

# THE NATIVE PLANT PRESS

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

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Vol 18, No 2, March 2017

## **Chapter Meeting Thursday, March 2 at 7:00 PM Mountaineers Headquarters in Magnuson Park\***

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### **Program: Best Wildflower Hikes in Western Washington**

*By Peter Stekel*

Join us for a perambulation through some of Western Washington's premier wildflower habitats - surprising and not - and known, little known, or somewhat forgotten gems of landscape. There will be plenty of photos, hints on not only where to go for wildflower displays but when to go see the best. Peter Stekel will also walk you through the history of botanical exploration in our region, what and what not to bring on hikes, and attempt to navigate you through the roiling and confusing waters of trail permits.

Peter Stekel is an award-winning writer with over 700 magazine and newspaper feature stories published since 1991. He is author of one other hiking guide, *Best Hikes Near Seattle* (FalconGuides). He has also authored two World War II aviation histories: *Final Flight - The Mystery of a WWII Plane Crash and the Frozen Airmen in the High Sierra* (Wilderness Press) and *Beneath Haunted Waters: Two World War II B-24 Bombers Lost in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains* (Lyons Press).

*Programs produced by Shelly Evans and Sharon Baker*

## Up and Coming Programs

**BBG** indicates Bellevue Botanical Garden.

**CUH** indicates the Center for Urban Horticulture.

**MTR** indicates Mountaineers Headquarters.

**BBG** April 25, 2017: Richard Ramsden on "Seeking Washington Wildflowers"

**CUH** May 4, 2017: Linda Vorobik speaking on the flora of New Zealand

**MTR** June 1, 2017: David Giblin speaking on "Revising *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*-What did we Learn and What's Next?"

**BBG** June 13, 2017 Nancy Kartes, manager, Bellevue Botanical Garden will discuss "Coming of Age: Bellevue Botanical Garden at 25" plus give a tour of future project sites, including the Urban Meadow, which will incorporate native plants and pollinator attractants.

## Native Plant Identification Workshop

*By Nelson Salisbury, Chapter Botanist*

A free plant identification workshop is offered before each 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.

## \* Meeting Locations

***In 2017 you'll see changes in the dates and locations of our programs***

For years now, from Sept to June, we've been going to Central Puget Sound Chapter meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture on the first Thursday of the month. We'd like to let you know about upcoming changes.

There are two good reasons for the changes: one organizational, the other financial. Lots of our members live on the east side of Lake Washington. With increasing traffic and carbon footprint awareness, it gets harder and harder for east side members to get to CUH for our meetings. A couple of years ago, members on the east side started hosting their own programs at Bellevue Botanical Garden. They've been doing well, and have had some very well received programs.

Henceforth, we'd like to better integrate our east and west meetings. To accomplish this, we will be holding fewer meetings on the west side and encourage members to attend meetings on the eastside at Bellevue Botanical Gardens. We'll be sure east and west side members are well informed of the various dates and locations of upcoming meetings. We can work out some carpooling options to make it easier.

In order to reduce the cost of our meetings, we will be holding as many of our west side meetings as possible at the fabulous Mountaineers headquarters in Magnuson Park. CUH has gotten too expensive for us. Mountaineers is very comfortable, with lots of parking and costs less. The Bellevue Botanical Garden space, where we will be holding our east side meetings, is even less expensive, since WNPS and BBG are partners. These changes will save us several thousand dollars a year.

To be sure you don't miss a meeting, watch the Native Plant Press closely to find out when and where we are meeting each month. In addition, we will have meeting dates and locations listed on our website.

### **List of 2017 Meeting Locations**

#### **Mar 2 Mountaineers Headquarters**

Apr 25 Bellevue Botanical Garden

May 4 Center for Urban Horticulture

June 1 Mountaineers Headquarters

June 13 Bellevue Botanical Garden

Sept 7 Mountaineers Headquarters

Oct 10 Bellevue Botanical Garden

Nov 2 Mountaineers Headquarters

### **Change in West Side Meeting Times**

We've had requests to change the start time of our programs on the west side from 7:30pm to 7pm. At the Feb 2 meeting we discussed this with the attendee's, who voted to change the time to 7pm. **This change will not go into effect until our first fall meeting on September 7.**

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## Board Reports

### Message from the Co-Chair

*By Chrys Sacco Bertolotto*

Change is afoot! For the first time in years, the monthly Chapter meeting west of Lake Washington moved to a new venue– The Mountaineers! It was great to see a full room of friendly, chatting native plant enthusiasts and botanists trying something new! We'll be splitting our meetings between Bellevue Botanical Garden, Center for Urban Horticulture and the Mountaineers this year, so do check our website or the newsletter for location!

