



# *The Acorn*

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

*Winter/Spring 2008*

## **Native Plant Study Weekend – 2008, “Preserving Prairies” Education and Volunteer Opportunities**

May 2-4, 2008, the WNPS South Sound Chapter will be hosting the 2008 Native Plant Study Weekend. The weekend's activities will be centered at the Black Lake Bible Camp in Tumwater. It is a great opportunity for learning and fellowship with WNPS members from across the state.

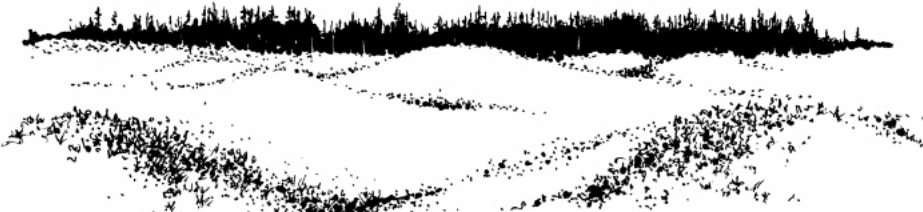
The focus of this year's Native Plant Study Weekend will be one of Washington's most at-risk plant communities – our South Sound prairies. We have deliberately scheduled this event to coincide with Prairie Appreciation Day that is held at Glacial Heritage Prairie. Our presentations and many of our field trips will be prairie-related. There will be approximately 12-14 field trips or workshops on both Saturday and Sunday from which to select.

After Friday and Saturday's dinners, we have four very interesting presentations scheduled. On Friday evening, DNR geologist Tim Walsh will talk about the how the South Sound and the prairies were formed. Tim and others have been modeling the major advances and retreats of the glaciers and have completely revised the timing and our understanding of the processes that formed the South Puget Sound. Kelly McAllister, a long-time district biologist for WDFW (and now with WDOT), will give a presentation on the fauna of the south Puget Sound, with an emphasis on prairie-related species.

On Saturday, Ted Thomas with USFWS, will give a presentation on Golden Paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*), the only federally listed plant in the SPS prairies. He'll talk about the reintroduction efforts currently being undertaken. Linda Storm, Central Puget Sound Chapter member and University of Washington graduate student, will give a presentation from the research she has collected for her Doctoral dissertation related to the cultural and ethnobotanical habits of the indigenous peoples of the south Puget Sound.

Registration information, including field trip details, will be in the winter issue of *Douglasia*. Registration is on a first come first served basis. Register early to get the field trips you want!

**Preserving Prairies**



**WNPS STUDY WEEKEND  
2008**

Sponsored by the South Sound Chapter

Volunteers are needed for all three days, May 2, 3, and 4. Please let us know if you are available to assist in set up, registration, check-in and name tags, breakdown and checkout, or with follow up. It is a chance to meet and work with many of our wonderful members from around the state and have fun!

To help with the organizational aspects for the study weekend please contact Anna Thurston at [a.thurston@worldnet.att.net](mailto:a.thurston@worldnet.att.net) or by phone at 253-566-3342.

## Field Trips

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### **Saturday, March 8th**

#### **Catherine Creek and Coyote Wall.**

Join Kevin Head as he heads to the first place in the season for seeing beautiful wildflowers in the Columbia Gorge. At Catherine Creek the flower season begins in some years in January, but by early March we are seeing fields of Grass Widows and other early spring beauties. We will meet in Olympia at 7:00 AM and Carpool. Expect all sorts of weather and we will have a dinner in Hood River after the walks. Expect to walk about three miles in beautiful Oak country. Contact Kevin Head at [khead@ekit.com](mailto:khead@ekit.com) or 360-943-3752. Trip is limited to the first 12 people to sign up.



### **Saturday, March 22nd. Columbia Gorge Sample.**

We will hike in a number of spots on the Washington and Oregon side looking for the second wave of blooms in the gorge. This hike will see close to 50 species of flowers in bloom and explore some unusual spots that take in the best of the gorge in early season. We will carpool and meet in Olympia at 7:00 AM and have dinner in Hood River. Contact Kevin Head at [khead@ekit.com](mailto:khead@ekit.com) or 360-943-3752. Trip is limited to the first 12 people to sign up.



### **Saturday, April 26th. Glacial Heritage County Park Thurston County.**

Come see the prairies before our big Study weekend and see the early bloomers in the Park. With this event, we will start the Native Plant Appreciation Week a day early and be able to see plants usually not seen in the Prairie Appreciation Days. We'll then be done in time to watch Olympia's Big Procession of Species Parade. Meet in Olympia at 8:30 AM to carpool. Contact Kevin Head at [khead@ekit.com](mailto:khead@ekit.com) or 360-943-3752. Trip is limited to the first 12 people to sign up.

### **Saturday, May 17th. Cape Horn Loop trail.**

This seven mile loop in the west side of the Columbia River Gorge takes participants through beautiful habitats rarely encountered in the west gorge. We will walk through mature Alder forests, take in ridge top views through second growth Doug Firs, explore west side Oak habitat with stunning views towards Oregon Waterfalls and explore low level Scree habitats and even a walk under a waterfall. The loop has a 500 foot elevation gain and drop, plus a 1.5 mile walk on a road to finish the hike. Contact Kevin Head at [khead@ekit.com](mailto:khead@ekit.com) or 360-943-3752. Trip is limited to the first 12 people who sign up.

