

# The Acorn

Serving the South Sound Chapter  
of the Washington Native Plant Society



Winter  
2020

## Native Plant Appreciation Month, 2020

In 2003, some WNPS members got into a discussion of how they might bring more public attention to Washington's native plants and their habitats. From that grew the idea for Native Plant Appreciation Week. It was also a chance to make the public more aware of the work of WNPS. We found a number of state and federal agencies, NGOs and nurseries that wanted to be involved, too. Governor Gary Locke signed a proclamation and Native Plant Appreciation Week had begun.

The amount of activity has fluctuated over the years, especially with cuts in government agencies' and the WNPS's budgets. One of the challenges in Native Plant Appreciation Week was that so many relevant activities, such as plant sales, happened in the month but not necessarily in a week. In 2019, Gail Sklar took on the role of chair for the celebration at both the chapter and state levels, and suggested that we really needed to celebrate a "Native Plant Appreciation Month" (NPAM)

in April to encompass all the activities. Gail has brought new ideas and energy to the process so that at the state and the chapter levels, we will highlight events throughout April 2020.

April is a great month to celebrate NPAM. When



Take a plant hike



Enjoy our special flora

we see the Indian plum's blooms announcing spring. When we see the western trillium pushing its delicate flower above ground, the flowering red currant's glorious bloom, the Oregon grape's yellow glory, we cannot help but celebrate. Every day when we go outside, it seems like a new cause for celebration as yet another plant pops up or flower appears. We live in one of the world's most beautiful areas with a glorious flora. Take advantage of some of the month's activities to celebrate. Watch our website and monthly updates for scheduled events; we hope you take part. We also hope that this is a reminder to celebrate our native flora for the other eleven months!

## South Sound Chapter – Election results 2019

After a vigorous campaign, the results of the South Sound Chapter election were as follows:

Number of snail mail sent: 18 (6 of these are from email rejections, so were mailed out)

Number of snail mail returned: 7

Number of e-mail sent: 215 (6 of these were rejected, so were mailed out)

Number of e-mail returned: 43

TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS SENT OUT: 233; BALLOTS RETURNED: 50

Final Talley of Votes:

Chair: Gail Trotter	49
VC. Thurston: Deborah Naslund	49
VC Pierce: Gail Sklar	48
Secretary: Allan Borden	50
Treasurer: Rita Hummel	50

All votes were counted by Lee Fellenberg on November 7, 2019.  
New terms begin January 1, 2020.



## Other South Sound Chapter Activities

### Fall Plant Sale

This year, our good fortune with weather for our Fall Native Plant Sale ran out. We still had a good number of hardy souls that got the plants they wanted for their gardens and did not have to worry about early watering. The plant sale was a bit earlier than usual, on September 28, and was again held at the Lord Mansion's Coach House. This year, the hours were somewhat reduced to 9 am until 2 pm. The gross sales were \$5758; after expenses, that yielded \$1329 for the chapter. The most fun for those who work on the plant sale is interacting with our customers as we share our native plants, and our wonderful volunteers who worked on purchasing, setting up, selling and cleanup.

Volunteers included: Peggy Butler, Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Sue Butkus, Allan Borden, Bill Brookreson, Cyndy Dillon, Penny Douglas, Kit Ellis, Cheryl Fultz, Roxy Giddings, Mary Sue Gee, Don Guyat, Catherine Hovanic, Helen Hepp, Rita Hummel, Deb Naslund, John Neorr, Jane Ostericher, David Perasso, Dennis Plank, Steve Sortais, Gail Sklar, Ann Stephenson, and Gail Trotter. A special thanks to Gail Trotter for organizing and feeding our volunteers.



### Washington State Fair Booth

Once again, volunteers from the South Sound Chapter maintained an informational booth at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup. This year's fair ran from Friday, August 30, to Sunday, September 22, with the Fair closed on Tuesdays and on Wednesday, September 4. Volunteers put in one or more two-hour shifts, meeting the public and answering questions. In return, they received a free ticket to the fair and a free parking pass for each day they volunteered. We provided a variety of handouts as well.

Special thanks to Gail Trotter and June Coloff for coordinating the fair booth volunteers and upkeep. Bill Brookreson provided plants, and Cyndy Dillion helped with set up and break down. This year, we had a new location in the Expo Hall that worked out well. As always, thanks to all the volunteers who represented WNPS and our chapter so well.



