



The Acorn

*Serving the South Sound Chapter of the
Washington Native Plant Society
Summer 2010*

**In Memory of Mary A. Fries, May 13, 1924-December 18, 2009.
Mary was a tireless champion of protection of native plants and the environment.
Though her voice may be silent, her memory remains as an inspiration.**



The Loss of a Northwest Icon: Berry Botanic Garden to be Sold

For those who love Pacific Northwest plants and gardens, the announcement that, after 32 years, the Portland's Berry Botanic Gardens has reached a financial dead end and is up for sale comes as sad news indeed. The Berry Botanic garden is the legacy of Rae Selling Berry, one of the Northwest's preeminent plant collectors and conservationists. Berry's world famous seed bank devoted entirely to rare and endangered species was established in 1983, the first of its kind in this country.

In January, the non-profit Friends of Berry Botanic Garden decided that they had reached the end of their financial road and put the 6.5 acres up for sale. Fortunately, it appears that the conservation program will be maintained as a part of the Environmental Science and Management program at Portland State University headed by Mark Systma.

The greatest loss will be the remarkable plant collection including many rare alpine species that Rae Selling Berry Collected from 1938 to her death in 1973. At best, the collection is likely to be scattered. The Friends of Berry Botanic Garden are seeking homes for the valuable plants as the sale process moves ahead.

For those who have never visited the garden, and those who have, this may well be the last opportunity before the sale is complete. The garden is not easy to find. Appointments are required because of limited parking. For more information and directions, visit their website at <http://berrybot.org/> or call 503-636-4112.

The photograph on the mailer, Sagebrush Violets, was taken at Cowiche Canyon Uplands by David Hagen. It is a 2010 Native Plant Photo Contest winner. View others at <http://www.wnps.org/npaw/photo-gallery.html>

South Sound Chapter Activities

Woodland Trail Restoration Project

Thanks to our intrepid volunteers, the chapter's Woodland Trail restoration project has moved into the maintenance phase. What was a Himalayan blackberry jungle is now cleared, sheet mulched and planted with native plants with a nice trail through it. The two pictures tell the story. We will continue maintenance work parties to get any weed regrowth throughout the summer. Work party dates are April 15, May 20, June 17, and July 15, all from, 9 a.m. until about 1 p.m. You are invited to visit the site which is on both sides of the trail between Dayton and Boulevard Streets.



Before



After



Tacoma Nature Center Project Update

The Native Plant Steward project at Tacoma Nature Center, Snake Lake just completed its first year of renovation. Most of the one-acre area on the east hillside was cleared of ivy, holly, Himalayan blackberry, Scots broom, and non-native hawthorn and cherry trees. WNPS volunteers Bill Brookreson and John Neorr did the heavy work with weed wrench and chainsaw. Once cardboard was laid and mulch applied, the area was ready for eight Girl Scouts and twelve Cub Scouts to plant a dozen varieties of native plants obtained through salvage efforts. TNC's Kerry Phibbs and MetroParks Tacoma contributed by donating and delivering mulch and cardboard and hauling way brush. In third Friday monthly work parties we will continue to clear invasive plants from remaining areas, ensure weeds don't return, and water the new plants in drier months.

Also: Don't miss the Fall Plant Sale for South Sound Chapter... details on page 5

Native Plant Study Weekend, May 21-23, 2010 Western Washington Flora: For Past, Present and Future

There is still time to sign up for Native Plant Study Weekend. This year, the weekend will be centered at Camp Waskowitz, about three miles from North Bend. In addition to the fellowship and outstanding program speakers, including Jack Nesbit, author of *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest*, there is an excellent selection of twenty field trips. Details of registration are in the Spring *Douglasia* and are available online at www.wnps.org.

Native Plant Appreciation Week April 25-May 1, 2010

Our sixth annual Native Plant Appreciation Week will be celebrated this year April 25 through May 1. This year, because of budget constraints, the printing of posters has been scaled down. WNPS has designed a poster and postcard to email to chapters. Chapters can print them to publicize their NPAW events. Note the field trips we offer and watch the NPAW section on the WNPS website for chapter and statewide activities to enjoy.

