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. Through strategic planning we set and modify our priorities over time. With funds from our membership, grants, generous donations and the hard work of our paid and volunteer staff, WNPS supports research, education and conservation activities for the benefit of native plant species on public and private lands. We add value to our work through the many partnerships, alliances and relationships we have established.

Partnerships provide ways of extending and enhancing the work of the Washington Native Plant Society. Through the years the Washington Native Plant Society has enjoyed and benefited from many partnerships and alliances with other agencies, associations and organizations. Most have happened on an impromptu basis through the myriad connections of our membership.

WNPS has many members who are employees of federal, state and local agencies in Washington. Others are employees of like-minded environmental organizations. Often it is these members who have helped us form working partnerships to initiate projects, coordinate educational programs and produce products that enhance and further the conservation of native plants in Washington. These alliances are a vital source which help WNPS to take programs and activities in new directions and to wider audiences. It also helps WNPS fulfill its mission more effectively and often more cost-efficiently.

The Native Plant Stewardship Program is one example of a Society educational program which has grown and expanded its horizons through the partners and alliances it has formed. King, Snohomish and Pierce counties which have provided significant funding, have helped to influence program focus and encouraged us to emphasize at different times water quality issues, urban forestry issues, native plant landscaping, riparian habitat, and underserved communities. Each of these focus changes has broadened our input and impact in more communities than we might otherwise have served or influenced.

Native Plant Appreciation Week has been an opportunity for governmental agencies, non-profit groups and environmental organizations to highlight their work in protecting native plant species and restoring native plant habitats. Forty agencies and organizations supported this year’s Native Plant Appreciation Week. It has been an opportunity to highlight native plants with state, county and city governments who have joined in proclaiming Native Plant Appreciation Week.

Each chapter within the Society has been instrumental in developing local partnerships and alliances. WNPS Education Grants have further helped the Society to work with schools around the state. These grants have provided the necessary seed money for many schools to develop native plant gardens and incorporate native plant science into school curricula. The Society’s Research Grants also establish collaborative relationships between the academic community and the Washington Native Plant Society. Much of what the Washington Native Plant Society accomplishes is due to the energy of its membership and the partnerships formed as a result.
In an effort to find ways to improve and enhance conservation efforts of this imperiled ecosystem, the Washington Native Plant Society invited presentations from state and federal agencies working in Washington on Garry Oak. This all day workshop was held at the Cornet Bay Environmental Learning Center on Whidbey Island in March.


Washington Department of Natural Resources explained Garry oak-pine woodlands comprise approximately 70,000 acres in the eastern Washington counties of Klickitat and Yakima. In the Puget Trough Garry oak canopies comprise an estimated 20,000 acres. The historic extent of grasslands in the Puget Trough is estimated to have been 250,000 acres, with an additional 25,000 acres of balds.

Today the estimate for these habitats is 20,000 acres — an extraordinary loss.

The Nature Conservancy talked about conservation and research needs. The first need is to protect remaining oak habitat since so little remains. Then a need to restore connectivity between remaining oak fragments. Finally, restoration of degraded habitats will require considerable more research and understanding for success.

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service coordinates a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program in Washington. WHIP provides private landowners with up to 75% of the cost of restoration projects and Garry oak is one of their priorities.

The efforts to preserve Garry oak by our northern neighbor, British Columbia, fueled the afternoon discussion. While local projects and initiatives on Whidbey Island, San Juan Island and in Pierce County provided inspiration and an interchange of ideas and discussion of future needs.
Learning about Garry Oak and Other Native Plant Habitats

More than 100 field trips are organized each year by chapters of the Washington Native Plant Society which are open to the membership and the public for study and learning about native plants and native plant habitats of Washington.

The Society also offers two popular weekend events which provide an opportunity for members and others to learn more in-depth about a particular region of the state.

