

# The Native Plant Press

The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS

Vol 19, No 3, April 2018

## Chapter Meeting Thursday, April 5 at 7:00 PM Mountaineers Program Center

### Call for Volunteers – CPS needs your Help! April 28 Spring Plant Sale

**Volunteers are vital to the success of this fundraising event.**

Volunteering at this event is also a great way to hang out with native plant enthusiasts and learn from plant experts.

There are tasks for every skill level and physical ability, including pre-sale preparation projects and sale day activities.

On the days before the sale, we need to prep plants at the CPS nursery *and* plants purchased from commercial nurseries. For the former, two nursery work parties (one on 4/2 and the other on 4/16) await volunteers to do the weeding, pruning and labeling. For the latter, we need to bundle plant labels with their corresponding price sticks and sort the bundles by nurseries. If interested, please use the contact below for locations, dates and times.



On the Thursday (4/26) before the sale, volunteers are needed in the afternoon at the nursery to load plants and other equipment onto the U-Haul destined for Mercerdale Park.

On the Friday (4/27) before the sale, we need to get the site ready for tomorrow's big day. Volunteers can help with following tasks: unload the U-Haul truck, prep display tables, insert labels/price sticks into potted plants as they come delivered by commercial nurseries, moving plants from loading docks to display tables or floors, and more.

On the sale day, volunteers are needed to finish setting up, provide assistance to customers and help with the tear down. Assistance to customers consists of answering questions, pointing them to plant experts, holding their plants while they continue shopping, tallying their shopping cart before the checkout line, and helping them load plants into their cars.

Refreshments will be provided to volunteers on both Friday (4/27) and Saturday (4/28) as a token of our sincere appreciation. For more information, contact [annmarten@comcast.net](mailto:annmarten@comcast.net) or Elizabeth Gage at [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org)

### More About the Spring Native Plant Sale

Time: 10am - 4pm WNPS Members can start shopping, at 9:00am.

Place: Mercerdale Park, 77th Ave. and 32nd St., Mercer Island, WA, where there is plenty of free parking.

*This spring's theme is "Making your yard habitat friendly with native plants".*

You will find the largest local selection of beautiful native trees, shrubs, perennials, and ground covers for sale -- ideal for Western Washington gardens and vitally important for our birds and pollinators.

Native plant experts will dispense gardening advice and answer your questions about native plants. Our past environmental fair participants have included organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation,

Bats Northwest, King County Noxious Weeds, Audubon and more. We have also had Flora and Fauna Books selling native plant and nature books.

Proceeds from this event benefit WNPS-CPS and its education programs. For more information, please contact Yen Flanagin at [yen.flanagin@yahoo.com](mailto:yen.flanagin@yahoo.com) or the Washington Native Plant Society at 206-527-321 or visit our website at <https://www.wnps.org/cps/plantsale>

## Programs

### April Program: Natural History and Nature's Future

Thursday, April 5, 7:00 pm, Mountaineers Program Center

By Daniel Mathews



Daniel Mathews will start with highlights from his 2017 book, *Natural History of the Pacific Northwest Mountains*. He will then preview the book he's currently working on — *Trees In Trouble: Western Landscapes At Risk*. In this book, Daniel attempts to answer some questions that many of us have been asking ourselves: how is our beloved natural world going to change in a changing climate? How green will it still be after 30 more years of megafires and insect epidemics? What policies offer any prospect of protecting forest integrity from the inevitable effects accompanying climate change?

Daniel Mathews is a science writer probably best known, around here, for his book, *Cascade-Olympic Natural History*. At North Cascades National Park, backcountry rangers call it, The Bible. He has also had a hand in several other well-known, broad-coverage field guides, including one guide to things you can see from a jetliner window. Aside from books, he has written interpretive signs for nature parks and has worked as a naturalist-guide on cruise ships and on backpacking trip seminars organized by the North Cascades Institute. For parts of two summers he served as fire lookout at Desolation Peak. He currently lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife Sabrina. *Trees in Trouble* is due out for publication next year.

Refreshments, Public Invited, Free

Program produced by Sharon Baker and Shelley Evans

### Native Plant Identification Workshop – Westside meetings only

By Nelson Salisbury, Chapter Botanist

A free plant identification workshop is offered before each Westside Chapter meeting at 6:00 PM. The workshop is oriented primarily toward beginners, but anyone who wants to work on improving keying skills or their familiarity with the northwest flora is welcome. Bring samples of unknown plants in for identification or we'll have material and tools if you come empty-handed.

### Eastside Program The Prairies of Western Washington

Tuesday, April 10, 7:00pm, Bellevue Botanical Garden, Aaron Education Center.