## Workshops and Conferences

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**Friday, February 22, 2008, Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT) Annual Research Symposium** will be held at the Pacific Forestry Center in Victoria, B.C. Those interested, mark your calendars. A full announcement and registration information will be distributed in early 2008. For more information about GOERT, visit , their website at: <http://www.goert.ca/>.

## Regional Activities

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### **Green Drinks – Environmental Networking February 7, 2008**

Join members of the Tacoma/Pierce County environmental community for food, wholesome fare, and community networking on February 7th, 2008, at the Engine House #9! We'll be meeting upstairs at this smoke-free watering-hole, which has served the community for 35 years in a 100-year old fire house. On tap are a wide selection of locally produced seasonal micro-brews, among traditional choices that include alcohol-free drinks. You can also vanquish your hunger with a super selection of pastas, steaks, gourmet salads and pizzas too.

The teen group will start their gathering at 4:00 pm. Post-work gatherings begin at 6:00 pm. This month's Green Drinks event is being sponsored by the Native Plant Salvage Alliance - your go-to group for locally grown native plants - saved by volunteers from development destruction and brought back to life by Green Tacoma Partners making urban habitat enhancements happen! Don't forget to ask about the NW Earth Institute - the driver behind Green Drinks events in Tacoma. Come find out what makes our environmental community buzz, and why the Engine House #9 owns a spot in the local historical register.

For information contact Karin Van Vlack at: [earthoutreach@yahoo.com](mailto:earthoutreach@yahoo.com). Engine House #9 is located at 611 N Pine St., Tacoma, WA 98406

### **13th Annual Prairie Appreciation Day Saturday May 3rd, 2008 10 am - 3 pm, Littlerock, WA**

Explore the South Sound prairies with the wildflowers in bloom, during the 13th Annual Prairie Appreciation Day at Thurston County's Glacial Heritage Preserve. Learn about birds, wildflowers, butterflies, gardening with native plants and ethnobotany. Enjoy a hayride across the prairie. Special activities for children. Entrance available until 3 pm but all are welcome to enjoy the prairie until 4 pm. Wheelchair accessible activities for individuals and groups will be available at the Washington Department of Natural Resources Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve. Free. For more information, please visit [www.prairieappreciationday.org](http://www.prairieappreciationday.org) or contact Peder Engelstad ([pengelstad@tnc.org](mailto:pengelstad@tnc.org)).

Directions: Take I-5 to exit 95 (the Littlerock exit) about 10 miles south of Olympia. Go west through Littlerock (past the gas station and tavern) to the T intersection at the Mima Road/Waddell Creek. Go south (left) on Mima Road 2.7 miles. You will pass some big brown fields, the Weyerhauser tree nursery, then a tractor crossing sign. Take the next left onto an unmarked gravel road. Follow the road to its end and park near the gate. There will be signs on the day of the event.

### **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Released**

After three years of work, the Washington Biodiversity Council released its strategy report at a one-day Biodiversity Conservation Conference on December 4, 2007, at the Bell Harbor Convention Center in Seattle. The document is entitled the Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: Sustaining Our Natural Heritage For Future Generations and is available on the Biodiversity Council website at <http://www.biodiversity.wa.gov/> (5 MB pdf). The Executive Summary (1.2 MB pdf) of the strategy is also available at the website.

The Washington Biodiversity Council was created by Governor's Executive Order 04-20 in 2004. The Council is composed of a diverse group representing landowners, environmentalists, federal and state agencies, tribes, and others. Among its charges, the Council was directed to develop a 30-year comprehensive prioritized strategy and implementation plan that enables the state to protect its biodiversity heritage in perpetuity; complete an

assessment of existing and potential landowner stewardship incentive programs; develop a public education component, including K-12 through higher education, and an outreach component for stakeholder groups; and develop a website to present information on the state's biodiversity heritage that is accessible to local governments, watershed-based planning groups, and the public at large. The strategy that was developed is intended to mark a path to preserve and enhance our state's biodiversity.

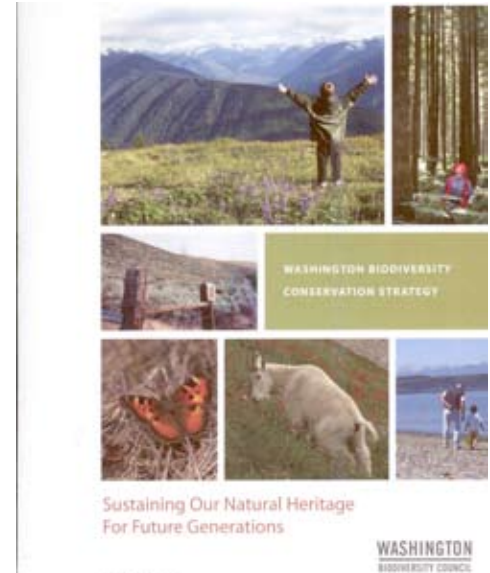
Three broad initiatives are the core of the strategy -- a new approach to defining priorities, engaging landowners, and measuring outcomes:

- Guiding investments on the land through the use of a new tool which maps biodiversity values and threats at a landscape or regional scale;
- Improving incentives and advancing markets for landowners to provide tangible benefits for conservation on working lands and open spaces; and
- Engaging citizens to work with scientists to inventory and monitor Washington's biodiversity.

