



Washington Native Plant Society

South Sound Chapter

Summer 2003 Newsletter

Chair Report

by Anna Thurston

This issue of the South Puget Sound WNPS Chapter newsletter offers a respite to sit back and enjoy the fruits of our work. When growing a garden, it takes dedicated effort to prepare the soil, to find the right plants and then nurture each in its own appropriate place and time. There is joy in the work and even more satisfaction when the plants take hold and fulfill the vision that we had had in mind.

Working with folks of the South Sound Chapter, has been like growing a garden. It is a group with whom I have found great enjoyment in planting seeds of knowledge and camaraderie, both among ourselves, and now among others who are finding us amidst the many things that one can do. I am forever grateful to this team of people who have helped to make this last year run so smoothly! **Rod Gilbert** has been a great V(IP) and is instrumental to giving our group visibility at fairs and plant sales. **Penny Kelley's** efforts to bring you this newsletter, grows better with every issue. **Joyce Ogden** is responsible for getting our events listed in newspapers in nearly five SW Washington counties (and counting).

People have been coming to our meetings (I hear we rival the Seattle group in our turn-out!). Next I hope to meet you as we head outdoors where field trip leaders like **Kevin Head, Lisa Berntsen**, and others will show us Nature first hand. If it isn't a field trip, perhaps you are volunteering to assist something that helps us maintain a viable Nature. For those activities, we have **Mary Fries** and **Erica Guttmann** to thank as they continue the hard work of conservation and education.

Additional team members include **Patricia Johnson**, who keeps a pulse on our money matters, and **Monica Hoover**, who has helped us access the most perfect meeting room. If you haven't met our WNPS state-wide Executive Director, **Catherine Hovanic**, I encourage you to get acquainted - she is a champion of organization and can-do approaches behind the task of running the larger WNPS operation.

There's cookies too... (read, dinner) and **Helen Engle** and a new member, **Kathy Raettig**, come to mind. **Stan** and **Helen Engle** have also been instrumental in growing and making available some very interesting plant ID bouquets. **Kathy Raettig's** idea of a plant exchange seems to have gotten out of the bag. **David Biek, Pat and Dan Montague** and **Rod Gilbert** have all been inspired to bring wonderful starts and cuttings to share. As a result my own garden is already starting to grow stories of people with whom I'm having great fun.

Thankfully, most of these fine people have become metaphoric perennials, and they will be returning to make the next season happen as well or maybe even better than what we've done together. Our next round of speakers will start presenting in October (when you will receive our next newsletter). Your ideas for who you would like to hear from or native plants and related topics about which interest you would be welcome (kind of like we're planning next year's garden...). If you'd like to keep our program PR in the press, please call me, we need you.

All of our activities would be fruitless, however (pun intended), without our members. Our growing membership has played an important role in the success of this last season. A big "**THANK YOU!!**" to all new members (there's a list of you in this newsletter), and to those of you who have renewed, for keeping the flame alive. If you haven't renewed in a year or even more, we hope you will consider the value that our presentations, field trips, workshops and camaraderie provide to you and to the community at large. Especially because our speakers deserve the dollars they get, your membership dollars will make it possible to keep a good thing going.

Thanks to all of the people who participate with the South Sound Chapter both actively and otherwise. I feel lucky to look back at the fruits of all our effort as I look forward to planning the next garden of our programs. It's been such a heartfelt treat to be a member of such a friendly group. If you haven't already, I hope you'll decide to join us. We're on our way to fun and more fulfillment! --A--

South Puget Sound Field Trips Workshops and Other Events

Scatter Creek Wildlife Recreation Area – Saturday, July 12

For more information and carpool arrangements call Mary Fries at 253-272-9192.

This year we will begin by looking for mouse-ear hawkweed at the North Unit. This noxious weed has been a concern since it was found in the Rocky Prairie golden paintbrush site, and later at several other locations, including Guava Rd. next to the South Unit, and one spot in the North Unit of Scatter Creek WRA. We then will drive across Scatter Creek, turn right on S. 180th, and again right on Guava Rd to the South Unit parking area, where will look at summer-blooming prairie flowers and butterflies, and check out weeds on the designated horse trail. Meet at the main parking lot on Case Rd. for the North Unit at 10:00 a.m.

Midsummer Potluck Picnic – Thursday, June 26, 2003

Audubon - Mountaineers - Foothills Trail Coalition - And Other Friends INVITED!

Where: At the Engle Garden, 4011 Alameda Avenue, University Place, WA 98466

* **Featuring:** National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial, with special guests from USF&WS Regional office, Nisqually and Black River National Wildlife Refuges, NWR displays, etc.

