

# THE NATIVE PLANT PRESS

*The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS*

Vol 19, No 1, February 2018

**Call to Volunteers!**  
**The 2018 Northwest Flower & Garden Expo**  
 February 7 – 11 2018  
 Washington State Convention Center  
 RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION THE DAY OF YOUR SHIFT  
 To volunteer online, click on  
[Doodle.com](http://Doodle.com)

## Chapter Meeting Thursday, February 1 at 7:00 PM Mountaineers Headquarters

### February Program

#### Witness Tree:

#### What the Life of a Single 110-Year-Old Oak Tells Us about Climate Change

*By Lynda Mapes*

Lynda Mapes is a Seattle Times reporter and author. Her photos and journalism and books are the result of a lifelong fascination with the natural world and our connection to it. She is driven to go deep, look long, and stay awhile. She works with all five senses — and especially, the critical sixth: a sense of wonder.

In 2014-5 Lynda was a Bullard Fellow in Forest Research, living at the Harvard Forest to explore the human and natural history of a single 100-year old oak tree. The result was her recently published book, *Witness Tree*. To quote a recent review: "Lynda V. Mapes adopts a narrower lens but is equally ambitious in *Witness Tree*, which gets at sweeping ideas by looking at one century-old oak tree in Massachusetts. Among many other subjects—forest regeneration, acorn production, pollen records—Mapes has plenty to say about our early spring(s). 'Climate change, the trees, streams, and puddles, and birds, bugs, and frogs, attest, is not a matter of opinion or belief,' she writes. 'It is an observable fact.'" – New York Times Book Review.

*Program produced by Sharon Baker and Shelley Evans*

### Eastside upcoming programs

#### Attracting Native Pollinators: Gardens as Habitat

*Julie O'Donald*

Saturday, January 27th, 2:00,

Sammamish Library Meeting Room 825 228th Avenue SE Sammamish WA 98075

We are excited to offer another program on the Eastside in January. The Sammamish Library was so happy with the large turnout they had for our last WNPS program there in June and asked for another. We are partnering with Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat group and have a terrific program planned.

Master Gardener and Community Habitat Steward, Julie O'Donald, will share a colorful photo display featuring local butterflies, bumble bees and the flowers that attract them. She will describe

how to create a garden where pollinators will thrive and will explain ways to incorporate flowering shrubs and wildflowers into the landscape. This program will show the steps needed to convert lawn into habitat while adding vibrant color and visual interest to your garden. We'll also learn what features promote healthy pollinator populations and provide nest sites.

Julie O'Donald is a Community Wildlife Habitat Steward and Master Gardener with over 30 years' experience creating wildlife friendly gardens. She has focused on the use of native plants in the home landscape and the benefits that specific plants offer to wildlife. Julie's personal certified wildlife habitat contains over 200 species of native plants and attracts birds, butterflies, pollinators and beneficial insects, including the rare Western bumble bee.

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. Julie's garden has been featured in Pacific Horticulture, Bird Watching Magazine, The Butterfly Gardener and Sunset publications.

*Program produced by Cheryl Wagner*

### **Learn to Identify Common Mosses and Liverworts in Western Washington**

*Stewart Hougen*

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:00 PM

Aaron Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St, Bellevue, WA

We have had an overwhelming demand for our Learn to Identify Common Mosses and Liverworts in Western Washington workshop and field trip and **IT IS NOW FULL, as is the waiting list!** Details will be sent to those who signed up with the WNPS office. We needed to limit the class and field trip in order to provide a quality experience for the participants and will consider doing another one next year.

Winter is here. All the trees and shrubs are bare, mosses and liverworts are our focus. Have you ever wondered about the different mosses and liverworts that surround you as you walk through the forest?

Stewart Hougen will help us identify some of the common mosses and liverworts found nearby. Attend and revel in our wealth of mosses this time of year. Stewart has been an amateur naturalist for about 15 years. He has been leading naturalist trips with the Mountaineer's Naturalist Study Group for much of that time. He has helped teach several Mountaineer's classes & workshops on plants, lichens & mosses.

2/13/18 Workshop on moss and liverwort identification; 45 minute presentation with following 45 minute practice moss specimen identification. Bring a 10 power loop magnifying glass to the class so moss specimens can be seen better. **WORKSHOP IS FULL.** Details to be emailed to registered participants

2/17/18 Optional Moss and liverwort field trip at Redmond Watershed, TBD. FIELD TRIP IS FULL. Details to be emailed to registered participants.