Chair Report

What a Volunteer Coordinator Could Do for Our Chapter By Reba Olsen, Chair

A volunteer coordinator is one of the positions on our board that is currently vacant. I would like to share with you what a volunteer coordinator might do for the South Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society. Please read this with the idea that you might volunteer.

Volunteering is usually considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve quality of life. People also volunteer for their own skill development, to meet others, to make contacts for possible employment, to have fun and a variety of other reasons that can be self-fulfilling. Volunteers conduct a range of activities including monitoring invasive and native plants, restoration work such as weed removal and planting, working on conservation issues, and educating others about native plants. They also assist with office and meetings tasks.

A volunteer coordinator would need to attend board meetings, which are held three times annually. The location of the meetings varies according to sites available. They usually last little more than 2.5 hours and may be held on weekends. Additionally, there are rare occasions when individual board members need to vote by email or telephone on issues that cannot wait for a regular board meeting.

The rest of the possible responsibilities might be more fun than board meetings:

- » Maintain a good familiarity with SSC, its processes, its projects, and its volunteers and their skills.
- » Maintain a list of tasks that our chapter undertakes, through communicating with other board members, and indicating which areas need volunteer work the most critically at any given time.
- » Be the first personal point of contact for people who wish to do volunteer work for WNPS, but don't know where to start.
- » Provide information to people about different areas of volunteering, and inform them about specific events in which they might participate.
- » Keep a record of the names of people who volunteer for our chapter activities, for office documentation at WNPS.
- » Represent WNPS at events where we might find useful volunteers from a specific background.
- » Represent our chapter to other organizations that request volunteers from us for help with their native-plant activities.

The volunteer coordinator leads the way in opening up new opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the mission of WNPS and to the day-to-day work of SSC, and typically works from home. In short, the volunteer coordinator can be responsible for achieving what is absolutely critical for the long-term sustainability of our chapter: involving volunteers in every part of our mission.

Conservation Issues

What Do You Do When There are No Good Alternatives?

By Bill Brookreson

What do you do when there are no good alternatives? That is the question that our state government, legislative and executive branches, are facing in light of a huge budget deficit in the second year of the biennium. Facing that reality, the legislature is struggling over some budget enhancements and some massive budget cuts. Next year, in what would normally be the budget session, the prospect is for more reductions in order to meet the state's constitutional requirements for a balanced budget. What many people may not understand is that the approximately two-and-a-half billion dollars in cuts are heavily loaded into a small part of the total budget because of legal constraints that limit reductions in many areas. That puts the general fund support for natural resource programs directly in the gun sights.

Programs such as the Natural Heritage Program in the Department of Natural Resources will be essentially eliminated from general fund support. Restoration, environmental protection and invasive species management will also be deeply impacted. Although many of us have contacted decision makers to try to mitigate the damage, in reality there really are no good alternatives. In some areas, such as for the Natural Heritage Program, the legislature is considering allowing the imposition of "user fees" to raise a part of the lost funding, but that has several problems. First, in these slow economic times, there may not be the activity to generate even a significant portion of the fees needed. Second, administering a fee for service system does have a significant cost in time and resources. Finally, "fee for service" also defines where the program's priorities lie. Decisions on what to do become decided on the basis of what raises fees rather than on what has the greatest long-term benefit for the environment.

What does it mean for us if we are to preserve and protect the environment and ecosystems we value? It means that what we can do as citizens, volunteers, and members of organizations such as WNPS becomes more critically important. For the immediate future, there will be significant gaps that government, no matter how much we want it to, or urge it to, simply will not be able to fill. There will be opportunities that each of us will encounter to make a difference, sometimes large and sometimes small individually, but large collectively. Whether it is taking a few days a year to volunteer for Rare Care to monitor rare plants, restoring an area overrun by invasives, volunteering in our state parks, or any of dozens of other ways, we can make a difference. Even if it's only a few hours here and there, it does make a difference in what we will be able to pass on. Volunteer!

Chapter Meetings

Because plant lovers like to botanize while the days are long, chapter meetings are not scheduled during summer months (June-September). The fall meetings will be announced in our next addition of the Acorn newsletter, arriving in September.

