

Washington Native Plant Society

The Acorn

Serving the South Puget Sound Chapter

Summer of 2004

Chair Welcome

By Anna Thurston

Greetings to South Sound Chapter members and others. For a second year spring is not only early, but hinting at another long and dry summer. For those of us who prefer sunny weather it's a boon to getting out to look for native plants, and we have lots of opportunities to do so created by members of the Chapter and by the many organizations supporting the first ever **Native Plants Appreciation Week** (May 24th – May 30th). If you haven't heard, Governor Lock will be signing a proclamation on this date at the State Historical Museum in Olympia. Members (and wanna-be's) are all invited to be there to set this educational event into motion. To learn more about the event go to the WNPS website at www.wnps.org.

While I'm thinking websites...ours is cooking with gas! Lee Fellenberg continues to maintain the nicest display that we could ask for. **MANY thanks to Lee!** Please take a moment to visit the site (www.southsoundchapter.wnps.org) and add your own ten cents. Because this is our collective Chapter resume, we would benefit from your native plant and field trip photos and reports, maps of places you've been, recipes using native plants, book reviews, and updates on the issues that interest you the most.

HELP!! VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED. Two of our key volunteers have been side-lined by familial focus, but their jobs with the chapter are important to our continued success. We thank **Kevin Head** for having always helped with the Chapter activities. His role as **Publicity Coordinator** needs a volunteer who has good computer skills who can send out timely announcements to media outlets throughout Pierce, Thurston, and the surrounding counties that we serve. **Lisa Bernsten** has also been involved with the development of our field trips. Her role as **Field Trip Coordinator** needs a volunteer who is willing to prepare PR details about our outings who knows potential leaders and places (near

and far) to visit, mostly during the summer months. Attendance on the field trips is not required.



Two other volunteer positions are vacant: **Membership Coordinator**, which involves a computerized database (currently housed in Tacoma), and **Volunteer Coordinator** which involves the solicitation and direction of volunteers towards activities that need doing. More about each of these openings will be posted on the website. All positions allow you to participate in the making of the Chapter. The Executive Committee meets three times a year (in the midst of a great pot-luck), and we also join our presenters at dinners that occur before our monthly meetings. The vision of many is invited to keep this group alive and vitally diverse.

Did you attend the Procession of Species in Olympia? What a diverse and wonderful riot of vegetative costumes and other wild things! This year's theme parade *Wind in the Grass* was an incredible display of creativity and concern for the earth. A WNPS display was also featured in the Backyard Wildlife Habitat dome and we saw hundreds of people pass through with their kids.

As Chair and Water Conservationist at Tacoma Water, I'm aware of the heat coming on. We need to be ready for what is happening so that we can expend our resources wisely, especially if it gets even warmer.

Your support of our activities helps us meet our mission. Join us for the fun! We'll be offering great field trips throughout the summer and returning to our monthly meetings in October. Hoping to see each of you there.

Chapter News

BOTANY WASHINGTON 2004

A Botanical Exploration of Southwest Washington Sunday through Tuesday, June 6th – June 8th

Register early for this year's Botany Washington. Hitchcock-carrying botanists and others with keen interest in the coastal vegetation of southwest Washington should join us on this annual event. This year, accommodations and meals will be on your own, except for Monday's optional family-style breakfast at the Tokeland Hotel and a sack lunch on Monday. Registration for Sunday and Monday night's evening programs and all field trips will be through WNPS. Registration cost is \$25.00 and participation is limited to 40. *A registration form can be found at the end of this newsletter.*

Sunday June 6th ♦ Join us in Tokeland

Sunday we will join Lou Messmer and Jim Phipps to study the coastal dunes and associated plants in Westport, Grayland, and Tokeland areas during the afternoon. In the evening, we will learn more from Lou and Jim, as well as enjoy an evening at the historic Tokeland Hotel and Tradewinds on the Bay Resort.

Monday June 7th ♦ Botanize our Way to the Long Beach Peninsula

Packing up our bags we will travel south on Monday to explore The Nature Conservancy's Ellsworth Creek Preserve. This is a rare opportunity to see a coastal 7,200 acre watershed with over 300 acres of old growth forest owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. Late afternoon will be spent at the Willapa Wildlife Refuge to learn about holistic native and non-native plant management. Monday evening plan on hearing much more about the control and management of *Spartina* from the many agencies who are working on this invasive. Evening presentations will be at WSU's Cranberry Research Station on the Long Beach Peninsula.

