

THE NATIVE PLANT PRESS

The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS

Vol 19, No 4, May 2018

Chapter Meeting and May Program Thursday, May 3 at 7:00 PM Mountaineers Headquarters



Spring Plant Sale Saturday April 28, 10:00am – 4:00pm Mercerdale Park, Mercer Island.

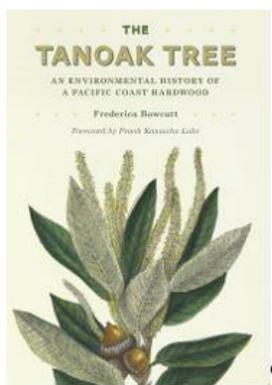
It's the perfect time of year to add to your native garden, with plants that will invite birds, butterflies and bees to your home environment.

You'll find the largest local selection of beautiful native trees, shrubs, perennials, and ground covers for sale all in one place. These plants, brought together for this one day from regional nurseries and our own nursery's propagation efforts, are ideal for Western Washington gardens and vitally important for our birds and pollinators. Our little red wagons will help you transport them to your car.

Native plant experts will dispense gardening advice and answer your questions about native plants. And be sure to visit the Environmental Fair. Our fair participants include Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks, Eastside Audubon Society, Flora and Fauna Books, King County Noxious Weed Control Program, Garden Hotline (for Seattle Tilth), Rent Mason Bees, Bats Northwest, Seattle Audubon Washington Trails Association, and Bird Houses.

Proceeds from this event benefit WNPS-CPS and its education programs. For more information, please contact Yen Flanagin at yen.flanagin@yahoo.com or WNPS at 206-527-3210.

Thanks to all who have helped promote our spring plant sale by distributing posters, flyers and yard signs. After the sale, please return the metal stands to the WNPS office or bring them to a CPS meeting.



May Program: The Tanoak Tree; Environmental History of a Pacific Coast Hardwood Frederica Bowcutt

The tanoak, *Notholithocarpus densiflorus*, is a Pacific Coast hardwood native to California and southwest Oregon. It is a tree with a complex environmental history, attracting radically different perceptions -- from treasured food plant of indigenous peoples to cash crop to trash tree. Having studied the patterns of tanoak use and threats for nearly twenty years, botanist, Frederica Bowcutt, uncovers the tangled history of cultural, sociopolitical, and economic factors affecting the tree's fate and discusses hopeful changes, including reintroduction of low-intensity burning to reduce conifer competition for tanoaks, emerging disease resistance in some trees, and new partnerships among tanoak defenders.

Frederica Bowcutt has been teaching botany at The Evergreen State College since 1996. She specializes in floristics, field plant ecology, and plant-centric environmental history. Dr. Bowcutt earned her bachelor of science at the University of California, Berkeley, and her masters degree at U.C. Davis, both degrees in botany. She continued at U.C. Davis to earn her Ph.D. in ecology. Between her masters and Ph.D., she worked for five years as an ecologist for California State Parks and Recreation. Her work has been published in a variety of journals. She recently co-edited a second book, *Vascular Plants of the South Sound Prairies*.



June Program: Birds in our Midst: Creating Gardens Filled With Life

Julie O'Donald

Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 pm

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Steward and Master Gardener, Julie O'Donald will give an overview of the elements that create beautiful gardens for birds and people, emphasizing best native plants for birds and design features that create habitat. Photos of birds with their food plants will show how to bring nature home to any property. Julie's personal certified wildlife habitat contains over 200 species of native plants and attracts birds, butterflies, pollinators and beneficial insects.

Active in educational community outreach, Julie volunteers for the Washington Native Plant Society, the Washington Butterfly Association, Kruckeberg Botanic Garden and the National Wildlife Federation as the team leader for the Brier Wildlife Habitat Project. Julie's garden has been featured in Pacific Horticulture, Bird Watching Magazine, The Butterfly Gardener and Sunset publications.

Program produced by Cheryl Wagner

Upcoming Programs

BBG indicates Bellevue Botanical Garden.

MTR indicates Mountaineers Headquarters.

MTR Thursday, May 3, 7:00pm "The Tanoak Tree, an Environmental History of A Pacific Coast Hardwood," Frederica Bowcutt

BBG Tuesday, June 12, 7:00pm "Birds in our Midst: Creating Gardens Filled with Life," Julie O'Donald

No programs in July or August

MTR September 6, 7:00pm "Restoring Abandoned Agricultural Land to Native Oak-Prairie Habitat on Whidbey Island", Robert Pelant, Pacific Rim Institute

BBG October 9, 7:00pm Dr. Katherine Glew will discuss Lichens

MTR November 1, 7:00pm "Saving Tarboo Creek," Dr. Scott Freeman

MTR December 6, Holiday Party!

Native Plant Identification Workshop

By Nelson Salisbury, Chapter Botanist (Westside only)

A free plant identification workshop is offered before each Westside Chapter meeting at 6:00pm. The workshop is for beginners or anyone who wants to work on improving keying skills or their familiarity with the northwest flora. Bring samples of unknown plants in for identification or we will have plenty of material and tools available.

