

The Potent Teller

Newsletter of the Salal Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society
serving Northern Snohomish, Skagit and Island Counties

December 2009

Issue 4-09

SALAL CHAPTER MEETINGS

NOTE: the new meeting place is **Lewis Hall, room 57** at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon. See map on the back. Contact: Susan Alaynick, 360-659-8792 for more information.

Saturday, December 5 – Salal Chapter Meeting, 10 am. The program will be by **Glen Alexander**, Education Coordinator at the **Padilla Bay National Estuary Reserve**. He will discuss the native and non-native grasses found in the area, including the unwanted Spartina.

The December meeting will also be the annual **election of officers** for the chapter. Be ready with your nominations/volunteers.

Saturday, January 2 – **NO MEETING**

Saturday, February 6 – Salal Chapter Meeting, 10 am. The program will be on **insects in Washington forests**. This is a very important topic, as our forests are already being impacted by insect predation. Our speaker will be the Department of Natural Resources entomologist, **Glenn Kohler**.

A WINTER FIELD TRIP

A winter field trip, Sunday afternoon, **January 17**. Depending on the weather, we will try some winter identification of plants at several sites along **Chuckanut Drive**. Timing: roughly 12:30 pm to 4. For details, call Jim Duemmel, 360-733-3448.

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

On Saturday, November 14th, Louise Brissey, Pam Pritzl, Christine Kitch and Nancy Chapman worked hard to get the Propagation Area prepared for winter. Tables were put on their sides to form cages to keep our collection of native plants protected against high wind, frost, and rabbits.

Others were busy in the display garden. Rich Bergner did his annual Fall pruning of the many shrubs and trees that were starting to grow out of bounds. Stella Rolph had a surplus of *Aster subspicatus* in her Sunny Glade and we redistributed some of these plants to other appropriate locations.

The active time of the year for our Native Plant Garden has come to an end. We have a few new members: Brenda Cunningham, who adopted the Meadow Area, and Christine Kitch, who likes to give her energy where-ever help is needed. Roar Irgens, one of the initial participants in the creation of the Native Plant Project, retired from his Mountain Plants part of the garden, but remains active as a member of the Finance Committee.

At times the question arises what we do with “all that money” we make with our annual plant sale. Some of it is used to engage a young gardener who helps us with general tasks in the display garden. As was mentioned in the previous newsletter, some of our proceeds will again be used for scholarships to deserving students of Skagit Valley College. On November 9th, Judy Chapman, our liaison with the College’s Financial Aid Office, called a meeting with Norman Ainslie, Roar Irgens, Pat Youngman, and Marianne Kooiman to review the applications. After lengthy discussions we decided to limit the number of scholarships to two as we were not comfortable selecting a third recipient based on the information we had received. Each of the

two students selected will receive a \$500 scholarship that can be used towards tuition, fees, and/or books.

We have decided to take a break and not have any “official” work parties through December and January. When the weather is favorable and we have particular tasks on hand, we will contact our members by email.

Time-out to plan for next year and order seeds and plants. And in the meantime we are looking for one or more volunteers who would like to help with, what we continue to call, Roar’s Mountain Plants. Please contact me at eyrie@cnw.com if you are interested.

Marianne Kooiman

WNPS 2010 CALENDAR

Our 2010 Native Plants of Washington Calendar offers a whole new year of floral splendor. WNPS members have helped us produce an outstanding calendar of images

If you want to buy online go to www.wnps.org and look for the Calendar link under “What’s New”.

Each calendar is just \$10.00, plus \$2.00 for shipping (one flat rate of \$2.00 shipping even for multiple calendar orders). So buy one for yourself and some for family and friends.

Calendars will be available at our December chapter meeting. We keep half the price for the chapter.

The Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) is dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants of Washington and to the education of the public on the values of native flora and its habitat.

WNPS is an affiliate of Earth Share of Washington.

Salal Chapter Officers

Chairman: **Susan Alaynick** (360-659-8792)

Treasurer: **Norman Ainslie** (360-293-1967)

Secretary:

Chapter Botanist:

Visit our website at www.wnps.org/salal

The Potent Teller is issued four times yearly on the first of March, June, September and December. Direct submissions to: Susan Alaynick, 13625 11th Ave. NE, Marysville, WA 98271 (360-659-8792) s_alaynick@hotmail.com. Next deadline: February 15, 2010.

Back issues are available from the Editor for the cost of photocopying. Thank you to charter chairman **Art Kermoade** for compiling the *Potent Teller* archives.

Please direct address changes to Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE 74th St, Suite 215E, Seattle, WA 98115, 206-527-3210 or call toll free 1-888-288-8022 or email wnps@wnps.org.

SALAL CHAPTER ONLINE

The Salal Chapter maintains an email list of our members so we can send out timely notice of events between issues of the *Potent Teller*. If you’d like to be included or removed from the list, email s_alaynick@hotmail.com.

You can receive the Potent Teller via email (you’ll get to see the pictures in color)! If you’d like to receive the newsletter in PDF format instead of paper, email s_alaynick@hotmail.com.

WNPS Membership Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Email: _____

Membership Category:

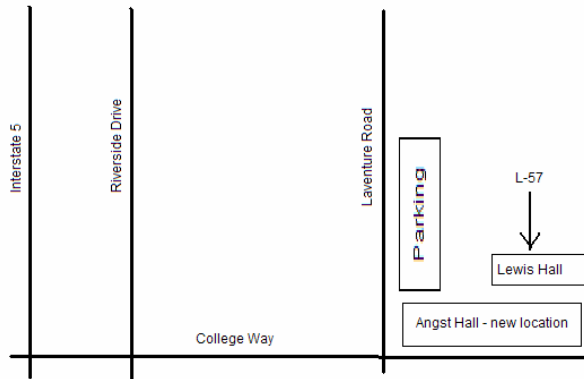
Budget \$15
 Individual Rate \$25
 Family Membership \$35
 Club/Institution \$50
 WNPS Friend \$51-99
 WNPS Special Friend \$100-499
 WNPS Best Friend \$500-999
 WNPS Sustaining Member \$1000
 WNPS Patron \$5000

Local Chapter

___ Central Puget Sound (Seattle) ___ Palouse (Pullman)
 ___ Central Washington (Yakima) ___ Salal (Skagit Valley)
 ___ Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities) ___ San Juan Islands
 ___ Koma Kulshan (Bellingham) ___ South Sound (Olympia)
 ___ NE Washington (Spokane) ___ Suksdorfia (Vancouver)
 ___ Okanogan ___ Wenatchee Valley
 ___ Olympic Peninsula ___ At Large

Dues year begins on March 21. Please make checks payable **WNPS**
 and mail to Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE 74th St, Suite 215E, Seattle, WA 98115.

**Location of Salal Chapter WNPS monthly meeting
 Lewis Hall Room 57 - Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon**



WNPS-SALAL Chapter
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TIME VALUE MAIL