Many WNPS members are already very engaged as, and with, scientists to inventory and monitor Washington's plant diversity. They have engaged in everything from bio-blitzes, to Native Plant Stewardship Programs, to monitoring plants for Rare Care, to untold numbers of restoration projects.

For the Washington Native Plant Society, the implementation of the whole strategy can be an important venue for education on the critical value of native plant ecosystems that are the very basis for our state's wonderful biodiversity. The key word is "implementation." All the work of the Council will be meaningless if the document only collects dust on shelves. Many of the decisions that will determine success or failure will be made at the local level where, as concerned citizens, we can weigh in.

The document is long, 148 pages, but it is worth the read but more, it is worth the support for changing public policy and private behavior. It's a 30 year strategy to help to determine what will be the heritage we leave to the future generations.



## Conservation Issues

### Shrub Steppe & Livestock Grazing on State Lands

In its most recent strategic plan, the Washington Native Plant Society identified shrub steppe, garry oak and invasive species as priority issues. Partnerships are one of the most effective means that the WNPS uses to pursue its priorities. At the Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest/ Society for Wetland Scientists PNW (SERNW/SWSPNW) Chapter joint meeting, September 25-28, Yakima, WNPS, through the Conservation Committee, sponsored the concurrent conference sessions on shrub-steppe on Wednesday, September 26. A number of excellent scientific papers were presented and discussed.

The related issue of the impact of livestock grazing on public lands has been an ongoing concern for WNPS and specifically the Conservation Committee. As a result, with the number of interested parties and experts already gathered in Yakima, WNPS felt it appropriate to assemble a panel for a public session on this issue. The panelists included Rocky Beach, Wildlife Diversity Division Manager of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Milt Johnson, Assistant Regional Manager for the Washington Department of Natural Resources; Jack Field, Executive Vice-President of the Washington Cattleman's Association; George Wooten, Botanist and Conservation Associate with Conservation Northwest; Andy Stepniewski and Michael Martin, Conservation Chair of the Yakima Audubon Society; and Kevin Guinn, Area Resource Conservationist with USDA-NRCS in Ephrata.

The forum was designed to be an opportunity to exchange information and provide a balanced discussion on this controversial issue. WDFW and DNR panelists were asked to discuss their programs and policies for grazing on lands under their control. Jack Field provided the cattleman's perspective on the need for grazing. The other panelists in the fields of range ecology, plant ecology and conservation discussed the impacts and benefits of grazing and how native flora may be impacted. The panelists provided a very productive and interesting evening of discussion and interaction with the audience. The forum was very successful. Over 100 people attended the forum.

## Biofuels: What Impact on Native Plants.

At first glance, biofuels would seem to have minor relevance to Native Plant Society members. On further examination, that may not be entirely true.

Global warming, depleting oil reserves, rapidly rising prices, and a 20+ billion dollar per month adverse balance of trade for purchasing foreign oil – it is small wonder that biofuels, from ethanol to biodiesel, have become a panacea to many Americans. They can cut carbon emissions significantly, they are renewable, they do keep money in this country for American farmers and they are becoming economically competitive with oil. From a political standpoint, it is much easier to subsidize ethanol production, especially from corn, than it is to take more draconian measures such as mandating more efficient autos or radically restricting carbon emissions. Unfortunately, the answer to this problem, like most serious problems, is not a simple one and, without moving thoughtfully rather than enthusiastically, we may do more environmental harm than good.

There are few people (Iowa corn producers, etc.) that believe that corn ethanol is the answer. Corn requires too many inputs so that, in balance, it produces only slightly more energy than it takes to produce it (1.2 or 1.3: 1). Soybeans are better, but not drastically so. In addition, taking a food crop and diverting it to ethanol production has serious unintended consequences for the costs of food. Mexico is already experiencing high food inflation relative to corn. An alternate answer would appear to be cellulosic ethanol – i.e. extracting energy from plant cellulose. We know how to do it. There is still a good deal of work to develop it as an economic process. It can be several times more efficient in terms of energy yield than corn ethanol production.

The rub comes in what plants to grow for cellulosic ethanol. As Jodie Holt, Chair of the Botany and Plant Science Department at University of California Riverside noted, “Many of the plants currently targeted for possible biofuel production are invasive in nature if they escape the cultivated environs in which they are contained.” She continued, “Unfortunately, those same characteristics that make invasive plants attractive [as a biofuel source] – rapid growth rates, high yield, low water and maintenance requirements, and an ability to grow even in undesirable soil—makes them an imposing threat if they escape.” We know only too well the impact of invasives on native plant ecosystems.

The fact that many of these plants are highly invasive if they escape means we should approach large scale production with great caution. Plants currently being considered for biofuel production include jathropa (*Jathropa* spp.), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*). All of these species are known to be invasive.

In Washington, discussion centers more around poplar production or switchgrass, but this may take many areas out of conservation programs or lead to loss of threatened shrub steppe as lands are converted to cultivation. Washington state has already lost over 50 percent of its shrub-steppe habitat.

There are at least three areas that WNPS should monitor through the Conservation Committee and members:

- The potential to take significant amounts of land out of conservation uses and use it to produce biomass for energy production;
- The potential for some of the plant material that may be used for cellulosic ethanol or biodeisel production to become highly invasive and displace native plants;
- The threat to biodiversity that may come from extensive monocultural production for biofuels.