The Central Puget Sound board is finalizing its Annual Report and one major thing popped out at me. Our goal of doing a better job of reaching you, our fellow membership, and those who should know us, has resulted in some new and improved endeavors. We've dug deeper into Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/wnps.centralpugetsound>), started a Meet-Up Group (<https://www.meetup.com/Washington-Native-Plant-Society/>), made sure we had greeters at each of our monthly meetings, sent a mailing to everyone on our exciting presentation line-up, and tried to have our website be more welcoming. Please check them out and join us at any one of our upcoming events! Bring a friend!

You'll also see that the Chapter Treasurer, Joy Johnsen, has provided a financial report in this newsletter. In short, the Chapter has saved more money than it spent over the past few years as we've recovered from the Great Recession. At first glance, it looks like we are spending less than half of our annual budget on achieving our mission (41%) and the other half on plant sale-related expenses (47%). One can say, however, that the Plant Sales are excellent education opportunities, with our yellow-vested experts dispensing native plant advice and education booths on a range of topics. These are our two largest events!

We have a large cushion in our budget to allow us to spend once again. In 2016, the Education Curriculum kits will be getting refurbished, the Chapter is committing a small amount of money to support the Master Native Plant Stewardship Program, investing in non-plant sale publicity efforts and hopes to double our support to Chapter Stewardship grants this year, to name a few things. It's nice to feel like the only thing limiting us is our own energy to initiate activities. If you'd like to join a creative, dedicated team of leadership volunteers, please let us know.

## Chapter Finances

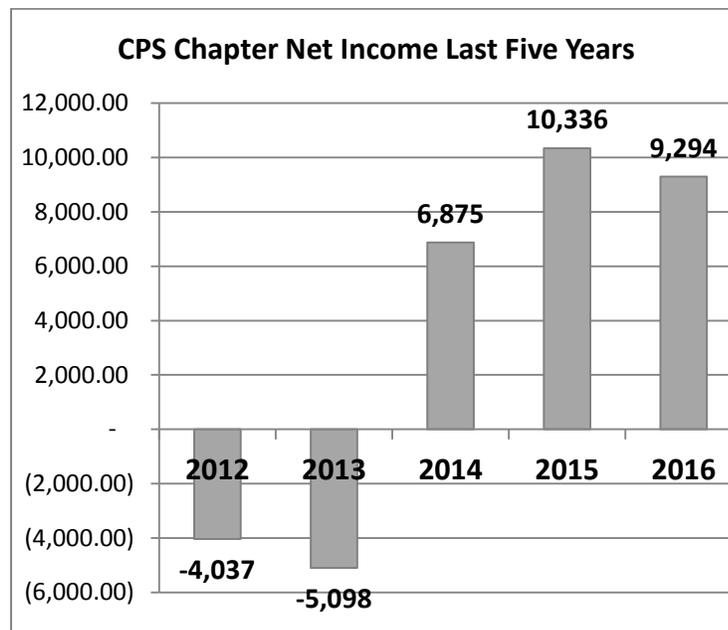
*By Joy Johnsen, CPS Treasurer*

If you have any further questions about CPS 2016 annual financials, please write Joy Johnsen at johnsenjoy@gmail.com, or telephone Joy at home (425) 820-2407.

