Meet the Nominees for the four open WNPS Board of Directors Positions
(for 3-year terms beginning in October 2019)

Don Hardin

Don Hardin first became interested in native plants while working summers in the rugged mountains west of Yakima during the late 1980’s. Winters volunteer work in multiple Oregon State Parks afforded him experience in a wide variety of native plant habitats.

Moving to the wildflower rich area of White Salmon in the 1990’s, he hooked up with several amateur and professional botanists who were interested in reviving the former Suksdorfia Chapter of WNPS. He became the chapter president, a position held for five years. Under his leadership the chapter began offering multiple programs and hiking opportunities (including events targeted at native plant identification, control of invasive weeds, rare care surveys and education, and native plant gardening). The chapter grew steadily to its present strength of well over 100 members.

Don was also active in WNPS at the state level—the WNPS board, Conservation Committee, development of the expanded WNPS Stewardship program, and being one of the key coordinators for 2018 Study Weekend.

Currently he enjoys going out hiking, watching for people interested in the flowers they are seeing, then sharing information and using the contact to stimulate interest in the native plant society and its activities.

Don is interested in working on the WNPS board to continue comprehensive strategic planning, programs to stimulate member involvement and participation, and growth and viability of its many chapters, including crucial support to chapters for increasing leadership recruitment and sustainability.
Nina Kidd

Nina Kidd has been passionate about the natural world since a child living between Northern California and Norway. As a teen, her curiosity pushed her to learn the names of plants and animals she saw while hiking. This passion drove her to earn her BS from Humboldt State University in Ecology, Wildlife Management and Natural Resource Planning and Interpretation. Her early career revolved around museum curation and education, working with children to inspire a love of the natural world. Her path then led her to consulting where she started a firm with her husband providing resource planning.

Her firm’s primary clients include utility companies and federal agencies, including the Department of Defense. She is the driving force behind her company’s choices in projects and clients to ensure they align with her company’s goals and ethics. She has been working closely with agency personnel for two decades, ensuring projects adhere to the most prudent avoidance measures feasible.

As an amateur botanist, she is still learning the flora of the Pacific Northwest, however she is passionate about educating people on the value of natural habitats and incorporating native plants into their landscaping as well as raising awareness of how plants are the foundation to a healthy ecosystem for wildlife and people. While living in drought-stricken southern California, she converted her front yard to a native garden and inspired her neighbors to do the same.

She has been volunteering with the Salal Chapter of WNPS since she moved to Anacortes in 2017, cherishing working with her son and other members in the native garden at the WSU Discovery Garden. She has also begun volunteering with the Rare Care program through UW.
Josh Morris

Josh is the urban conservation manager at Seattle Audubon. Avian conservation overlaps importantly with native plant conservation. By joining the WNPS board, Josh hopes to strengthen relationships between the two organizations and foster partnerships with the potential to advance multiple conservation objectives.

Before joining Seattle Audubon, Josh worked with The Nature Conservancy in California as a project scientist assessing the vulnerability of coastal habitats to sea level rise. He returned to Washington in 2018 and now serves on Seattle’s Urban Forestry Commission and the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict Steering Committee. In his free time, he leads interpretive walks through Seattle Parks as a Seattle Urban Nature Guide.

A bit of an introvert, Josh has always appreciated how quiet plants are. When he started birding, Josh appreciated that at least the plants never flew away from him. Now he especially appreciates their diversity, complexity, and the opportunities for lifelong learning their study presents.
Gail Sklar

Gail Sklar moved to Washington in 2015 from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area after retiring after 44 years as an educator. Although she is relatively new to Washington, Gail can bring a strong background to the Board of Directors. In 2016 Gail enrolled in our Tacoma Native Plant Steward class and in 2016 took her training and became a Natural Area Steward for China Lake Park in Tacoma. Gail also became very active in the South Sound Chapter.

In 2018, she became not only Chair of the Native Plant Appreciation Week efforts for the South Sound Chapter but also for Washington Native Plant Society at the state level. On the South Sound Board, she is also serving as the South Sound's Chapter Speaker and Program Chair.

Promoting native plants is not new to Gail. While living in the east, Gail worked to remove invasive plants and replace them with natives on her two-acre property, while encouraging her neighbors to do the same. As a Penn State Master Gardener and now a WSU Master Gardener, she helps her neighbors identify invasive plants, and replace them with our natives. In her 2 years and 7 months as Native Plant Steward/Natural Area Steward, she leads work parties every month and bakes cookies for her volunteers at China Lake Park. More people visit the park now and thank her for her work and complement the improved condition of the park.