



Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

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Find Koma Kulshan Online

Website: www.wnpskoma.org
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Backyard Habitat and Native Flora Fair

May 21: 10 am to 3 pm, Fairhaven Village Green.

This free event includes the WNPS Native Plant Sale, as well as guided walks, build your own bird nesting box, booths, and displays on native plants and gardening to create wildlife habitat.

WNPS members can PRE-ORDER PLANTS before the sale. Please see inserted flyer for more info.

We need volunteers! On Wednesday May 11th, a work party is scheduled from 3 to 5 pm at the greenhouse to tag and organize plants for the sale, and help with preorder pick-up. The greenhouse is at 2900 Michigan Street- turn north off of Alabama, go to the end of Michigan, turn right onto E. Illinois St., go about 100 feet and park by the garage on the left.

On the day of the sale, we need volunteers from 9 am to 4 pm to cashier, set up, help customers, staff WNPS tables, and clean up.

To volunteer please contact Molly Porter at 206-240-0337 or mollymaclaughlin@hotmail.com. This event is co-sponsored by the City of Bellingham Parks Department Backyard Habitat Program and the Koma Kulshan chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society.

Spring (April, May, June) 2016

President's Corner

by Abe Lloyd

In Western Washington, our biological spring season is disproportionately long. The first nettles start jumping out of the ground by the end of February, well ahead of the vernal equinox. Salmonberries and Indian plum begin flowering in early March, and by the astronomical start of the season, the maple buds have usually started bursting. One by one, our spring flora awakens through April and rapid growth continues in many plants until the soils begin to dry in July.

So too for our chapter, spring is a month of tremendous activity and much growth. On top of a full offering of field trips and chapter meetings, we also host an introductory plant walk series, staff an educational table at conservation district plant sales, and host our own annual plant sale. All of these activities are instrumental to our chapter's mission by attracting new members, educating our current members, and funding all of our programs for the rest of the year. There is no better time to get involved!

Introductory Plant Walks (Cont'd on P2)

by Allan Richardson

Join our fun, informal walks and get familiar with plants native to Whatcom County. Sponsored by the Koma Kulshan Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS), these introductory plant identification walks feature an easy pace and will each last about two hours. All walks are free and no registration is required. The walks will focus on a variety of habitats, with your expert guide introducing you to common trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants native to our area. Leaders will share tidbits on ethnobotany, wildlife use, gardening with natives, and other interesting plant-related facts. A bonus this year is an introduction to marine algae (seaweeds). People of all ages and experience levels are welcome. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes that may get wet. Each walk stands alone, or attend them all to get a free mini-course on plant identification. For more information contact: Allan Richardson at 733-5477 or via email at boghill@earthlink.net.

Coastal Ethnobotany

Salish people have harvested food and fiber from coastal areas like the shores of Lake Whatcom for thousands of years. Ethnobotanist Abe Lloyd will share traditional uses and identification tips for the colorful plants as we walk along the Hertz Trail, enjoy good views, unique flora, and conversation.

Day/Date: Tuesday, April 26

Time: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at the upper North Lake Whatcom Trailhead near the end of Northshore Road.

Introduction to Seaweed (Marine Macro Algae) at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve

Gather at parking lot trailhead for a 10 o'clock departure and lovely walk to the beach. Wearing rubber boots is helpful, but not essential; any algae reference you have would be good to bring along. Dress for more windy, cooler weather than at home. Guided trip ends at 12:30 on the beach. Stay and enjoy this -1.9 ft low (and rising) tide as long as you like. Did you bring a picnic lunch?

Day/Date: Saturday, May 7

Time: 10:00 to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve Park. Directions: Take the Grandview Road exit on I-5. Head west on Grandview to the end, turn left (south) on Koehn Rd. and you will soon see the parking lot on the left.