### Grant Report by Peggy Butler

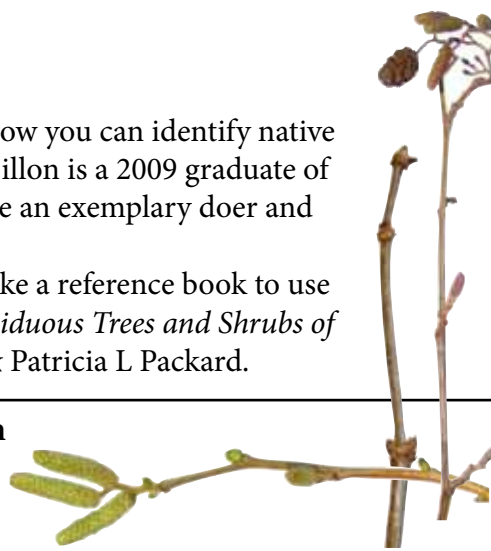

The Buckley Native Plant Integration Project was completed this fall. The purpose of the project was to integrate native species into Buckley public parks to help stimulate awareness within the community of the importance of native plants. By involving the community in the development of the project, the aim was that local people would develop an interest in conserving natural habits in their area. A display table and an educational workshop on native plants were incorporated into the Beautify Buckley Event last September. Teachers and other community members learned about the importance of native plants in the natural environment and the benefits of using them in urban settings.

Planting 176 native plants at Vanderhoof Park was to follow weeks later. The original intent was for the Scouts to do the planting but after the Beautify Buckley Event, many community members wanted to get involved as well. About 120 people altogether participated in planting and the workshop. Our chapter's \$500 grant to purchase the plants went a long way to making this project a reality.

## Chapter Meetings

Meeting Times and Locations: We are very pleased to offer another series of interesting and educational speakers for our winter and spring meetings. Chapter meetings are 7-9 pm. Meetings are normally scheduled on the second Monday (Olympia) and the second Wednesday (Tacoma) of each month from October through May. Meetings consist of a quick review of local items and announcements, and a presentation lasting approximately an hour.

Programs are geared for all levels of botanical knowledge. Unless otherwise noted, all Tacoma meetings are at Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 South Tyler Street, Tacoma. All Olympia meetings are at Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 21st Avenue SW, Olympia. Meetings are free and open to the public. Please contact Anna Thurston at [presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org) if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

February 2020	<p align="center"><b>Monday, February 10 (Olympia), Cyndy Dillon</b> <i>Winter Twig ID</i></p> <p>When there are no flowers or even leaves, do you ever wonder how you can identify native plants? Join Cyndy and learn first-hand, how to get started. Cyndy Dillon is a 2009 graduate of the WNPS Native Plant Stewardship training, after which she became an exemplary doer and leader within the South Sound Chapter of the WNPS.</p> <p>Twig ID is an ongoing, learning process. For those who would like a reference book to use for follow up, we recommend <i>Winter Twigs: A Wintertime key to Deciduous Trees and Shrubs of Northwestern Oregon and Western Washington</i> by Helen M. Gilkey &amp; Patricia L Packard.</p>	
	<p align="center"><b>Wednesday, February 12 (Tacoma), Cyndy Dillon</b> <i>Winter Twig ID</i></p> <p>See above.</p>	
March 2020	<p align="center"><b>Monday, March 9 (Olympia), Terri Knoke</b> <i>Translating Botanical Art into Native Plant Protection</i></p> <p><i>How Art Lured Me Down the Rabbit Hole of Botany and What I Found There</i> is a two-part presentation: the first part covers the history of the important role of botanical illustration in botany, and how Terri fell into that world through <i>Lomatium knokei</i>; the second part is on wildflower places to go in Eastern Washington, and what you will see there. "Come hear how she was pulled into the secret lives of native plants in the Columbia Basin, and where you can go to find them, too." Terri Knoke, a retired chemical engineer, was introduced to the formal study of wildflowers in 1998. In 2014, she illustrated a new species of <i>Lomatium</i> discovered by her late uncle, Don Knoke, the start of her passion in botanical art.</p>	
	<p align="center"><b>Wednesday, March 11 (Tacoma), Terri Knoke</b> <i>Translating Botanical Art into Native Plant Protection</i></p> <p>See above.</p>	
April 2020	 <p align="center"><b>Monday, April 13 (Olympia), Jenny Glass</b> <i>Impacts of Diseases &amp; Pests on Native Plants</i></p> <p>Just because a plant is native, it isn't immune from pests. Jenny Glass manages the WSU Puyallup Plant and Insect Diagnostic Lab where she seeks out fungal pathogens and plant problems. She is known to quip "...Western WA grows moss, moles, and annual blue-grass better than turf on many sites." Join us to find out why.</p>	

