
THE NATIVE PLANT PRESS

The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS

Vol 17, No 2, March 2016

**Chapter Meeting
Thursday, March 3
Center for Urban Horticulture***

March Program by Sharon Baker

Birds and Plants

By Dennis Paulson

Everyone knows that birds come to feeders full of seeds. There are a lot of seed-eating birds! But birds relate to our native plants in many more ways than that, both positive and negative, and Dennis Paulson will tell you about this in an illustrated lecture.

Dr. Paulson, recently retired as Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, and has been a professional biologist and naturalist all of his adult life. He began studying natural history as a boy and is a world expert on dragonflies and shorebirds, in addition to teaching master birder classes for the Audubon Society.

He is the author of nine books, including *Shorebirds of North America* and *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West*, and 90 scientific papers on birds and dragonflies..

Doors Open at 6:00 PM for the Native Plant Identification Workshop; Program begins at 7:30 PM.

Program Calendar

April 7: **The Moss Flora of Washington** by Judy Harpel

April 20: **Meadowwatch - Exploring the Link Between Climate Change and Wildflower Phenology**, by Dr. Janneke Hille Ris Lambers at Bellevue Botanical Garden

May 5: **Forest Giants** by Robert Van Pelt

June 2: **Historical and Current Fire Regimes in eastern Washington: How Did We Get Here?** by Paul Hessberg

Native Plant Identification Workshop

By Nelson Salisbury, Chapter Botanist

A free plant identification workshop is offered before each Chapter meeting at 6:00 PM in CUH, Main Hall. 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.

* **CUH Location**

The Chapter meeting will be held on the University of Washington campus at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, (Mary Gates Memorial Dr. NE) Seattle, 98195. We will meet in the Main Hall. To help you find the meeting location, you can find excellent maps at the UW website at www.universityofwashington.edu/maps. Look for the Northwest Horticultural Society Hall adjacent to Miller Library. Refreshments and socializing begin at 7 PM, followed by a short business meeting at 7:30 PM, and then the program.

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Board Reports

Central Puget Sound Spring Plant Sale

When: Saturday, April 30th, 10 am to 4 pm at the lovely Bellevue Botanical Gardens, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue. Pre-sales for members start at 9 am.

We set-up our sale Friday, April 29. We hope all members will come one for at least one of our two days onsite. Email npsvolunteers@gmail.com now to sign up early to Volunteer in your favorite job!

Questions about our Native Plant Sale? Email Grace Stiller at gracestiller@comcast.net, or call 206-795-5783.

The WNPS Office Welcomes visitors:

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

Friday – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, appointment only.

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

Office Contacts

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

Barrie Moss, WNPS Office & Program Coordinator, info@wnps.org Phone: (206)527-6310

Full WNPS Staff Information is available online: http://www.wnps.org/contact_wnps.htm.

Donating Your Native Plants

We have already added nearly 1300 plants to our inventory for the spring sale from donations since the fall sale, potted up from at least 7 donors. Did you see species listed for the sale that you need to thin in your garden? Consider donating them to WNPS. Volunteers will pot them, just put them in a flat or box with some moist soil or mulch. It is important to provide a label with species and contact info. We primarily need native forbs, ferns, and small shrubs. We do not sell many trees.

Bring small plant donations to the chapter meetings. Nothing taller than 2' or individual plants bigger than would fit in a 1 gal pot. Arrive by 7 pm to allow time to move plants. Leave your plants in your car and find George Macomber or Tom Johnson. We will shuffle the plants between cars. Or, you can still leave plants at the Magnuson nursery in the donation beds with ID and contact information.

Unsold plants are donated to stewardship projects. If you have questions or if you drop off plants at the nursery contact George Macomber at Georgems@98115.net or call 206-526-7983. If you wish to donate plants but digging them, bringing them to a monthly meeting or bringing them to the nursery is problematic, please contact Ann Stevens at annbstevens@earthlink.net or call 206-518-2246.