Biofuel from cellulose is certainly at least a significant part of our future energy program but, like most things, it is not a “silver bullet.” The solution will also require new commitment to conservation and probably significant regulatory and lifestyle changes.

The enemy now is not the technology, although the technology needs significant work. The enemy is time. Can we come up with a new, environmentally sound energy policy before we are past the “tipping point” when the consequences of past policies cannot be resolved? That is a question yet to be answered.

## Preserving and Restoring Our Urban Forests

Audubon Washington (and 26 local Audubon chapters), with the support of a number of environmental groups including Avista Utilities, Cascade Land Conservancy, Conservation Northwest, Earth Ministries, Environment Washington, League of Women Voters, Macomb Gardens Nursery, Pacific Forest Trust, People for Puget Sound, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, Washington Environmental Council, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, Washington Community Forest Council and the Washington Native Plant Society is proposing, as a part of its legislative initiative for 2008, a broad-reaching measure to preserve and restore our urban forests.

The initiative is prompted by the impact of population growth and invasive species on our urban forests. The decline and loss of urban forests has created serious storm water management, water quality, air quality and other environmental consequences. The goal in Western Washington is 65 percent tree canopy cover. In eastern Washington, where urban ecosystems are dramatically different and water is more limited, goals would be appropriately adjusted.

The proposed Evergreen Cities & Communities Act restores, retains and establishes more trees and forests in our communities by creating:

- Statewide urban forest inventory and assessment;
- Funding & Partnerships for cities and counties forest plans;
- Eco-regional performance standards for tree retention and urban forest canopy; and
- Local tree ordinances and forest management plans to meet these standards.

The details remain to be filled in. We expect bill language to be developed early in the session. Getting such a far-reaching initiative through in the short legislative session will be a significant challenge. When studies suggest that 70% of the parklands in Seattle and other cities may be ecological dead zones from the tree reaching the end of their lifespan, unless trends are reversed, we may be running out of time.

## South Sound Activity \_\_\_\_\_

### **Tacoma Sustainability Summit: Education and Action**

The University of Washington, Tacoma, and the other higher education institutions of Pierce County are holding the first annual Tacoma Sustainability Summit: Education and Action. This event will be held on February 9-10, 2008, at the University of Washington, Tacoma. The 2-day event has two purposes: (1) to provide residents of the greater Tacoma metropolitan area a forum for investigating currently available services, products, companies and agencies that address sustainability needs for the local community and (2) to create a forum for discussion and implementation of sustainability solutions for higher education campuses across Tacoma.

The first day of this summit, Saturday, February 9, 10:00am-3:00pm, is the Environmental Sustainability Exposition open to the general public to discuss the sustainability needs for the local community. This is being accomplished through an invitational exposition of local goods and services and public information presentations on a wide range of topics: transportation alternatives, green construction, energy conservation, waste minimization and recycling, alternative energy sources, global climate change initiatives, etc. Participants are being garnered from throughout the region to contribute through some combination of table display or public presentation. There will be no charge for public attendance.

This outreach event provides the audience the opportunity to experience some of the most interesting and innovative goods, services, and initiatives helping to address sustainability in our region. The organizers are seeking industry, local businesses, government agencies, non-profit organizations, educators, and student organizations to share their exciting work with community members, families, and students of all ages.

Participating institutions include the University of Washington, Tacoma; the University of Puget Sound; Tacoma Community College; Pierce College; The Evergreen State College, Tacoma Campus; Bates Technical College; Pacific Lutheran University; and Clover Park Technical College. Mark your calendars for an interesting and educational day.

## Volunteer Opportunity

### **Rare Plant Monitoring**

Are you interested in an opportunity to contribute to the conservation of Washington's rare plants and at the same time visit premier examples of Washington's native ecosystems? Volunteer as a rare plant monitor with Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation and help collect valuable information on status of rare plant populations. Rare plant monitors visit known populations of rare plants all around the state to check and report on the condition of the population and its habitat.

What kind of skills do we seek in volunteers? We are looking for people who can identify native plants in the field, have a commitment to native plant conservation and good observation skills, can commit a few days during the spring and summer, and can provide their own transportation. Training is mandatory for participation and is offered in 2008 at two locations: Seattle on Saturday, March 1st and Wenatchee on Saturday, April 5th. For more information and to obtain a volunteer application, visit [www.depts.washington.edu/rarecare](http://www.depts.washington.edu/rarecare) or contact Rare Care at 206-616-0780 or at [rarecare@u.washington.edu](mailto:rarecare@u.washington.edu).

# Native Plant Resources

## “Rain Garden Handbook”

What is a “Rain Garden?” “Rain Gardens are simply shallow depressions that allow storm runoff from roofs, driveways, patios, etc. to slowly soak into the soil. Rain gardens:

- Are landscaped with plants that fit your yard
- Have deep, compost –amended soils to soak up and clean runoff before it reaches streets and storm drains
- Help reduce pollution and erosion into our streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.”