Tuesday June 8th ♦ Explore the Long Beach Peninsula

Tuesday learn about the old dune prairies with Kathleen Sayce and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's, Tom Hayes. In the afternoon, Kathleen will lead a coalition of the willing on to Leadbetter Point to examine the native vegetation of this northernmost tip of the Long Beach Peninsula.

Accommodations:

Sunday Night June 6th

Make your own hotel or campground reservations. Plan to register early to ensure accommodations during the busy tourist season. Wonderful dinners are served at the old Tokeland Hotel but *you must make reservations for dinner*. Dinner costs range from \$10 - \$18. The Shoalwater Casino also serves dinners and there are a few restaurants in the Grayland area.

Tokeland Hotel

100 Hotel Road, Tokeland, WA
360-267-7006
www.tokelandhotel.com

This hotel is a National Historic Landmark and is the oldest resort hotel in Washington opened in 1899 for business. There are 18 rooms that share 4 baths. (Let them know you are with the Washington Native Plant Society.)

Tradewinds on the Bay

4305 Pomeroy Lane, Tokeland, WA
360-267-7500

www.westportwa.com/tradewinds/index.html

This is a 17-unit motel with fully furnished one bedroom kitchenettes and beautiful views of Willapa Bay. (Let them know you are with the Washington Native Plant Society.)

Grayland Beach State Park

Campground Reservations 888-226-7688
Reservations on-line: www.parks.wa.gov/reserve.asp

Monday Night June 7th

Make your own hotel or campground reservations in the Long Beach area. Again, this is the busy tourist season so make reservations early. There are dozens of motels and hotels in the Long Beach area for visitor's information: www.funbeach.com.

The Breakers \$49-\$240, 800-219-9833

Chautauqua Lodge \$70-\$170, 800-869-8401

Edgewater Inn \$64-\$159, 800-561-2456

Ocean Lodge \$45-\$115, 888-886-9111

Super 8 Motel \$54-\$89, 888-478-3297

6TH ANNUAL PIERCE GARDEN TOUR

On June 19th, the Pierce College in collaboration with Lakewold gardens will be holding a tour of gardens featuring native plants. The tour is planned to take place in the Town of Steilacoom, named after the native plant known as *Lithophragma*. This will also be a part of Steilacoom's sesquicentennial celebration, and will follow on the heels of a State-wide proclamation of Native Plant Awareness Week.

The South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society has been invited to support the garden tour with an installation of an educational display of native plants. We are currently seeking volunteers to help us implement the various details of this display project. We are also negotiating the possibility of native plant sales from within the display. If you would like to participate in the planning, installation, day of display, or tour at large, please contact Anna Thurston - Chair, South Sound Chapter WNPS at 253-566-3342 or a.thurston@worldnet.att.net.

NATIVE PLANT EXCHANGE

Interest in growing South Puget Sound native plant species is increasing, but it is often difficult to find locally grown native plants, especially some of the less showy plants that are an important part of our flora.

If you have native plants, seeds or cuttings that you are willing to share, please contact the South Sound Chapter Newsletter Editor, Mara McGrath, at mara@ecoland.com, with your name, phone number, email address, and the botanical name of the plants. She will include this information in the upcoming newsletter. Anyone interested in obtaining the 'give away' plants should contact the person making the offer.

It works both ways. If you are looking for particular species of native plants contact the newsletter editor with your name, phone number, email address, and the botanical names. Anyone who has the plants growing on his or her property and will share plants, seeds or cuttings, please contact the person making the request.

SUPPORTING OUR CHAPTER

We now have another way that you, the valued members of this organization, can help support the South Sound Chapter. **Storman's Inc.** has a great way to give back to the community through its **1% Community Rebate Program**. Under this program, members of an organization can use a Community Rebate card at **Ralph's Thriftway** or **Bayview Thriftway** when purchasing food or other items. A percentage of the sale

(1%) will be donated to the organization of choice as indicated by the card. The South Sound Chapter has recently ordered Community Rebate Cards and we are asking members to please consider participating in this program to help our Chapter. If interested, please contact Rod Gilbert at 360-456-4013 or at roderickgilbert@comcast.net. Thanks for helping to support the Chapter!