By Dr. Jon Bakker



The prairies of western Washington are an unexpected surprise in an area renowned for its trees. Dr. Jon Bakker will review their history, importance, and current status, illustrate current restoration practices, and highlight some fascinating elements of their ecology.

Jon Bakker is the David R. M. Scott Associate Professor in the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences at the University of Washington. His research focuses on the restoration and management of terrestrial ecosystems, including prairies, shrublands, and forests. His teaching includes restoration ecology, statistics, and native plant production.

Refreshments, Free, Public invited.

Program produced by Cheryl Wagner

## Upcoming Programs

**BGG** indicates Bellevue Botanical Garden; **MTR** indicates Mountaineers Headquarters.

**BGG** April 10: Dr. Jon Bakker: *The Prairies of Western Washington*.

**MTR** May 3: Frederica Bowcutt: *The Tanoak: An Environmental History of a Pacific Coast Hardwood*.

**BGG** June 12: Julie O'Donald presents: *Birds in Our Midst: Creating Gardens Filled with Life*.

## Reports from Board Members

### The Central Puget Sound Chapter Facebook Page

By Ted Couillard

Since the time I've stepped down as CPS Board secretary, I moved to a member-at-large position, fulfilling the role of Digital Media Coordinator, which mainly means I run the Chapter Facebook page. I started the WNPS CPS Facebook page in 2016, and have been slowly growing and managing it since. This was a process of both adding content (web postings and pictures) and, at first, directly cultivating "likes" from people whom I think will appreciate the site. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work," thus I began to recruit various people in the native plant community to be page editors, allowing them to provide content at their discretion. The beauty of this is not merely the distribution of workload, but the variety of inputs and viewpoints it provides.

By the time Jan Bird moved into her position as Publicity Chair, our chapter Facebook page had over 1000 likes with a strong local following, so it was ready to fulfil its capacity to provide a crucial communication platform for announcing our chapter events. Jan does nearly all official chapter postings at this point. Most of my work for the page as of late is sharing content I run across on the internet, typically involving either local new stories, or interesting things from the natural world, and not always dealing with plants. These post-shares keep the page flowing with traffic providing additional "organic reach" when it comes to WNPS CPS advertising.

As successful as the page has been so far, I think there is always room for more of our voices there. Many of us have smartphones, and it is very easy to capture images of local flora or fauna and share your insights, practically in real time, on the page. Even without a smartphone, any computer access, and perhaps your own digital images are all you would need to provide content for the page. If you are interested in becoming a page editor, please contact me at [jtheo25@gmail.com](mailto:jtheo25@gmail.com). If you simply have a one-time submission, you could send that to the same address. Spring has officially sprung as I write this and I look forward to seeing what new content members can bring to the page in this time of flowering and rebirth.

### Eastside Branch News

By Cheryl Wagner

Stewart Hougen presented his workshop February 13 on "Identification of Common Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens" to a group of very interested, enthusiastic folks at Bellevue Botanical Gardens. He, along with his team of Mountaineer colleagues, brought trays of a multitude of collected varied mosses, lichens and liverworts for us to survey and distinguish their varying characteristics. Time went too fast for all of us; perhaps next year a moss workshop half day might be possible.

Our field trip the next Saturday had to be cancelled due to a wind rain storm—not safe to be out in the forest with flying tree limbs. Stewart graciously invited those interested to sign up with the Mountaineers field trip the next weekend for a moss adventure.

Thanks again to Stewart and his Mountaineers Naturalist's Study Group.

## Field Trips



### "Savannah Plants' Bloom Time and Their Butterfly Partners' Flight Time" Oak Patch Natural Area Preserve

**Date: Saturday, April 21**

**Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm from Seattle**

**at the site: 10:30am - 3:30pm**

**Trip Leader: Stewart Wechsler**

Trip limit: 12

With some of Western Washington's driest growing conditions and at the edge of a lake, Oak Patch Lake's natural area preserve has some of western Washington's rarest plants and some of the best butterfly habitat in this bioregion. While Cascades butterflies' preference for sun often confines them to sunlit openings and edges of our forests, the glacial outwash Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) savannah has both sunnier habitat and a diversity of the "host plants" on which butterflies lay their eggs. Oak Patch Lake is also home to other species that have become locally rare, such as the western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas a.k.a. Bufo boreas*), as well as the savannah's striking wildflowers.

