



# Koma Kulshan

## Chapter WNPS

### Newsletter

<b>Inside this issue</b>  p1 President's Corner p1 Stewardship Course p1 Adventure Scientists p2 Field Trip report p2 Summer plants p4 Programs p4 Field Trips	<b>Summer (July, August, September) 2017</b>
<b>Find Koma Kulshan Online</b>  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.wnpskoma.org">www.wnpskoma.org</a> <b>Facebook:</b> WNPSKomaKulshan	<b>President's Corner</b> by Abe Lloyd  The first ripe thimbleberry, swallowtail butterflies chasing each other in the sun, and blooming fireweed... these are the sights of the first hot days of summer. There is no better season for appreciating our native flora and we are making it easy with an excellent lineup of field trips. Here are my top 5 reasons for going on our field trips:  5. Interesting conversation about plants, history, geography, and ethnobotany 4. Breath-taking views 3. The smell of coastal wormwood 2. Beautiful wildflowers 1. Huckleberries
<b>Adventure Scientists is looking for volunteers</b>  Michelle Toshack works with a conservation citizen science non-profit called Adventure Scientists ( <a href="http://www.adventurescientists.org/">http://www.adventurescientists.org/</a> ), which provides data to researchers working on environmental challenges.  The organization has a new program, called Conserving Biodiversity - Pollinators ( <a href="http://www.adventurescientists.org/pollinators.html">www.adventurescientists.org/pollinators.html</a> ), and it's looking for volunteers to staff a project right here in the North Cascades. The effort aims to collect the first large-scale dataset of subalpine butterflies and their host plants across the Western United States. Public land managers will use this data to inform actions such as prescribed burning, protection of threatened species, and forest planning.  Project sites include the North Cascades, Arizona, California, Montana, Nevada, and Utah.  To volunteer, submit an application ( <a href="http://www.adventurescientists.org/pollinator-application.html">http://www.adventurescientists.org/pollinator-application.html</a> ). We need your help finding volunteers to survey butterflies and their host plants while backpacking this summer.	<b>NATIVE PLANT STEWARDSHIP COURSE, Fall 2017</b> Rivers and Forests of Whatcom County & Northern Puget Sound  Participate in a course focused on stewardship of the native plant and wildlife habitats of the northern Puget Lowland.  This no-cost program combines classroom learning with field trips to enrich understanding of the key roles that native plants play in our forests, rivers, wetlands, and other vital habitats, and shows how to use this knowledge to help protect and restore these habitats.  When: The six-week class will meet on Thursday evenings from September 21 through October 26, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the Bloedel Beach Pavilion at Bloedel Donovan Park, 1124 Electric Avenue in Bellingham. We'll explore natural habitats and restoration sites on three Saturday field trips, September 23, October 7, and October 21.  What: The course provides 30 hours of learning including identification of important native and invasive plants, key wildlife-habitat relationships, restoration skills, and other topics. Home study of selected readings and videos supports classroom topics. In return, participants agree to provide 30 hours of service to local conservation and restoration projects within 18 months of completing the course.  The City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department, Whatcom Land Trust, and other local conservation organizations are partnering with the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) in offering this training, and have habitat projects that need stewards' help!  Anyone can apply! Participants must be members of WNPS. It's easy to join! Visit <a href="http://www.wnps.org/join.html">http://www.wnps.org/join.html</a> .  This program is part of the WNPS Native Plant Stewardship Program. Participants who complete the training will earn credit towards recognition as a WNPS Native Plant Steward.  Registration is now open. For more information or to request an application, contact Jim Evans, WNPS State Stewardship Program Manager, at 206-678-8914 or <a href="mailto:jimevans@centurytel.net">jimevans@centurytel.net</a>



# Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

## Trip Report: Hudson Biological Reserve at Smoot Hill, by Ellen Kuhlmann

This year's WNPS Study Weekend was hosted by the Northeast Chapter, with evening programs held on the campus of Eastern Washington University in Cheney. Saturday Barry Wendling and I led a trip to Smoot Hill, an 800 acre property owned by Washington State University and managed as a research station. A misty rain was falling as our group of 15 set out across slopes of nonnative pasture grasses dotted with clumps of Black Hawthorn (*Crateagus douglasii*).