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR POSITION OPENING

The Chapter is looking for a volunteer to serve as the native plant field trip coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for organizing field trips to enable members to experience native plants in their natural environment and providing the linkage between the lectures and the outdoors. At meetings, the coordinator announces upcoming field trips, calls for additional ideas for field trips, and solicits leaders of field trips. Throughout the month, the field trip coordinator responds to email inquiries from prospective leaders or participants, lines-up field trips and leaders, and informs board members of upcoming field trip ideas and events. The coordinator also provides write-ups and dates of upcoming field trips for a three- to six-month period in *The Acorn*. The coordinator is not responsible for leading or attending all field trips. The field trip coordinator's most challenging responsibility is garnering leaders on a consistent basis. It would be wonderful to have a pool of 4-5 leaders who lead several events each year and another 5-10 who lead one trip each year to their 'favorite' spot. This combination would keep the program flourishing. Contact Anna Thurston at 253-566-3342 or a.thurston@worldnet.att.net if you are interested in filling this vital volunteer position.

SOUTH SOUND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

We invite members of the Washington Native Plant Society and interested others to post information, photographs, illustrations and articles about native plant related activities, requests for volunteers, native plant recipes, book reviews, plant hike post-scripts and related insights to the South Sound Chapter newsletter, *The Acorn*. Organizations whose focus is similar to the Washington Native Plant Society, and whose activities and presentations might interest our members are also invited to submit to *The Acorn*.

Three issues of *The Acorn* are distributed by the South Sound Chapter, predominantly to members who do not have electronic access to our activities and related information. The publication is otherwise posted on the

South Sound Chapter website for long-term reference to regional and chapter program activities and details.

Submission deadlines have been established for the fall, winter/spring, and summer issues. The submission deadlines are as follows: **fall** - August 30th, **winter/spring** - December 10th, and **summer** - April 30th. Please make your submittal by the appropriate deadline. Exceptions to these deadlines are rare.

Material to be included in each issue is reviewed by the South Sound Chapter Board at Executive Committee meetings held prior to each issue. Although we seek to post as many facets of sometimes contentious conservation issues as possible, we reserve the right to not post materials submitted that are deemed non-constructive, inappropriate, or offensive to our members.

Conservation Report

By Mary Fries, Conservation Committee Chair

The conservation docket is overflowing—maintenance funding is critical for local, state, and national parks. Planning is occurring on many levels: Olympic National Park Ten-year Management Plan, watershed planning, Growth Management updates, including local ordinances to protect critical areas such as wetlands, riparian buffers, “open” space, Forest Service Northwest regional weed management plan, wilderness proposals, Cascade Land Conservancy long-range planning—are only a few. Keep informed, and contact the Conservation Committee Chair to offer help and suggestions. If more members do

Volunteer editors use liberty to prepare final drafts and edit for effective grammar, as well as clarity and brevity of details. Please submit all entries in electronic format to Anna Thurston, South Sound Chapter Chair, at a.thurston@worldnet.att.net. Please email your submittal as an attachment in a Word or WordPerfect file. Be sure to include your name, email address, the phone number where you can be reached, and the county in which the program operates, especially if similar programs operate in multiple counties.

If you would like to be involved in the preparation and production of *The Acorn*, we'd like to hear from you. For more information regarding these details, please contact Mara McGrath, Newsletter Editor, at mara@eco-land.com.

not become involved, we will miss many opportunities to speak up for the preservation of native plants.

The Chapter Conservation Committee needs help with tracking issues state legislative session, to determine positions to take on regulatory or budget items that have the potential to affect native plants. Attending hearings, reading newspaper reports and those by other environmental organizations, contacting your legislators are among ways to do this. Contact Conservation Chair, Mary Fries, during our Chapter meetings or at 253-272-9192.

Book Review

Reviewed by Helen Engle

Field Guide to the Cascades and Olympics, 2nd edition
By Stephen R. Whitney and Rob Sandelin*
Mountaineers Books, 2003, 318 pages, \$19.95.