Meetings are normally scheduled on the second Monday of each month from October through May (Olympia) and the second Wednesday (Tacoma). Starting at 7 pm, each meeting consists 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 John Neorr at presentations@southsoundchapterwnps.org if you have a suggestion for a future presentation.

We hope to see you (and your guests) at future gatherings! Have a good summer botanizing.

Volunteer Opportunities

Nature Center (Tacoma): April 16, May 21 and June 18, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information or to volunteer, contact Cyndy Dillon at cpdillongh@comcast.net.

Woodland Trail (Olympia): April 15, May 20, June 17, and July 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net.

Earth Day, April 22. Our chapter is hosting a booth at an event for Boeing employees, in Fredrickson; there are three one-hour shifts. Contact Reba Olsen at reba.sue@comcast.net.

Parks Appreciation Day, April 24. Please do a web search for "Parks Appreciation Day" to find specific volunteering and other opportunities on this day, or telephone your local parks department.

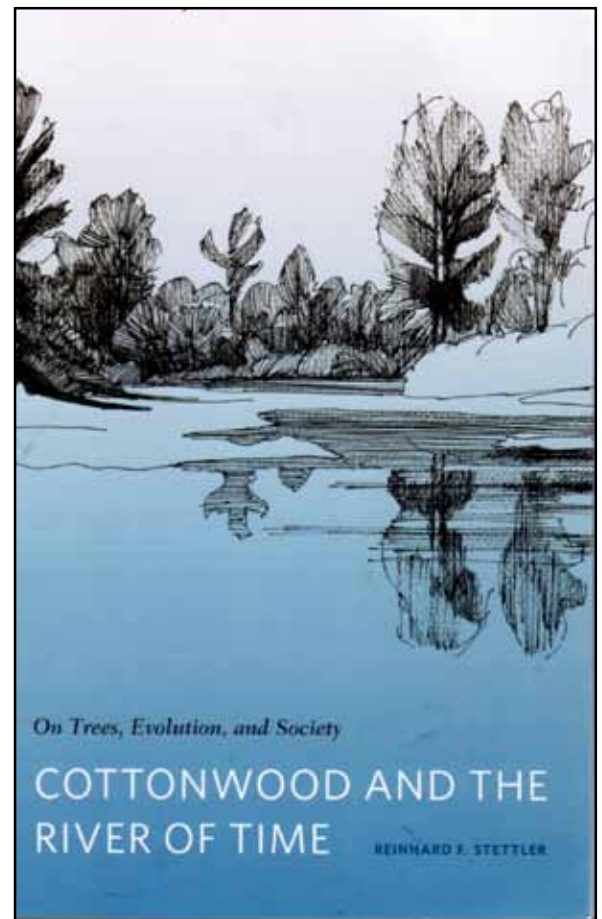
Native Plant Walk (6-7 p.m.) and Green Tacoma Partnership Picnic (7-8 p.m.) at Point Defiance Park, July 28.

Native Plant Resources

Cottonwoods and the River of Time by Dr. Reinhard Stettler, University of Washington Press; Seattle, 2009, \$24.95. Those who had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Stettler's presentation at the March chapter meeting in Olympia, and who purchased a copy of his book there, can attest that Dr. Stettler has a rare ability to communicate technical matters with clarity and enthusiasm. It came through in his presentation and comes through in this wide-ranging narrative. *Cottonwood and the River of Time* is not intended just for the academic and professional audiences: it is meant for a more general reader. It is not light reading, but if you are interested in trees and in evolutionary biology and genetics, you will enjoy and learn from the book.

In this book, Dr. Stettler guides the reader through the complex and fascinating survival strategies of the cottonwood and uses the genus *Populus* as a model system. Focusing on how cottonwoods propagate (sexually and asexually), develop and survive in the challenges of a hostile environment, Dr. Stettler relates how they adapt over their lifetime to ever changing conditions. Comparing them with other tree species gives a greater understanding of how they interconnect with their ecosystems.

