupiter trail. On Saturday, we will meet at 10:00 a.m., at Eldon on U.S. Hiway 101 between Quilcene and Hoodport and scour the Hamma Hamma River and Jorsted Creek areas looking for colonies of the golden Chinquapin.

The second field trip will be at Harts Pass at the head of the Methow Valley in the North Cascades. Write or call Art Kruckeberg after July 1 for details. Undoubtedly, other opportunities for field

trips with members will develop spontaneously. The enclosed list of members should help in forming parties for outings. We would particularly encourage WNPS members to keep checklist records of plants they see and areas visited this summer, making a special note of unusual plant occurrences. Also, it would be timely to visit those parts of the state which are under scrutiny for wilderness status or threatened by habitat modification. In the former category, the Cougar Lakes Wilderness proposal will be getting serious review by the Forest Service in the coming months. We would hope that a number of our members would make trips into the Cougar Lakes area and report on the quality and diversity of its flora.

#### NEW CHAPTERS OF WNPS

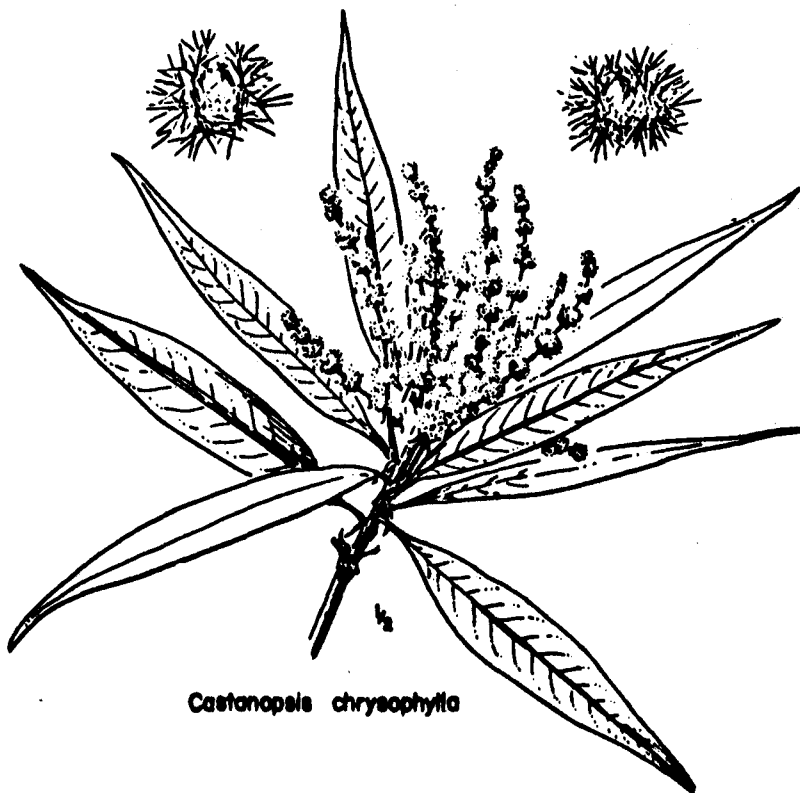
If the WNPS is to be a successful statewide organization, it must have strong and active local chapters. Obviously it is much too early to have seen a development of local chapters at this time. Only one exists as far as we know: The University of Washington Student Chapter, under the auspices of the Associated Students. The by-laws of WNPS contain a substantial section on the founding and operation of chapters. We encourage the organization of local chapters as soon as possible. All it takes is 10 paying members and a willingness to adhere to the objectives of the Society through its by-laws. Local chapters can do much to further the knowledge of their local flora and provide valuable information towards the statewide compilation of locality records of the state's flora. Local chapters are vital to the success of this organization.

#### A FEATURED NATIVE--Chrysolepis chrysophylla, 'Golden Chinquapin'

The June Field Trip for the WNPS will focus on the present distribution, population size, vitality and habitat status of this rare Washingtonian. Our botanical friends in Oregon and California might find our preoccupation with 'Golden Chinquapin' a bit amusing, since it is so common in parts of those two states. But in Washington it is known from only very restricted localities, one on the Columbia River and the other in the Hood Canal region of western Washington. We will hope to determine more clearly the extent of its occurrence in the Hood Canal area.

