Dear Readers,

In 1976, a small group of folks convened on a snowy day at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle to discuss conservation and stewardship of Washington’s native plants and their habitats. The Washington Native Plant Society was born out of that meeting. Forty years later, in 2016, our 12 chapters offer programs, field trips, plant sales, stewardship projects, and much more throughout the State. We publish chapter newsletters, social media posts, the Botanical Rambles blog, and our quarterly journal, Douglasia. We coordinate educational workshops, Native Plant Appreciation Week, Botany Washington, and our annual Study Weekend. We financially support botanical research, conservation efforts, education projects, and development of native plant gardens.

The Washington Native Plant Society is a 501 (c) 3 organization with approximately 1,800 members statewide and across the nation. The mission of the Society is to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington’s native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy. As a volunteer organization, the Society provides expertise and opportunities for all to share in the enjoyment of Washington’s native flora. The Society serves as an effective and respected voice for the conservation of Washington’s native plants and habitats.

The Society is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of twelve Chapter chairs, ten elected at-large members, five Standing Committee chairs, and the Immediate Past President. In 2016, we continued to carefully work through numerous and challenging human resource and financial issues; we’ve begun to diversify the Board of Directors; we’re thinking creatively about how to use our communication and publication dollars; and we’ve engaged technological tools that have improved our business systems and enhanced how we interact with the public and our members.

We hope you enjoy reading about our work and look forward to working with you again over the coming years in our ongoing efforts to appreciate, conserve, and advocate for Washington’s native plants and their habitats. Your support and interest in this WNPS Mission are increasingly important because the need to conserve and steward native plant resources has never been more critical.

Thank you to everyone who made 2016 a successful year for the Washington Native Plant Society. I look forward to the new successes, explorations, and friendships our future promises.

Clay Antieau
President (2016), on behalf of the WNPS Board of Directors

Denise Mahnke
Business Manager
This statement of activities and financial position represents the Society’s 2016 fiscal year (January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016). Fiscal year 2015 results are provided for comparative purposes. These statements include all chapter-level and State-organization level financial activity.

General contributions increased in 2016 compared to 2015 after excluding a 2015 gift from the estate of Eileen Bryant. Total Operating Expenses held relatively constant. Portions of cost spent on fundraising and administrative activities were up slightly in 2016 due to increased effort expended in developing Society fundraising and communication plans. The Society experienced a small decrease in net assets compared to 2015 with continued expenditure of state-organization’s Stewardship Program funds received from the estate of Jane Titland in 2014.

The WNPS Endowment (included in the total organization assets) had $144,731 at year end with new contributions of $3,671 and $5,173 released in 2016 to fund grant activity supporting research, education, and conservation.

2016 and 2015 figures are derived from end-of-year accounting files that have been audited by our CPA. These figures have been included on the Federal Tax Reporting Form 990 for these years. Financial, accounting, and other policies are available at www.wnps.org.
COLLABORATIONS & PROGRAMS

BOTANY WASHINGTON  The Botany WA Program was founded 20 years ago by the late Dr. Arthur Kruckeberg, who modeled it after Botany BC. These events bring together professional and amateur botanists for a weekend of talks, walks, and socializing at a selected site. Sessions include wildflower walks, keying plants in the field with local and regional floras, and taxonomic sessions on challenging families or genera. There is also an evening program of lectures, some by academic researchers. These events are open to members and non-members alike, serving 50-60 participants annually and is a partnership between the Society and the University of Washington Herbarium. In 2016, Botany WA focused on exploring the floristic and taxonomic diversity of the eastern Olympic Peninsula from a base at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM  Initiated 20 years ago, in 1996, the Native Plant Stewardship Program has been creating a citizenry informed about Washington’s native ecosystems and their critical value to the State’s ecological and economic health. The Program has provided more than 600 students with the training, motivation, and inspiration to donate their time, skills, and knowledge in service to their community through education, research, restoration, and advocacy projects. Traditionally a 100-hour course offered in the Puget Sound area, in 2016 the Society offered shorter pilot programs for the South Sound and Wenatchee Valley Chapters. These courses attracted 22 and 12 new stewards respectively and created new partnerships between these chapters and other organizations and agencies.
STUDY WEEKEND  Members gather annually to enjoy and study of Washington’s native plants and their habitats. Sponsored annually by a WNPS Chapter, the event provides excellent opportunities to explore regional plant diversity. The 2016 event marks the 35th Study Weekend offered for members of the Society. Every year 100-200 members convene to enjoy their choice of more than 25 day hikes led by professional botanists. The event also offers educational speakers and the camaraderie of exploring together with other members—all focused on a common passion for native plants and botanical skills and knowledge. The 2016 Study Weekend attracted 164 participants for a weekend in the Wenatchee Mountains. The event was co-sponsored by the Wenatchee Valley and Central Washington chapters and was based out of Leavenworth.