Botany Washington

Garry Oak and the nature preserves of San Juan Island were the focus of Botany Washington in 2005. Participants learned about the community effort on Cady Mountain to preserve Garry oak and visited British Camp where the National Park Service has been working to restore Garry oak through prescribed burns and other restoration techniques. The San Juan County Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust presented their work to conserve natural areas on the San Juan Islands and also led field trips to conservation easements and natural areas on the west coast of San Juan Island.

A study of the coastal vegetation in the shore zone at American Camp on San Juan Island completed the weekend.

WNPS Study Weekend

The Columbia River Gorge was the destination for this year’s Annual Study Weekend. Eighteen field trips were organized for over 125 participants providing a variety of different native plant habitat types to study. Buttes, mountains and high points along the river provided spectacular wildflower displays for some of the trips, while others chose to travel to forested riparian habitats and understory to learn about mosses, lichens and native American uses of native plants. Those traveling to the Conboy National Refuge viewed a large seasonal marsh in a land of dense pine, fir and prairie.

Friends of the Columbia River Gorge presented an evening program on the history of the Gorge and their efforts to preserve and protect this national scenic area.

The Value of Field Study

The Washington Native Plant Society is committed to providing lots of opportunities for members and the public to learn about native plants and their habitats through field trips and study weekends because people are much more enthusiastic about conserving and protecting the things they know about and learn to value.
During the first week of May this year Washington celebrated its second Native Plant Appreciation Week. Governor Gregoire encouraged citizens of the state to learn more about native plants by taking a walk, visiting a natural area, or becoming involved in a restoration project. WNPS Chapters and other organizations coordinated 60 activities in 18 counties to provide opportunities for Washingtonians to learn more about our native plant diversity. And 45 cities and counties throughout Washington joined the Governor in proclaiming this week.

WNPS invited many Washington nurseries to participate during the week by offering native plant stock to their customers and displaying our Native Plant Appreciation Week poster. Over 30 participated.
Native Plant Stewardship Program

Native Plant Stewardship Graduates have proven the value of this WNPS Program. Over 200 community projects from restoration to environmental education have been initiated or served by Native Plant Stewards who return the value of their educational training in volunteer service to their communities and to the Washington Native Plant Society.

A wide range of citizens participate in this program each year and receive extensive training in native plant identification, native plant ecosystems, urban forest restoration, wetland biology and native plant landscaping. Trained by specialists from public agencies, private firms and university faculty; teachers volunteer their time to make this extraordinary program so successful.

The success of the Stewardship Program has largely resulted from its ability to recruit citizens who have a potential passion for native plants and to nurture that passion so the individuals become self-motivated ambassadors and leaders in the preservation and conservation of native plants and their habitats. This is a unique cadre of people from all walks of life - housewives, educators, doctors, landscapers, master gardeners, and retired professionals - that band together for about 10 weeks training and become lifelong native plant advocates.

The Native Plant Stewardship Program is one of WNPS major outreach programs. Begun in 1996 in response to numerous requests for public information about native plants and native plant habitats, the program has graduated 334 stewards who have contributed over 53,000 reported volunteer hours promoting the awareness, appreciation, education and restoration of native plants in Washington State.
Financial Support for Educational Activities

Each year the Society provides financial support to a variety of educational projects around the state which promote the use of native plants or enhance learning and interpretation. Educational

Native Plants of Eastern WA

Financial support provided for an educational brochure on native plant landscaping for eastern Washington. This brochure complements our western Washington landscaping with natives brochure.

It provides information on gardening with natives, where to find natives and best choices for different garden and landscape sites.

South Bluffs, Washington Park, Anacortes Interpretive Signage

Washington Park is a 220 acre park on the southwest side of Anacortes known for its natural beauty. Over the years heavy foot traffic on the dramatic south bluffs of the park has accelerated erosion in the area. This area supports a wide variety of native wildflowers and is a botanical jewel. Funded signage will help to preserve this area.

Kul Kah Han Garden Native Plant Interpretive Signage

Kul Kah Han Garden in Chimacum is designed to educate the public, of all ages, about native plants and their benefits toward the health of salmon and people. Five gardens represent 5 ecosystems on the Olympic Peninsula. A grant from the Washington Native Plant Society is helping to provide interpretive signage.

