The Washington Native Plant Society is the only organization dedicated entirely to the study and conservation of the over 3000 species of native plants in Washington State. While our membership remains small compared to many other non-profit organizations, the impact and success of our programs is large and continues to grow. This is due to the enthusiasm, energy, and passion of our members which provides the fuel for our achievements.

In 2004, our 28th year, we continued to carry out the best of our programs as well as undertaking new initiatives. Two significant events of 2004 are the completion of a strategic plan to chart the Society’s course for the next five years and the first annual Native Plant Appreciation Week proclaimed by Governor Locke for the week of May 24-30, 2004.

Our strategic plan recognizes that native plants do not live in isolation. Each species prospers only as part of a healthy ecosystem, amid many other plant and animal species. This is where we most enjoy seeing native plants, and it is these ecosystems that we ultimately must preserve. With this in mind, our efforts in the coming years will emphasize the two biggest threats to native plants: loss of habitat and the growing impact of invasive species. We plan to focus on: (1) identifying and controlling non-native plants that are overwhelming native habitats; (2) protecting shrub-steppe communities; and (3) protecting communities of Garry oak, our only native oak.

In addition to new initiatives, we have maintained a high level of activity on our important ongoing programs. We continued to offer our Native Plant Stewardship Program in King County. We have also continued our education grant program for native plant projects at several schools and other organizations. We have continued the Growing Wild program which assists landowners who wish to emphasize native plants in their gardens, and we have added an excellent DVD format video to our suite of educational materials on the control of English Ivy.

In the area of research and monitoring, we were able to increase our financial support. Our conservation program has been particularly vigorous in 2004. We have been active members and participants in the invasive species coalition and we have actively supported legislation to establish a state wide Invasive Species Council. We have cooperated with the Cascade Conservation Partnership to provide botanical information on the large areas of checkerboard lands that are being pursued for purchase to provide a continuous protected north-south corridor along the crest of the Cascade Mountains in the state of Washington. Strong letters of advocacy have been sent to appropriate authorities to protect old growth forests from road construction along the Dosewallips River and to protest the construction of the Cross-Base highway. We have also commented on the State Department of Natural Resources sustainable forest management plan, we have resolved to support federal legislation to buy out grazing leases and permits on federal lands, and we have participated in a symposium on the status and protection requirements for shrub-steppe habitats. An extremely active chair of the conservation committee combined with our strategic plan to focus our efforts have been positive forces for increasing the effectiveness of our conservation initiatives in 2004.
Governor Locke urges all citizens to appreciate, enjoy and celebrate Washington's floral diversity.

The Washington Native Plant Society worked with the Governor’s office to initiate a Native Plant Appreciation Week in Washington. Governor Locke declared May 24th-May 30th, 2004 Native Plant Appreciation Week, urging all citizens to join him in appreciating, enjoying and celebrating our floral diversity by taking advantage of the opportunities of this week to learn more about our native plants, their habitats, and how to protect them. Thirty-eight cities and three counties joined the Governor in proclaiming this week for native plants.

Over 70 activities in 19 counties were organized by Washington Native Plant Society Chapters and others throughout the state. People could participate in cleaning up a native prairie in Port Townsend, visit a Native Plant Stewardship project, learn about beach plants, tour a native plant garden, take a lichen walk, identify native plants in one of our state parks, visit a prairie on a military base, or listen to some great talks on shrub-steppe, ethnobotany and pollination.

### Participating Agencies and Organizations
- Governor's Sustainability Coordinator
- Washington Native Plant Society
- Washington Audubon Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington Department of Natural Resources - Natural Heritage Program
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- County Noxious Weed Control Boards
- Department of General Administration
- Washington Parks and Recreation Commission
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Evergreen State College
- Woodland Park Zoo
- University of Washington Herbarium
- University of Washington Rare Care Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Kettle Range Conservation Group
- Whitman College
- Snohomish County Surface Water Management
- Fort Lewis
- City of Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Bastyr University
- Port Townsend Marine Science Center
- Jefferson Land Trust
- North Olympic Salmon Coalition
- Inside Passage Native Seeds
- Kul Kah Han Gardens
- Shore Road Nursery

### Cities and Counties Proclaiming Native Plant Appreciation Week

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<tr>
<th>Anacortes</th>
<th>Everett</th>
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<td>Orting</td>
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<tr>
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The Native Plant Stewardship Program is one of WNPS’s 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 288 stewards who have contributed over 50,000 reported volunteer hours promoting the awareness, appreciation, education and restoration of native plants in Washington State. And, we are aware of thousands more volunteer hours that are diligently contributed but not reported.

According to WNPS records, Native Plant Stewards have made over 236,000 outreach contacts with the public concerning native plants by teaching, leading walks, supervising other volunteers, and training or advising citizens in the Puget Sound region since the beginning of the Program.

