

THE NATIVE PLANT PRESS

The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS

Vol 19, No 2, March 2018

Chapter Meeting Thursday, March 1 at 7:00 PM Mountaineers Headquarters See below for full details



Call for Volunteers April 28 Spring Plant Sale

Volunteers are the heart and soul of each plant sale.

Would you like an opportunity to learn more about our local native plants, or to meet local experts and members of the WNPS community? What better way to do that than volunteering to help with the Spring Native Plant Sale. It's a great way to hang out with native plant enthusiasts and help raise funds for our Central Puget Sound Chapter.

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

For example, in the days before the sale, you can help label and sort the many pots of plants. Or, the day before the sale, you can help set up tables and move plants into place.

During the sale, volunteers are needed to finish setting up, answer shoppers' questions, staff the holding area (where people park plants while they continue to shop) and help carry plants to shoppers' cars.

For more information, contact Ann Marten at annmarten@comcast.net or Elizabeth Gage at info@wnps.org

Programs



A Four-Dimensional Mountain: Plant Associations in our Shrub-Steppe

Thursday, March 1, 7:00 pm
Mountaineers Program Center

By Mike Marsh

In eastern Washington, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife manages shrub-steppe lands (Wildlife Areas) that, under lease agreements with private ranchers, are grazed by livestock in late spring. Some of these lands are winter habitat for elk herds. We wondered how different the vegetation is on those lands without livestock grazing from those with livestock grazing. Two wildlife areas in eastern Kittitas County, the Quilomene and Whiskey Dick,

seemed to offer an opportunity to find out. Dr. Marsh will share his findings from this study which was supported in part by the Washington Native Plant Society.

Mike Marsh and his wife, Jane, have been members of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of the WNPS since 1996. During that time, he has made numerous and wide ranging contributions to our organization, from serving as conservation chair to conducting research studies. Two enduring themes of his life have been a passion for the natural world and his geographic mobility. He was born in Pt. Limon, Costa Rica and has lived in Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Australia. In the United States, he has lived in the states of Arizona, California, Michigan, and Kentucky. Since 1985, he has resided in Washington. He completed his PhD in Zoology at U.C. Berkeley in 1961. Since that time, he has held multiple research and teaching positions. He retired from his position at the Environmental Protection Agency in 1999, where he conducted research and developing educational materials.

Program produced by Sharon Baker and Shelley Evans

Refreshments, Public Invited, Admission is Free

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 towards 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, or we will have plenty of material 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 courses in restoration ecology, statistics, and native plant production

Program produced by Cheryl Wagner

Photo credit: Jon Bakker

Upcoming Programs

BGG indicates Bellevue Botanical Garden.

MTR indicates Mountaineers Headquarters.

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.

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

BGG April 10, 2018: Jon Bakker presents: *The Prairies of Western Washington.*

MTR May 3, 2018: Frederica Bowcutt presents: *The Tanoak: An Environmental History of a Pacific Coast Hardwood.*

BGG June 12, 2018: Julie O'Donald presents: *Birds in Our Midst: Creating Gardens Filled with Life.*

Field Trip



"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, 10:30am - 3:30pm on site

Trip Leader: Stewart Wechsler

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 206-430-5562

Trip limit: 12

Board Reports



Spring Native Plant Sale and Environmental Fair

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018

Time: 10am - 4pm

Place: Mercerdale Park, 77th Ave. and 32nd St., Mercer Island, WA 98040

This spring's theme:

"Making your yard habitat friendly with native plants".

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

At our annual plant sale, you will 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 are ideal for Western Washington gardens and vitally important for our birds and pollinators. Choose all the plants you like – 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 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.

There is plenty of free parking and Mercerdale Park has open picnic areas and a children's play area.

Proceeds from this event will help WNPS-CPS fund its key programs for study, education, stewardship and restoration of public spaces in Washington. For more information, please contact Yen Flanagin at 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>

Eastside Branch News

By Cheryl Wagner

Julie O'Donald gave an entertaining, educational presentation about "Attracting Native Pollinators: Gardens as Habitat" to sixty interested, enthusiastic folks at the Sammamish Library January, 27, 2018, on a wet, windy Saturday.

She described how to create a garden where pollinators such as our native butterflies, bumble bees, wasps and flies are attracted to various native wildflowers and shrubs. Many of us went away ready to convert some of our lawns to pollinator garden strips.

We look forward to Julie returning to speak about attracting birds with native shrubs and trees on June 12, 2018 at Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

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 a as need 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 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 please contact Rick Thompson at g.garryana@gmail.com or 206-715-9540.

Plant Donations

By Rick Thompson

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, 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 to set up a day and time.

Volunteer Opportunities

Spring 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 some upcoming events for which we need volunteers. Please contact Education Chair, Franja Bryant (franjabryant@hotmail.com) or Elizabeth Gage at the WNPS office (info@wnps.org) if you're ready to help.