Field Trip Schedule

Trail Trip Leaders Needed: If you would like to lead fellow WNPS members on a Trail Trip please contact Susan Dawson at lapianta@aol.com. I can bring you up to speed and help decide on a hike that you would like to lead.

Vashon Shinglemill Creek

March 26, 2016

9:10 am

Leader: Susan Dawson

Shinglemill Creek trail "offers a gorgeous trek through the forest along the ridge of the ravine overlooking Needle Creek then descends to become a path along the creek's edge of Shinglemill until it empties into the estuary at Fern Cove. It is one of the few salmon bearing creeks on the island with small runs of Coho and Cutthroat Trout."
(www.vashonlandtrust.org)

This trail trip is easy to moderate, about 4 miles round trip. Bring water and snacks/lunch. Dress for the weather.

Meet at the Fauntleroy ferry dock at 9:10. There is parking in nearby Lincoln Park. Ferry costs are \$18.15 car plus adult, \$15.50 car plus senior, \$5.25 adult passenger, \$2.60 senior passenger.

I will be driving and can take 3 passengers.

Sign up: Susan Dawson lapianta@aol.com, 425-681-1700 cell.

Echo Mountain and Spring Lake Bog

Saturday April 16, 10am

Location: King County, east of Kent

Leader: Caren Adams

Caren will guide us through lowland forest along an easy trail, gaining a few hundred feet in elevation to the top of Echo Mountain where chocolate lily (*Frittilaria lanceolata*) and fawn lily (*Erythronium* sp.) should be in bloom. Historically fire was probably used by Native Americans to manage the site and a few years ago the area again burned in a fire. Ask Caren about the fire response she's observed.

If lake levels allow, Caren will also take the group to the fringing bog along the shore of Spring Lake. *Ledum groenlandicum* (laborador tea) and *Kalmia microphylla* occur there. Bring boots or shoes that can get saturated if you plan to visit the bog. Otherwise walking shoes should be sufficient. Bring food and water and dress for the weather. Meet at the fishing access at the end of Spring Lake Drive at time above. To sign up contact Caren at adams.caren@gmail.com or [425-432-1324](tel:425-432-1324). Limit: 12.

Volunteers

Springtime Opportunitites

Spring is "bustin' out all over" with opportunities to support WNPS through volunteering at our information table at community events all over the Central Puget Sound area. If you are interested in taking a shift at any of these special springtime events your help would be most welcome! Questions or to sign-up, please contact Franja Bryant at franjabryant@hotmail.com.

Saturday, March 5

King Conservation District Bare Root Sale & Community Fair, Renton

Saturday, March 5

Plant Amnesty Prune-a-thon

Sky Nursery, Seattle

Saturday, April 23

Newcastle Earth Day

Lake Boren Park, Newcastle

Friday, April 29

Earth Day Fair

Saltwater State Park, DesMoines

Saturday, April 30

CPS Plant Sale

Bellevue Botanical Garden

(To volunteer for this event contact:

Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator,
Marissa Wright, npsvolunteers@gmail.com)

Saturday, May 14

Tukwila Back Yard Wildlife Festival, Tukwila Community Center

Eastside Branch News

By Sid Gupta

This month, marking the start of a (hopefully) recurring feature, we wanted to highlight some ongoing restoration work taking place on the Eastside.

Since the summer of 2014, a team of ten stewards has been restoring the natural area in Ebright Creek Park in Sammamish as part of the WNPS Stewardship Program's partnership with the city. The site totals just under half an acre and features a thriving thicket of salmonberry bisected by Ebright Creek itself. Invasive challenges include English Holly and Himalayan and evergreen blackberry, although populations of all three are in severe decline after a year and a half of dedicated efforts at eradication.