WORKSHOPS FOR BOTANISTS  The Society and the University of Washington (UW) Herbarium at the Burke Museum collaborate to offer continuing education programs in botany to members and the general public. Workshops are held on the UW Seattle campus and include classroom and field sessions over three days. In 2016, Clay Antieau, MS and PhC, taught his Know Your Grasses Workshop to 17 students. Peter Zika, Research Associate, UW Herbarium, taught an unusual class on Aquatic Plant Identification for 15 students.

Students come from a broad mix of professional backgrounds and affiliations, including botanists and public land managers from US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service, National Park Service, and many state agencies, including the Washington Natural Heritage Program, and Washington State departments of Transportation and Ecology. Students also include botanists and wetland scientists from consulting firms and many WNPS members who are non-professionals.

GRANTS PROGRAM  The Research, Education, and Conservation committees solicit and review grant proposals for projects around the state or for projects that focus on Washington’s native plant species. Each year, the committees award funds to worthy projects from their respective budgets. The Conservation Committee monitors issues impacting native plants and habitats across the state and writes letters in support of the conservation of native plants. Chapters also provide grant awards for local projects that enhance their community’s understanding of native plants or that restore habitat. In 2016, Research grants were awarded to students from Florida Museum of Natural History, Central Washington State University, and University of British Columbia. A Conservation grant was awarded to a grassland restoration project on Dalles Mountain. Education grants were awarded to University Place Community Garden, and to the new Nooksack Salmon Enhancement facility for a native plant and stream restoration demonstration garden.
A WNPS Fellow is the highest honor given to a member of the Society, conferred to those who have made outstanding contributions to the understanding and/or preservation of Washington’s flora or to the success of WNPS. Selection of Fellows occurs every five years. Two Fellows were selected and honored in 2016: Pam Camp and Gary Smith. Pam is an accomplished rare plant botanist and plant collector who retired after a distinguished 30-year career with the BLM. She founded or co-founded two WNPS chapters and served as chair of the Research and Plant Inventory Committee for 15 years. Gary is a Master Native Plant Steward and was instrumental in the growth of the stewardship program. In his work as treasurer of WNPS, he established the Endowment Fund and many of the financial policies that guide our organization.

DOUGLASIA, THE WNPS WEBSITE AND BOTANICAL RAMBLES BLOG

For more than a decade, the Society’s website at www.wnps.org has enticed and educated visitors with information on the botany, ecology, cultivation, and enjoyment of Washington’s native plants. The website continues to be our Society’s main tool for communicating and interacting with the general public and members alike. The website offers a wealth of program information, opportunities for learning, photographs, and other resources.

The WNPS blog, Botanical Rambles, is published twice per month with content covering a wide variety of botanical topics. In 2016 we had 204 subscribers to the blog. The Communications Committee began planning for a transition to a new electronic newsletter to be transmitted to members and the public beginning in 2017.

The Summer 2016 issue of Douglasia celebrates the society’s 40th Anniversary, sharing the updated history of WNPS. This issue marks the change to a full color publication format for the future of the WNPS Journal. The Journal is distributed to WNPS members, other state Native Plant Societies around the country, and is cataloged in several libraries at university and botanical institutions, including the Washington State Library.
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15,895 Native plants sold in 9 regional plant sales

1. Phantom Orchid (Cephalanthera austiniae)
   Photo by Ray Izumi
2. Bitterroot (Lewisia rediviva)
   Photo by David Hagen
3. Pinedrops (Pterospora andromedea)
   Photo by Cindy Luksus
DONATE NOW
Your contributions help preserve Washington’s remarkable native plants and support outstanding educational and outreach programs. We save what we love. Please visit www.wnps.org to learn more.

DONATE LATER
Include the Washington Native Plant Society in your estate plans and bequeath a legacy of beautiful and fascinating Washington native plants to future generations. Please contact wnps@wnps.org for more information.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

JOIN
Join the Washington Native Plant Society and receive additional benefits. Memberships help us plan for the future. Please visit www.wnps.org to join or renew online.

VOLUNTEER
Enjoy good company, share your professional expertise, and learn more about native plants and their habitats as a WNPS office volunteer or a volunteer in one or more of many activities happening in your local Chapter. Contact wnps@wnps.org for more information.