- * Seattle's Misty City Morris Dancers
- * Licensed Falconers with their Live Birds and gear.
- * Earth-Friendly Crafts and games for kids all ages.
- * New Gear Display by Mountaineer Climbers
- * Brett Johnson, display of Native Plants for sale.
- * Children and grandchildren are MOST welcome.

And don't forget how great the food is at these events!

We Furnish: Coffee, punch, crusty buttered rolls.

You Bring: A hot or cold entree, PLUS a salad or dessert;

AND your own TABLE SERVICE and a sit-upon if desired. Beer and wine is BYO.

No sign up necessary. Rain does not cancel. 4011 is 1/2 mile south of Fircrest Golf Course.

Parking on Alameda and on Kootenai, the lower street (come in lower gate).

For more info: Helen or Stan Engle, 564-3112, Hengle@earthlink.net.

Sunrise, Mount Rainier National Park – Saturday, August 9

Call Dan and Pat Montague, Olympia, 360-709-0866 or e-mail them at montague30@attbi.com or call Mary Fries, Tacoma, at 253-272-9192. A park entrance fee is required for each car.

We will walk the Sunrise Rim Trail to see natural meadows, then look at restoration plantings in the former car campground and along the old road which has been transformed into a trail. Our volunteers have picked seeds in this area for some years and will do so again this fall. We will return to the cars along the park service road. The leader for this trip is Mary Sue Gee. Please bring your lunch and water to carry, and wear sun protection. Meet at the Sunrise parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Because this is a very crowded parking area, it is essential to carpool.

Carbon River Walk – Saturday, September 20- 8 am 6 pm

A walk and plant ID in support of the Carbon River Valley Project, towards Carbon River Glacier. Starting point after carpool will depend upon whether or not Ipsut Creek campground is open. This is a great way to visit the end of the summer season in an area of potential park expansion. Kids are welcome. For more information, contact Anna Thurston at 253-566-3342, or by e-mail: a.thurston@worldnet.att.net.

Field Trip and Workshop Guidelines

These activities have been developed expressly for WNPS members. Your membership with the Washington Native Plant Society gives you priority over non-members, and helps us bring you quality educational programming about native plants throughout the year.

It is never too late to add or sponsor a trip or event. To do so, please fax or e-mail all trip details to our Field Trips coordinator, Lisa Berntsen with details of your outing: by Fax: 360-769-8700; or by e-mail: lberntsen@geoengineers.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Eradication of Herb Robert (aka "Stinky Bob") - Tuesday, June 17

Herb Robert is still menacing the threatened *Torrey peavine* at Swan Creek Park in Tacoma. A work party is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17 and we will return several more times during the summer. There are also bird-disseminated shrubs to be removed: blackberry, mountain ash, holly, as well as a few other weeds. Meet at end of road on S. 56th St., east of Interstate-5. Wear appropriate work clothes and bring gloves. Contact Mary Fries at 253-272-9192, suggest Saturday or a day of the week during July and August when you can come again.

Mount Rainier Re-vegetation Program - Now through July

The National Park Greenhouse needs volunteers to help with transplanting, now through July. If you can help with transplant chores, particularly on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, call Libby Roberts at the Greenhouse at 360-569-2211 X 6170 or Pat & Dan Montague in Olympia at 360-709-0866. Pat and Dan can also be reached by e-mail at montague30@attbi.com.

Duckabush Plant ID and BBQ – Sunday, July 13 - 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Lisa Berntsen and Royce Poetter invite you to enjoy and help inventory their 'retirement' property, which showcases wetlands, a riparian corridor, uplands etc. BBQ to follow. For info call or e-mail Lisa at 253-857-2569; lberntsen@geoengineers.com.

Seed-picking at Mt. Rainier

Dates for seed-picking in September at Mount Rainier National Park depend upon the weather conditions. Volunteer opportunities for this activity will mostly be scheduled for during the week but one Saturday may be included. Much meadow restoration remains to be done, especially the upper campground at Sunrise. Let Dan & Pat know when you could be available. Your name will be placed on their calling list. Coordinators Pat & Dan Montague at 360-709-0866; e-mail at montague30@attbi.com, or call Mary Fries at 253-272-9192.

Washington State Parks Volunteer Stewards

Washington State Parks is looking for individuals who would like to become volunteer stewards for selected Washington State Parks. Some of the possible parks include Mount Spokane, Riverside, Steamboat Rock, Sun Lakes, Gingko/Wanapum, Dalles Mountain Ranch, Beacon Rock, Fort Columbia, Fort Canby, Leadbetter Peninsula, Moran, Deception Pass, and Larrabee. These parks all include stretches of natural area, which need to be monitored and maintained. Individuals will be asked to commit at least two years.