April 2020

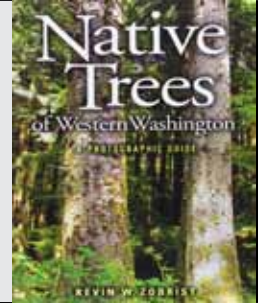
**Wednesday, April 8 (Tacoma), Dana Kelly-Bressette  
Outstanding Native Plants for the Home Landscape**

Here is an outstanding way to start Native Plant Appreciation Month and prepare for the Spring Native Plant Sales. Dana is the Plant Production Manager at Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery in Gig Harbor. She has written many articles on ecological gardening and curates two websites of her thoughts, with stunning images of her landscapes and plantings. You may visit and enjoy Dana’s website, *Habitat Horticulture PNW, A Guide to Ecologically-friendly Landscape Gardening*, <http://habitahorticulturepnw.com/>.

May 2020

**Monday, May 11 (Olympia), Dr. Kevin Zobrist  
Current Forest & Tree Health Issues in Western Washington**

Dr. Kevin Zobrist is a WSU professor in Everett. He coordinates the Puget Sound Extension Forestry program supporting landowners who manage forested properties. Kevin is also the author of the very useful guide, *Native Trees of Western Washington: A Photographic Guide* (2014).



**Wednesday, May 13 (Tacoma), Joe Roccio  
Ecology of Washington's Bogs - A Primer of Ecological Processes,  
Vegetation, and Response to Human Activities**

Joe Roccio is the senior Vegetation Ecologist for the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program. Since joining the WNHP in 2007, a significant portion of his work has focused on Washington’s peatlands. He developed a statewide classification of Washington’s bogs and fens, conducted statewide inventories of high-quality peatlands, and recently initiated research to study the effects of surrounding land use on the vegetation, hydrological regime, and water chemistry of western Washington bogs. Come join Joe to learn about this important part of our environment.

**Chair Report** \_\_\_\_\_

**Happy New Year!**

As our days are getting longer, we look forward to the spring activities; in April, for Native Plant Appreciation Month and our Spring Plant Sale. I hope you are planning to get involved. Later in spring is Botany Washington and Study Plant Weekend. Looking for inspiration for a trip across Washington, look for all activities on the Washington Native Plant Society Calendar: <https://www.wnps.org/calendar>. What a great way to see the diversity of native plants in our state. This year we are working on a five-year strategic plan. Please do share with me your ideas of what our chapter can address, what topics are on your mind, and how we can continue “to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington’s native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy.” Email your thoughts and questions to [chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org](mailto:chair@southsoundchapterwnps.org)

**Volunteer Opportunities** \_\_\_\_\_

One of our goals as a chapter is to give a variety of opportunities for members to get involved in something that gives them satisfaction and enjoyment. This coming year, we will have a wide variety of such things. Watch the Monthly Updates for details.

**Plant Sales** \_\_\_\_\_

**South Sound Chapter’s Spring Native Plant Sale** is scheduled for April 18, again at the Lord Mansion Coach House. Now is a good time to start thinking of what you would like to add to your garden and let us know what we should look for in the plant sale. More details will be in the Monthly Updates.

**Tacoma Nature Center Spring Plant Sale** will be held Saturday, May 2. from 9 am to 2 pm. Watch the Nature Center website for a list of plants. Come early for the best selection.



### *Limnobium laevigatum* in Pacific County, Washington by Cathy Maxwell

In October of 2019, an article with a color photo appeared in my local Pacific County newspaper titled *Washington Targets Invasive Aquatic Weed Discovered in Pacific County*. The invasive aquatic weed of the newspaper article was *Limnobium laevigatum* in the *Hydrocharitaceae* (Frog's-bit) family. This species is native to Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. *Limnobium* is an aquatic perennial that can form dense mats on the water surface. Probably the most distinctive feature of the plant is the spongy-like underside of its floating leaves which gives it the common name of South American Spongeplant.