We soon found a profusion of wildflowers and grasses with scattered single stems of shrubs like common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) and baldhip rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*), as we climbed higher and hiked through a gap between two patches of trees. This was native Palouse Prairie, a remnant of the plant community that once carpeted the hills of this part of Washington State. Palouse Prairie is a type of meadow steppe, treeless with shrubs reduced to a minor percentage of the plant cover. Here we saw Elegant Star Tulip (*Calochortus elegans*) and Hairy Bigleaf Lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus* var. *prunophilus*) and many other prairie plants.

We gained the ridge as the sun emerged. We walked along the ridge, gradually ascending to the top of Smoot Hill, where we had a 360-degree view of the surrounding landscape. Along the way we were enchanted by Yellowish Paintbrush (*Castilleja lutescens*), Harsh Paintbrush (*Castilleja hispida*) and lots of Upland Larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*) and Nine-leaf Biscuitroot (*Lomatium triternatum*). The ridge and areas nearby have been undergoing restoration, and Nine-leaf Biscuitroot in particular was prolific in these areas.

From the top, we descended a prairie remnant slope, never plowed due to the steep pitch and many rocks. Special plants found here included Red Besseya (*Besseya rubra*), Sticky Geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum*), and Western Blue Flag (*Iris missouriensis*). We eventually reached an old road bordered by a stack of barbed wire on one side and an old plow on the other. From here we walked to the parking area and WSU research station building.



Elegant Star Tulip (*Calochortus elegans*), Palouse Prairie  
Credit: Ellen Kuhlmann

## The Plants of Summer

Photos by Mark Turner

A few summer highlights to look for while you're out on the trail this summer. See more of Mark's photos at <https://turnerphotographics.com/wildflowers>.



Mountain Mare's-tail [*Hippuris montana*]. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie  
NF Elbow Lake Tr, WA.



Whitebark Pine [*Pinus albicaulis*]. Okanogan-  
Wenatchee NF Cash Prairie, Naches, WA



Lanceleaf Grapefern [*Botrychium lanceolatum*]. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie  
NF Herman's Saddle Tr, WA.



# Summer (July, August, September) 2017

## 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.

July, August: None scheduled

September 20: To be determined

## Field Trips

### July 22, Saturday, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM: Grouse Ridge

Hike a way trail to a rocky ridge and endless flower meadows staring Mt. Baker in the face. Look over to Marmot Ridge, Bastille Ridge, the Black Buttes, and Coleman Glacier. Explore plant communities of both thin rocky soil and lush alpine meadows. Parts of Grouse Ridge feel a bit like Chowder Ridge, parts like Skyline Divide, but without the crowds. There's no maintained trail, but the boot track was in good shape in 2016. Approximately 5 miles RT with 1600' elevation gain, high point about 5850'. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot at 7:00 AM. Contact Mark Turner (mark@turnerphotographics.com) if you have questions.

### July 28 - July 30, Friday thru Sunday: Hart's Pass Adventure

This will be a three day / two night car camping trip to Hart's Pass on the far eastern edge of Whatcom County. The expectation is that Saturday we hike south along the Pacific Crest Trail out about 4 miles, in Okanogan Co. Our (Fri, Sun) two 1/2 days will likely be Slate Peak for one and a damp meadow south of horse parking the other 1/2 day. Assuming we can secure camping sites, we will be camping just to the south of Hart's Pass, rather than Meadow camp. There will be a charge for campground sites, although we will likely be able to share these costs. Last year was lovely, warm and dry, but it can be quite chilly in this high elevation area even in late July; I have experienced August snowstorms here and frozen drinking water on Labor Day (snow then too). Bring a tent, sleeping pad, and warm sleeping bag, clothing for ANY weather. Also bring all the food and water you will need for three days. No limit to number of participants; more information when you pre-register with your transportation needs, or offers, before 6 PM July 25th. Questions and registration with Bob Lemon or Annie Prevost: lemprev@alphahunt.com or (360)714-8629.