Cottonwood and the River of Time deals with a broad range of topics from natural selection and adaptation; the comparable advantages and disadvantages of sexual versus asexual reproduction; the history of plant domestication; to the purposes, risks, and potential benefits of genetic engineering. Dr. Stettler celebrates what is known and what still remains a mystery. It is a fascinating read by an internationally recognized scientist.



Plant and Seed Sales

Central Puget Sound Chapter's Annual Spring Plant Sale Saturday, May 8, 2009, 10 – 4

A reminder that the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale again this year at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St., Bellevue. The CPS Chapter's annual Spring Plant Sale always has an outstanding selection of native trees, shrubs and other native plants. The plant list will be posted on the WNPS website. Serious native plant gardeners are advised to come early for the best selection of native plants and plant books. Shoppers are asked to bring their own boxes or trays.



Fall Plant Sale for South Sound Chapter

Plant sales can be a fun way to educate others about the value of native plants in landscapes. Not only do folks who lack native plants in their landscapes learn about the usefulness of native plants, but also those that do have native plants learn they have value! Our chapter is looking forward to hosting a native plant sale this fall. In addition to procuring or consigning plants from nurseries, members of the Washington Native Plant Society are invited to offer to the sale a few of their own native plants from their backyards.

Please offer only healthy plants. These are some problems to look out for: plants with cankers, wilt, fungal diseases, insect damage, or near trees with jackstraw or blowdown (possible root rot). At the May meeting, potting soil in large bags and some small pots will be available to assist with your efforts. We are encouraging members to use commercial potting soil to minimize potential disease or insect pest transmission from soils.

We are also seeking a suitable location, perhaps in Lacey, for the sale. The exact date and location have yet to be determined. Please contact Bonnie Blessing at bonnie.blessing@gmail.com for more information.

Field Trips

Bear Grass Prairies Saturday, April 24, 2010

Come and join David Peter, Ecologist for the USDA Forest Service, and Stan Graham, retired Fire Management Officer, Hood Canal District, Olympic National Forest, for a field trip to the wonderful bear grass prairies of western Washington. Those who were at the January Olympia meeting of the South Sound Chapter heard David talk about fire in the Western Washington forests and got a brief introduction to the bear grass prairies. Now is the opportunity to enjoy them up close.

The trip is open to the first 15 people who sign up. We will meet at 9 a.m. to car pool from Sanderson Field in Shelton. Sanderson Field Airport is in Shelton just off highway 101 north of the Walmart. Watch for the sign for a left turn going north. Park on the left a few hundred feet in, by a remnant prairie with ample parking room.

Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, long sleeves and rain gear if needed. Although the short hikes are over flat ground, there is some thick brush to cross. Bring water and a sack lunch! This will be a full day with several stops and short hikes off the road. Expect to return to Sanderson about 4 p.m. To register, contact Stan Graham at 360-426-0691.



Glacial Heritage Preserve of Thurston County Saturday, April 24, 2010

Join us to see the early flowers of the prairies in Thurston County and get a one day jump on Native Plant Appreciation Week. We will see the beginnings of a special place in south Thurston County. The early sightings bring us to a blooming peak of Oregon fawn lily (*Erythronium oregonum*) and Henderson's shooting star (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*), plus a host of other prairie plants. This hike is a three miles round trip through prairie and oak habitats. We will meet in Olympia at 9 a.m. and carpool to our hike. Bring a lunch and rain gear, plus a sitting pad if you want. This hike is open to the first twelve people to sign up. Sign up by phone or email to Kevin Head, 360-943-3752, khead@ekit.com.

Scatter Creek Prairie Wednesday, April 28, 2010

To celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Week, come and join Phyllis Sturges for a hike in Thurston County's Scatter Creek Prairie. Enjoy spring blooms in this wonderful area near Mima Mounds and Glacial Heritage Preserve. This prairie has much to offer: beautiful stands of Garry oak, Scatter Creek itself with its bird population, and of course many different and unusual prairie flowers spread over a wide area. We will hike 2-3 miles. Meet at 10 a.m. in Olympia to carpool. Bring a lunch, water, and rain gear if needed. This hike is open to the first fifteen people who sign up. Call or email: 360-438-5752, or psturges@comcast.net. For a list of native plants on the Scatter Creek Prairie, visit the WNPS website http://www.wnps.org/plant_lists/counties/thurston/thurston_county.html.