Growing Wild

The Growing Wild program offers a one-time on-site garden consultation for people interested in native plant gardening, low maintenance gardening, and landscaping for wildlife, in return for a donation to WNPS. Growing Wild volunteer consultants are recruited from the WNPS stewardship class and other programs, such as master gardening programs. Our aim is to get each gardener enthused about enriching their plot of land for the benefit of native plants, wildlife – and folks, too.

The Growing Wild Program experienced Growing Pains in 2004 but successfully provided Growing Wild Consultations to 32 homeowners.
**Grants for Research**

Through the research and inventory committee, the Washington Native Plant Society provides monetary support for studies of the native plants in Washington. The Society has funded a broad array of projects over the years exploring aspects of ecology, genetics, pollination biology and taxonomy of rare and weedy species. A better understanding of native plants and plant communities will support future protection and conservation efforts.

In the area of research and monitoring, we were able to increase our financial support to our small grants program to a total of $7000.00 for the year. This allowed additional support of under-funded projects and initiation of new projects. We supported a diversity of research and monitoring work. In 2004, the following projects were provided financial assistance from WNPS research funds:

- **A Flora of Mt. Adams**
- **Creation of an Online Photographic Image Library by the University of Washington Herbarium**
- **A Study of the Ethno ecology of the Mima Mounds in Southwestern Washington**

WNPS members, David Biek and Susan McDougall are working on a Flora of Mt. Adams with financial assistance from WNPS.

**Grants for Education**

Educating the public about our native plants is integral to the mission of the Washington Native Plant Society. Each year we give small grants to a variety of schools, parks, museums and gardens to fund educational projects that increase people’s awareness through brochures, signs, websites, educational curricula and establishing new native plant gardens. In 2004, the following projects were funded either fully or partially by WNPS education grants.

- **Interpretive Materials about Tiffany Botanical Area in the Tonasket Ranger District, US Forest Service**
- **Development of a native plant restoration nursery and demonstration site at the Islandwood Environmental Learning Facility, Bainbridge Island**
- **Interpretive signs at Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve**
- **Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Blue Mountain Humane Society, Walla Walla.**
- **Discovery Park Native Plant Restoration Project, Billings Middle School, Seattle**

Tiffany Mountain is a special place, and because of its splendor and its uniqueness it was designated a Research Natural Area (RNA) twenty years ago. As an RNA, it is a special management area that highlights the importance of its flora while also providing for recreation.

The new Tiffany Mountain sign was a collaborative effort between members of the Okanogan Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society and the Tonasket District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.
Native Plant Study Weekend

This year’s highly successful Study Weekend was held at the Rosemary Inn on the Olympic Peninsula. The three day event provided a first hand look at some of the most impressive features of the state’s flora and to hear from local experts on the native plants of the Olympic Peninsula.

Of equal importance, the Study Weekend was a time for 100 plus members to renew friendships, botanize together, and in the end, to become inspired about the wealth of the state’s botanical resources and the importance of our mission to insure its responsible stewardship.

Botany Washington

At this event a statewide group of professional botanists is able to exchange information on a variety of botanical topics and also spend portions of three days intensively studying the flora of a particular region of the state. In 2004, Botany Washington provided a superior opportunity to learn about the saline influenced coastal flora of southwest Washington as well as an intensive short course on the coastal sedimentary processes which affect the species composition and distribution of the coastal flora. We were fortunate to have leaders from the local area with many years of geological and botanical experience at this event.

Members Learn about Native Plant Ecosystems

WNPS Backpack Trip to Snowy Lakes

The WNPS Annual Backpack Trip is especially anticipated by more adventuresome members.

In July of 2004, Jim Riley, led a small group along the Pacific Crest Trail in the North Cascades to Snowy Lakes. Subalpine fir and larch forests led to extraordinary alpine meadows of wildflowers.

Over 160 species were identified during this weekend of rigorous climbing and botanizing.
**Chapter Activities**

For WNPS members the most immediate connection to the Washington Native Plant Society is through the eleven active chapters of the Society where members are able to share their appreciation for native plants directly with others.

Chapters of the Society are run by members who volunteer their time, energy, and knowledge to serve as board members, organize program meetings and schedule field trips throughout the year.

Chapters also advocate for conservation and address local natural resource issues in an effort to benefit native plant ecosystems.

Native plant sales are held by some chapters to raise funds and to educate the community about the value of planting with natives for water conservation and water quality.

**Highlights**

Nearly 100 plant walks and field trips are organized by chapters throughout Washington. Many chapters offer regular program meetings with speakers on various topics of interest to the membership and their community.