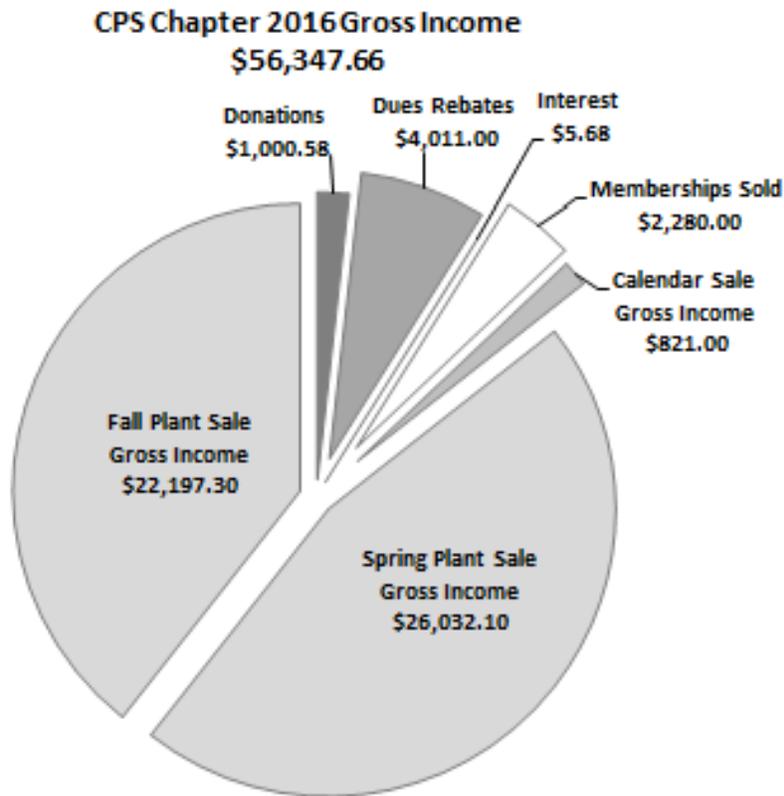
During 2016, CPS chapter posted these summary financials, all on a Cash basis:

Gross Income	\$ 56,347.66
Total Expenses	\$ 47,053.73
Net Income	\$ 9,293.93

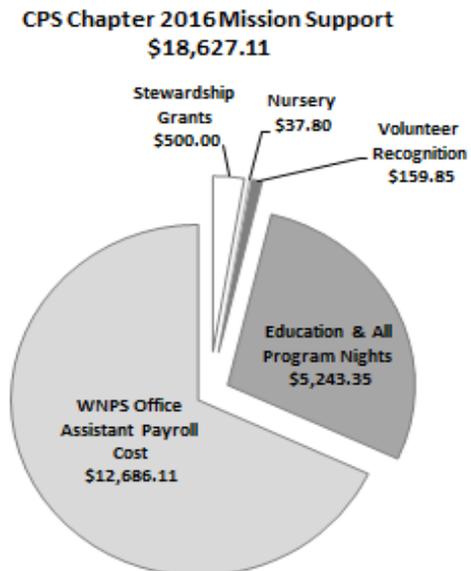
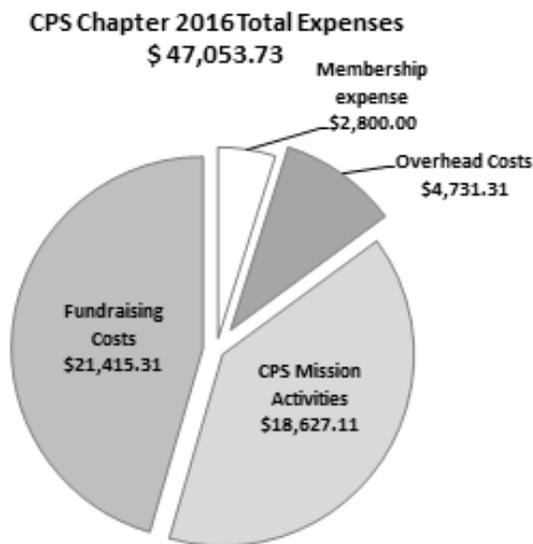
CPS chapter had negative net income during the recession years 2008-2013 totaling \$47,036.38. The last three years have seen a recovery with an average net income of \$8,835.



Gross income contains Memberships sold at plant sales which CPS chapter does not keep. Those funds are passed to WNPS parent organization. CPS gets an annual dues rebate on total chapter membership – not just the memberships sold at plant sales. See the chart on the next page.



CPS expenses can be broken into categories for mission support and other expenses.



## WNPS Social Media

*By Jan Bird, Publicity Chair*

Just a reminder to our members, if you haven't looked at our web page lately, you might want to check it out. Elizabeth has done an awesome job of adding useful information to both the WNPS web page <http://wnps.org/> and our Central Puget Sound Chapter page <http://www.wnps.org/cps/index3.html>. If you misplaced your Native Plant Press, it can be found here both for desktop computer or mobile device version. Plus, the newsletters are now archived going back to Sept. 2015.