CPS Chapter Board Member Nominations Now Open

Members are invited to submit nominations for Board officers and other positions. Please submit your nominations to current Chair Chrys Bertolotto (sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com) by May 10th. A member may nominate him or herself.

The current slate of nominees for officers is as follows:

Chair: Dan Paquette

Vice Chair: No nominees

Treasurer: No nominees

Secretary: Sharon Baker

Other open Board positions include:

Plant Sale co-chair: open

Conservation chair: open

Elections for Board officer and other Board positions will be held at the June 12 Program meeting at Bellevue Botanical Gardens. Please be sure to attend so that we can certify the election with a quorum.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Renewal reminder letters are now in the mail. All memberships expire on June 30. Your membership renewal today is the fuel that carries on the work to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats. Please make your secure donation online at www.wnps.org/join or mail a check to the address on p. 7.

Board Member Reports

Report on Eastside Program

By Cheryl Wagner, CPS Board Member and Eastside Team Chair

At Bellevue Botanical Garden, Dr. Jon Bakker gave an impressive presentation on Western Washington prairies plus details of his prairie restoration research project to a rapt audience of fifty-seven folks.

He reviewed the historical knowledge of prairies in Western Washington detailed by past surveyors and also described the types of prairies and the endangered wildlife including birds, mammals and insects that live in that ecosystem.

Jon reported details of his research project at the Glacial Heritage Preserve which is one of the premier prairie conservation sites in the South Puget Sound region. This preserve serves as a demonstration site for restoration and rare species conservation such as preservation of the *Castilleja leviscecta* and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly.

I know a few of us have new words to add to our vocabulary from this presentation plus a new wonderment for prairie restoration and research methods. The electron microscope pictures were outstanding—hemi-parasitism revealed.

Our audience was diverse—WNPS members, Butterfly enthusiasts, folks hearing about the talk on the train from the National Park

West Side Programs

By Sharon Baker, CPS Board Member & Co-Chair for Programs

In 2004, after many years of hiking and enjoying the native plants of Washington, I decided I wanted to learn more about native plants. In addition to curiosity, I had a practical reason for learning more about native plants. I was in the process of obtaining a conservation easement to protect my wooded property from future development, so I needed to know a lot more about native plants and forest restoration. The Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society drew me in with their meetings, always with an informative program. I soon learned that CPS had a lot more to offer than monthly meetings! I volunteered for native plant sales and enjoyed field trips. In fact, I met my wonderful long-term partner, Richard Droker, on a CPS field trip. Talk about member benefits!

The monthly membership meetings have been the backbone of my connection to CPS, and I think that's true for many members. In addition to high level presentations on the natural world, the meetings give us a chance to develop friendships with other members who share our passions, to learn more about what is going on in the organization and to find ways to be more involved. Nothing happens in the CPS/WNPS without volunteers!

The logistics of the meetings have changed over time. In 2004, we were meeting on the UW campus. Then we moved to the Center for Urban Horticulture. At some point, chapter botanists began offering the very valuable plant ID session before the formal meeting. Then in 2017, when CUH became too expensive for us, we moved our meetings to the Mountaineers Program Center. Another big change in 2017 was reducing the number of meetings per year on the west side from 10 to 8, in order to better accommodate our many members living on the east side. Cheryl Wagner and members from the east side of Lake Washington now organize 4 speaker programs per year at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Speakers are recruited and programs are organized by CPS volunteers and cover a very wide range of topics. An attempt is made to keep the central focus on the native flora of Washington, but the

temptation is sometimes too great to avoid an occasional excursion to Peru or New Zealand. For descriptions of past presentations and information of upcoming programs go to https://www.wnps.org/cps_programs.html.

Shelley Evans and I have been organizing the programs since September of 2015. We've covered a wide range of topics ranging from a single genus to large ecosystems and from the taxonomic to the philosophical. We always treasure our speaker's beautiful photos of Washington flora. We don't seem to be close to running out of topics and potential speakers! The natural history of Washington is a very rich topic. But we truly value suggestions from you for topics and for specific speakers. We are able to pay speakers a small honorarium. Another way you can support our programs is to let your friends and colleagues know about our presentations. You do not need to be a member to attend! You can contact Shelley at shelley.a.evans@gmail.com and Sharon at sabaker41@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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.

Donations: The nursery accepts donations of your native plants, 3 to 6" propagation pots, containers, and flats. You can 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, contact Rick Thompson at q.garryana@gmail.com or 206-715-9540.

Field Trip



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

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. 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 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 for windy conditions and the associated wind chill factor. Trip Limit 12 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, 425-501-9569 (text message preferred).