It is capable of spreading vegetatively and by seed, and is not considered to be cold hardy where temperatures regularly drop below freezing. Since it was first discovered in 2016 on the Long Beach Peninsula, it appears to be surviving the coastal winters at this single location on the peninsula, which is its only location in Washington. The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board met in November of 2019 and adopted *Limnobium laevigatum* as a Class A noxious weed. The Weed Board categorizes Class A noxious weeds as mostly newcomers to the state and generally rare. The goal of listing is to eradicate them before they gain a foothold.

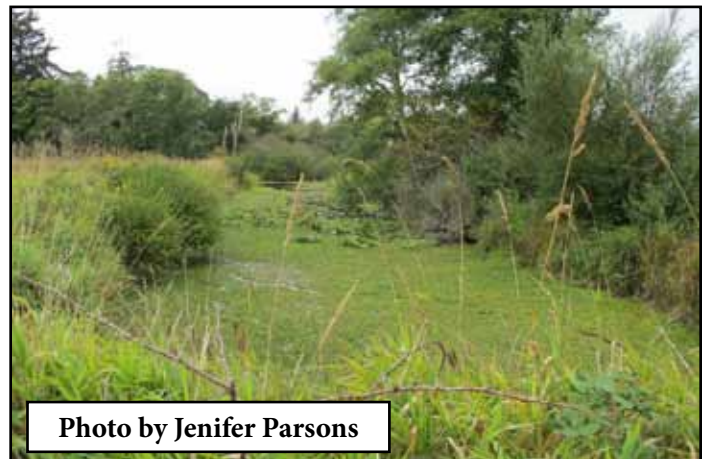
All Class A noxious weeds are placed on a quarantine list maintained by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to prevent the importation of listed plants to our state. It is illegal to transport, buy, sell or trade any quarantined species.

Online, I found *Limnobium* for sale under the common name of Amazon Frogbit. Judging from customer comments, the plants are usually bought as

aquarium plants but some customers reported using them in outdoor ponds. Unfortunately, dumping of aquariums into outdoor water courses and overflowing of ponds may result in its release to the wild.

After inquiring about what is to prevent Washington residents from purchasing *Limnobium*, Jenifer Parsons, the aquatic plant specialist for the Washington State Department of Ecology, responded that *Limnobium* is in the process of being added to the WSDA quarantine list. She noted that WSDA has nursery inspectors trained to identify plants whose sale is prohibited. Reputable internet vendors will not ship plants that are quarantined in Washington which is effective at stopping major importers from selling quarantined plants.

*Limnobium laevigatum* is also classified as a noxious weed in California where it is present in at least twelve counties. Mats of this species have blocked pumps, dams and gates and restricted recreational water access in California. There are no collection records of *Limnobium* in Oregon according to The Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria which is a digital resource managed by the University of Washington Burke Museum Herbarium.



The Washington Department of Ecology is in the process of formulating a control plan for *Limnobium* on the Long Beach Peninsula. There may be a need for volunteers to help look for it in the smaller water-bodies to supplement the effort. So, I may be out there on the peninsula next season searching for the spongy leaves of this invasive aquatic perennial and hoping I don't find them.

*Thanks to Jenifer Parsons of the Washington Department of Ecology and Peter Zika of the University of Washington Herbarium for permission to use their photos.*

## Strategic Planning

WNPS is building a Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. With the help of the Ostara Group, an advisor to mission-driven nonprofits, WNPS is building a vision for the future. Many opportunities for input will be available all around WNPS, in chapters and in volunteer-led committees that are busy pursuing the mission. Stay up to date with the progress as the vision unfolds on our new webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/th3j9zn>. Ideas from around the state are important for success!

The process began at the October state board meeting. We had a planning kick-off, with a high-level environmental scan including the survey of WNPS board members, committee members, and chapter boards, and the follow up session at the WNPS October board meeting. As we are still in the discovery phase of the process, we are now planning ahead for group thinking and conversations. Our next step is to prepare for focus group sessions by training a facilitator for each group and to gather focus group input to the process to be collected and presented to the WNPS State Board at the retreat in the spring.