*The Central Puget Sound Chapter coordinated joint field trips with the Cascades Conservation Partnership* to Bean Creek Basin along the N. Teanaway River, Cooper River Trail, Tieton River Canyon, Blanca Lake along the North Fork of the Skykomish, and along the North Fork Taneum River to Windy Pass. These special trips provided the Society an opportunity to work cooperatively with the Cascades Conservation Partnership and an opportunity for participants to see first hand the value of these ecosystems and the importance of protecting them.

*The Central Puget Sound Chapter also initiated its first mini-grant program* to provide financial assistance for native plant restoration and education projects of selected CPS members. The following projects received small awards:

- Schmitz Preserve Park and Urban Forest Restoration
- Bryant Elementary School Landscape Restoration and Environmental Stewardship
- Puget Creek Watershed Restoration
- Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Restoration

Native Plant Sales raise much needed funds for chapters.

They also attract new members, provide an opportunity to share the beauty of native plants with others, and educate the community about the ecological value of planting with natives.
The Central Washington Chapter was active in following conservation issues in central Washington — commenting on the White Pass Ski Area Expansion and the siting of wind farms in eastern Washington.

Members of the Columbia Basin Chapter got involved in the development of a native plant garden for the Humane Society in Walla Walla and helped with native plant restoration efforts on Bald Mountain. The chapter also participated in a Salmon Summit held by the Benton County Conservation District.

A joint seminar with Western Washington University was held by the Koma Kulshan Chapter. The chapter also actively participates each year in a Spring Flora Fair in Bellingham where the community can learn about native plants, enjoy plant walks, and purchase native plants during this one day festival. Collaboration with the City of Bellingham on a Backyard Habitat Program was also a new involvement for the chapter in 2004.

The Northeast Chapter helped coordinate a native plant survey of property associated with the Dishman Hills Natural Area Preserve in an effort to assist expansion of this natural area. The chapter also provided financial support for this effort. The Spokane Spring Garden Fair and the Inland Empire Garden Event were opportunities for the Northeast Chapter to educate many about native plants.

Besides some great field trips, the culmination of the Okanogan Chapter’s year was the dedication of the Tiffany Mountain Botanical Area Interpretive Sign.

The Olympic Peninsula Chapter was host for the state’s Annual Study Weekend and spent much of the spring and summer planning and organizing two dozen field trips, evening program speakers, accommodations and catering for this event.

The San Juan Islands Chapter successfully competed for and obtained a grant to conduct a Garry Oak Survey in the San Juan Islands. Initial survey efforts in 2004 included a survey of Waldron and Jones Islands for Garry Oak.

The South Sound Chapter offered programs in both Olympia and Tacoma in 2004. The Cross-Base Highway was another area of conservation concern. This highway if built in Pierce County will take out a substantial chunk of native plant community including Garry Oak and prairie ecosystems, as well as, open up eastern Pierce County to considerable development pressure.

The Native Plant Garden at the Mt. Vernon Research Station remains a focus of activity for many Salal Chapter members. A new challenge for the garden crew was the need to move the propagation greenhouse to make room for the research station’s expansion. The chapter continues its popular native plant walks which attract beginners to learn about Washington’s native plants.

### 2004 Chapter Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WNPS Chapters</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central Puget Sound Chapter</td>
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<td>Wenatchee Valley Chapter</td>
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WNPS Supports Sustainable Forest Management by Washington’s Department of Natural Resources.

WNPS prepared comments and participated in public hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of DNR’s Forest Management Practices in Washington. The DEIS is an important step forward for DNR because of the 60 year time period over which modeling is forecast as a guide to planning the forest management strategy to be pursued during the next decade. WNPS was disturbed by several particulars of the alternatives proposed, including the severe reduction of protection to riparian forests, the lifting of protection to owl habitat, and the radically increased level of cut envisioned in most of the alternatives. WNPS opposed any actions which increase the amount of disturbance to native plants and which diminish their opportunities to reproduce and disperse under largely natural conditions.

WNPS Joins the Olympic Forest Coalition and Olympic Park Associates to oppose a route proposed by the U.S. Forest Service to bypass a washed out portion of the Dosewalips River Road. The proposed route would have gone through a wonderful, complex mature forest which lies in a narrow strip between two great wilderness areas and close to the eastern border of the Olympic National Park.

WNPS Opposes the Cross Base Highway in Pierce County which would be built through a relatively intact native Garry Oak ecosystem. The Conservation Chair and WNPS members prepared letters and attended public meetings to voice their concerns about this unnecessary highway and the value of diminishing Garry Oak stands in western Washington.

WNPS Participates in the Shrub-Steppe Working Group

The majority of the land originally occupied by shrub-steppe has been converted to agriculture or residential and industrial development. Much of the remaining has been invaded by an exotic grass, downy brome (Bromus tectorum), and fires have caused extensive losses of shrub cover. Recognition of these problems has led studies of the remaining examples of the plant associations represented and of their animal inhabitants to determine their interrelationships more clearly. Attempts to restore damaged examples of the community types represented are also underway.