A word about the plant itself. Golden Chinquapin is an evergreen small tree or large shrub in the Fagaceae (Oak Family). For those of us in the west, it serves as substitute for chestnut (*Castanea* spp.). Its narrow, dark green leathery leaves have a soft golden hue on their lower surfaces, made by tiny gold scales. In fruit, the chinquapin closely resembles the bur of the edible chesnut: the 3-angled shiny, light brown nut is enclosed by a spiny 4-valved bur. Male flowers are tiny, clustered in creamy white spike-like catkins. In full bloom, the tree is quite handsome. The somewhat musky, even seminal (to Donald Culross Peattie) odor of the flowers may be slightly offensive to some people. The equally tiny female flowers develop fully two years before reaching the first-size bur stage at maturity; they are located at the base of the male spikes.

The limited distribution of the plant is our primary interest, coupled with the prospect of exploring a seldom-visited botanical area. The present distribution of Chrysolepis chrysophylla suggests that it reaches its northern limit in Oregon, with only two outlier



*Castanopsis chrysophylla*

Golden Chinquapin

populations in Washington beyond its northern occurrence. Plants at the limits of their ranges are of special interest to botanists. First, their hereditary potential is likely to differ from those individuals or populations in the center of the range of a species. They may have different environmental tolerances, less potential diversity, or other genetically fixed traits. For Northwesterners, a northern race of chinquapin may prove to be hardier in gardens here than specimens from further south. Chinquapin is

a fine garden plant and the northern populations should be tested for their horticultural value here.

Given the restricted distribution of this plant in Washington, it is imperative to remind ourselves that digging of plants or excessive collecting of seed and material for cuttings must be avoided. Careful and limited collection of material for propagation should be made only by those who have the means to successfully propagate this difficult-to-establish plant.

A note on the plant's name. Many will know the 'golden chinquapin' as Castanopsis chrysophylla. However, a Swedish botanist, Hjelmqvist, judged that this and its related species, the shrubby Sierran C. sempervirens, were out of place in either Castanopsis or Castanea (true chestnut). Staff at Kew Gardens in England have concurred with Hjelmqvist's assigning our western chinquapins to the new genus, Chrysolepis (the name means 'golden scale'). Chinquapin, as far as I can determine, is an Indian name from the eastern United States, where it is applied to a species of oak as well as the shrubby chestnut (Castanea pumila).

Mr. Ed Tisch, botanist at Peninsula Community College, Port Angeles has reconnoitered the Hood Canal locality quite recently. He reports that our chinquapin can still be found in the Jorsted Creek drainage. But he also observed that the plants were not healthy and perhaps in danger of extinction. It is then most timely that the WNPS learn more about this rare Washingtonian. It was Brian Mulligan, eminent plantsman and emeritus Director of the University of Washington Arboretum who suggested that the WNPS take on this field survey.

ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES:  
A LARGE-SCALE REVIEW

During the second week of May, the New York Botanical Garden held a symposium on "Threatened and Endangered Species of Plants in the Americas and their significance in Ecosystems Today and in the Future." Joan E. Canfield, a member of WNPS and graduate student in Botany at UW, attended this meeting with funding from the UW Arboretum Foundation. Over 150 botanists and other interested persons took part in talks on the extent of the endangered species problem in 15 countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Botanists from the tropics emphasized the problems of massive logging and clearing for agriculture. Several Caribbean countries have virtually no native forests because of such extensive exploitation by the rapidly growing human population. Local governments in the tropics are barely beginning to look favorably on efforts to save a part of the native vegetation and protect economically important species (orchids, for example) from over-exploitation.

The situation in this country is somewhat better. This summer, the Interior Department will implement legislation to protect about 700 endangered plant species in the United States. Most of the initiative for saving rare plants must come from individual states, rather than the federal government, however. In Washington, the WNPS can be the single most important organization in finding out more about the status of our threatened flora and influencing local authorities to preserve endangered habitats.

Our Society's crucial role in this area merits further discussion of the endangered species "movement". The next edition of this newsletter will feature a more extensive article concerning the Endangered Plant Symposium and its recommendations for local activity concerning threatened plants.

A CONTEST--NAME THE SOCIETY'S  
NEWSLETTER!

There is a rich goldmine of possible names for our new newsletter; "The Kinnikinnik," "Douglasia", "The Washington Botanist" are three that come to mind. Members of the WNPS can draw upon Indian lore, plant names, history of Washington botany, geography, and other facets of Washington flora for a name. Other societies have chosen such colorful names

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as TORREYA, FREMONTIA, EL ALISO, MADRONO, CASTANEA, to name a few. Thus, a contest seems in order! Members are invited to send candidate names, as many as you like, to Art Kruckeberg, Botany Department, University of Washington, Seattle 98195. A "Newsletter Naming Contest Committee" will make the final selection of 3-5 candidate names to be voted on by the membership. The prizes will include one copy of Hitchcock and Cronquist's "Flora of the Pacific Northwest", a hand lens, and a native plant for the garden.