The book is sturdy, compact, and easy to use. This edition is expanded to include new sections on mushrooms, common insects and rocks. The sections are color-tabbed for quick access and include: Communities, Geology, Mushrooms, Ferns, Flowering Plants, Shrubs, Trees, Insects, Butterflies, Trout & Salmon, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals. The geographic scope covered in this book includes the Coast Mountains of southern British Columbia, the Olympic Mountains, and the Cascades south to Oregon's

border with California. This broad assortment of mountains includes some of the wettest, coldest, driest, warmest environments in the Northwest. Rob Sandelin's text reflects his wide interest of all things natural in these ecological niches. Steve Whitney's illustrations are colorful and accurately detailed. Alan Bauer's photos of our familiar places bring them instantly to mind.

You won't want to go to Ecotopia's mountains without this valuable field guide. The book can be ordered from The Mountaineers Bookstore at mbooks@mountaineersbooks.org, 800-573-8484, or www.mountaineersbooks.org. *Since my special son-in-law, Rob, is the author of the text, I admit to this blatant advertising. But it's all true!

Volunteer Opportunities

TRANSPLANTING AT MT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK GREENHOUSE

Now and through July, volunteers are desperately needed to help nurture plants propagated from seeds we picked last fall, especially for transplanting tasks. Preferred days are Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday; call to see if another time is possible. Help is needed immediately. Contact Libby Roberts at the greenhouse, between 7:00 am and early afternoon, at 360-569-2211 x6170; or contact Dan and Pat Montague in Olympia at 360-709-0866 or at montague30@comcast.net.

SEED PICKING AT MT RAINIER

Seeding harvesting at Mt Rainier, in late August and in September, will depend upon weather conditions and seed ripening. Most work will be done during the week, but one Saturday may be included. Let us know when you can be available, so that we may place you on a list to be contacted about dates, and to arrange carpools. Call Mary Fries in Tacoma at 253-272-9192 or by mail at 620 North C St., Tacoma, WA 98403, or Dan and Pat Montague in Olympia at 360-709-0866 or at montague30@comcast.net.

WEED REMOVAL AT SWAN CREEK PARK

Weed removal to help preserve the Torrey peavine, *Lathyrus torreyi*, will be scheduled at monthly intervals, some weekdays, some Saturdays, concentrating on Herb Robert, *Geranium robertianum*. The next weed removal work party is Saturday, June 12th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, at the E. 56th St. entrance of Swan Creek Park. **Directions:** Drive east on S. 56th St. to the end of the street. Sign up with Mary Fries by calling her at 253-272-9192 or a written response can be sent to her attention at 620 North C St, Tacoma WA, 98403, or

email Val Anderson at Valerie.a@wildmail.com. You may come without signing up, if you arrive promptly at 9:00 am; otherwise you may not find the work party among the numerous trails in the forest. Several later dates will be scheduled; let Mary or Val know if you would like to be contacted.

WORK PARTIES AT MORSE PRESERVE

Tahoma Audubon Society (TAS) will be hosting work parties at the Morse Preserve in Graham on May 22nd, June 23rd, and July 25th. If you haven't been to the Preserve, it's a treat with excellent opportunities to enjoy a wetland habitat and get exposed to birding while you're at it. The usual time is 9:30 – 11:30 am. They will be working on the trails and evaluating the condition of plants that have been put in during the last few years and would benefit from the input of people with native plant expertise. In addition to the work parties, they are always looking for people to do things like watering during the dry months that can be done anytime. People can contact TAS at 253-565-9278 or visit their website at www.tahomaudubon.org for further details. You can also contact Al Sommers at N7OMS@msn.com or at 253-460-5569.

ON-GOING VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Visit the South Sound Chapter website at www.southsoundchapterwnps.org for information on other, on-going volunteer opportunities at **Glacial Heritage Preserve, Olympia Parks, Priest Point Park, Fort Steilacoom Park, Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, Tacoma Nature Center, and Point Defiance Park**. Click on the link for "Volunteers Needed" for a complete list of volunteer activities.

Native Plant Field Trips & Related Activities

Even though it feels and looks like winter, the South Sound Chapter is gearing up for a full range of spring and summer field trips! We will be hosting local trips, not-so-local trips, and summer BBQs for South Sound members. We'll also be posting information from related organizations that may interest you as well. Members are invited to add more!