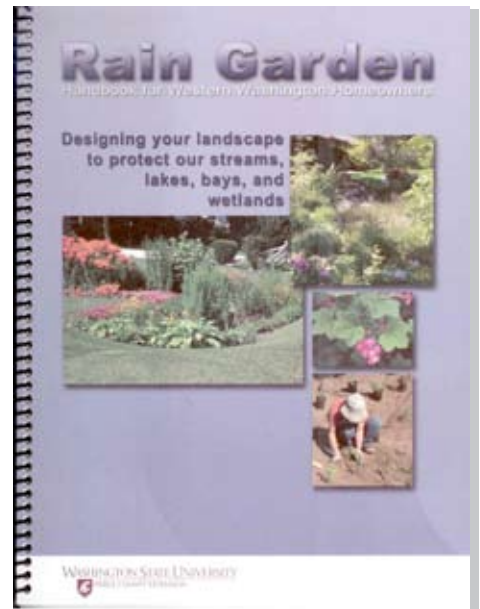
Curtis Hinman, WSU Cooperative Extension Water Quality Agent for Pierce County, with the help of a grant from the Washington State department of Ecology, has developed a very useful handbook that will not only tell you what it is but how to develop one in your own yard. The handbook has been written so that even the most novice gardener can use it easily while the experience gardener or landscaper will find it extremely useful. It covers location selection, design and building, planting, and maintaining a rain garden. The suggested plant list, while not exclusively native plants, is very heavily weighted towards natives.

A limited number of hard copies are available from WSU Cooperative Extension at no cost. The handbook is available on line at <http://www.pierce.wsu.edu>.

### Rain Garden Workshops in Thurston County

- February 25 (Yelm)
- March 6 (Olympia)
- March 27 (Eatonville)
- April 3 (Tumwater)
- April 17 (River Ridge High School, Lacey)

For more information and to sign up, contact Erica or Justin at 360-754-3588, Ext. 109 or 110, or [nativeplants@wsu.edu](mailto:nativeplants@wsu.edu) or [wsunps@thurstoncd.com](mailto:wsunps@thurstoncd.com).



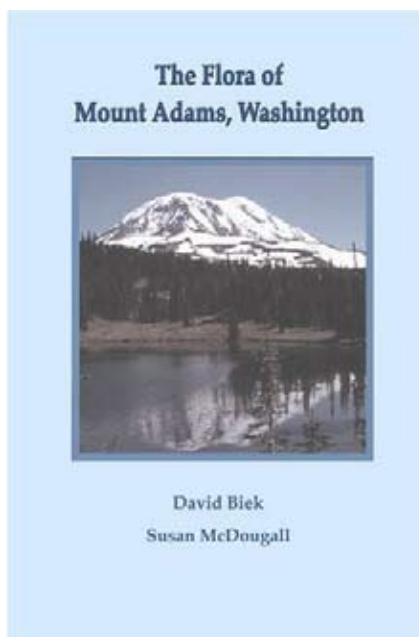
## The Flora of Mt. Adams, Washington Now Available

The Flora of Mt. Adams, Washington by David Biek and Susan McDougall is now available for your reading and studying pleasure. This is the first complete account of the flora of Mount Adams, describing each of the 843 species of plants at the mountain as well as providing extensive background information on geology, ecology, and ethnobotany of this little-known Cascade volcano.

The text is 474 pages, including a glossary, bibliography, and index. Each species is fully described, using a minimum of botanical jargon. Keys aid in identification of plants in the field and locations for plants are given with their habitat preferences.

You can purchase a copy of The Flora of Mt. Adams, Washington over the internet through Amazon.com. It may also be purchased directly from David and Susan’s website at [www.mtadamsflora.clearwire.net](http://www.mtadamsflora.clearwire.net) or though:

Sound Books  
13008 37th Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98125  
206-363-1372 email: [soundbooks@clearwire.net](mailto:soundbooks@clearwire.net)



# Plant and Seed Sales

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## Pierce Conservation District Annual Native Bare Root Plant Sale Accepting Pre-Orders until January 31, 2008

Plan now for spring planting! The Pierce Conservation District is taking orders for its 17th Annual Native Tree and Plant Sale. The purpose of this sale is to promote the use of native vegetation in landscaping. Native plants need no additional water, fertilizer, or pesticides, and they are an excellent way to invite birds into your yard.

The District is featuring 32 species of plants native to Western Washington as well as plastic tree tubes and spray on repellent to protect the seedlings from rodent and grass trimmer damage. Species include 6-24 inch conifers such as western red cedar, Douglas fir, Fort Lewis ponderosa pine, and noble fir; 10-12" deciduous trees such as paper birch, quaking aspen, and pacific dogwood; ground covers such as kinnickinnick and salal; and a number of favorite wildlife species such as blue huckleberry, mock orange, nootka rose, pacific rhododendron, red flowering currant, and others.

Pre-orders will be taken until January 31st, 2008. Plant materials will be available for pick up February 22 & 23, 2008 at the District office in Puyallup. Prices range from \$5 - \$21 per bundle of ten plants. To view the complete list and prices of available plants, and visit the Pierce County Conservation District website, go to: [www.piercecountycd.org](http://www.piercecountycd.org).

You may request an order form for these native plants by calling the Pierce Conservation District at (253) 845-9770 or email [renes@piercecounytc.org](mailto:renes@piercecounytc.org). You may also download an order form from the web site, [www.piercecounytc.org](http://www.piercecounytc.org).

Pre-ordered plants will be available for pickup February 22 and 23 at the Conservation District office, 5430 66th Avenue East, Puyallup. A selection of Woodbrook Nursery potted native plants will be available only on the pickup day.