A Federation Forest Walk Saturday, May 1, 2010

In spring, summer or fall, one of the most delightful places for a plant person to visit is the Federation Forest State Park. Come celebrate Native Plant Appreciation Week and join Bill Brookreson to do a spring walk along the Fred Cleator Interpretive Trails. We will begin with an introduction from park staff to Federation Forest. The two trails which start and end at the interpretive center, will take us through virgin forests, wetlands and meadows. The trails, with a few diversions, will total about two miles of easy hiking. The interpretive center has an outstanding display and a well signed native garden. The trails also have excellent informational signage. The walk is suitable for families. We have an excellent plant list for the more serious botanists and we will furnish cookies for all levels of botanist.

We will meet at 9 am at the Park and Ride on South Tacoma Way near the Hwy 512 intersection, and car pool as much as possible. Federation forest is about a one-hour ride. Those who would rather go singly car meet us at the interpretive center about 10 am. The hike should take about two hours and we will have a picnic there after the hike. Bring a picnic lunch, your plant books, and clothing appropriate to the weather. To reserve a spot, contact Bill Brookreson at b.brookreson@comcast.net or 253-564-1137. A list of native plants at Federation Forest, in King County, is available at wnps.org.

More Cheap Dates for a Botanist.

William Cannon Trail. The William Cannon Trail is a short walk, about one half mile along Eld Inlet, and provides not only a view of the native plants along the estuary but also is one of the best birding sites along the South Sound so don't forget your binoculars and, if you are so inclined, birding book. The areas along the trail have a number of restoration sites established by McLane Elementary Students and People for Puget Sound. Take a few minutes at the trailhead to enjoy the historical informational signs about the Squaxin Indians, shellfish and logging along the bay. Although the trail runs along the water, the plant life is an interesting mix of madrone, Douglas fir, and plants typically in somewhat dryer environments. The trail is not difficult to locate. If you take the Mud Bay Road exit off U.S. Hwy 101 west of Olympia, follow Mud Bay road to Madrona Beach Road and park in the DOT Park and Ride, the trail exits from that lot.



The Northwest Native Plant Garden at Point Defiance Park was established in 1964 by the Tacoma Garden Club. The sign at the entrance declares that the garden is, "Dedicated to the education and enjoyment of students, city dwellers and visitors. The close observer will note a wide variety of plant life



which simulates the unique nature of the Pacific Northwest where nature, through an extraordinary range of topographic and climatic sea to summit displays her myriad of flora." The garden is funded and maintained in a partnership between

MetroParks Tacoma and the Tacoma Garden Club and as the sign at the entrance indicates, provides a delightful introduction to Pacific Northwest flora.

The garden features seven different display areas -- the pond garden, the waterfall garden, the forest garden, the woodland garden, the dry garden, the alpine garden and the meadow -- and guides the visitor through them with some excellent signage. Individual plant signs give not only the common and scientific names but also the habitat where the plant grows. The garden is intended to convey information about gardening with natives but is a delightful place, in a visit to Point Defiance, to spend an hour or so.



Workshops and Conferences

Audubon's Wenas Campout May 28-31, 2010

You are invited to the Wenas Campout, May 28-31, 2010. For decades, Audubon families and others have been camping over Memorial Day weekend at the Wenas Creek Campground. Officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, it's located southwest of Ellensburg has been assured of protective status as an important birding area. The free, "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades. If you prefer, you can arrange to stay at a nearby motel. There are wonderful field trips scheduled, and there will be an old-fashioned campfire in our "approved" fire-pit device each evening. We have a program item or two, singing, story-telling and recapping the sightings of the day. Please visit www.wenasaudubon.org: You'll see Hazel Wolf's familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout. The schedule, including field trips, will be almost identical to that of the 2009 campout. There are checklists of birds, and wildflowers, outline of field trips and program, directions to the campground, and lots of photos. For people who don't "do websites," contact Helen Engle, hengle@iinet.com, 253-564-3112; she will send you printed information. Bring friends & family, and join us at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend for as many days and/or nights as you want to stay.