MONTH OF MAY ♦ TAHOMA AUDUBON'S ANNUAL BIRDATHON FUNDRAISER. Birdathon outings allow participants to learn about bird migrations and the plants with which our feathered friends associate. You can learn more by calling Tahoma Audubon at 253-565-9278, or you can visit the TAS website at www.tahomaudubon.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 22ND 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ♦ FIELD TRIP TO DESCHUTES FALLS COUNTY PARK. Rod Gilbert will lead this outing. This park is not usually open to the public and has wonderful views of the Deschutes River tumbling through a rocky ravine. It is near Bald Hills NAP, and contains many interesting plants that are fairly uncommon locally. Bring lunch, water, appropriate clothing. Attendance is limited to 20 participants and first preference to South Sound Chapter members. Contact Rod at 360-456-4013 or roderickgilbert@comcast.net to sign up or for more information.

SATURDAY, MAY 22ND 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM ♦ 9TH ANNUAL PRAIRIE APPRECIATION DAY. The 9th Annual Prairie Appreciation Day will take place at Glacial Heritage Preserve in Thurston County. Join us for a fun day of activities for families, nature lovers, and outdoor enthusiasts. The event is free and open to the public. Look for more details and directions at the end of this newsletter or visit our website at www.southsoundchapterwnps.org.

MAY 24TH – 30TH ♦ WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT AWARENESS WEEK. Proclamation to be signed by Governor Locke to initiate a **Washington Native Plant Awareness Week**. Look for more details at the end of this newsletter or visit our website at www.southsoundchapterwnps.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 29TH 10:00 AM ♦ POINT DEFIANCE PARK. Catherine Hovanic will be leading a plant trip to celebrate Washington Native Plant Appreciation Week. Meet at 10:00 am at Fort Nisqually and walk along the western margin of the park. Participants will get to see our lovely coastal madrones and much more. Contact Catherine at wps@wnps.org for more information.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5TH ♦ NATIVE PLANTS & ETHNOBOTANICAL PRESENTATIONS at the Washington State Historical Museum in Olympia. This event will also include guided tours of the Delbert McBride Ethnobotanical Garden. The Museum is at 211 West 21st Avenue, Olympia. For more information, call 360-753-2580 or visit the Washington State Historical Society website at www.wshs.org/wscm.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH ♦ STEILACOOM GARDEN TOUR AND NATIVE PLANT DISPLAY. Pierce College hosts their 6th Annual Garden Tour, this year focusing on native plants and providing radio presentations with Ciscoe Morris and other native plant professionals. WNPS will be participating with a display to be located in downtown Steilacoom, which is one of the five sites to be included in the tour. We are seeking volunteers to staff the display, and more to attend the tour. For information or to sign up contact Anna Thurston at 253-566-3342 or at a.thurston@worldnet.att.net.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH 9:00 AM ♦ FORT LEWIS WETLANDS TOUR. Rod Gilbert will lead a trip to two or more different wetlands at this biologically diverse military facility. Bring lunch, water, appropriate clothing, and rubber boots (hip waders if you have them). Attendance is limited to 12 participants; first preference to South Sound Chapter members. Contact Rod at 360-456-4013 or roderickgilbert@comcast.net to sign up or for more information.

WEEKENDS OF JULY 17 AND AUGUST 7 ♦ PLANT COLLECTING FIELD TRIPS AT MT. ADAMS. Ever been out on a plant collecting foray? Wonder what botanists do in the field? Find out this summer. David Biek and Susan McDougall will be leading two field trips to the Mount Adams country in July and August, to collect voucher specimens for the UW herbarium in support of Susan and David's study of the flora of Mount Adams. The first trip will take place on the weekend of July 17th and the second on the weekend of August 7th. We'll go to the Trout Lake and Takh Lakh Lake areas. For each trip, we'll rent a van to take people from the Seattle/Tacoma area and camp Saturday and Sunday nights, returning on Monday. No special botanical experience is required and hikes will be tailored with a range of abilities in mind. So join us for part or all of the excursions! Contact David or Susan at podicipes@comcast.net (preferred) or at 253-927-2654.

For all outings, please:

- ☞ Wear appropriate footwear.
- ☞ Wear layers of clothing to accommodate for changing weather.
- ☞ Bring plenty of water and food.