Saturday, February 24

King Conservation District Native Plant & Community Fair

1107 SW Grady Way, Renton

8:00 -2:00 (2-3 hour shifts include canopy set up or take down)

Wednesday, April 18

Earth Day, North Seattle College, 9600 College Way North, Shoreline

10:00 – 2:00 (1 shift)

Saturday, April 21

Open House, Lake Wilderness Arboretum, 22520 AW 248th, Maple Valley

10:00 – 2:00 (2-3 hour shifts include canopy set up and take down)

Saturday, April 28

CPS Plant Sale, Mercerdale Park, 7701 SE 32nd St., Mercer Island

9:00 – 4:00 (2-3 hour shifts)

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 or 206-527-3210.

Plant of the Month: *Collinsia parviflora*

By Janka Hobbs



Small (or Maiden) blue-eyed Mary is a spring-flowering annual of vernal wet meadows and open forests. It is widespread throughout the West from the Southern edge of the Yukon Territory to New Mexico. It is considered introduced to Alaska, and is classed as threatened in Michigan. It is probably extirpated from New England.

The genus *Collinsia* consists of about twenty species. Its center of diversity is in California, though there are two species centered in the Midwest. *C. parviflora* and *C. grandiflora* are common in Washington State, and can be found in King County. *C. rattanii* and *C. sparsiflora* are at the Northern edge of their ranges in Klickitat County.

In the genus *Collinsia*, species with larger flowers tend to be insect pollinated, while the ones with small flowers often self-pollinate. In the larger flowers, differential growth rates between the pistil and the anthers keep them apart for the first few days of flowering, giving pollinators a chance to visit. In the smallest flowers, the parts are so close together that they sometimes self-pollinate even before they open.

Cladistically, the species seem to pair off, with a small flowered species most closely related to a large-flowered species. *C. parviflora* and *C. grandiflora* form one of these pairs of species, with some intermediate (and possibly hybrid) populations. The individuals with the largest flowers and the individuals with the smallest flowers are clearly differentiable, but some of the intermediate forms are, well, intermediate.

Even the most innocent little wildflowers can keep us guessing.

References:

Systematics of *Collinsia parviflora* and *C. grandiflora* (Scrophulariaceae)
Fred R. Ganders and Gerda R. Krause
Madroño Vol. 33, No. 1 (JANUARY 1986), pp. 63-7

Comparative analysis of late floral development and mating-system evolution in tribe Collinsieae (Scrophulariaceae s.l.)
W. Scott Armbruster, Christa P. H. Mulder, Bruce G. Baldwin, Susan Kalisz, Bridget Wessa and Helen Nute
Am. J. Bot. January 2002 vol. 89 no. 1 37-49

Central Puget Sound Chapter WNPS Officers & Committee Chairs

Chair

Chrys Sacco Bertolotto
206-588-1247
sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com

Vice-Chair

VACANT

Secretary

Sharon Baker
206-935-1769 (h)
206-464-1068 (c)
sabaker41@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kris Morse
505-228 9416
Kristine.morse@delta.com

Board Members at Large

Cindy Spurgeon
(Stewardship Grants)
206-632-6432
cspurgeon@msn.com
Grace Stiller
(Salvage Program)
206-795-5783
gracestiller@comcast.net
Ted Couillard
(Digital Media Coordinator)
206-384-5277
jtheo25@gmail.com

Publicity

Jan Bird
(425) 427-5218
birdandcat@aol.com

Field Trips

VACANT

Programs –Westside

Shelley Evans
206-720-0546
shelley.a.evans@gmail.com
Sharon Baker
206-935-1769 (h)
206-464-1068 (c)
sabaker41@gmail.com

Programs – Eastside

Cheryl Wagner
425-392-0288
javadog8@yahoo.com

Education

Franja Bryant
425-562-0353
franjabryant@hotmail.com

Botanist

Nelson Salisbury
206-372-4255
nelson@earthcorps.org

Botanist Fellow

Stewart Wechsler
206-932-7225
ecostewart@gmail.com

Conservation

Carter Case
425-361-3334
carterdcase@gmail.com

Eastside Team Chair

Cheryl Wagner
425-392-0288
javadog8@yahoo.com

Plant Sale Chair

Yen Flanagin
425-785-1868
yen.flanagin@yahoo.com

Fundraising

VACANT
Stewardship Program
Chrys Sacco Bertolotto
206-588-1247
sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator

VACANT
Nursery Chair
Rick Thompson
205-715-9540
q.garryana@gmail.com

Other CPS Contacts

Newsletter Editor
Rick Bergman
206-372-9816
rickbergman@comcast.net

Refreshments

Dan Paquette
425-486-4927
Jdanj.paquette@gmail.com

Office and Volunteer Coordinator

Elizabeth Gage
206-527-3210
info@wnps.org

WNPS and CPS Contact Information

WNPS Office

Denise Mahnke, WNPS Business Manager, wnps@wnps.org.
Elizabeth Gage, WNPS Office & Volunteer Coordinator, 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 and hit the “Join” button, or send an email to 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 and cc to Jan Bird at 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.

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: rickbergman@comcast.net
Phone: 206-372-9816 Digital photos must be high-resolution or will NOT be accepted.