Contact: Robert A. Fimbel, Ph.D., Chief, Resource Stewardship Washington State Parks, 7150 Cleanwater Lane, Olympia, WA 98504. You can also call 360-902-8592 or send e-mail to robert.fimbel@parks.wa.gov.

Prairie Restoration Workdays at Glacial Heritage Preserve

Come and join us at the Thurston County Black River *Mima Mounds* Glacial Heritage Preserve on the 2nd Saturday of every month as we work to restore the wonderful and rare South Puget Sound Prairie ecosystem. Efforts at this site have been on-going for the last eight years and have changed the

site from a Scotch broom forest to a prairie worth fighting for. There is still significant work to be done. Workdays are varied and include planting native species, pulling Scotch broom, cleaning bird boxes, seed collection, fence mending, and many other activities. Make sure to call for information.

Contact: Penny Kelley or Dan Grosbill: PO Box 385, Little Rock, WA 98556; 360-273-1820, or by e-mail: pennydan@earthlink.net. Workdays are jointly sponsored by The Nature Conservancy of Washington & Thurston County Parks and Recreation.

More Volunteer Opportunities

Olympia Volunteers In Parks Program

The Thursday evening work parties have been a smashing success with great participation, so we've decided to keep going with them for the month of June. Should be a fun month - hope to see you in the parks!

Restoration Wednesdays at Yaeger Park- Every Wednesday, 9:00 am-noon

During the month of June we will be working at Yaeger Park mulching new native plantings. We will meet at the parking lot on the corner of Cooper Point Rd. and Capital Mall Dr. Call or e-mail to sign up.

Thursday Evening Workparties- Thursday, June 12, 19, & 26; 3:00-7:00 pm

Thursday evenings in June we will be at Priest Point Park doing invasive plant removal and trail work. Feel free to come for an hour or two after school or after work-no need to show up right at 3:00 if you are unavailable until later. Meet at Kitchen Shelter #2 at Priest Point Park. Call or e-mail to sign up.

Zabels' Rhododendron Gardens Dead-heading Sat. June 14th-9:00 am-noon

This is our fourth annual work party to help the Zabels with their rhododendron gardens. Come and enjoy this spectacular rhododendron garden. Meet at the Zabels' gardens at 2432 Bethel St. NE. Call or e-mail to sign up.

Sat. June 28th - Watershed Park 9:00 am-noon

Come assist with an Eagle Scout project to reroute a section of the Watershed trail. If you've ever wanted to learn trail-building skills, here's your chance! Meet at the gravel parking lot across from the City Maintenance Center at 1401 Eastside St. SE. Call or e-mail to sign up.

*****PLEASE NOTE***** For all Volunteers In Parks Projects, volunteers under 14 need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and volunteers under 18 need to have a parent or legal guardian sign a waiver of liability (available at the project site). If you would like to join us for any of these projects, please call or e-mail us to sign up. Refreshments, tools, and work gloves are provided for all work parties. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear sturdy boots or shoes. Thank you for your interest!

Contact: Jonathon Turlove, Senior Program Specialist, Olympia Volunteers In Parks Program, City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department, 222 Columbia St NW, Olympia, WA 98501, Phone: 360-753-8365; Fax: 360-753-8267, or e-mail at: jturlove@ci.olympia.wa.us

Notes From the Field

Small-flowered *Trillium*: Another Prairie Related Endemic.

submitted by Rod Gilbert

Like water *Howellia*, small-flowered *Trillium* (*Trillium parviflorum*) is a rare, regionally endemic species, whose occurrence here in western Washington is also intricately linked to prairie fires. It is listed as Sensitive with the Washington Natural Heritage Program. Small-flowered *Trillium* is a 'new' species that is found only in moist oak woodlands and minor riparian habitats of the Pacific Northwest. It was reclassified as recently as 1980 by Soukup. Apparently, due to deterioration of collected material of sessile *Trilliums* by early west coast botanists, and synonym confusion, all West

Cascades sessile *Trilliums* north of California were originally mistakenly applied to *T. chloropetalum* (the name currently used in Hitchcock). Freeman (1975) conducted a major revision for the subgenus *Phyllantherum* (the sessile *Trilliums*) describing 5 new taxa (including *T. albidum*) and assigning revised status to one other species (*T. angustipetalum*). Under Freeman's classification and range description, *T. chloropetalum* was revised as the newly described species *T. albidum*. Two of *T. chloropetalum* varieties' (*v. giganteum* and *v. c.*) still occur on the west coast, both occupying narrow

ranges around the San Francisco Bay area. However, Freeman never saw fresh material of the Northwest sessile Trillium, and morphological differences of the dried material he examined were not evident. (He considered *T. parviflorum* as smaller specimens of *T. albidum*). Closer examination of fresh material identified several distinct taxonomic differences, resulting in the newly described species found in the Northwest.