For the South Sound Chapter, to give everyone an opportunity to attend, there will be two focus group sessions scheduled, one day time and one evening:

### Daytime Focus Group Meeting:

January 27, 2020  
10 am to noon  
Tumwater Library Meeting Room  
7023 New Market St SW, Tumwater

### Evening Focus Group Meeting:

January 29, 2020  
7 pm to 9 pm  
Tacoma Nature Center  
1919 South Tyler St, Tacoma



## State Officers

At the October 19 meeting, the state board elected its officers for 2020. By the state bylaws, only at-large members of the State Board are eligible. Officers for 2020 are:

President: Van Bobbitt  
Vice-President: Kenya Bugner  
Treasurer: Don Schaechtel  
Secretary: Josh Morris

Between board meetings, decisions may be made by the Executive Committee of Van Bobbitt, Don Schaechtel, Kenya Bugner, Mark Turner (Director-at-large) and Steve Link (Columbia Basin Chair).

## Native Plant Study Weekend and Botany Washington 2020

Botany Washington (BotWA) will occur before Native Plant Study Weekend in 2020. BotWA will be May 15-17, 2020, at Mt. Baker Farms on Orcas Island, jointly sponsored by WNPS and the University of Washington Burke Museum Herbarium. Watch for registration information in January on the WNPS website.

The Native Plant Study Weekend will be June 17-19, 2020, at the Lazy F Ranch near Ellensburg. It is jointly sponsored by the Central Puget Sound and Central Washington Chapters. Registration should be available online in February.

Both events fill up quickly. Sign up early for the hikes and events you want.

## Hikes and Field Trips

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Chapter members continue to work on arranging hikes and other native plant walks. These are announced on our website and in the monthly updates. If you have a favorite hike you would like to share and lead, please contact Cyndy Dillon at [cpdillongh@comcast.net](mailto:cpdillongh@comcast.net). Cyndy has done an outstanding job arranging hikes in almost every month of the year.



Native plant hikes are a great way to learn more about our wonderful flora and to enjoy the company of other plant enthusiasts. We also try to recommend hikes you can do on your own. If you enjoy having plant lists to check your skill, go to the WNPS website's plant lists <https://tinyurl.com/d7ve59z>.

## Native Plant Resources

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### ***Saving Tarboo Creek: One Family's Quest to Heal the Land***

by Scott Freeman, Illustrations by Susan Leopold Freeman. Timber Press, 2018, \$25.95

One of the first things that strikes you when you read this delightful book is how much it is in the tradition in conservation of the Leopold family, beginning with Aldo Leopold's classic *A Sand County Almanac* (1949) and Estella Leopold, Aldo's daughter. The book is a fascinating combination of a very personal family story of efforts in restoring a portion Tarboo Creek on the Olympic Peninsula near Quilcene on land purchased by the family, combined with very solid scientific information on the impacts of such items as climate change and invasive species on restoration efforts.

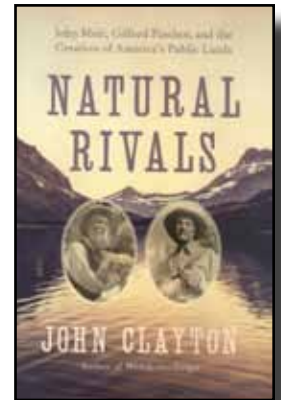
Some efforts succeed and some fail, as in all restoration efforts, but the family carries on the "land ethic" tradition of Aldo Leopold. Whether you want a solid scientific discussion of the challenges we face or a very inspiring story about how you in your own life can make a difference, the book is a very worthwhile read.

### ***Natural Rivals: John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, and the Creation of America's Public Lands***

by John Clayton, Pegasus Books, 2019, \$27.95

Many of us have taken the concept of public lands as we have known it for most of the past century as historic fact. That was challenged when a group of militants occupied the Malheur Refuge in Oregon. Clayton does a reasonably good job of detailing how that concept came to be, focusing on two of the major characters in the history, John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, and Gifford Pinchot, the founder of the modern professional forest service. Muir is regularly tied to preservation and Pinchot to conservation, i.e. wise use of the resources through professional management. Clayton brings in the role of a number of the famous players from Theodore Roosevelt to Charles Sargent and Arnold Hague.

The conflict between the ideas and the characters, but the cooperative interaction between Muir and Pinchot, is a key story of the book. The writing of the book is not consistently engaging but the story that continues to play out today makes it worth reading.



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***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.***



**A field of skunk cabbage, *Lysichiton americanus*, near the Lake Quinault Lodge.  
Photo taken early in April.**