Also a reminder that we have a Facebook page and you don't have to be on Facebook to see it.

<https://www.facebook.com/wnps.centralpugetsound/> This page has our upcoming programs, photos of various WNPS and native plant steward events as well as articles and photos of general interest to WNPS members. If you have an article or event you would like to share with our membership, please direct them to Ted Couillard at [jtheo25@gmail.com](mailto:jtheo25@gmail.com) and cc to me at [birdandcat@aol.com](mailto:birdandcat@aol.com)

I recently started a Meetup page for the Central Puget Sound Chapter in an effort to broaden our membership and attendance at events. For those not familiar with it, Meetup is an online social networking portal that facilitates offline group meetings in various localities around the world.

Meetup allows members to find and join groups unified by a common interest, in our case, native plants. When people sign up they indicate what types of groups they are interested in. Meetup sends them emails about other organizations nearby they might want to participate with based on their stated interests. For the groups individuals sign up for, they get email reminders of the meetings. Our Meetup can be found here: <https://www.meetup.com/Washington-Native-Plant-Society/>

In future editions, web page information will be kept in **WNPS and CPS Contact Information** in the Native Plant Press.

## Trail Trip Leaders Wanted:

The board position for Field Trip Chair is available. If you would like to take this position please email Chrys Bertolotto at [sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com](mailto:sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com) or call 206-588-1247. Trail Trips are on the WNPS website <http://www.wnps.org/>

## Field Trips

### **Saturday, April 8, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Evans Creek Preserve east of Redmond**

Join Elby Jones and Dan Paquette for a WNPS hike to Evans Creek Preserve to be held at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 8. Evans Creek preserve is located a few miles east of Redmond and just north of Sammamish. This 3½ mile hike has moderate elevation gains. It passes through islands of trees and shrubs on a flood plain, then retreats to the forested hillsides that are covered with a mixture of deciduous trees and conifers. Help us add to the plant list begun last December.

The group will meet at the lower trail head. Expect to be on the hike for about 3½ to 4 hours. Directions, maps and plant lists will be sent to participants. The leaders will try to hook up any participants who wish to carpool. This field trip is limited to 12 participants. To sign up, email Dan Paquette at [jdanj.paquette@gmail.com](mailto:jdanj.paquette@gmail.com).

## Eastside Branch News

*By Sid Gupta*

We hope you were able to join us for Andy MacKinnon's engaging discussion on Cool Plants and Their Fungal Friends! 99 people came to learn about the interconnected worlds of plants and fungi.



Be sure to check out our next Eastside Branch program! Join us at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00pm, where Richard Ramsden will be talking to us about ***Seeking Washington Wildflowers***: An examination of wildflowers in their native habitats from roadsides to mountain peaks of Washington. Native species discussed will include many rare or rarely seen. Their unique qualities will be highlighted as well as suggestions on where to see them this spring and upcoming summer. The program is intended for everyone with an interest in native plants: beginner or advanced, hiker or gardener.

Richard is a longtime member of WNPS. Besides travelling extensively throughout Washington to seek out wildflowers in their native habitats, he also cultivates many in his Seattle garden and nursery. His photos have been included in many articles and books on western natives and his talks on this topic have been shared with groups from Vancouver, BC to Portland, OR.

### **Upcoming Eastside Program** ***Seeking Washington Wildflowers***

Date: Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 PM

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

### **Eastside Work Party at Bellevue Botanical Garden**

We will once again be joining forces with the East Lake Washington District Garden Club to work in the native plant area of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Our work parties help steward and diversify the large urban forest abutting the BBG and also allow us to gain greater exposure by tapping into the Gardens' large audience. Additionally our partnership provides us with free meeting space, which allows the WNPS to host free educational events on the Eastside. Bring water and your favorite tools and come help us out from **10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Friday, March 17**. Be sure to dress for the weather - a sturdy pair of boots is recommended, as our work may take us near the wetland in the Native Discovery Garden. To RSVP, please contact Janka Hobbs at [urtica@frontier.com](mailto:urtica@frontier.com).

### **Volunteers Needed for the King Conservation District Native Plant Sale Community Fair**

**March 11, 9:00 – 2:00pm**  
**1107 SW Grady Way, Renton**

We need volunteers for this event to work either a morning or an afternoon shift. This is a great 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).