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Introductory Plant Walks (Cont'd)

Spring Plant Walk at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve

Visit this gem of a county park, preserved through efforts of the Whatcom Land Trust. The forest floor at Point Whitehorn is carpeted with small wild flowers in the spring. Join us for a walk and learn about the flowers, shrubs and trees of this forest on the edge of the sea. The walk will take us to the beach. At this time you may choose to linger on the beach or return to the cars.

Day/Date: Saturday, May 7

Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve Park. Directions: take the Grandview Road exit on I-5. Head west on Grandview to the end, turn left (south) on Koehn Rd. and you will soon see the parking lot on the left.

Hidden Forest Foray

Explore the plants of the Sehome Hill Arboretum, a "secret" natural area in the heart of Bellingham with guidebook author and former Arboretum board member Mark Turner. Sehome Hill was logged in the early 20th century and is now developing a mature second-growth forest. We'll look at trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and a vine or two. Learn what's native and what's not.

Day/Date: Thursday, May 12

Time: 6:00 p.m. to dusk

Location: Meet in the parking area at the top of Arboretum Drive (off Bill McDonald Parkway).

Backyard Habitat & Native Flora Fair Padden Lagoon Walk

Join WNPS at the Backyard Habitat & Native Flora Fair. We will walk from the fair area to the City Greenways trails around Padden Creek to see a variety of trees, shrubs and flowering native plants. Make sure to stop at the fair before the walk to purchase some native plants and see various displays.

Day/Date: Saturday, May 21

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at the stage at Fairhaven Village Green.

Downtown Plants

Enjoy an early evening walk investigating native plants in the urban environment. We will follow the Native Plant Teaching Trail in Maritime Heritage Park along Whatcom Creek and learn about the plants, their names, and uses in native Salish tradition. The walk will be led by anthropologist Allan Richardson, co-author of Nooksack Place Names.

Day/Date: Thursday, May 26

Time: 6:00 p.m. to dusk

Location: Meet at the former Environmental Learning Center, just east of Whatcom Creek, on West Holly Street at Maritime Heritage Park in downtown Bellingham.

Field Trips (Cont'd on P3)

April 14 -17, Thursday – Sunday, Backpack to Shi Shi Beach, Olympic National Park

Shi Shi Beach is the northernmost wilderness beach in Olympic National Park stretching from Portage Head south to the renowned Point of Arches. The plan: drive over on Thursday and walk in two miles to a campsite along the beach, botanize, and return home on Sunday. This is a National Park wilderness area so there is a limit of twelve persons in the group. Bear resistant canisters (mainly because of the raccoons) are required and can be rented. For details and to sign up contact Jim Duemmel at 360-733-3448 or jimduemmel@q.com.

April 23, Saturday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Baker River

Native plant flowering and bumble bee activity should be at their peak at Baker River during this field trip. The trail is a three mile round trip with very little elevation gain. There will be loads of scenic views (snow capped mountains, cold clear rivers, and more). Bring a lunch, snacks, and water; and dress for the weather. Meet to carpool at the west side Fairhaven Park& Ride at the end of 32nd Street at 8:00 am. The trip will be led by Jim Davis. Contact Jim at 360-296-5159 or jimdavispc@comcast.net if you have any questions.

April 30, Saturday, 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM: Vendovi Island

Vendovi is a 217 acre island south of Lummi Island being maintained in its natural state by the San Juan Preservation Trust. There are no permanent human inhabitants and no deer or other grazing mammals, so the flora is especially healthy. We will visit near the peak of bloom for camas and other wildflowers in south facing meadows, and also explore forest, wetland and shoreline habitats. Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes and rain gear. We will take a 22 passenger boat from Anacortes to Vendovi Island. The cost will be \$45 per person, round trip, payable on the day of the trip. Contact John Bremer at 360-527-3503 or john.bremer@comcast.net to reserve a space.