### **Up and Coming Programs**

**MTR** indicates Mountaineers Headquarters.

**MTR** March 1, 2018: Mike Marsh on Kittitas County vegetation studies.

**MTR** April 5, 2018: Daniel Matthews presents: *Early Days of Natural History in the Northwest.*

Watch your mailbox for a postcard outlining additional upcoming programs.

## Native Plant Identification Workshop

By Nelson Salisbury, Chapter Botanist  
(Offered only at Westside Meetings)

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

## Board Reports

### Message from the Education Chair

By Franja Bryant

**Questions:** Which CPS committee includes **every member** of the Central Puget Sound WNPS Chapter? Which committee in 2017 actively informed nearly **2,000** members of the general public about our WNPS mission and activities? Which committee donated the equivalent of **seven** 40-hour work weeks of volunteer time at 16 events last year?

**Answer:** The Education Committee!

When someone joins the Washington Native Plant Society they are saying that they support the WNPS mission of promoting “the appreciation and conservation of Washington’s native plants and their habitats through study, **education**, and advocacy.” This includes YOU! The Education Committee is open to every member of WNPS and is crucial to the implementation of our mission.

There are many ways in which we work to accomplish our educational mission. We staff WNPS information booths at community events like Earth Day celebrations, Farmer’s Markets and the Pacific Northwest Flower & Garden Show. (See more about this, below.) We work with schools, homeschoolers, garden clubs and community groups by offering presentations, guiding field trips and giving talks. We support local environmental groups such as Forterra, the King Conservation District, the Audubon Society and Green Community Partnerships by providing informative materials on native plant identification and landscaping with natives.

This past year the Education Committee also: 1) Created a beautiful new display unit for our booths and shared its design with another WNPS chapter; 2) Worked with students and/or teachers in five schools in Seattle and the Eastside; 3) Created native plant games for kids, including a native plant scavenger hunt which is available to any of our members.

Our current big project is a reorganization of our CPS curriculum kits for teachers. Within the next few months we hope to have completed two new kits– one on ethnobotany and another on ecosystems. These are being planned to fit the new public school Next Generation Science Standards and will include CDs or DVDs, books, artifacts, *Quick and Easy* activity ideas from the Starflower Foundation, bibliographies of related materials and anything else we discover as we work. If you have a background in environmental education or have taught school, we would love your help with this project. Please contact me, Franja Bryant, at [franjabryant@hotmail.com](mailto:franjabryant@hotmail.com) or Elizabeth Gage at the WNPS office, [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org). Your active participation in any of this committee’s work will be very welcome.

**One last note:** The Pacific Northwest Flower and Garden Show is coming up February 7-11 at the Washington State Convention Center in downtown Seattle. Volunteers who staff our WNPS booth at this event receive free admission to the show and WNPS credit hours for serving.

To sign up for a session, click on this Doodle Poll link: <https://doodle.com/poll/cvfnm37riya3syq>.

## January 1 Field Trip

Our annual January 1 field trip went to Lord Hill near Monroe. With 13 people, the trip was spread out so not as communicative as it might have been. Al Smith found sword fern die-off which Snohomish Parks Department investigated the following week. The high water level hid a number of aquatic plants from view. From the perspective of a native plant steward, it was a beautiful second growth forest without a lot of invasive plants, and with a lot of typical Puget Lowland natives. In addition to native plant seekers, there were lots of others enjoying the beautiful day, including bikers and families with high-energy kids enjoying the chance to be in the forest.

## January 4 Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday potluck was held in the Goodman Room of the Mountaineer's Program Facility. We mingled and enjoyed a variety of dishes provided by members. Our program included stories by Roger Fernandes, and Awards given to those who have advanced the cause of native plants throughout the year

### Deepening our Appreciation of Native Plants Through Story Telling

*By Roger Fernandes*

Roger Fernandes is a member of Lower Elwha Band of the S'Klallam Indians from the Port Angeles area. He joined us at our holiday party on January 4. He is a member of the Turtle Island Story Tellers Network, an online resource for tribal story tellers, historians and song carriers. Roger shared with us the story of how stinging nettle brought courage to his ancestors, to enable them to face the slave raiders from the north, a particularly powerful story. Roger's skill as a story teller and his ability to connect with and appreciate the work we do made for a meaningful experience. "The earth is our teacher."



## Award Presentations



*Franja Bryant presents Chrys Bertolotto, Central Puget Sound Chapter Chair, an original botanical drawing in appreciation for her long service to the Chapter.*



*Heidi Carpine, Co-founder of Heron Habitat Helpers accepted the Stewardship award on behalf of the late Donna Kostka.*

### **Heron Habitat Helpers wrote on their Facebook page:**

We are honored that the Central Puget Sound Chapter (CPS) of the Washington Native Plant Society awarded the late Donna Kostka as 2017 Steward of the Year for her legacy of habitat restoration in Kiwanis Ravine. In attendance (and also on the Washington Native Plant Society Stewardship Honor Roll) were Mike Marsh, Linda Marsh and Alice Marsh, as well as Jane Marsh and Marla Master. We thank all the members of the Washington Native Plant Society for their passion to preserve and protect native plants and their ecosystems in Washington State.



