

Koma Kulshan

Chapter WNPS

Newsletter

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Find Koma Kulshan Online

Website: www.wnpskoma.org
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2015 Backyard Habitat & Native Flora Fair

Saturday, May 16, 10 am to 3 pm,
Fairhaven Village Green

This free, all ages event includes the WNPS plant sale, a guided walk, a bird nesting box construction demonstration, and more.

WNPS members are able to PRE-ORDER PLANTS before the sale. Please see attached flyer for more info.

Volunteers are needed to help with the WNPS Native Plant Sale. A work party is scheduled for Wednesday May 13th from 3 pm to 5 pm at the greenhouse (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) to tag and organize plants for the sale, and help with pre-order pick-up. Volunteers are needed for the day of the sale to cashier, set up, help customers, staff WNPS tables, and to 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, Wild Whatcom, and the Koma Kulshan chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS).

Spring (April, May, June) 2015

President's Corner

by Barry Wendling

You may have noticed spring came early this year, and with it all the beloved rituals that soothe the soul of the winter weary botanist. North Cascades Highway had the earliest opening in its history, trails that are usually still snow covered are hikeable, and some spring ephemerals have already come and gone. By my estimation, the field season is running about 2 weeks early.

The question is, what to do with this extra time at our disposal. Personally I've hiked trails in the North Cascades that would ordinarily have been covered in snow to glimpse the early spring stirrings. Other members have reported huckleberries in bloom, willows putting forth their woolly catkins, and hummingbirds near blooming salmonberries and red-flowering currants.

If you think about it, we nature observers are the source of traditional knowledge for future generations. A cautionary note: Facts have a way of becoming less accurate with each retelling. But our observations and notes have value. Taken together they represent a multi-layered account of our local natural history.

Regardless of whether you intentionally or unintentionally record your experiences, one way to assure they contribute to our collective knowledge is to share them with others. Some of us take pictures, some draw, some write, and others share their knowledge firsthand. Are you paying attention? And of equal importance, are you bringing what you've observed to the wider community? What better way to "promote the appreciation and conservation" of our native plants and habitats?

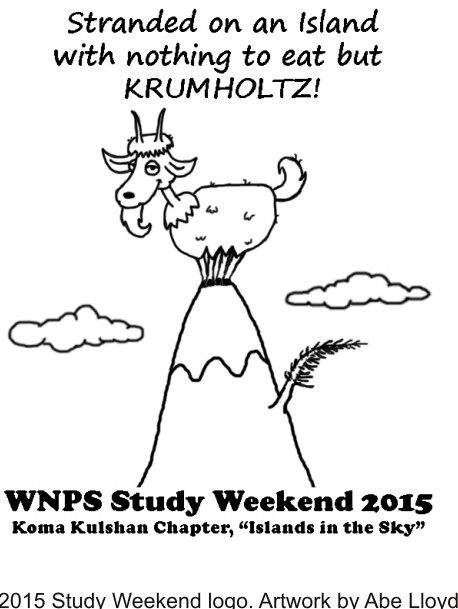
Islands in the Sky –Study Weekend 2015

By Ellen Kuhlmann

This year our Koma Kulshan chapter will be hosting the annual WNPS Study Weekend on August 14th to 16th in the Heather Meadows area at the end of the Mt. Baker Highway. The Firs and Mountaineer's lodges will provide onsite lodging, with evening programs and meals in the Heather Meadows Ski Lodge.

Our theme for the weekend, Islands in the Sky, comes from research showing that high elevation floras to have similarities to plants found on oceanic islands. Plants at higher elevations are adapted to long, cold winters and short summers and face barriers to migration between patches of suitable habitat. Sky islands are islands of habitat with a unique flora maintained by their isolation and amenable climate. Many of the planned field trips will explore this type of high elevation destination.

The Study Weekend will have interesting speakers on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Friday we will be treated to two shorter talks, University of Washington Herbarium Collections Manager David Giblin will share how the project to update Hitchcock is progressing, and our own Walt Lockwood will give us a photographic tour of the wildflowers and landscapes of the



2015 Study Weekend logo. Artwork by Abe Lloyd

Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

Study Weekend Update (cont'd)

Mt. Baker area. Saturday evening Andy MacKinnon will tell us about mycoheterotrophs, plants that rely on mycorrhizal fungi to meet some of their nutritional needs. MacKinnon is a research ecologist with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, West Coast Region. He has co-authored several books including the popular “*Plants of Coastal British Columbia*”, and the recently published “*Alpine Plants of the Northwest*”.