May 7, Saturday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Edfro Creek Preserve and Yúmechiy

Explore the natural and cultural world of the upper South Fork Nooksack River valley with Whatcom Land Trust volunteer Rob Rich and Nooksack Place Names author Allan Richardson. The river bottom upstream from Skookum Creek is being restored through volunteer efforts and help from a colony of beavers. Upstream from Edfro Creek is the important Nooksack cultural site of Yúmechiy (spring salmon place), named for the now endangered South Fork spring Chinook salmon. We will observe and identify a range of native plants in a moss-draped rain forest environment. Bring a lunch and come prepared for wet weather. Also, the trail may be flooded in the area of the beaver ponds, so bring extra boots or expect to get wet feet. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot at 9:00 AM. Contact Allan Richardson at 360-733-5477 or boghill@earthlink.net to confirm.

Spring (April, May, June) 2016

Chapter Meetings

Meetings begin at 7pm in the Sustainable Living Center education room at the ReStore (2309 Meridian St.). The entrance is off the back alley and the SLC is upstairs. For more information, call Vikki Jackson at (360) 319-6988.

April 20th : Flying Flowers of the Fourth Corner: The Butterflies of Whatcom County

To residents of lowland Whatcom County, it may come as a surprise that a rich butterfly fauna resides in our area. As with native plants, the trick to finding this myriad of winged beauties is to know what to look for and where and when to look. Merrill Peterson will highlight an assortment of our more spectacular and interesting butterfly species, telling us about their habits and habitats, how to recognize them, and where some of the county's butterfly 'hotspots' are located. Merrill is a professor of biology at Western Washington University, where he also curates the university's insect collection. He has published numerous articles on insect ecology and evolutionary biology, and oversaw the creation of the Pacific Northwest Moths website. He is currently in the final throes of writing a field guide to Pacific Northwest insects, to be published by Seattle Audubon.

May 18th: The Future of our Endemic Alpine Plants

Sam Wershow will present his research investigating climate change impacts to endemic alpine wildflowers of the Olympic Peninsula and Vancouver Island. Sam is a graduate student in Eric DeChaine's botany lab at Western Washington University. He presented his research proposal to us before embarking on his field work, mapping the distributions of rare species and describing their habitat preferences to predict how climate change will impact their distributions. Now we will share what he has learned and how his project has evolved.

Field Trips (Cont'd)

May 14, Saturday, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM: Birds, Bees, and Blossoms at Ravencrest Farm

This field trip at Ravencrest Farm will focus on spring-blooming native plants and their pollinators. Ravencrest is a 40 acre property (1411 E. Hemmi Rd) dedicated to research and education about native flora and fauna, and to sustainable horticulture and low-impact forestry with native plants. We'll start at 11 am and go until about 3 pm, but participants are welcome to come and go on their own schedule. Wear waterproof boots if you'd like to get close to the many wetlands. Bring a lunch if you'd like to chat over lunch; warm drinks are provided. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot to carpool. If you'd like to drive to the farm on your own, please get in touch for directions. RSVP if you plan to come. Trip leaders are Anu Singh-Cundy (360-647-8493 or Anu.Singh-Cundy@wwu.edu) and Jim Davis (360-296-5159 or jimdavispc@comcast.net).

May 20, Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM: North Cascades National Park Bioblitz

Help the National Park Service celebrate their centennial by participating in a botanical blitz. We will be joining specialists in other fields of natural history at North Cascades National Park, and work in solidarity with experts at Parks across the nation to tally species in protected areas. Our survey team will identify and photograph plants in the Newhalem area. Meet at the Fairhaven Park and Ride at 8:00AM. Bring a camera if you have one, a sack lunch, and a field guide. Plan to return by 5:00PM. Our specific destination is still to be determined. Please RSVP to Abe (arcadianabe@yahoo.com).

Saturday, June 4, 9:00 to 4:00: South Fork Valley Plant Survey

Join Whatcom Land Trust director of stewardship Eric Carabba and botanists in our chapter to explore the Catalyst-Riverstead preserve and document its flora. Some of this area along the South Fork Nooksack River just upstream from Acme is natural, but much of the 311 acres is undergoing restoration. We will focus on the natural areas, including the gravelly river bed. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot at 9:00 AM to carpool to the site. It will also be possible to meet us a bit later near the property at 5400 Rothenbuhler Road. Contact Allan Richardson at 733-5477 or boghill@earthlink.net with any questions.