### August 12, Saturday, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM: Church Mt.

At the western end of High Divide, Church Mt. towers over the North Fork of the Nooksack and has extensive views in all directions. Three miles of switchbacks and strenuous climbing through Douglas-fir and montane forests will bring us to diverse south-facing meadows. Here the grade lessens and we will botanize our way towards the summit, perhaps plucking a few early blueberries along the way. Overall we will travel 8.5 miles round trip with 3750' of elevation gain, so bring a lot of water, extra snacks, and anticipate a full day in the mountains. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot at 8:00 AM. Contact trip leader Abe Lloyd with questions (arcadianabe@yahoo.com) or 360 303-1339.

### September 1, Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Lake Ann

The trail is a popular hike – we will go on a Friday to miss the weekend crowd and to get first pick of the blueberries. This is an 8-mile round trip that drops 800 feet to cross Swift Creek and then rises 840 feet to Lake Ann beside Mt. Shuksan, with plenty of interesting plants along the route. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot at 8:00 AM. If you have questions, contact Jim Duemmel at 360-733-3448 or JimDuemmel@q.com.

### September 7, Thursday, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM: Moonwort Madness

Hundreds of moonworts (*Botrychium* spp.) of six different species can be found at Yellow Aster Butte in a good year (the last was 2011). We'll see if the melt water from last winter's ample snowpack will coax the moonworts into making an appearance after being coy for several years. If not, there are plenty of other ferns, flowering plants, and amazing views on this hike to hold our interest. This is a moderately strenuous, 7-mile round-trip hike, with an elevation gain of up to 2200 feet. Bring a lunch, snacks, and water; and dress for the weather. The trail enters the Mount Baker wilderness, so group size is strictly limited to 12. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot at 7:30 AM. Pre-registration is required for this trip by contacting Tim McNitt at 360-714-9474 or mcnitt@acies.com.

### September 16, Saturday, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM: Scott Paul Trail

Mount Baker alpine meadows, forest, and glacial moraines, complete with breathtaking close-ups of the volcano as well as sweeping views of the surrounding North Cascades peaks. We will hike the 8.0 mile loop counterclockwise. The well-graded and smooth trail starts at 3,350 feet and gradually tops out at 5,050 feet. The diverse flora is documented in the plant list available on WNPS.org. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Fairhaven west side park-and-ride at the end of 32nd St. If you have any questions, contact trip leader Allan Richardson at 360-733-5477 or asrichardson5@gmail.com.

### September 24, Sunday, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM: Table Mt. north end (side table) for 8 outlier *Pinus albicaulis*!

The slightly lower "side table" is accessed from a historic, well-constructed, but neglected trail ascending the west slope. Expect alpine flora, *Hippuris montana*, and a far west occurrence of *Pinus albicaulis* (whitebark pine) as we circumambulate the table top. Elevation gain is 650 feet, distance about 8 miles depending on botanical wanderings. Alpine conditions prevail and may lead to a tough day or weather dictated re-scheduling. Limit 12, therefore pre-register is required and will get you more information. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot for 7:30 AM departure. Questions and sign up with Bob Lemon lemprev@alphahunt.com or (360) 714-8629.

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  
wildginger2063@hotmail.com

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**  
Wendy Scherrer: (360) 715-2993

**Grants Committee Chair**  
Barry Wendling: (360) 393-9181

**Publicity Chair**  
Jazmen Yoder

**State Board Representative**  
Mark Turner (at large)  
(360) 671-6851

Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

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:_____		Mebership Category:
Address:_____		\$20 Budget (Senior/Student)
City, State, Postal Code:_____		\$35 Individual
Phone:_____		\$45 Family
Email:_____		\$65 Club/Institution
Koma Kulshan Chapter    Total Enclosed:_____		\$50 WNPS Friend
		\$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  
1610 Grant St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225