Interpretive Materials Native Plant Garden At the Walla Walla Humane Society

The Walla Walla subchapter of the Columbia Basin Native Plant Chapter became interested in developing a native plant garden to demonstrate how plants indigenous to Walla Walla would be attractive in home gardens AND would use much less water than the usual landscaping species.

This innovative little garden uses the parking lot bump outs of the Humane Society and corner plots to teach visitors about native plants. Grant provided funding for signage and interpretive material.

Native Plants for Native Birds Garden Dungeness River Audubon Society

The garden highlights native plants such as native roses, kinnikinnick, wild strawberries, Oregon grape, salal, snowberry serviceberry and others used by native birds for feeding, nesting and roosting. Grant provided financial support for interpretive signage about the native plants.

Discovery Park Native Restoration

Provided financial assistance for a native plant restoration project in Seattle’s Discovery Park Billings Middle School students planted ground cover and Shrubs incorporating diversity studies and ecological measurements for a hands-on science learning project.
Financial Support for Research

For over 25 years the Washington Native Plant Society has been financially supporting plant surveys, graduate research and other scientific inquiries to advance our knowledge and understanding of Washington’s native plants.

Research activity funded in 2005:

- Ecology of the Black Lily (*Fritillaria camschatcensis*: a Washington State Sensitive Species)
- Surveying the Vascular Plants, Nonvascular Plants and Lichens of the San Juan Islands
- Invasion of *Buddleia davidii*: Site Characteristics and the Potential Impact on Pollination Ecology in Riparian Areas of King County, WA
- Population Dynamics of Rare Endemic Forbs in Disturbed Palouse Meadow-Steppe
- The role of species interactions in the colonization of a late-successional plant species, *Vaccinium membranaceum*

Conservation and Advocacy

Cross Base Highway  
WNPS opposes the construction of the Cross-Base Highway in Pierce County. This highway would traverse Ft. Lewis and divide a valuable Garry oak—ponderosa pine woodland which is home to a small population of western gray squirrels, and seriously affect wetlands which are probable sites of the federally listed water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*).

Voluntary Grazing Permit Buyout  
WNPS supports this congressional bill which represents a new approach to reducing the impact of grazing on federal lands. The proposed act would permit interested buyers to purchase grazing rights from willing sellers and retire these rights from grazing on public lands. Lands thus retired would be conservation managed.

Forest Monitoring  
Olympic National Forest  
Members of the WNPS Conservation Committee and the community were involved in the planning of monitoring and restoration activities of a thinning project on the Flat Creek which is a branch of the South Fork of the Skokomish River. Monitoring includes similar sites not being thinned to assess the impact of forest thinning on forest ecosystems.

Hamma Hamma Balds  
Natural Area Preserve  
WNPS strongly supported the creation of this new Natural Area Preserve by the Natural Heritage Program. This NAP protects three rare ecological features — the Roemer’s fescue/field chickweed/Junegrass grassland; the common bluecup plant; and the montane herbaceous bald ecosystem.

Garry Oak  
WNPS Conservation Committee members took a lead in raising awareness about Garry oak and associated plant communities in Washington. Revising and republishing a brochure with The Nature Conservancy, *South Puget Sound Prairie and Oak Communities*; participating in the British Columbia-based GOERT (Garry Oak Ecosystem Recover Team) annual technical symposium; and arranging a meeting in Washington on threatened Garry oak communities in Washington. Other Garry oak sessions at the Northwest Science and the PNW Society for Ecological Restoration Meetings.
Chapters

Central Puget Sound Chapter is the largest chapter of WNPS with Seattle at its core. Active year-round, they offer regular meetings, field trips throughout the year and two popular plant sales in the spring and in the fall. The chapter sponsors Native Plant Stewardship classes in King and Snohomish counties and provides funding for selected restoration projects within the community.