The common name refers to it being the smallest-flowered sessile Trillium on the west coast. The current range for small-flowered Trillium is from Tacoma south and west to the Willamette Valley, with a few outlying populations in Polk and Lane Cos., OR. Here, at the northern most range of *T. albidum*, apparent hybrids of both species occur where their ranges overlap. Some taxonomists place Trilliums in their own family (*Trilliaceae*) due to several morphological inconsistencies with the lily family (*Liliaceae*), however, Kartesz (the new authority for North American plant taxonomy) still places Trilliums in *Liliaceae*. Some of the largest populations can be found on Fort Lewis, where the type specimen was collected. There, it occurs in two different, but similar, habitat types: riparian and usually adjacent moist oak woodlands, both of

which would have periodically been thinned by prairie fires. In riparian habitats, it is often found under large 'umbrella' ninebarks, chokecherry, and occasionally Douglas hawthorn (*Physocarpus capitatus*, *Prunus virginiana*, *Crataegus douglasii*) often with little other herbaceous vegetation, and might rarely have a tree canopy of Oregon ash, black cottonwood, or less likely quaking aspen. (*Fraxinus latifolia*, *Populus trichocarpa*, *P. tremuloides*). In the moist oak woodlands, where most of the larger populations can be found, the dominant shrub component is osoberry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) and chokecherry, with snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) at the edges. Herbaceous species present typically include stinging nettle, miner's lettuce, fringe cup and enchanter's nightshade (*Urtica dioica*, *Montia siberica*, *Tellima grandiflora* and *Circaea alpina*).

Small-flowered Trillium has large, very attractive mottled leaves, with small cream petals, and maroon fruits. For more on all the Trillium species worldwide, Frederick Case's book 'Trilliums' is excellent. It has stunning pictures (and there are some very attractive Trilliums out there!) and excellent information on each species.

3/9/03 Columbia River Gorge: Catherine Creek, Indian Pits, Paul's Island *submitted by Tom Howdeshell*

Seven wildflower enthusiasts trekked to see great places in the Columbia Gorge on a cool early spring day. Our guide/ instructor for the day was Kevin Head. Catherine Creek is in the Columbia River Gorge between Bingen and Lyle, Washington. The Creek was bought by the "Friends of the Columbia Gorge" and donated to the National Forest Service as a preserve for the picturesque land and wild flowers of the area. Our group saw 17 species blooming in early March!!!

The flowers showed us unique shapes and colors inspiring us rain-slogged Olympians. The following are some of the flowers we saw: Camas *Camassia quamash*, Yellow Bells *Fritillaria pudica*, and Northwest Balsamroot *Balsamorhiza deltoidea*. Along one of the trails we saw a 300 year Garry Oak *Quercus garryana* and the stars of the show were the Columbia Desert Parsley *Lomatium Columbianum* and the Grass widow *Sisyrinchium douglasii*. Both of these wildflowers bloom early in the season and are best seen in early March. The *Lomatium* can be found in the Gorge and **nowhere** else in the world. The next excursion was a hike to see the Indian pits. They are located on a high vista over looking the mighty Columbia River. The breath taking vistas of the rock formations were well worth the short walk. It was peaceful just to sit in them and let your mind wonder. Our third trip was to see Paul's Island (a local name). We forged a rampaging creek to even get onto the island.

Major Creek splits downstream from the bridge and creates a beautiful island with vistas into Spring Chinook rearing habitat and waterfalls. The island was in peak bloom with Gold star, Grass widow and Prairie Stars blooming. It was also fascinating to see Stone Crop *Sedum lanceolatum* hanging onto rocks that the rampaging creek runs through. It was quite refreshing hearing the water pour through the rocks. At the end of the day we stopped in Hood River, OR. for a yummy dinner and conversation on what we saw on our trip. Then we left for home to contemplate the day.