Volunteers

City of Shoreline Urban Forest Restoration

Join WNPS Master Native Plant Stewards to help restore urban forests across the City of Shoreline. Weed out invasive species and install native plants. We have five different projects to choose from:

Boeing Creek

- Saturday, May 12th, 10:00am – 2:00pm
- 320 NW Innis Arden Way, Shoreline, WA 98177
- Meet at the [north end of the Shoreview Park Off Leash Dog Park](#), just off the Shoreline Community College campus
- Contact JohnGuenther714@gmail.com to RSVP or for further information

Brugger's Bog

- Sunday, May 13th, 9:00am – 1:00pm
- 19553 25th Ave NE
- Meet at the [end of the dirt/gravel path entrance to the park on the bridge](#)
- Contact BruggersBogStewards@gmail.com to RSVP or for further information

Hamlin Park

- Saturday, May 19th, 10:00am – 1:00pm
- 16006 15th Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155
- Meet at the [far north end of the park, next to the NE 166th Street stairs](#)
- Contact Hamlin.Restoration@gmail.com to RSVP or for further information

Twin Ponds (North End)

- Saturday, May 19th, 10:00am – 12:00pm
- 16501 N 155th St, Shoreline WA 98133
- Meet at the [north end parking lot at N 155th St and First Ave NE](#)
- Contact NorthTwinPondsRestoration@gmail.com to RSVP or for further information

Twin Ponds (South End)

- Saturday, May 26th, 10:00am – 1:00pm
- 16501 N 155th St, Shoreline WA 98133
- Meet at the [south end parking lot along First Ave NE, but north of N 149th St](#)
- Contact TwinPondsSouthHabitat@gmail.com to RSVP or for further information

Bellevue Botanical Garden • Friday, May 11, 10:00am – 2:00pm •
12001 Main St., Bellevue WA 98005 •
Meet in the covered area just inside the main entrance •
Contact Janka Hobbs at urtica@frontier.com for further information.



Plant of the Month: *Allium* spp.

By Janka Hobbs

Of the many species of wild onion found in Washington State, only two are native to the Puget Sound lowlands. *A. acuminatum* (taper tip onion) and *A. cernuum* (nodding onion) are both widespread throughout the West, and were considered important food plants by natives and early settlers.

Taper tip onion ranges along the coast from Southern BC to Northern California, and inland through Idaho and Utah into Arizona. There is one herbarium specimen from King County, collected by C.V. Piper at Alki Point in 1889.

Nodding onion is found throughout much of North America. It is closely related to the Plains onion, *Allium stellatum*. There is some question whether historical collections are all correctly identified, since the diagnostic difference between the two species is the shape of the bulb, and that is not usually retained in collections. In many species of wild onion, the species cannot be confirmed without looking at the bulb.

Wild onions tend to be stronger in flavor than domestic onions, though they can be used in many of the same ways. Pit roasted *A. cernuum*, in particular, is supposed to caramelize nicely, and was traditional viewed as a delicacy. The leaves and flowers are also edible. If you do want to pick a few leaves to season your camping fare, be sure they smell like onion – the strappy leaves of *Toxicoscordion venenosum* (death camas) look very similar, and taste testing those is not recommended.

Due to their small size and dwindling habitats, it is strongly suggested you don't go and and gather onions from the wild just to eat them. Luckily, both species are easy to grow from seed (which is available commercially), and make lovely garden plants. *A. cernuum* appreciates spring moisture; *A. acuminatum* likes well-drained soil. Both prefer full sun. According to Lewis and Clark, eating onion with camas helps prevent stomach upset and flatulence. So plant both together, and feast away.

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WNPS and CPS Contact Information

The WNPS Office Welcomes visitors:

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Seattle WA 98115

Monday – Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm daily

Please call ahead to confirm availability, especially if traveling a distance.

Office Contacts

Denise Mahnke, WNPS Business Manager, wnps@wnps.org

Elizabeth Gage, WNPS Office & Volunteer Coordinator, info@wnps.org Phone: (206)527-3210

Membership, Dues and Questions

Have you renewed? Please renew to make sure your membership stays active and so that your membership is counted in the yearly computation of Chapter rebates.

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 and hit the "Join" button, or send an email to wnps_discussiongroup-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. It only takes a couple of minutes!

The new group will be "restricted" in that admission to the group must be granted, but messages will be unmoderated. Once you are a member, you will be able to set your personal preferences for receiving messages (e.g., individual messages as they are posted or a daily digest). You will also be able to unsubscribe yourself if and when you desire.

Social Media Resources

Web page: Central Puget Sound Chapter

<http://www.wnps.org/cps/index3.html>

CPS Facebook page: Washington Native Plant Society, Central Puget Sound Chapter

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

For submissions to Facebook page, contact:

Ted Couillard at jtheo25@gmail.com and cc to Jan Bird at birdandcat@aol.com.

Meetup page: Washington Native Plant Society, Central Puget Sound Chapter

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

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Newsletter Submission

The deadline for the June 2018 newsletter: Thursday, May 3

Email: rickbergman@comcast.net

Phone 206-372-9816

Digital photos must be high-resolution or will NOT be accepted.