Central Washington Chapter in the heart of Washington draws upon members from the Ellensburg and Yakima areas. One of the charter chapters of the Society it attracts visitors from all over Washington to view the spring wildflowers of the shrub-steppe.

Columbia Basin Chapter the Columbia Basin has the driest climate in Washington and members of this chapter enjoy a very unique flora. A new brochure on Native Plants of Eastern Washington, the Natural Way to Grow was completed this year. The chapter is active in the Tri-Cities area and has a subchapter active in Walla Walla.

Koma Kulshan Chapter of Bellingham uses the Native American name for Mt. Baker, the spectacular landmark within the region. Regular program meetings and field trips are offered by the chapter and each year, the chapter collaborates with the cities of Bellingham and Fairhaven on a popular Spring Flora and Backyard Habitat Festival. The Chapter started a native plant greenhouse this year for propagating and growing native plants for plant sales.

Northeast Washington Chapter serves the northeastern part of Washington holding its program meetings in Spokane. The chapter often participates in joint field trips with the Calypso Chapter of Idaho. The chapter worked on a plant inventory of the Audubon Lake Area and advocated for Antoine Peak to become a part of Spokane County’s Conservation Futures Program.

Okanogan Chapter is active in north central Washington and offers an assortment of field trips to its members and the community. Rich in public lands and special natural areas the chapter regularly works with federal and state agencies on interpretive materials and plant inventories.

Olympic Peninsula Chapter covers the entire Olympic Peninsula but holds its meetings and much of its activity in the Port Townsend area. Field trips and an active plant study group reward members of this chapter. The chapter is actively involved in the restoration of the Blake Oak Preserve and the Kai Tai Prairie.

Salal Chapter members are mostly from the Skagit Valley and program meetings are offered monthly in Mt. Vernon. Chapter members offer regular field trips and beginner’s native plant walks. A half-acre oasis of native plants at Skagit Gardens, developed by the Salal Chapter, teaches the community about native plant gardening. Located at the WSU Mt. Vernon Research Station, chapter members have spent countless hours on propagation, garden design and maintenance.

San Juan Islands Chapter has special challenges as a chapter with members scattered over numerous islands in the San Juan archipelago. To address this challenge the chapter has focused its energy on Garry Oak populations and natural area preservation. A Garry Oak survey of the Islands was conducted in 2005.

South Sound Chapter offers program meetings and activities in Olympia and Tacoma. Chapter members are active in Mt. Rainier restoration and revegetation efforts. The chapter participates in a number of public outreach events each year including the Western Washington Fair, Prairie Appreciation Days, and the Pt. Defiance Flower and Garden Show.

Wenatchee Valley Chapter is at the edge of the Columbia plateau where the Wenatchee River meets the Columbia. Chapter members have access to a rich diversity of plant communities. The Chapter collaborates with the Audubon Society and the Douglas-Chelan County Land Trust to offer programs and field activities of interest to the combined memberships. A winter highlight is the chapter’s annual winter social where members enjoy good food, fellowship and brush up on their plant identification skills for the coming year.

A bustle of activity as shoppers rush to get the best selections during the Central Puget Sound Chapter’s spring native plant sale.
Financial Resources

Operating Support and Revenue $196,098

Operating Expenses $185,075

Special Thanks

Members of the Washington Native Plant Society

Linda Park Fund for Gaia — Seattle Foundation

Catherine Conolly & Rodney Brown, Jr., Thomas F. Gedosch, Maren Gribskov, Lisa Hoffman & Bill Driscoll, Don & Ruth Knoke, Peg Pearson, Jo Roberts, Gary Smith & Jean Yee, Fred & Ann Weinmann

King County Natural Resources Stewardship Network & USDA Forest Service

Snohomish County Surface Water Management

Total Assets $200,160
WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President
Fred Weinmann 2003-2006
242 Cedarview Dr.
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360-379-0986
fredwcrx@aol.com