June 11, Saturday, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM: Salal Native Plant Garden

Brenda Cunningham, garden manager for the Salal Chapter's Native Plant Garden, will lead us on a tour of this 1/2-acre garden and nursery in Mount Vernon. The garden was planted in 1998 and has developed into a valuable resource for demonstrating the use of native plants appropriate for the home landscape. The garden includes more than 125 species of plants, and there are a few mystery plants that are in need of identification. A large nursery area under a shade structure is used for plant propagation and their semi-annual plant sales. Come to be inspired and share your ideas on how to improve this facility for the promotion of native plant landscaping. After touring the Native Plant Garden, Brenda will also introduce us to the fruit orchard (maintained by Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation volunteers) and the Master Gardener Display Garden (<http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/gardens.html>). We will eat lunch in the garden pavilion. Meet at the Fairhaven west side park and ride at 8:00 AM to carpool, or meet us at the gardens at 8:45 AM. Contact Katrina Poppe if you plan to attend (katrinal_98@yahoo.com or 360-303-7806).

June 29, Wednesday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sauk Mountain.

Sauk Mountain is a short (4.2 mile round trip), moderate hike with 1,200' elevation gain starting at 4,350'. It is a "perennial" destination for native plant enthusiasts, including Art Kruckeberg who features it in his Wildflower Walks of Washington. There is a plant list on the WNPS website under Skagit County. The hike initially traverses rich subalpine meadows and continues up a series of switchbacks through meadows and rock outcrops to the rocky ridge on top, which plays host to a number of alpine species. There will likely be snowfields at the top, but we should be able reach the summit with its spectacular views. Meet to carpool at the Fairhaven west side park & ride lot at the end of 32nd St for an 8:00 AM departure. We will return to Bellingham at 5:00 PM or a bit later. Contact Allan Richardson at 360-733-5477 or boghill@earthlink.net to confirm.

Koma Kulshan Board

Elected Officers

President

Abe Lloyd: (360) 303-1339
arcadianabe@yahoo.com

Vice President

Jim Davis: (360) 296-5159
jimdaviscpc@comcast.net

Secretary

Katrina Poppe: (360) 303-7806
katrinalee_98@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Jim Kling: (360) 671-1156
jkling@gmail.com

Treasurer

Angela Nelson: (360) 303-5628
stormnw@comcast.net

Committees

Program Chairs

Katrina Poppe: (360) 303-7806
Vikki Jackson: (360) 319-6988

Field Trip Chair

Allan Richardson: (360) 733-5477

Backyard Habitat Liaison

Molly Porter: (360) 714-0781

Greenhouse Chair

Vacant

Grants Committee Chair

Barry Wendling: (360) 393-9181

State Board Representative

Mark Turner (at large)
(360) 671-6851

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If you would like to join WNPS

Please return the membership application form to:
Washington Native Plant Society
6310 NE 74th St., Suite 215E
Seattle, WA 98115

Please make checks payable to WNPS
(outside US add \$5 to dues)

Name: _____	Membership Category:
Address: _____	\$20 Budget (Senior/Student)
City, State, Postal Code: _____	\$35 Individual
Phone: _____	\$45 Family
Email: _____	\$65 Club/Institution
Koma Kulshan Chapter	\$50 WNPS Friend
Total Enclosed: _____	\$100 WNPS Special Friend
	\$500 WNPS Best Friend
	\$1000 WNPS Sustaining Member

The Koma Kulshan chapter of WNPS is dedicated to the preservation and study of native plants and vegetation of Washington State and the education of the public to the values of native flora and its habitat.

WNPS -- Koma Kulshan Chapter
Newsletter Editor
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