The daylight hours of the weekend will be filled with an array of hikes and workshops. We have chosen hikes of varying length and difficulty to fit a variety of interests and fitness levels, from strolling within the Bagley Lakes basin, to moderately strenuous hikes like those to Yellow Aster Butte and Ptarmigan Ridge and strenuous outings like the Hannegan Pass trip with an elevation gain of 3100 feet. Many of the hikes will have a specific focus, like learning about butterflies, ferns, lichens, or ethnobotany. Art and photography workshops will round out the offerings. The full slate of trips will be listed in the next *Douglasia* issue.

Study weekends are a special treat, a chance to exercise your mind and body while refreshing your soul with nature’s beauty. Take advantage of the proximity of this year’s event and join us for a weekend of plants and fun this August.

Registration will begin in May when the next *Douglasia* issue arrives in the mail, and can be done either online at www.wnps.org or through the form provided in *Douglasia*. Any of the chapter officers and committee chairs can address questions and direct you to more information if needed. Hope to see you on the mountain this summer.

Native Plant Walks

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, just show up at the meeting spot. 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. 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.

Spring Plant Walk at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve: Visit this gem of a county park, preserved through efforts of the Whatcom Land Trust, at the start of Native Plant Appreciation Week. 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.

Sunday, April 26, 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 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.

Thursday, May 7, 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.

Saturday May 16, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at the stage at Fairhaven Village Green.

Coastal Ethnobotany: Salish people have harvested food and fiber from coastal areas like Woodstock Farm for thousands of years. Ethnobotanist Abe Lloyd will share traditional uses and identification tips for the colorful plants we will encounter.

Thursday, May 21, 6:00 p.m. to dusk

Location: Meet at the North Chuckanut Trailhead Parking Lot. We will walk to Woodstock Farm and enjoy good views, unique flora, and conversation.

Downtown Plants: Enjoy an 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.

Thursday, May 28, 6:00 p.m. to dusk

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

Spring (April, May, June) 2015

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 15th: Native Plants and Pollinators in Subalpine Meadows

Jim Davis will review a research project examining impacts of climate change on native plants and bumble bees in the North Cascades. This plant phenology and bumble bee foraging project is currently being implemented at Heather Meadows by ten WNPS Koma Kulshan volunteers. Jim Davis is president of the not-for-profit group American Alps (www.americanalps.org). Jim has managed multiple research and advocacy projects addressing conservation and public health issues (e.g., public lands, water quality, endangered species, environmental tobacco smoke). He received his MS and PhD degrees in entomology from the University of Missouri and the University of California at Berkeley.

May 20th: To Be Determined

Field Trips

April 18, Saturday, 8 AM to 5:30 PM: Baker River Trail

Join us for a low elevation hike in the North Cascades. The trail is an easy 3 mile round trip with very little elevation gain. We will see a diverse range of native shrubs, annuals, trees, and ferns. Flowers should be very abundant and pollinators should be active in mid-April. It is a beautiful setting with glimpses of high peaks. Bring a lunch and snacks, and dress for the weather. We will likely be back to town after 5 pm. Meet to carpool at the west side Fairhaven Park & Ride at the end of 32nd St at 8 am. Trip will be led by Jim Davis. Contact Jim at 360-296-5159 or jimdavispcp@comcast.net with any questions.

May 2, Saturday, 8:30 AM to 6 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 \$35 per person, round trip, payable on the day of the trip. Contact Jim Davis at 360-296-5159 or jimdavispcp@comcast.net to reserve a space.

May 9, Saturday, 8:45 AM to 3 PM: Clark's Point Work Party

Join us at this WLT Conservation Easement property to restore the hillside where an escaped fire burned native vegetation. We will be planting trees and shrubs and removing invasive plant species. Meet at Fairhaven Park just inside the park entrance on Chuckanut Drive at 8:45 am to coordinate carpooling before heading to Clark's Point. The formal work party ends at noon, but there may be more to do after we take a lunch break. Wear sturdy clothes and bring rain gear, water and lunch.