***The real work of planet saving will be small, humbling, pleasing, and rewarding. Its jobs will be too many to count, too many to report, too many to be publicly noticed or rewarded, and too small to make anyone rich or famous.***

***Wendell Berry***

## Native Plant Seeds Available

Available at WNPS meetings in Olympia and Tacoma while they last... You can purchase the following seeds for \$2.00/ea with 50 percent of the proceeds benefiting our South Sound Chapter:

*Achillea millefolium*, Yarrow  
*Agoseris grandiflora*, Large-flowered Agoseris  
*Allium amplexans*, Slimleaf Onion  
*Allium cernuum*, Nodding Onion  
*Aquilegia formosa*, Red Columbine  
*Arabis glabra*, Tower Rockcress  
*Armeria maritima*, Sea-Pink  
*Camassia leichtlinii*, Great Camas  
*Castilleja hispida*, Harsh Paintbrush  
*Castilleja miniata*, Scarlet Paintbrush  
*Cornus nuttallii*, Pacific Dogwood  
*Disporum smithii*, Smith's Fairybells  
*Erigeron speciosus*, Showy Fleabane  
*Eriophyllum lanatum*, Oregon Sunshine  
*Erythronium oregonum*, White Fawn Lily  
*Fritillaria lanceolata*, Chocolate Lily  
*Gallardia aristata*, Blanket-flower  
*Lilium columbianum*, Tiger Lily  
*Linum lewisii*, Wild Blue Flax  
*Lomatium utriculatum*, Spring Gold  
*Lupinus albicaulis*, Sicklekeel Lupine  
*Monarda fistulosa*, Wild Bergamot  
*Penstemon cardwellii*, Cardwell's Penstemon  
*Penstemon davidsonii*, Davidson's Penstemon  
*Penstemon pruinosus*, Chelan Penstemon  
*Penstemon serrulatus*, Cascade Penstemon  
*Rhododendron macrophyllum*, Pacific Rhododendron  
*Rudbeckia occidentalis*, Coneflower  
*Scutellaria lateriflora*, Blue Skullcap  
*Sisyrinchium californicum*, Golden-eyed Grass  
*Smilacina racemosa*, False Solomon's Seal  
*Solidago canadensis*, Canadian Goldenrod  
*Symphotrichum (Aster) subspicatus*, Douglas Aster  
*Veratrum californicum*, False Hellebore  
*Xerophyllum tenax*, Beargrass  
*Zigadenus venosus*, Death Camas

## Salvage Program Activities

### In Pierce County:

- *January 19, 2008:* Prairie Salvage – 9-2
- *January 31, 2008:* Potting Party – 10- 2
- *February 2, 2008:* Forest Salvage – 9-2
- *February 15, 2008:* Potting Party – 10- 2
- *February 23, 2008:* Prairie Salvage – 9-2
- *February 28, 2008:* Potting Party – 10- 2
- *March 2, 2008:* Potting Party – 10- 2
- *March 8, 2008:* Forest Salvage – 9-2
- *March 21, 2008:* Salvage Event (Location TBD) – 9-2
- *March 29, 2008:* Mad Hatter Tea & Potting Party – 9-3



To learn more or to register in for any of the Pierce County events, contact Anna Thurston: a.thurston@worldnet.att.net, 253-566-3342.

### In Thurston County:

- *January 13, 2008:* Native Plant Salvage
- *January 21, 2008:* MLK Day Native Plant Salvage
- *January 27, 2008:* Winter Twig Identification

For more information and to sign up, contact Erica or Justin at 360-754-3588, Ext. 109 or 110 , or nativeplants@wsu.edu or wsunps@thurstoncd.com.

## South Sound Activity

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### Rocky Prairie Land Use – Thurston County.

Rocky Prairie is located 13 miles south of Olympia in Thurston County, and 1/2 mile from Millersylvania State Park, and forms a rare habitat matrix unique to Washington. This fragile environment includes rare oak woodland, wetlands, and native outwash prairie and is home to numerous state and federally threatened and endangered species including prairie specialist butterflies, Olympic mudminnow, Oregon Spotted Frog, Oregon Vespar Sparrow, White Top Aster, Water Howellia, Garry oak woodlands, and native outwash prairie and wetlands. The prairie lies within the Black River watershed where agency and organizational partners have been working to protect sensitive watershed areas. Rocky Prairie also forms the headwaters for two salmon-bearing streams running through it, and its hydrology is important to residents who live nearby. In 2006, approximately 800 acres of Rocky Prairie were purchased by the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife for conservation and restoration purposes. That agency, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy, has spent 15 years attempting to procure the entire 1650 acres.

In 2006 the Port of Tacoma, in conjunction with the Port of Olympia, purchased the remaining 745 acres of this biologically diverse area to develop the "South Sound Logistics Center." Their plans contain numerous possibilities including a rail switching yard, chemical manufacturing plant, solid waste transfer facility, high-cube warehousing, and inter-modal (truck and rail) freight and trans-load operations. This would create a large 24-hour per day industrial complex – situated between WDFW's portion of Rocky Prairie, bordering 3 sides, and a long-term undeveloped forest, the McIntosh Tree Farm.

The Friends of Rocky Prairie, a citizen group responding to the Port's plans, formed in February of 2007 and has expanded into a large alliance of over 500 citizens, with a growing coalition of businesses, churches and conservation groups. They believe this facility is a serious threat to this rare prairie environment, to historic Millersylvania State Park, to the expansive McIntosh Tree Farm, to the delicate Black River watershed, and to the rural treasure of South Thurston County.