3/9/03 Columbia River Gorge: Catherine Creek, Indian Pits, Paul's Island Blooming Plant List

Common Camas - <i>Camassia quamash</i> ,	Pungent Desert Parsley - <i>L. greyi</i>
Yellow Bells - <i>Fritillaria pudica</i> ,	Grey-leaf Desert Parsley - <i>L. macrocarpum</i>
Grass Widow - <i>Sisyrinchium douglasii</i> .	Salt and Pepper - <i>L. piperi</i>
Western Buttercup - <i>Ranunculus occidentalis</i>	Line-leaf Montia - <i>Montia lineras</i>
Smooth Prairie Star - <i>Lithophragma glabra</i>	Chickweed Monkey Flower - <i>Mimulus alsinoides</i>
Draba - <i>Draba</i> sp.	Small-flowered Blue-eyed Mary - <i>Collinsia parviflora</i>
Northwest Saxifrage - <i>Saxifrage integrifolia</i>	White Plectritis - <i>Plectritis macrocera</i>
Western Saxifrage - <i>S. occidentalis</i>	Northwest Balsamroot - <i>Balsamorhiza deltoidea</i>
Columbia Desert Parsley - <i>Lomatium Columbianum</i>	Gold Stars - <i>Crocidium multicaule</i>

Major Creek Plateau and Rowena Crest

submitted by Patricia Johnson

On April 5th eight native plant society members enthusiastically set out for a full day of botanizing and appreciation of beauty along the Columbia River Gorge. Though rainy and cool in the South Sound, the weather in the gorge east of Hood River, OR was drier and warmer. Big, bright balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza deltoidea*) was the dominant theme of the day. Its presence smiled up at us everywhere we went.

Our trip began at Catherine Creek, a Nature Conservancy site between Bingen and Lyle on the Washington side of the gorge. Things had definitely changed since another trip was made there about a month earlier. The camas (*Camassia quamash*) formed thick and vibrantly purple carpets in the wetter areas with thicker soil south of the road. Meanwhile, Death camas (*Zigadenus paniculatus*), was in full bloom on the exposed slopes on the opposite side of the road. The yellow bells (*Fritillaria pudica*) and grass widows (*Sisyrinchium douglasii*) that were so dominant and impressive a month ago had nearly completely faded into quiet unobtrusive seed production. At least four desert parsleys (*Lomatium spp.*) and three species of saxifrages (*Saxifraga spp.*), including the delicate looking prairie stars (*Lithophragma spp.*), were seen.

Other highlights of Catherine Creek included pink explosions of shooting stars (*Dodecatheon poeticum*), the parasitic pleasures of naked broomrape (*Orobanche uniflora*), delphiniums (*Delphinium nuttallianum*), lovely little blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia spp.*), rosy plectris (*Plectritis congesta*), monkey-flower (*Mimulus alsinoides*) and false agoseris (*Microseris troximoides*). The cut-leaf violet (*Viola sheltonii*) was a special treat found blooming near the creek.

After exploring the blooming beauty of Catherine Creek we ventured to the next drainage, Major Creek, a little further east. We headed upstream on a gravel road and in a glorious moment of sunshine saw paintbrush (*Castilleja parviflora*) on the hillside along with some white plectritis (*Plectritis macrocera*), and big-head clover (*Trifolium macrocephalum*). The tiny tonella (*Tonella tenella*) rewarded those who looked closely at the hillside, (and what a fun name to say!). On the other side of the road we walked downstream until we were across from Paul's Island - a fairyland of flowers that was explored on the trip made a month earlier. On April 5 we stayed on the west side of Major Creek. There, we bathed in the sights and smells of balsamroot and pungent desert parsley (*Lomatium grayi*), glowing in precious sunshine. A few lucky folks also witnessed salmon jumping up the stair-step cascades of Major Creek.

Next, we headed to the Tom McCall Preserve, another Nature Conservancy site, across the river in Oregon. However, a cold, windy, rain started and our stop there was brief. Being an exposed, north facing slope, the bloom appeared to be a couple of weeks behind. Highlights included Merten's saxifrage (*Saxifraga mertensiana*) and gray-leaf desert parsley (*Lomatium macrocarpum*).

Our day concluded with a visit to Marsh Cutoff a piece of Forest Service land off of highway 30 between the Tom McCall Preserve and Hood River. Just off the road we observed glacier lilies (*Erythronium grandiflorum*) and chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria lanceolata*). Heading up the hill we renewed our relationship with some of the species seen earlier in the day, particularly in the fields of blue-eyed Mary. We also sought out and found oaks toothwort (*Cardamine pulcherrima*).

When all was said and done, the eagle-eyed botanists observed and appreciated the blossoms of over 50 plants. Thank you, Kevin Head for sharing your knowledge, love of plants, and favorite spring places with us!