So far nearly 300 native trees and shrubs have been planted, and more than 900 hours of labor have been contributed by the community. Although the creek is salmon-bearing, we've been told that the salmon generally do not venture far enough up the waterway to make an appearance in the park. Nonetheless, in December, one of our stewards - Cheryl Wagner, who also serves as the program manager for the Eastside Branch - saw a particularly stalwart specimen working its way up the water in our site; be sure to ask her about it when you see her at our presentation on April 20th: MeadoWatch - Exploring the link between climate change and wildflower phenology, by Dr. Janneke Hille Ris Lambers.

Our next work party at Ebright Creek Park will be on Saturday, February 27, from 9am-12pm. To sign up, or to find out more about our project, please contact me at siidd@gmail.com. Stewards plan the day's restoration at Ebright Creek Park.

Other volunteer opportunities on the Eastside also abound. Our information tables and displays at community fairs are an excellent way to support WNPS and share your enthusiasm for native plants. Here are two upcoming opportunities:

Saturday, March 5 - King Conservation District Bareroot Sale and Community Fair in Renton

Saturday, March 23 - Newcastle Earth Day Celebration at Lake Boren Park, Newcastle

If you could help out at either of these events, please contact our Education Chair, Franja Bryant at franjabryant@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Program

Meadowwatch - Exploring the Link Between Climate Change and Wildflower Phenology, by Dr. Janneke Hille Ris Lambers.

Date: Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 PM

Location: Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, Education Center, Room C

Plant of the Month: *Claytonia sibirica*

By Janka Hobbs

Siberian Miner's Lettuce (or Siberian spring beauty) is, on the surface, a simple little plant. It is a taprooted annual (except when it grows rhizomes and becomes a short-lived perennial.) It has five-petaled white flowers with pink stripes, eliciting another common name, candyflower.

Many of us met this plant under the name *Montia sibirica*. The reasoning behind this was that plants with corms or fleshy roots were *Claytonias*, ones with fibrous root systems were *Montias*. In the current Flora of North America, (http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=10724), the two genera are differentiated by their cauline (stem) leaves. While both *Montia* and *Claytonia* are in the *Portulacaceae* in FNM, in 2009 the APG (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group) concluded that several of the clades that made up *Portulacaceae* were only distantly related. In the new revision of Hitchcock and Cronquist, both genera will be in Montiaceae.

Claytonia sibirica is native from Eastern Siberia, across the Aleutian Islands, and down the west coast of North America into Northern California. It is naturalized in Great Britain, (where it is called pink purslain), and has developed distinctive pink and white strains. The entire above-ground portion of the plant is edible, though it becomes bitter late in the season, or under drought stress.

Despite the plant's edibility, neither Turner (Thompson Ethnobotany) nor Gunther (Ethnobotany of Western Washington) mention its use as a food by native peoples, though it was used medicinally as a hair tonic, an eyewash, and as a pregnancy aid.

Some modern authors tout it as an easily grown pot-herb, some point to it as a pretty, shade-tolerant and low growing ground cover, and some turn up their noses and consider it a self-seeding weed. At least in that discussion, you don't need an understanding of molecular phylogenetic analysis to form an opinion.

Central Puget Sound Chapter WNPS Officers & Committee Chairs 2016-2017

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Membership, Dues and Questions

Membership Rates in 2015

Individual Membership \$35
Family Membership \$45
Club or Organization Membership \$65
Budget Membership \$20
Student \$20 (name of institution _____)

This is the address members should use for all correspondence regarding membership, dues payments, etc.

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6310 NE 74th ST, Suite 215E
Seattle, WA 98115
206-527-3210
1-888-288-8022 (from outside Seattle)
info@wnps.org

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@yahogroups.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.

Electronic Newsletter Option

Many of you have chosen to receive your Native Plant Press electronically, and we thank you! This will save printing and postage expenses that can better go to our Chapter programs and activities. If you did not receive an e-mail about this option and would like to get the electronic version of the newsletter, please send your request to the CPS Staff Person at 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
Phone 206-372-9816

Word or RTF documents are preferred. Please put Latin names of plants in italics. Digital photos must be high-resolution or will NOT be accepted.