For more information visit their website at [www.FriendsOfRockyPrairie.com](http://www.FriendsOfRockyPrairie.com).

# Chair's Report

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As we experience 2008, I look forward to sharing with our chapter members and others the \_\_\_\_\_ that can be felt in the midst of Nature. I encourage the reader of this missive to fill in the blank, and then consider their selection of word or words.

Some people might think of, or experience, many different things, and others not much at all. Is your experience layered, sparsely or richly, with details and nuance that conspire or conflict? Or, perhaps it is clear and simple. Likely, your experience relates to a memory or an experience from your past. I would assume that it is something with which you remain friends, or else you wouldn't be spending time with others who enjoy it and want to experience more.

From here, I'm hoping that all of us will share with another person, or maybe many others, their word or words – their experience, or experiences – to tell their story. Better yet, how can we add to the story?

Getting out into Nature is certainly one approach, and this year the South Sound Chapter is taking a lead to help us get there. Whether it's attending one of our monthly meetings where we sponsor a variety of Nature's story-tellers, or whether you participate in any one of many events that will be offered through our activities in collaboration with Native Plant Appreciation Week, or our chapter's sponsorship of the annual WNPS Study Weekend.

Please help me welcome to our group, both new members, and people who are supporting our efforts to keep us all acquainted with Nature through the coordination of our chapter activities. New members in our recent past include April Ann Fong, Carl Redick, Emily and Kevin Schoenfelder, Steve Barnowe-Meyer, Jim and Gail Godert, Brooke Sullivan, Luke Painter, Mack Knutsen, Ted Labbe, Kelli Burke, and Victoria Ray.

Among the people who are helping to make the chapter a possibility are Bill Brookreson, taking on the big job of editing this newsletter before it is sent to the able publishing skills of Mary Henry. Bill's association with Catherine Hovanic (WNPS's state-wide executive) will keep us more effectively in the loop with policy developments that affect our chapter's region. Please also offer a big hand to John Neorr, a 2006 Native Plant Steward, who has done a great job assembling speakers for this next third of a year.

Operation of our chapter is no small task. I've personally been overwhelmed by all of it when there isn't someone committed to handling the various

details that I have and haven't always been effective at delegating. I owe additional thanks to the people who have stayed with these various tasks, like maintenance of our treasury (Kevin Head); promotion of our activities (Lee Fellenberg and Sue Summers); development of field trips (Michael Deckert); and getting us in the door at our meeting facilities (Lila Muller); where we are invited to enjoy festive treats brought by good friends and faithful volunteers (Dan & Pat Montague and Helen Hepp).

In an effort to take up the conservation trail that Mary Fries has diligently handled over so many years, I have also been attending many meetings. Among them are local and regional efforts to gauge and engage the public, non-profit organizations as well as our various administrations in collaborative outreach, education and other action activities that benefit Nature. Responding on behalf of the Native Plant Society remains a task that I hope some one or maybe 2-3 individuals will step up to the plate to administer.

This and the job of coordinating our chapter's turn at implementing the annual Study Weekend (thanks to Rod Gilbert for his studious development of speakers and field trip leaders), is our way of telling Nature's stories. We hope you will join us as we assemble to learn and tell more stories, while we work collectively to preserve the habitat that makes Nature whatever it is to each of us – something special. –A--



## A Note from the Editor

Those of you that notice such things may have noticed that there is a new "editor" for the Acorn. For me, the "editor," this is a bit of a new adventure and a learning experience, never having edited a WNPS newsletter before. I would appreciate your comments on what you liked and what you would like to see changed as issues come out. I need your suggestions on subjects or items to cover that are of interest to you that would make the Acorn more informative or useful. I would REALLY appreciate articles that you would be willing to submit for the next issues. Thank you for your help and patience as I learn.

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## Washington Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter

[www.southsoundchapterwnps.org](http://www.southsoundchapterwnps.org)

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## WNPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### 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)  
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### Membership Category

- \$25 Individual Rate
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- \$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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to WNPS and mail to:  
 Washington Native Plant Society, 6310 NE 74th St., Ste 215E  
 Seattle, WA 98115



**South Sound Chapter WNPS**

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post-consumer fiber recycled paper.*

***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.***



**Looking NW from Mt. Rainier where we were collecting seeds for revegetation uses.**

# Meetings Calendar for February – July, 2008

February

## **Monday, February 11th (Olympia) – Greg Ettl** ***The Impact of White Pine Blister Rust on Native Forests***

Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) is found in the subalpine zone throughout the Coastal, Olympic, Cascade, and Klamath Mountains, extending well into California at high elevations along the Sierra Nevada. White pine blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola*) is common throughout the Pacific Northwest, generally causing widespread mortality of 5-needle pines, and has devastated large areas of whitebark pine. A demographic study of whitebark pine in Mt. Rainier National Park suggests a rapid decline in whitebark pine in the park, with the population falling below 100 individuals in 148 years. Management options for blister rust infected stands will be discussed. Greg Ettl is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest and an Associate Professor at the University of Washington.

