

South Sound Chapter of Washington Native Plant Society

March 2021, Monthly Update

Editor: Gail Trotter newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org

WNPS Mission

To promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats though study, education and advocacy.

What's Happening Highlights

Chapter Meeting "Ecological Integration" - **Zoom Webinar**, you must preregister

April Native Plant Appreciation Month

Native plant sources, Science Conversations & Volunteer Opportunities

Calendar of Events <https://www.wnps.org/events>

Partner Calendar <https://www.wnps.org/partner-calendar>

March Program - Please register and e-mail a notice to your friends to join this program.

"Ecological Integration" by Ned McGinley

Date: March 8

Time: 6:30 PM

Registration & E-mail options on:

<https://www.wnps.org/calendar/976>



YEW

PHOTO BY NED MCGINLEY

Born and raised in the original rust belt of northeastern Pennsylvania, I first encountered nature as an often toxic or dangerous place. I studied philosophy and history while traveling the country in search of a more thorough understanding of the world and my role in it. Ultimately settling in Olympia, WA, I was introduced to organic agriculture, and the nursery industry. I began growing native plants in 1993, and went on to design landscapes that focused on them, while continuing to pursue agriculture and animal husbandry. I accepted a position at Sound Native Plants in 2010, spending a decade there conceiving of and developing procedures and approaches to the production of large numbers of what I came to refer to as *wild native plants* in a vector free setting that emphasized simplicity of process, economy of resources, and nimble thinking for what is commonly called ecological restoration. After working closely with the USFS, WSU, King County and many other organization to provide native plants for ecological restoration projects in western Washington I found myself disillusioned with an endeavor that appeared too inefficient and costly, delivering results that are far too modest via mechanisms stubbornly unwilling to rapidly evolve in a social and economic environment growing increasingly unstable. In the year since leaving

the nursery, I have retreated to the forest where I continue to do this work developing ideas, evaluating approaches, and testing procedures. I have come to call all of this Ecological Integration, which I loosely define as the alignment of ecological restoration, organic agriculture, forestry, landscape architecture and smaller discrete industries under a single rubric with unifying philosophical guidance intended to increase efficiency, maximize impact, and reduce the drag on what is clearly a critical but faltering effort suffused in mounting human crisis. This presentation will build on one I have given in the past titled *Growing Wild Plants*, adding many new observations and ideas and migrating the locus of activity out of the nursery and into the forest.

Native Plant Appreciation Month (NPAM) - APRIL

Here in Washington State, the month of April has been proclaimed by Governor Inslee, Native Plant Appreciation Month. The Washington Native Plant Society, in collaboration with partner organizations, is eager to celebrate the beauty and importance of our native flora through education and advocacy.



This year's focus highlights the special relationship of our native pollinators to our native plants. Native pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, birds, and others depend on native plants for habitat and for food. Likewise, many native plant populations rely on native pollinators for survival. An interactive poster for NPAM 2021 will be available by April 1, at : <https://www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/npam>

Please join us in learning more about these special relationships by attending one or more events or activities.

- We are pleased to welcome author and advocate, Dr Doug Tallamy for an on-line presentation: "A Guide to Restoring the Little Things that Run the World", reminding us of the essential role insects play in sustaining our world. Available on April 10, 2021 at 10:00 am; register here: <https://www.wnps.org/events/966>

We have 14 Webinars planned at the state level and have added a "Just for Kids" link. On this link there will be coloring pages that can be downloaded and 3 virtual scavenger hunts in English and Spanish.

- The South Sound Chapter will be holding 2 in person hikes. One will be led by Deb Naslund, and the other by Cyndy Dillion. There is a possibility of another being added later. On April 12, Gail Trotter has arranged to have Ivy Clark give a talk on the "Complex Relationships Between our Native Prairie Paintbrush Plants (*Castilleja* spp.) and the Various Pollinators That Interact with Them Either as Pollinators or as Predators". This features Masters research on these plants and how the pollinators move among them, done on two South Sound Prairie sites.
- Check the Washington Native Plant Society's website for more statewide activities, events, and offerings: <https://www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/npam>

As springtime blossoms across Washington State, come appreciate and celebrate with us.

Gail Sklar vicechair.pierce@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Please e-mail any poetry related to NPAM theme for the April newsletter by March 20 to:
newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org

Wildflowers by Dolly Parton

The hills were alive with wildflowers
And I was as wild even wilder than they
For at least I could run they just died in the sun
And I refused to just wither in place.
Just a wild mountain rose needing freedom to grow
So I ran fearing up where I'd go
When a flower grows wild it can always survive
Wildflowers don't care where they grow.
And the flowers I knew in the fields where I grew
Were content to be lost in the crowd
They were common and close, I had no room for growth
And I wanted so much to branch out.
So I uprooted myself from home ground and left
Took my dreams and I took to the road
When a flower grows wild it can always survive
Wildflowers don't care where they grow.
--- Instrumental ---
I grew up fast and wild and I never felt right
In a garden so different from me
I just never belonged, I just longed to be gone
So the garden one day set me free.
I hitched a ride with the wind and since he was my friend
I just let him decide where we'd go
When a flower grows wild it can always survive
Wildflowers don't care where they grow.
Just a wild mountain rose seeking mist'ries untold
No regret for the path that I chose
When a flower grows wild it can always survive
Wildflowers don't care where they grow.
Mhm hm hm mhm...
Wildflowers don't care where they grow...