Past President
Tom Johnson
7742 32nd Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115-4738
206.525.3176
tjohns@u.washington.edu

Vice-President
Dr. Elizabeth Binney, 2002-2005
PO Box 4398
Bellingham, WA 98227-4398
360-671-2317
atsi2@fidalgo.net

Treasurer
Dean Longrie 2001-2004
20611 NE 245th Ave.
Battle Ground, WA 98604-8803
360-687-5148
deanpl@aol.com

Secretary
Jane Wentworth 2003-2004
8901 Woodbank Dr. NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-3486
206-842-7178
jane@ckwentworth.com

Ellen Kuhlmann 2003-2006
2228 Verona St #201
Bellingham, WA 98229
360-647-7871
ekuhlmann@earthlink.net

Brian Miller 2001-2004
4210 E. Woolard Ct.
Colbert, WA 99005
509-238-3130
bcmiller@earthlink.net

Scott Moore 2002-2005
7009 23rd Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117-5620
206-764-4471
s.moore@co.snohomish.wa.us

David Biek, 2002-2005
3830 Nassau Ave NE
Tacoma, WA 98422-2242
253-927-2654
biek@foxinternet.com

Linda Storm, 2003-2006
3744 SW Ida St.
Seattle, WA 98126-3242
206-935-0419
lstorm61@aol.com

Carol Shenk, 2003-2004
1922 NE 107th St.
Seattle, WA 98125
206-417-5517
WNPSCarol@yahoo.com

Standing Committees:
Conservation
Mike Marsh, Chair
3434 14th Ave W
Seattle, WA 98119-1613
206-281-8976
swamp@blarg.net

Education
Fayla Schwartz, Chair
10032 31st Ave NE, Seattle WA 98125-7706
425.388.9451
fschwartz@everettcc.edu

Plant Inventory and Research
Pam Camp, Chair
508 Day Rd, Wenatchee, WA 98801-2469
509-663-5491
Pamela.Camp@or.blm.gov

Editorial Board
David Biek, Chair
3830 Nassau Ave NE
Tacoma, WA 98422-2242
253-927-2654
biek@foxinternet.com

Chapter Chairs
Central Puget Sound
Chrys Bertolotto
13230 6th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98177-4011
206-568-1802
chrysb@peoplepc.com

Central Washington Chapter
Charles Hawkins
106 E 17th Ave
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-962-2669
hawkinsc@cwu.edu

Columbia Basin Chapter
Janelle Downs
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Richland, WA 99352
509-376-6641
jdowns@pnl.gov

Koma Kulshan Chapter
Walter Lockwood
9007 Shearwater Rd.
Blaine, WA 98230-5705
360-371-3161
siggielock@comcast.net

Northeast Washington Chapter
Mary Water
805 S. Edgerton
Spokane, WA 99212-3016
509-928-8702
mlwater@earthlink.net

Chapter Chairs Continued
Okanogan Chapter
Denny O’Callaghan
PO Box 129
Winthrop, WA 98862-0129
509-996-3515
dmocallaghan@ymymethow.com

Olympic Peninsula Chapter
Wendy McClure – co-chair
PO Box 395
Poulsbo, WA 98370-0395
360-379-3820
Wendymac3@earthlink.net

Salal Chapter
Susan Alaynick
13625 11th Ave NE
Marysville, WA 98271-6717
360-659-8792
S_alaynick@hotmail.com

San Juan Islands Chapter
Terry Domico
C/O PUGET SOUND BioSURVEY
PO Box 2012
Friday Harbor, WA 98250-2012
253-566-3342
biosurvey@mail.com

South Sound Chapter
Anna Thurston
227 Contra Costa Ave
Fircrest, WA 98466
253-566-3342
a.thurston@worldnet.att.net

Wenatchee Valley Chapter
Ted Alway
PO Box 385
Peshastin, WA 98847-0385
509-548-4384
ted@derbycanyonnatives.com

WNPS STAFF

Catherine Hovanic, Administrator

Linda Ellis, Office and Program Assistant