*Steve Cooper accepting the Award for Member of the Year, in recognition of his successful work as Site Manager for our many Plant Sales*



*Sarah Verlinde accepting the Professional of the Year Award for her work on the new WNPS website and in establishing the UW Bothell Herbarium.*

## Plant Donations

*By Shanna Hobbs*

Please consider donating native plants to the WNPS—every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference! Donations of all types are accepted, including potted or unpotted plants. We have willing volunteers who will come salvage plants from your garden if you do not have time yourself. Your donation is incredibly valuable to the WNPS, and helps keep the mission to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants alive.

If you would like to donate, please contact Shanna Hobbs at [sraehobbs@gmail.com](mailto:sraehobbs@gmail.com), or at 559-731-4426. For plant donations, it is helpful to have the name and number of plants you plan to donate. If you plan to drop off plant donations at the nursery, please contact Rick Thompson at 296-715-9540.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### 2018 Flower and Garden Show

**February 7-11, Washington State Convention Center, 705 Pike Street, Seattle**

The 2018 Flower & Garden show is coming up in February and we need volunteers to host the WNPS booth! This is a fantastic opportunity for our organization to come together to promote the value and beauty that native plants add to the home garden and to our environment. It's also a great opportunity to meet other members of WNPS and to talk to a variety of like-minded people.

**An added perk is that when you volunteer you receive free admission to the Garden Show for the day(s) you serve in our booth.**

**Sign-ups will be done online. Please click on this link to reach our Doodle poll** where you can select dates and times convenient for you. <https://doodle.com/poll/cvfncm37riya3syq>

We may also need some short-notice **substitutes** during the show. If you are generally available and /or willing to substitute on particular days and/or at particular times, please contact either Franja Bryant ([franjabryant@hotmail.com](mailto:franjabryant@hotmail.com)) or Elizabeth Gage at the WNPS office ([info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org)).

## King Conservation District Native Plant Sale & Community Fair

**February 24, 9:00 – 1:00pm**  
**1107 SW Grady Way, Renton**

Here is a “twofer” opportunity! Pick up the bare root native plants you may have pre-ordered from KCD, and help out at the same time by volunteering to work a 2-hour shift at our WNPS booth while you’re there. This is a fun event! Many people attend who are very interested in native plants. You will have some good conversations and an excellent opportunity to share information. To sign up, contact [franjabryant@hotmail.com](mailto:franjabryant@hotmail.com).

## Volunteer for the Spring Native Plant Sale

Where: Mercerdale Park on Mercer Island  
 When: April 27 – 28

Spring will be here soon as will be the WNPS-CPS Spring Native Plant Sale and Environmental Fair!

The spring and fall plant sales provide the majority of your chapter’s income, used to create and maintain educational materials and supplies, nursery supplies and our share of the office and office assistant.

Some tasks require physical strength but not all. Typical jobs that need filling are cashiers, floor floaters, staff education booth, labeling plants from vendors, photographer, setting up sale tables and canopies, hauling wagon with plants from vendor dropoff site to sale area, moving plants. We will provide snacks for all volunteers and there are flush toilets. Please sign up at our monthly chapter meetings or email Elizabeth Gage at [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org) with **PS volunteer** in the subject line.

## Volunteer to Help at the WNPS Nursery

### Monthly Work Party (Seattle - Magnuson Park)

First Monday of every month, 10:00am - 2:00pm.  
 The Nursery is located at the North end of Magnuson Community Garden.  
[Click here](#) for directions.

Learn about our native plants and work to propagate for future planting. We work rain or shine. Volunteers should dress for the weather and bring a snack and water. We will supply gloves and tools. The nursery is north of the Brig next to the fence. To sign up or get directions, contact: Rick Thompson at 205-715-9540, or email [g.garryana@gmail.com](mailto:g.garryana@gmail.com).

We recommend that you check with the Volunteer page on the web, [http://www.wnps.org/cps/Volunteer\\_today](http://www.wnps.org/cps/Volunteer_today) for other opportunities such as Saturday work parties prior to plant sales.