Science Conversations Gail Trotter newsletterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org

I recommend watching to these two complementary talks on migration and impacts to the environment. Let me know what urban ecologies you have seen that are “Adaptive, Responsive and Inclusive”. These talks remind me of the talk we had on the Elwha dam removal and the comment that restoration is not complete until the cultural and economic aspects are restored.

- Sonia Shah's book talk from February 5th https://youtu.be/0jTCeJt_Fno
- Teju ADisa-Farrar talk February 18 <https://mailchi.mp/791e47198b7d/recap-of-regeneration-with-teju-adisa-farrar?e=8db1ac735c>

Plant and Seed Sources

Since we will not be having a spring plant sale this year local sources for native seeds and plants will be highlighted each month .

Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery - a South Sound Chapter member

Location: Gig Harbor - 5919 78th Ave. NW.

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM (Pacific Time)

NO CONTACT PURCHASING AVAILABLE- place order by email and/or phone. There is a current list of what plants are available on their website

For full information check out their website <http://www.woodbrooknativeplantnursery.com>

A list of more sources are available at

https://www.wnps.org/content/documents/plants/gardening/native-plant-seed-sources_2-28-2020.pdf

Plant & seed source information at: <https://www.wnps.org/native-gardening/sourcing>

Partner Events

2021 Washington Botanical Symposium March 4 for information and registration see:

<https://www.wnps.org/calendar/967>

SSC & Partner Volunteer Opportunities

Olympia Native Plant Garden Work Party March 18, 11 AM - Register by March 16 with Gail Trotter and she will send you a mandatory liability waiver and volunteer guidelines.

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China Lake Work Party <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/event/china-lake-volunteer-work-party/>

Tacoma Nature Center Work Party <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/event/tnc-work-party-2-5-21/>

Citizen Science initiatives on Penology

Nature's Notebook usanpn.org/natures_notebook

Project Budburst budburst.org

Arbutus A.R.M.E. - Collaboratively advance knowledge important to conserving the Pacific Madrone.

Join to assess the health and condition of madrone populations throughout the Pacific Northwest. <https://www.arbutusarme.org>

Forest Health Watch - PNW Community Science to Keep Forests Healthy

Pilot Project: take pictures of Western Red Cedar, upload and mark on map. For more information see: <https://foresthealth.org/redcedar/>

Message from your Chapter Chair

Although many activities remain canceled or postponed, nothing will postpone Spring! In spite of the recent snow, it is definitely on its way. A few days ago, I spotted oso-berry, *Oemleria cerasiformis*, and swamp lanterns (a.k.a. skunk cabbage), *Lysichiton americanus*, beginning to bloom at Priest Point Park in Olympia.

With the continuing risk of COVID-19, unfortunately, both Study Weekend and Botany Washington have been canceled for 2021. We look forward to WNPS hosting these events once again in 2022, when it is safe for us to gather. In the meantime, stay tuned to the WNPS website, as small group field trips may be offered this spring.

The Washington Botanical Symposium will be held – virtually - on Thursday, March 4 from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM. This annual event is a fabulous opportunity for both professional plant scientists and amateur enthusiasts. The conference brings together an extensive network of professional, academic, and amateur botanists that are actively engaged in the conservation, management, and study of Washington’s diverse flora. General admission is \$30. Scholarships are available for students, service corps members, or anyone with need. To register or find more information, see: <https://www.wnps.org/calendar/967>

April is Native Plant Appreciation Month. I am really looking forward to the many fascinating webinars planned for the month. We will also be offering two plant hikes in the South Sound area. See Gail Sklar’s article elsewhere in this update for more information.

WNPS continues to offer webinars and virtual workshops weekly. Be sure to check the WNPS Calendar for the latest offerings at <https://www.wnps.org/calendar>. You can also go back at any time and watch any of the WNPS Webinars that you may have missed or watch one again that you really enjoyed. WNPS webinars are recorded and posted for online viewing at <https://www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/virtual-events>.

Although we have had to cancel our 2021 Spring Plant Sale, we have begun planning for the Fall Plant Sale. We are very much looking forward to bringing this popular event back to the South Sound. If you are interested in helping the Plant Sale Committee with this work, please let me know. If you are itching to get new native plants into your garden and don’t mind traveling, the Central Puget Sound, Salal, and Koma Kulshan Chapters will be having Spring Plant Sales. Check the WNPS website for more information.

I’m looking forward to welcoming the Spring Equinox on March 20th. What are you looking forward to as we head into the longer days of spring?

Deb Naslund (She/her)

South Sound Chapter Chair chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org