*WNPS plant identification workshop leader Stewart Wechsler started his plant studies by studying the plants on which butterflies rely. He has also studied the full range of plants, animals and fungi, and will share his knowledge about the inter-relationships between plants and the rest of the community of organisms.*

**Trail description:** Flat. Please note there is no water and no bathroom facilities.

**What to bring:** Water, hand lens and binoculars

**Contact info and directions :** Rio Montana, [riodelmontana@yahoo.com](mailto:riodelmontana@yahoo.com) 206-430-5562



### Shrub-steppe Wildflowers and Wind Power

**Location: Puget Sound Energy's Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility**

**Date: Saturday, May 12, 2018**

**Time: 9:00am - 6:00pm from Issaquah P&R**

**at the site 11:00am - 4:00pm**

**Trip Leader: Ron Bockelman**

Trip Limit: 12

As a follow-up to Mike Marsh's presentation at the March 1 meeting on vegetation of the shrub-steppe, Ron Bockelman will lead a field trip to Wild Horse wind farm east of Ellensburg. This wind farm is sandwiched between the Quilomene and Whiskey Dick wildlife areas that were the subject of Mike's talk.

We will explore spring vegetation in both the shallow rocky (lithosol) and deeper soil sagebrush habitats that Mike discussed. Time permitting, we will walk these habitats at two different elevations to compare and contrast which species are flowering. A vernal pond and an open Ponderosa pine woodland are other habitats that will provide additional species to observe. We will also stop by PSE's Renewable Energy Center (aka visitor center), where restrooms and drinks are available.

The terrain we will walk is relatively gentle, but many areas are quite rocky, so sturdy shoes are recommended. Dress appropriately for windy conditions and the associated wind chill factor. Bring your own lunch and your PSE Recreation Access Permit, which is required and available for free online (click [here](#)).

Ron became familiar with Wild Horse while monitoring environmental permit compliance during the wind farm construction in 2006 and its expansion in 2009. Since then he has made over 50 trips to photo-

document the plants growing there. Ron has participated in PSE's spring wildflower walks since 2010, frequently volunteering as a botanist to identify non-flowering or new plants that are found.

Meet at 9:00am at the Issaquah P&R. Ron has some room in his car, so call him if you need a ride.  
Contact: [ron.bockelman@hotmail.com](mailto:ron.bockelman@hotmail.com),  
425-501-9569 (text message preferred).

## The WNPS Native Plant Nursery

*By Rick Thompson*

The Native Plant Nursery is located in Magnuson Park, near the WNPS office. The nursery maintains an inventory of plants that are offered for sale at one of the annual WNPS plant sales.

**Volunteer:** The nursery hosts a regular monthly work party on the first Monday of the month from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Additional work parties are scheduled on an as-needed basis, and are announced on the chapter web page and via the nursery volunteer group email list maintained by the nursery volunteer lead, George Macomber.

**Donations:** The nursery is happy to accept donations of your native plants, 3"-6" propagation pots, containers, and flats. Bring your donations to a chapter meeting or drop them off at the nursery. All donations will be put to good use.

If you are interested in information regarding donations, training opportunities, or volunteering at the nursery please contact Rick Thompson at [g.garryana@gmail.com](mailto:g.garryana@gmail.com) or 206-715-9540.

## Volunteers

### Spring Education Activities

If you're a new Native Plant Steward needing to earn volunteer hours for WNPS, or you love talking to people about native plants, or you're just an environmental junkie, opportunities abound for you share the WNPS mission and have fun at the same time.

**Here are upcoming events for which we need volunteers.** Please contact Education Chair, Franja Bryant ([franjabryant@hotmail.com](mailto:franjabryant@hotmail.com)) or Elizabeth Gage ([info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org)) if you're ready to help.

#### **Bellevue - Saturday, April 21**

##### **Earth Day/Arbor Day, Lewis Creek Park,**

5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE

10:00 – 2:00. Family event. Involves talking with adults and playing native plant game with kids.

#### **Maple valley - Saturday, April 21**

##### **Open House,**

Lake Wilderness Arboretum

22520 SW 248<sup>th</sup>

10:00 – 2:00. Family event. Involves talking to adults about WNPS and native plants.

#### **Shoreline - Saturday, April 21**

##### **Earth Day Every Day,**

Central Market,

15505 Westminster Way N., Shoreline

8:00 – 3:00. Family event. Involves talking to adults about WNPS. Possibly playing an already prepared game with kids. Includes canopy set up & take down. 2-3 hr shifts if enough people sign up.

#### **Mercer Island - Saturday, April 28**

##### **CPS Plant Sale,**

Mercerdale Park,

7701 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Mercer Island

9:00 – 4:00 (2-3 hour shifts). Involves talking with adults about WNPS and native plants.

**Tukwila – Saturday, May, 12****Backyard Wildlife Festival,**

Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S. Tukwila

9:00 – 4:00. (2-3 hours shifts). Family event. Involves interacting with adults and children. Game and passport for kids (already prepared). Fun event. Lots of other booths and entertainment.