## CPS/WNPS State Office in Seattle - Magnuson Park (Ongoing)

WNPS Office at Magnuson Park, 6310 NE 74th Street, Suite 215E, Seattle, 98115

The WNPS office in Magnuson Park is always looking for volunteers to provide valuable, “behind-the-scenes” assistance. Tasks range from a one-shot project to a larger, more complex one. You can work solo or with a group, and every task is tailored to your interest and availability. We also try to make it fun and social. As a result new friendships have already begun. Contact Elizabeth Gage at the WNPS office: [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org) or 206-527-3210

## Native Plant Stewards

### Become a Leader in Restoring the Health of Seattle's Forested Parks



Feed your curiosity with 100 hours of expert training in ecological restoration! Contribute 100 hours of volunteer service to your community! Get to know others with similar interests!

Recruiting Now for the **Master Native Plant Steward Program** with Washington Native Plant Society, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the Green Seattle Partnership

No previous experience is necessary. The comprehensive training will include:

- Forest restoration techniques
- Engaging park neighbors, recruiting volunteers, and working with youth
- Western Washington native and invasive plant identification
- Puget Sound ecology
- Site design and planning
- Project leadership and management

Once training is complete, steward teams will work together at a Seattle park to carry out a restoration project and with WNPS for at least 100 hours, contributing to the Green Seattle Partnership's goal of restoring 2,500 acres of forested parklands. All tools and materials will be provided and experts available to support each team.

Stewards must commit to the full training program and team involvement, including the dates below:

9am to 4pm on Fridays from March 2 to May 18th (at Seward Park or Camp Long), and two Saturdays, March 24 and April 21 (field trips to local parks).

Learn more and download the application at <https://www.wnps.org/>. Applications are due February 11, 2018, sent to [CPSSStewardshipProgram@gmail.com](mailto:CPSSStewardshipProgram@gmail.com). For telephone inquiries, contact the Master Stewardship Coordinator (Joy Wood) at (206) 963-5704. Seattle community members have priority, however all applications are welcome. To learn more about the Green Seattle Partnership, check out <http://www.greenseattle.org/>.

## Plant of the Month: *Oenanthe sarmentosa*

By Janka Hobbs



Although it will not bloom until late spring, you may soon notice the feathery leaves of Pacific water parsley (also called Pacific water-dropwort) poking out of shallow ponds and muddy places. A wetland-obligate plant, water parsley is found at low to mid elevations along the coast from Alaska through California. It has been introduced to waterways in Indiana (probably as an ornamental) where it is considered a noxious weed.

There are about 30 species of *Oenanthe* in the Apiaceae, [not to be confused with the 28 species of wheatears, an avian *Oenanthe* genus]. All but two of the herbaceous *Oenanthes* are native to Eurasia.

I was unable to find definitive information on the edibility of *O. sarmentosa*. In *Ethnobotany of Western Washington*, Erna Gunther says that the young shoots were eaten in spring. I found reference to the roots being roasted like potatoes in Oregon. Other sources clearly list the plant as poisonous.

Some of the uncertainty may come from *O. sarmentosa*'s relatives. *O. javanica*, "Chinese celery" is a well-known edible throughout Asia. *O. crocata*, water hemlock dropwort, is the "most poisonous plant in the British Isles." Farther afield in the Apiaceae, but with a similar "jiz," our native *Circuta douglasii*, western water hemlock, is "the most poisonous plant in North America." And don't forget *Conium maculatum*, poison hemlock, which is a class B noxious weed in King County.

Several sources list the roots of *O. sarmentosa* as an "emetic or purgative" medicinal, which makes me suspicious of them being classed as "edible" without some serious preparation. It is also purported to contain myristicin, a psychotropic phenylpropene also found in nutmeg.

*Oenanthe sarmentosa* is a host plant for the Anise swallowtail butterfly, and for several Agonopterix moths. Red legged frogs and Northwestern salamanders use the emergent stems to anchor their egg masses. Its flowers are a favored pollen source for native bumblebees. Though the stems will often root at the nodes, it is most easily grown from seed.

So plant some in your rain garden, but maybe leave the noshing to the lepidoptera.

## Central Puget Sound Chapter WNPS Officers & Committee Chairs

**Chair**

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**Vice-Chair**

VACANT

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## WNPS and CPS Contact Information

### WNPS Office

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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@yahogroups.com](mailto:wnps_discussiongroup-subscribe@yahogroups.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:** 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](mailto:jtheo25@gmail.com) and cc to Jan Bird at [birdandcat@aol.com](mailto:birdandcat@aol.com).

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

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

**Electronic Newsletter Option:** Get the newsletter online and save a stamp! To switch to online delivery, 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, exactly one month before the meeting. Send submissions to the editor: Rick Bergman

Email: [rickbergman@comcast.net](mailto:rickbergman@comcast.net)

Phone 206-372-9816

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