Annual Report 2001
Washington Native Plant Society

The Mission of the Washington Native Plant Society is to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington’s native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy.

Washington is blessed with the splendid diversity — deserts to rainforests and alpine meadows to coastal tidelands. Each unique environment supports a rich and varied native flora. For over 25 years the Washington Native Plant Society has worked as an important voice for Washington’s native plants.

Human driven change threatens the quality and the quantity of Washington’s remaining native habitats, but we believe the human driven work of our membership in chapters throughout this state is helping to conserve what we have left and restore some of what we have lost. We know that healthy native plant habitats are integral to healthy ecosystems. Through field study, educational programs and conservation work we strive to teach others about the incredible diversity and value of Washington’s native plants.
The Washington Native Plant Society offers a wide variety of educational activities to engage its membership and attract others.

**Field trips** are a mainstay of WNPS. More than 100 field trips are offered each year by local chapters to explore the enormous ecological diversity of Washington. What better way to learn native plants and where they grow than hiking through our coastal forests, venturing into alpine meadows, or exploring sagebrush country in the spring.

Perhaps the most valuable experience gained, besides fellowship, is a deeper understanding and appreciation for the value of native plants and their habitats to Washington.

Our popular **Annual Study Weekend** is an extravaganza of field study offered to the membership. A different location or ecosystem is selected each year for closer study. 2001 found us exploring the alpine and subalpine ecosystems of the central Cascades. Participants could select from more than 25 field trips and workshops and listen to knowledgeable speakers each evening.

For the more intrepid we offer an annual **Botany Backpacking Trip** and for the more knowledgeable a gathering of professional botanists at our annual **Botany Washington** weekend. The backpacking trip hiked to Chowder Ridge on Mt. Baker while the professionals studied the plants of Mt. Adams.

Plant species lists are regularly kept and add to an extensive collection of plant lists maintained by the Washington Native Plant Society for more than 300 locations. These records of plant occurrence and distribution add to a growing body of information on Washington’s native plants.

**Regular programs** and **plant identification workshops** are offered by many of our chapters. Experts address a range of ecological topics related to native vegetation.

“WNPS is indebted to the enormous support of volunteers without which most of the organizational and educational activities could not happen.

Field trip leaders, speakers, instructors, newsletter editors, web designers and organizers volunteer their ideas, time and professional expertise with a generosity of boundless spirit.”

**WNPS Publications** for 2001 include:

**Chapter Newsletters:**
- The Central Puget Sound Chapter Newsletter
- The Sagebrush Sentinel
- The Phlox Phlyer
- The Koma Kulshan Chapter Newsletter
- The Northeast Chapter Newsletter
- The Olympic Chapter Newsletter
- The Potent Teller
- The South Sound Chapter Newsletter
- Prairie Smoke

**Douglasia** is the quarterly newsletter of the Washington Native Plant Society and has been published continuously since 1976. *Douglasia* provides organizational news, book reviews and articles on native plants, plant ecology and plant biology to the membership.

**Conservation of Washington’s Rare Plants and Ecosystems** was published in 2001 by WNPS and is based on the proceedings from a Conference held in the spring of 2000.

**WNPS Website:** [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)
Native Plant Stewardship

This popular program of the Native Plant Society is now coordinated in two counties with grant money from King and Snohomish counties. The program trains community members to become Native Plant Stewards, who, in turn, use their knowledge to restore disturbed ecosystems and educate others in their communities about the importance of native plants for biodiversity, habitat protection, wildlife, and environmental quality. Stewards are trained by professionals who volunteer their time and expertise. Each Steward commits to 100 hours of volunteer service. The 50 Stewards trained in 2001 will provide 5000 hours of community service directly benefiting restoration, conservation, and environmental education efforts. Through their service a greater number of projects will be undertaken or assisted in communities, bringing critical native plant resources and expertise to these projects.

Ivy OUT

Ivy Off Urban Trees is an education and public outreach program with on-the-ground results. Working from a popular Seattle park with more than 250 acres of mature Douglas fir and western red cedar forest, we coordinated monthly work parties throughout 2001 to remove English ivy. School groups, service groups, church groups and ordinary citizens worked side-by-side learning more about invasive plants and urban native forests. Removing ivy from the park’s trees and attacking the densest perimeter populations, Ivy OUT is attempting to systematically eliminate ivy from Seward Park.

Educational Grants to Schools

Each year the Washington Native Plant Society supports educational activities about native plants through its Education Grant Program. It is an ideal way to help teachers integrate native plants into their science curricula.

2001 Education Awards

♦ Spokane’s Lewis and Clark High School students develop an Ecosystem Garden and Interpretive Trail on school grounds.

♦ Experiencing, Exploring, Enhancing through Native Plants is the educational activity and garden developed by the Children’s Center at the Evergreen State College.

♦ Monroe Junior High students plant a native plant garden and learn science at the same time.

♦ South Puget Sound Community College is provided the necessary funds to develop a Native Plant Buffer Garden.
HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Most land conservation initiatives in Washington have a WNPS member at the heart somewhere; whether it’s the conservation professionals negotiating the initiative or the supporters volunteering their time and money.

During 2001, we continued our support of listing Spalding’s silene as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This species has been steadily declining in native grasslands of eastern Washington. World-wide it is known from only 52 populations in the Northwest. The USFWS has agreed to list this species under the Endangered Species Act.

Showy stickseed, Washington’s rarest plant was also listed by the Endangered Species Act. Knowledgeable comment and input into these processes get species recognized and enhance, if not ensure, their protection. Without protection, populations will continue to dwindle until they are extirpated from Washington.

WNPS supported the expansion of the Selah Natural Areas Preserve which has the largest known population of one of our state’s threatened species, the Basalt Daisy.

WNPS chapters prioritize local projects for conservation activity or restoration work and join with other agencies or organizations to support the effort. Chapter members and Native Plant Stewards trained through our Native Plant Stewardship Program volunteer hundreds of hours each year on these projects.

Whether it’s working to protect a floating sphagnum bog on the Olympic Peninsula, re-establishing Red Town Meadow in King County or controlling noxious weeds in natural areas like the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve in the Columbia Basin, WNPS supports and encourages member involvement.

RESEARCH

The Washington Native Plant Society regularly supports, with small grants, the research of graduate students and scientists who study Washington’s native plants. Grants this year went to:

- **Floral Evolution in Polemonium.** Investigates the evolutionary consequences of flower size and number in three imperiled species (*P. pectinatum, P. carneum, P. elegans*) in Washington.

- **An Inventory of the Vascular and Non-Vascular Plants at Roger Lake Research Natural Area.** This project will conduct an inventory of vascular and non-vascular plants in an unstudied area. Rare and new species to Washington have been found.

- **Physiological Mechanisms underlying Competitive Superiority of Invasive Riparian Trees.** This project will determine if competition for water and drought tolerance in salt cedar and Russian olive contribute to their invasive strength in Washington riparian zones. These species are displacing native species in our riparian zones.

- **Colonization Limitation during Primary Succession on a Glacier Foreland.** This study, near the Coleman Glacier, will determine what factors limit colonization of native species in areas with receding glaciers in Washington. This information will support conservation and restoration efforts in the contest of global warming, human disturbance, and invasive species.

- **Evaluation of the Taxonomic Status of Lesquerella tuplashensis.** This effort will attempt to resolve whether the newly defined species, *Lesquerella tuplashensis*, stands as a separate species, or is simply an ecotype of *L. douglasii*. *Lesquerella tuplashensis* is a candidate for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The Washington Native Plant Society is an affiliate of Earth Share
2001 Financial Statement

Revenue

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