**Work Party****taqwsheblu Vi Hilbert Ethnobotanical Garden****Friday, April 6 at Seattle University**

10:00 am to 1:00pm

“The Earth is our First Teacher”

The Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society has formed a partnership with Seattle University. The partnership is focused learning from and caring for the Vi Hilbert Ethnobotanical Garden on the SU campus.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR THIRD WORK PARTY AT THE SU ETHNOBOTANY GARDEN**

We will be removing invasive plants and planting native plants. If you would like to take part, contact Sharon Baker ([sabaker41@gmail.com](mailto:sabaker41@gmail.com) or 206 464 1068). I will send you detailed instructions, including tools, parking and public transportation. Let me know if you need parking validation.

The taqwsheblu Vi Hilbert Ethnobotanical Garden is 11,500 square feet and is organized in four biomes, representing the major ecological areas of the Pacific Northwest including alpine, lowland forest, wetland and prairie. The garden is designed to help visitors learn more about how the First People of the Puget Sound co-existed with their environment, using the plants for food, medicine, and materials for building, carving, weaving, fishing and ritual activities.

As the plaque at the entrance to the garden says: “Where Seattle University stands, once a forest stood. In and around this forest people and plants lived closely together for many centuries before the city of Seattle was established. This garden invites you to learn more about this intimate, sustainable relationship and encourages you to cultivate your own relationship with our native plants.”

**Plant of the Month: *Paxistima myrsinites*- Oregon Box**

By Janka Hobbs

Also spelled Pachystima or Pachistima, Oregon box is a small shrub in the Celstraceae. The other Washington natives in that family are *Euonymus occidentalis* (Western wahoo), an uncommon shrub found in Southwestern WA, and the parnassias (grasses of Parnassus, of which we have three species.) There is one other member of the genus *Paxistima*, *P. canbyi*, which is an uncommon shrub native to the Appalachians.

*P. myrsinites* is found in moderate to dry sites, mostly at middle elevations, throughout the west from BC and Alberta south to New Mexico. [Another common name is mountain lover.] A distinct subspecies grows in subalpine areas in north central Mexico.

Deer, elk, moose and grouse browse on *P. myrsinites*. Sheep find it palatable, but it is not considered prime livestock fodder. The greens are gathered for the florist trade; in some areas it has become rare due to overharvesting. Oregon box increases after logging, and can survive moderate fires, so long as the rootstock is unburned. Because of its tough, leathery leaves, it is fairly resistant to herbicides.

*P. myrsinites* is also a choice garden plant. It can be trimmed into a low, formal hedge, or used as a specimen shrub. While its tiny red flowers are not stop-the-car showy, they contrast nicely with the dark green leaves, and are well worth a close examination.

## Native Plant Appreciation Week

Governor Jay Inslee has proclaimed the week of April 22-28 as Native Plant Appreciation Week, and Chapters, Nurseries, other organizations, parks and agencies all over the State will be celebrating. Numerous programs, field trips and hands-on activities will help make the public aware of the value of native plants. The theme this year is "Explore Washington's Treasure," and as you can see from the many programs, field trips and volunteer opportunities in this newsletter, and especially the Spring Plant Sale, the Central Puget Sound Chapter has plenty to offer.

## WNPS and CPS Contact Information

### WNPS Office

Denise Mahnke, WNPS Business Manager,  
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 Elizabeth Gage, WNPS Office & Volunteer  
 Coordinator, [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org)  
 Phone: (206)527-3210  
 Monday – Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm daily.

### Membership

#### Membership Rates as of November 1, 2017

Individual Membership: \$40  
 Family Membership: \$55  
 Club or Organization Membership: \$75  
 Budget Membership: \$20  
 Student: \$20 (name of institution \_\_\_\_\_)

### 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](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WNPS_DiscussionGroup/info) and hit the "Join" button, or send an email to [wnps\\_discussiongroup\\_subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wnps_discussiongroup_subscribe@yahoogroups.com). It only takes a couple of minutes!

### Social Media Resources

**Web page:** Central Puget Sound Chapter  
<http://www.wnps.org/cps/index3.html>

#### CPS Facebook page:

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

For submissions to Facebook page, contact:  
 Ted Couillard at [jtheo25@gmail.com](mailto:jtheo25@gmail.com) and cc to  
 Jan Bird at [birdandcat@aol.com](mailto:birdandcat@aol.com).

#### Meetup page:

<https://www.meetup.com/Washington-Native-Plant-Society/>

**Electronic Newsletter Option:** Get the newsletter online and save a stamp! To switch, contact Elizabeth at [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org).

**Newsletter Submission:** The deadline for the newsletter is the first Thursday of the preceding month. Send submissions to the editor: Rick Bergman: [rickbergman@comcast.net](mailto:rickbergman@comcast.net)  
 Phone: 206-372-9816 Digital photos must be high-resolution or will NOT be accepted.

## Central Puget Sound Chapter WNPS Officers & Committee Chairs

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