## **Wednesday, February 13th (Tacoma) – Marcia Rivers Smith** **Native Plants and Wildlife**

Wildlife relies on native plants for food and shelter. Non-native plants that we plant in our yards or that have taken over natural areas don't always provide what various birds and other animals need. This talk will focus on how you can use native plants to attract wildlife to your yard. It will also touch on how native plant restoration projects can benefit wildlife. Our speaker, Marcia Rivers Smith has been a King County Native Plant Steward since 1996, focusing on educating others about gardening with native plants. A wide variety of wildlife visits her property in Preston.

March

## **Monday, March 10th (Olympia) – Mark Turner** ***New Ideas for Wildflower Photography***

The Pacific Northwest is home to thousands of species of plants in a broad palette of colors, shapes, sizes, and textures. Join photographer Mark Turner for an evening of discovering new ways to see the flowers, techniques for creative composition, separating subjects from distracting backgrounds, and controlling natural light to improve your wildflower photographs. Mark Turner is the photographer and co-author of *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*, winner of an American Horticultural Society book award in 2007. He photographs extensively for books and magazines both in gardens and in a wide range of native plant environments. He is an avid member of the native plant societies of Washington and Oregon and has more than 25 years of experience exploring for and photographing native plants. Mark lives in Bellingham, Washington.

## **Wednesday, March 12th (Tacoma) – Peter Dunwiddie** ***Changing Climates, Changing Strategies: Rethinking Conservation Management***

The likelihood of human-induced changes in future climates is forcing conservationists to examine how the potential impacts to biodiversity can best be mitigated. Large uncertainties, novel threats, and a rapid rate of change combine to make this a difficult issue to address. This talk will examine various strategies being considered or that are already finding their way into practice that anticipate conservation practice in the 21st century. Peter Dunwiddie is the Director of Stewardship for The Nature Conservancy in Washington, and has been working on plant and animal conservation issues for over thirty years.

April

## **Monday, April 14th (Olympia) – Bridget Moran** ***A Strategic Plan for Invasive Species***

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the health of Washington's ecosystems and causes economic hardship. The Washington Invasive Species Council was established in 2006 to facilitate coordination of both public and private efforts to prevent and control invasive non-native species. The Council is developing a strategic plan that provides direction and planning to meet these goals. Bridget will discuss the role of the council, the strategic plan to be presented to the Legislature in June 2008, and what you can do as a citizen to help protect Washington's environment from invasive species.

Bridget Moran will speak as a representative of the Washington Invasive Species Council. Bridget is chair of the Washington Invasive Species Council and serves as the environmental policy lead for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife where she works on timber, water, growth, climate, and agricultural policy issues.

April

**Wednesday, April 16th (Tacoma) – Dan Grosboll**  
***Puget Sound Habitat Restoration Efforts***

The restoration of Puget Sound has been identified as a priority and native plants are a big part of that restoration. Shoreline vegetation effects much of the habitat structure of the Sound. Dan will start out with a wide-angle view of native vegetation on the shoreline and zoom in to look at how native plants are used in projects at sites in the South Puget Sound. By the end of the talk, you will know at least three ways that native plants feed salmon and understand some of the unique challenges and fascinating plants of estuarine restoration. Dan Grosboll is the South Puget Sound Habitat Restoration Coordinator for People for Puget Sound. He has worked in restoration on Puget Sound shorelines and prairies since 1998.

**Sunday, April 27th – Wednesday, April 30th**  
***Native Plant Appreciation Week (state wide).***

See the WNPS website for a list of activities.

May

**Thursday, May 1st – Saturday, May 3rd**  
***Native Plant Appreciation Week***  
***(state wide)***

**Friday, May 2nd – Sunday, May 4th.**  
***Native Plant Weekend***  
sponsored by the South Sound Chapter, WNPS,  
at the Black Lake Bible Camp

**Monday, May 12th (Olympia) – Joe Arnett**  
***Rare Plants of the South Puget Trough Prairies***

Four of Washington’s ten federally listed plant species are found in remnants of southwest Washington prairies: Kincaid’s lupine, Bradshaw’s lomatium, Nelson’s checkermallow, and golden paintbrush. Many other species with rare status in Washington are also found in these remnant prairies, which are possibly the most threatened habitats in the state. This talk will examine these plants and their habitats and will focus on recovery efforts on behalf of the federally endangered and threatened species. Joe Arnett is the rare plant botanist for the Washington Natural Heritage Program. He has been a WNPS member and a student of Washington plants for over twenty-five years.

**Wednesday, May 14th (Tacoma) – Rosina McIvor**  
***Native Plants in Chase Gardens***

Chase Garden, located in Orting Washington provides the visitor with a wonderful example of how native plants can be used in the landscape. A 4 1/2 acre garden created by lone and Emmott Chase, the Chase Garden is a unique example of Pacific Northwest naturalistic garden design. lone had a special love of native plants and they can be found in all areas of the garden including the woods, meadow, rock garden, and Japanese style entrance. This presentation will show the different areas of the garden with an emphasis on the use of natives, their care, and their companion plants.

Rosina McIvor is a long-time friend of the Chases who grows and propagates many native plants. She has led the effort to preserve the garden in conjunction with Garden Conservancy, a non-profit organization.

June & July

**No chapter meetings.**

**Friday, July 25th – Sunday, July 27th**  
***Botany Washington, Olympic Peninsula.***

Details to be posted in Douglasia.

**Meeting Times and Locations:**

Chapter meetings are 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. 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. All meetings are free and open to the public.