"Restoration of Disturbed Sites with Native Plants: An Integrated Approach" June 14-17, 2010, Wenatchee

The Western Forestry and Conservation Association is sponsoring a four-day conference in Wenatchee at the Red Lion Hotel, 1225 North Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee. The conference offers a strong cast of outstanding experts. For more details and registration information, visit the WFCFA website at <http://western-forestry.org/nativeplants/nativeplants.htm>.

"Saltwater Plants and Shoreline Restoration" April 18, 2-3 pm

Stephanie Bishop of the Mason County Conservation District will offer a workshop on as a part of the Mason County Earth Day Celebration. For details of the celebration and the workshop, call Stephanie Bishop at 360-427-9436 or visit the website at www.masoncd.org.

Green Tacoma Partnership – Training Opportunities for Volunteers. To enroll in these free trainings, contact Krystal Kyer, Volunteer and Training Coordinator, at 253-232-9978 or kkyer@tahomaudubon.org.

"Habitat Stewards Training," Saturday, June 5, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 South Tyler St., Tacoma. Volunteers will receive tools, skills, and support to become a Habitat Steward, adopt a natural area and start a successful habitat restoration project in Tacoma.

"Invasive Plants/Weeds ID and Removal Techniques," Saturday, June 12, 9:30 a.m.–noon, at Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 South Tyler Street, Tacoma. View demonstrations and get hands-on practice identifying and properly removing the most common invasive plant species found in Tacoma's parks and natural areas. This is an outdoor training and includes walking on the trails at Snake Lake. Dress appropriately.

Native Plant Salvage Foundation Events. Advanced registration is required for events. Call (360) 867-2166, or email nativeplantsalvage@gmail.com to sign up and receive directions. You can also find more information at www.nativeplantsalvage.org.

"Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife", Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Olympia. Join Erica Guttman and Linda Andrews, landscape designer, for a full day of learning about sustainable landscape design and creation, and then travel by bus to local private water-wise landscapes. Sponsored by the Thurston County Stream Team.

"Meet the Trees of Washington", Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Learn about the wonders of our lowland native forests as well as other South Sound ecosystems. Travel by bus to a local nature trail to learn about hands-on plant identification of native trees, shrubs, ferns and flowers. Sponsored by the Thurston County Stream Team.

Articles for the *Acorn* or the monthly updates. If you have articles or information of general interest to our members, or suggestions for articles, the deadline for submissions for the Fall newsletter is August 15. If you have information for the monthly updates sent out electronically between issues, please submit those by the 25th day of the month before the month of the event(s). Submit all articles to Bill Brookreson at news-letterediting@southsoundchapterwnps.org.

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Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter

www.southsoundchapterwnps.org

Washington Native Plant Society State Chapter

www.wnps.org 206-527-3210



WNPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
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Chapter Affiliation

- Central Puget Sound (Seattle)
 - Central Washington (Yakima, Ellensburg)
 - Columbia Basin (Tri-Cities)
 - Koma Kulshan (Bellingham)
 - NE Washington (Spokane)
 - Okanogan
 - Olympic Peninsula
 - Salal (Mt Vernon, Skagit Valley)
 - San Juan Islands
 - South Sound (Olympia, Tacoma)
 - Wenatchee Valley
 - At-Large
 - Palouse (inactive)
 - Suksdorfia (inactive)
- Each membership includes affiliation with one chapter. Add \$.00 for each additional chapter.

WNPS POSTER

"Wildflowers Across Washington"
 A beautiful 24" x 36" full-color poster featuring 36 native species, \$8 (members \$6)
 Shipping \$2.50 each poster

Membership Category

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- \$15 Budget
- \$50-99 WNPS Friend
- \$100-499 WNPS Special Friend
- \$500 WNPS Best Friend
- \$1,000 WNPS Sustaining
- \$5,000 WNPS Patron

ENCLOSED ARE:

My dues: Please Sign me up! \$ _____
 Additional Chapters (\$5 each) _____
 \$8 for each poster (\$6 members) _____
 Shipping (\$2.50/poster) _____
 TOTAL \$ _____

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 Seattle, WA 98115



South Sound Chapter WNPS

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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.