If you have any questions about the Eastside Branch and its activities and opportunities, contact Sid Gupta: [siidd@gmail.com](mailto:siidd@gmail.com).

## **Volunteers**

### **Volunteer for the Spring Native Plant Sale**

**Where: Mercedale Park on Mercer Island**

**When: April 28 – 29**

We just had snow recently but spring will be here soon as will be the WNPS-CPS Spring Native Plant Sale and Environmental Fair. It takes many volunteers for this sale to succeed.

The spring and fall plant sales provide the majority of your chapter's income. Without these funds we would not have an office, phones, copier, storage space or a part time office assistant. Your volunteer hours are extremely valuable to us.

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 Rita Moore at [rmoore@eds.org](mailto:rmoore@eds.org) (please put PS volunteer in the heading). Looking to hear from all of you.

### **Volunteer for Restoration Project**

*By Rick Thompson*

I am restoring a portion of the cutting beds at the nursery for three new bare root species. I need help clearing and prepping the planting area, planting 90 bare root plants, and then help installing an irrigation system. The site preparation needs to be completed by March 11\\th, the planting will occur soon afterwards, and the irrigation system will need to be installed by mid May. Please contact me at 206-715-9540, or email to [q.garryana@gmail.com](mailto:q.garryana@gmail.com)

## Volunteer at WNPS Office

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, and new friendships have already begun as a result. If you want to know what’s ahead for 2017, you can call the office (206-527-3210) or send an email inquiry to Elizabeth Gage: [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org).

## Plant of the Month: Red flowering currant, *Ribes sanguineum*

By Janka Hobbs



Red flowering currant is an early spring blooming shrub now found in gardens around the world. It is native to the Pacific coast of North America from central BC to central California, primarily on the slopes of the Cascade/Sierra ranges. It prefers dry sites and blooms best in full sun, though it tolerates some shade. There are two varieties, *sanguineum* here and *glutinosum* in the southern part of its range.

*R. sanguineum* has “edible but insipid” purple berries that can be eaten fresh or dried. Its flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds and adult butterflies, and it is a host plant for several species of lepidoptera. The berries and foliage are consumed by many species of birds and mammals.

The first European exposure to red flowering current was a specimen collected by Archibald Menzies on his 1792 voyage. The plant was also

collected by Lewis and Clark around 1805. In 1825, David Douglas sent seeds back to the Royal Horticultural Society, who grew them out. The resulting plants paid for his entire voyage. They are now grown around the world. Many named varieties are available, with flowers ranging from white to blood red. Red flowering currant has become naturalized in Great Britain, and is listed as an invasive weed in New Zealand.

*R. sanguineum* is fairly pest resistant, and has been used by commercial breeders to improve resistance to agricultural varieties. Unfortunately, it is an alternate host to white pine blister rust *Cronartium ribicola*, as are most *Ribes* spp. *C. ribicola* was probably introduced to the west coast in 1910, with a shipment of white pines from Asia. In an unsuccessful attempt to protect commercially valuable stands of Western white pine, the US government instituted a currant eradication program, which employed 2500 people in 1946. Several Eastern states still prohibit the transport and importation of *Ribes* spp.

*Ribes* infected with *Cronartium ribicola* develop an orange fungal infection on the underside of their leaves, which drop off at the end of the season. Since pines don't drop their needles annually, the fungus spreads into the branches, and eventually kills the tree. Here in Western Washington, what white pines are left probably have some level of rust resistance. If you are concerned, go out and check your *Ribes* for fuzzy orange leaves. It will give you an excuse to spend more time in the garden.

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VACANT

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## WNPS and CPS Contact Information

### 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](mailto:wnps@wnps.org)

Elizabeth Gage, WNPS Office & Volunteer Coordinator, [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org) Phone:  
(206)527-6310

Full WNPS Staff Information is available online:  
[http://www.wnps.org/contact\\_wnps.htm](http://www.wnps.org/contact_wnps.htm).

### Membership, Dues and Questions

#### Membership Rates in 2016

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 correspondence regarding membership, dues payments, etc.

Washington Native Plant Society  
6310 NE 74th ST, Suite 215E  
Seattle, WA 98115  
206-527-3210  
[info@wnps.org](mailto: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](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!

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](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.