Notes from the Field

By Claudia Riiff Finseth

Parkland-Spanaway-Midland Land Use Advisory Committee

So many people choose to live in the Northwest because of its beauty. That beauty, beyond the mountains and the water, is in large part its native vegetation. Last fall, the Parkland Land Use Advisory Commission (LUAC) heard a proposal for developing 7 acres just west of Spanaway Loop Road in Parkland. In walking that property prior to hearing the case, commissioners noticed a rich supply of native vegetation.

The LUAC has additional duties since the adoption of the Parkland-Spanaway-Midland Communities Plan. Specifically, those duties are to see the vision of the Plan into reality, and an important part of that vision is the preservation of native species.

The owner and developer of the property, Bob Rebelez, was already aware of the Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) on the land, and had plans to retain over a third of the mature trees. The LUAC subsequently asked the developer if he would consider cooperating with local volunteers so that Garry oak seedlings and other native plants on the property could be reclaimed before its development. He readily agreed. Al Schmauder, of the Clover Creek Restoration Council, agreed to work with him.

The result is the first native plant salvage project in the Clover Creek Watershed. On March 27th, 175 plants were dug up and relocated at the Schibig-Lakeview Nature Preserve.

Al Schmauder drew on many local organizations to put together a team of volunteers. Mary Sue Gee and Ione Clagett of the Cascade Land Conservancy identified the plants for salvaging ahead of time. Ione and Nell Batker of Tahoma Audubon led teams of students, using their years of experience to ensure that the right plant were removed in the right way. Rick Gamas brought 26 students from Clover Park High School Science Club to do the hard work. Parkland Light and Water will provide water for the plants while they are at the Nature Preserve. Science teacher Steve Ufer and Washington High School student volunteers will eventually help move the plants to permanent sites along the watershed.

The native vegetation of Pierce County is made up of a rich variety of plant communities that blend into one another. For example, there is the mesic (wet-dry) Douglas fir forest, which includes vine maple and fern

and Oregon grape; the dry Douglas fir forest with hazelnut, swordfern, and Indian plum; the Garry oak woodland, with under stories of snowberry and serviceberry; and the open prairie with blue camas. These plant communities and their accompanying streams in turn provide habitat for native animal species.

The plants evolved with the climate, and the animals evolved with the plants. But our native vegetation is fast disappearing with development. The process many developers use, of bulldozing all or most of a development site, is especially devastating to native species. To make matters worse, developments are then replanted with non-native plants so that they look no different from developments elsewhere in the country. Even development for public buildings has often done this homogenous planting, so that rather than reflecting the beauty of the Northwest, our public buildings look like they might belong in just about any American city.

To keep the Northwest beauty, we must work to retain the native plants. The Garry oak is the only native oak species in Washington. Because of its slow maturation it has a very interesting growth pattern, with twisting branches and umbrella-like crowns. Only 7 % of original Garry oak woodlands now remain in Western Washington. The few large Garry oaks one sees around Pierce County are as much as two or three hundred years old, all that is left of ancient growth. The Parkland-Spanaway-Midland Plan singles out Garry oaks as especially important for preservation.

This is the first attempt in Parkland under the new Parkland-Spanaway-Midland Plan to salvage native plants from a building site for reuse on restoration projects in the watershed. Such efforts rely on community-minded developers patient enough to work with volunteer organizations. Hopefully, other developers will become interested in working with volunteers to remove or save useful plants. Reusing native plants is a win-win-win for the developers, the restoration organizations, and the communities that want to retain their Northwest beauty.

The Parkland-Spanaway-Midland Land Use Advisory Commission hopes to bring development and restoration communities together more and more in such cooperative endeavors.

Other Items of Interest

SATURDAY, MAY 22ND 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM ♦ 9TH ANNUAL PRAIRIE APPRECIATION DAY. *This celebratory day will include nature walks for kids, seniors, birders, and others.* The 9th annual Prairie Appreciation Day will take place at Glacial Heritage Preserve in Thurston County on Saturday, May 22nd from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and will include a wide array of activities for families, nature lovers, and outdoor enthusiasts. **The event is free and open to the public.** For more information, visit www.nature.org/washington or www.co.thurston.wa.us/parks.

Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Friends of Puget Prairies, the daylong gathering will include self-guided nature trails through prairie, oak woodland, and other habitats staffed by experts on butterflies, wildflowers, geology, history, and prairie restoration. One of these will be an activity trail geared specifically towards children.

The 1,000-acre Glacial Heritage Preserve is owned by Thurston County and has been the focus of intensive restoration efforts by The Nature Conservancy and several partner organizations and volunteers. As a result of this work, hundreds of acres of the invasive weed Scotch broom have been removed and thousands of native grass and wildflower seedlings have been planted, making Glacial Heritage a healthier and more vibrant expanse of prairie habitat. There is much left to do and complete restoration and recovery will take many more years.

Directions to Prairie Appreciation Day: Glacial Heritage Preserve is located a few miles south of Littlerock in Thurston County. From Interstate 5, take exit 95 (Littlerock Exit) and head west straight through Littlerock to the T-intersection with Waddell Creek Road/Mima Road. Go south (left) on that road 2.7 miles and left onto an unnamed gravel road. Follow the road to parking. Signs will mark the way from Littlerock.

MAY 24TH – MAY 30TH ♦ NATIVE PLANT APPRECIATION WEEK. Governor Locke has declared the week of May 24-30, 2004 as Native Plant Appreciation Week in Washington. This week is intended to celebrate the amazing diversity of Washington's over 3,000 native plant species that range from desert plants to coastal rain forest species. Splendid floral displays delight hikers and travelers each year, but even more importantly, native plant ecosystems sustain the quality of Washington's environment.

The Washington Native Plant Society has been passionate about native plants for more than 25 years and has provided education, supported research, and advocated for native plant protection statewide. Watch the Washington Native Plant Society's website at www.wnps.org for more information on the Native Plant Appreciation Week and for information about activities scheduled throughout Washington. Educational programs and lectures, native plant walks, visits to natural areas, volunteer opportunities for restoration projects, and workshops will be listed in May.

While this is a statewide celebration, events during the week will emphasize the native plants of local areas. Events will be sponsored by nearly all of the chapters of the Washington Native Plant Society. For more information on events and the wildflowers of the Columbia Basin contact Janelle Downs at 509-376-6641 or Jl.downs@pnl.gov.

FREE SOILS BMP MANUAL AVAILABLE ONLINE. The Washington Organic Recycling Council (WORC) has posted a free soils best management practices (BMP) manual on its website entitled *Guidelines and Resources for Implementing Soil Depth and Quality BMPs*. The manual is designed to assist planning agencies, developers, and landscape professionals implement new requirements in the Washington State Department of Ecology's *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*. For links to a detailed news release, model specification formats, and an article about WORC's Soils for Salmon campaign, visit the website at www.compostwashington.org/whatsnew.asp.

DESCHUTES ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT. Emails and letters are needed to encourage the Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan (CLAMP) committee stakeholders to pursue restoration of the Deschutes Estuary at Capitol Lake in Olympia, Washington. This literally may be a once in our lifetime opportunity to restore a valuable wetland in an urban center. The Washington Department of General Administration (GA) controls the capitol campus in Olympia, including Capitol Lake. The lake is a reservoir created in 1951 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers placed an earthen dam across the estuary tidelands of the Deschutes River and Percival Creek in Olympia and destroying the 300-

acre estuary. Capitol Lake is now polluted, invaded with milfoil, unsafe for human contact because of fecal coliform bacteria, and filling with 30,000 cubic yards of sediment per year. It will cost taxpayers millions of dollars, year after year, to keep this unusable reflecting pond.

There is a chance to restore Deschutes Estuary *if* the GA office is aware of enough public interest and the CLAMP committee members listed below support the concept of estuary restoration. The GA is requesting each CLAMP member entity take legislative action and report its decisions to the GA **no later than May 21, 2003**. Please contact the CLAMP committee members and their representatives listed below to express your support of the concept of Deschutes Estuary restoration prior to the May 21st deadline. Please also attend the CLAMP meeting scheduled for **Thursday, May 22nd** from **8 to 10 am**, in the lower conference room of the Division of Capitol Facilities Building at 1058 S. Capitol Way in Olympia, WA. The public is welcome.

The GA wants to know if the committee member entities support the concept of an estuary feasibility study for Capitol Lake, and if so: 1) What types of support could they offer? 2) What would be the limits or conditions of this support? 3) What type of accountability would be expected? and 4) How would these entities like to be involved?