The Shrub-Steppe Working Group is an informal association of working ecologists and interested lay people. A meeting following the Northwest Scientific Association’s annual meeting in Ellensburg on March 26, 2004 provided participants the opportunity to share current research with each other.

WNPS Officially Supports the Voluntary Grazing Land Buyout Program

This legislation introduced into the US Congress would provide opportunities for individuals with grazing land leases to sell these leases back to the government and retire the land from further grazing. Legislation such as this would further enable the government to restore public lands which are currently degraded by grazing.

WNPS Supports Land Acquisition which would Preserve Native Plant Ecosystems

Opportunities to acquire and protect land were supported by WNPS including a conservation easement near the west coast of Lummi Island which would protect 80 acres within the Lummi Island Natural Area Preserve, a 645 acre tract of land on Sauk Mountain with important ecological value, and lands which would add to some of Washington’s existing finest natural areas.

WNPS Joins Effort to Fight Invasive Species

The Washington Native Plant Society believes invasive species are a significant threat to Washington’s flora and has identified this as a high priority issue for involvement. Throughout 2004 it worked with the Washington Invasive Species Coalition (WISC), a coalition of non-governmental organizations which have been working together to advance some key invasive species issues in Washington and raise the level of invasive awareness to enhance the efforts of all those struggling with the problem.

WISC is working on three focus areas which it believes will help close the pathways of invasion and help coordinate efforts in Washington. Our objectives and work are directed towards:

- Developing and implementing nursery codes of conduct to help close down terrestrial pathways of invasion.
- Curtailing infested ballast water discharge to help close down marine pathways of invasion.
- Enhancing statewide agency coordination by promoting the creation of a Washington Invasive Species Council.
Thanks to the generous support of our membership, Washington Native Plant Society had an excellent year financially in 2004 with revenue exceeding expenditures by $27,391. Chapters of the Washington Native Plant Society manage their own accounts. The figures presented here represent all financial activity of the organization including the chapters. Contributions and membership dues are the main sources of revenue, but inventory sales and government grants contribute significantly to our budget.

It is difficult for the Society to predict annual revenue, so a bit of a cushion is a good financial outcome. WNPS takes a conservative financial approach to maintain a healthy budget for the organization, but an increased revenue stream over the last couple of years is allowing the Society to take on new activities to further its mission. These will be highlighted in our 2005 Annual Report.

The growing Endowment provides additional financial security and builds for the future of the Washington Native Plant Society. At year end our Endowment had grown to $25,696.

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**Operating Support and Revenue**

$190,332

- Contributions
- Membership Dues
- Work Place Giving
- Government Grants
- Inventory Sales (Profit)
- Event Income
- Miscellaneous

**Operating Expenses**

$162,941

- Education, Research, Conservation Activities
- Supporting Services

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**Total Assets $189,352**

- Unrestricted Funds
- Temporarily Restricted Funds
- Endowment

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**Special Thanks**

Members of the Washington Native Plant Society
Linda Park Fund for Gaia — Seattle Foundation
Grace Wilson
McDanel Land Foundation
Jo Roberts, Don and Ruth Knoke, Peg Pearson, Catherine Connolly,
Ann Lennartz, Fred and Ann Weinmann
King County Natural Resource Stewardship Network and USDA Forest Service
Washington Native Plant Society
Board of Directors

Fred Weinmann, President
Port Townsend, Washington

Tom Johnson, Immediate Past President
Seattle, Washington

Dean Longrie, Treasurer
Battle Ground, Washington

Jane Wentworth, Secretary
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Ellen Kuhlmann
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Seattle, Washington

Fayla Schwartz, Education Chair
Seattle, Washington

Pam Camp, Research Chair
Wenatchee, Washington

David Biek, Editorial Board
Tacoma, Washington

Chapter Chairs

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Central Puget Sound Chapter
Seattle, Washington

Phelps Freeborn,
Central Washington Chapter
Yakima, Washington

Janelle Downs,
Columbia Basin Chapter
Richland, Washington

Walter Lockwood,
Koma Kulshan Chapter
Bellingham, Washington

Mary Water
Northeast Washington Chapter
Spokane, Washington

George Wooten
Okanogan Chapter
Twisp, Washington

Wendy McClure
Olympic Peninsula Chapter
Poulsbo, Washington

Susan Alaynick
Salal Chapter
Marysville, Washington

Terry Domico
San Juan Islands Chapter
Friday Harbor, Washington

Anna Thurston
South Sound Chapter
Fircrest, Washington

Lauri Malmquist
Wenatchee Valley Chapter
Peshastin, Washington

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Office and Program Assistant