May 30, Saturday, 8:15 AM to 5:00 PM: Kruckeberg Botanic Garden

The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden is a public garden containing a unique blend of Pacific Northwest native plants and unusual exotics in a naturalistic, wooded setting. Located in Shoreline, Washington (near Seattle), the Garden was founded in 1958 by Dr. Arthur Kruckeberg and his wife Mareen, who amassed the plant collection over 50 years in the property surrounding their home. We will meet at 8:15 am at the west side Fairhaven Park and Ride to carpool. A Garden docent will be giving us a private tour starting at 10 am, after which we'll have the afternoon to amble around on our own and be back to Bellingham by 5 pm. Bring a lunch and \$10 for the tour. Please RSVP with Katrina Poppe at katrinallee_98@yahoo.com or (360) 303-7806.

June 6, Saturday, 9 AM to 3 PM: Jorgenson Bog

Many of the peat bogs in Whatcom County were drained and converted into farm fields by early pioneers. Jorgenson bog has weathered some peat mining, but still has bog cranberries, bog laurel, and several other interesting bog plants. This is the first of a series of bogs that we hope to visit. Stay tuned for trips to Burns Bog and the Richmond Bog this summer. Meet at the Sunset Square parking lot in front of Safeway near Taco Bell at 9 am. Pack a sack lunch and bring rubber boots. We anticipate returning around 3 pm. Contact Abe Lloyd (arcadianabe@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

June 14, Sunday, 9 AM to 5 PM: Big Tree Experience

An ancient forest contrasted with a managed forest, both low elevation and having conifers to 8ft diameter. Focus will be on experience and feel of the 2 forests as well as forest ecology and site history. Species lists provided, but not emphasized. Two sites along Mt Baker Highway will be visited: MP 44 Research Natural Area, and MP 31, Whatcom Land Trust Steiner Property. There will be about 6 miles, flattish, but rough walking with some bushwhacking, log walking (elevated trail), and creek crossings. Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes and rain gear. Meet at the southeast corner of Sunset Square parking lot out from the Safeway at 9 am. Trip will be led by Bob Lemon. Contact him at 714-8629 or lemprev@alphahunt.com if you have any questions.

June 24, Wednesday, 7 AM to 6 PM: Skyline Divide to Deadhorse Volcano

Skyline Divide is noted for its spectacular views of Mt Baker and lush wildflower meadows. Depending on the amount of snow, we plan to go to the end of the established trail and explore the ridge that extends to meet Chowder Ridge. From here we can view the nearby headwaters of Deadhorse Creek, the location of the ancient "Deadhorse Volcano". The hike is 4.1 miles one way and 2200' elevation gain to the end of the trail. Bring extra water and enough food for a long day. Meet at the southeast corner of Sunset Square parking lot out from the Safeway at 7 am. Contact Allan Richardson at 733-5477 or boghill@earthlink.net to confirm.

Koma Kulshan Board

Elected Officers

President
Barry Wendling: (360) 671-8403
Barry.Wendling@wwu.edu
Vice President
Abe Lloyd: (360) 303-1339
arcadianabe@yahoo.com
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

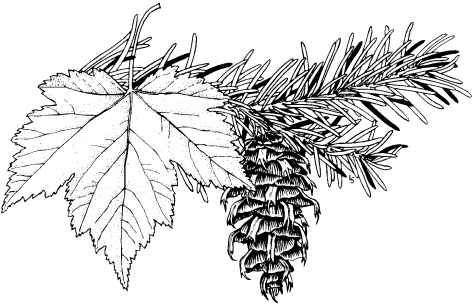
Program Chairs
Katrina Poppe: (360) 303-7806
Vikki Jackson: (360) 319-6988
Field Trip Chair
Allan Richardson: (360) 733-5477
Backyard Habitat Liaison
Molly Porter: (360) 714-0781
Greenhouse Chair
Lyle Anderson: (360) 527-3025
State Board Representatives
Mark Turner (at large)
(360) 671-6851

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
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