The CLAMP steering committee consists of:

- **Rob Fukai, Director Washington Department of General Administration** - Email to RFukai@GA.WA.GOV.

- **The Squaxin Tribe** - Online at www.squaxinland.org/deschutes, Sign up for their electronic newsletter at groups.yahoo.com/group/deschutesestuary or contact Jim Peters, Natural Resources Director for the Squaxin Island Tribe, at jcpeters@squaxin.nsn.us.

- **City Council of Tumwater** - Online at www.ci.tumwater.wa.us or contact Chris Parsons at cparsons@ci.tumwater.wa.us.

- **City Council of Olympia** - Online at citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us.

- **Department of Ecology** - Online at www.ecy.wa.gov or contact the regional director of the Southwest Regional Office at bfer461@ecy.wa.gov.

- **Department of Fish and Wildlife** - Online at www.wa.gov/wdfw or contact the director at director@dfw.wa.gov. The nine-member policy making commission can be contacted at commission@dfw.wa.gov.

- **Department of Natural Resources** - Online at www.dnr.wa.gov or contact the Commissioner directly using their comment form or by email at cpl@wadnr.gov.

- **Thurston County Commissioners** - Contact Cathy Wolfe at wolfec@co.thurston.wa.us, Diane Oberquell at oberqud@co.thurston.wa.us, and Robert N. Macleod at macleor@co.thurston.wa.us.

- **Port of Olympia** - Online at www.portolympia.com or phone at 360-528-8001. Nick Handy, the Executive Director, can be contacted at nickh@portolympia.com (note; this link may not work in the near future).

To Learn More: Visit the Deschutes Web page of the Squaxin Tribe: Deschutes at www.squaxinland.org/deschutes or the CLAMP web page (GA Office) at www.ga.wa.gov/CLAMP/index.html.



Join us for summer fun at the 9th Annual Prairie Appreciation Day, Botany Washington 2004, volunteer activities, field trips, or other events. Don't forget to mark May 24th – May 30th on your calendars. It's the first ever **Native Plants Appreciation Week**. Our monthly Chapter meetings will resume in October. Have a great summer and happy botanizing!

Chapter & State Contacts

Chair - Anna Thurston
253-566-3342
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Vice Chair - Rod Gilbert
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roderickgilbert@comcast.net

Treasurer - Patricia Johnson
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smilacinastellata@msn.com

Secretary – OPEN

Conservation Chair - Mary Fries
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Web Master - Lee Fellenberg
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Volunteer Coordinator – OPEN

Membership Coordinator - OPEN

Native Plant. Salvage. in Thurston Co. - Erica Guttman
360-704-7785
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1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Ste. E
Olympia, WA 98512-5607

Publicity Coordinator - OPEN

Field Trip Coordinator - OPEN

At Large Volunteers:

Pierce County - Stan & Helen Engle
253-564-3312

Thurston County - Dan & Pat Montague
360-709-0866
montague30@comcast.net

Statewide President - Fred Weinmann
360-379-0936
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State Administrator - Catherine Hovanic
6310 NE 74th St, Ste 215E
Seattle, WA 98115-8171
206-527-3210 or 1-888-8022
wnps@wnps.org

Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter - www.southsoundchapterwnps.org
Washington Native Plant Society State Chapter - www.wnps.org



The Washington Native Plant Society ♦ Earth Share of Washington



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Chapter Affiliation

Central Puget Sound (Seattle)
 Central Washington (Yakima, Ellensburg)
 Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities)
 Koma Kushan (Bellingham)
 NE Washington (Spokane)
 Okanogan
 Olympic Peninsula
 Salal (Mt. Vernon, Skagit Valley)
 San Juan Islands
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 At-Large
 Palouse (inactive)
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Each membership includes affiliation with one chapter. Add \$5.00 for each additional chapter.

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REGISTRATION FORM
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REGISTRATION FEE: _____ \$25.00 per person (includes sack lunch on Monday)

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Questions: Contact Catherine Hovanic, 206-527-3210, 1-888-288-8022, wnps@wnps.org

Registrants will receive details on logistics.



South Sound Chapter WNPS
c/o A. Thurston
227 Contra Costa
Fircrest, WA 98466