



# Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

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## Find Koma Kulshan Online

**Website:** [www.wnpskoma.org](http://www.wnpskoma.org)  
**Facebook:** WNPSKomaKulshan

## Flora Fair

Backyard Habitat & Native Flora Fair  
Saturday April 27; 10am-3pm  
Fairhaven Village Green.

This free event includes the WNPS Native Plant Sale, a guided plant walk, booths and displays on native plants, gardening, and creating backyard wildlife habitat, and more!

WNPS members can PRE-ORDER PLANTS before the sale. See attached flyer for more info!

Volunteers are needed to help with the WNPS Native Plant Sale.  
Thursday April 25: Work party 4-6 pm at the greenhouse we share with Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (3057 E. Bakerview Rd) to tag and organize plants for the sale, and help with pre-order pick-up. From Hannegan or Meridian, travel east on Bakerview to where the road bends northeast, entrance is on the left. Saturday April 27: Day of the sale, 9 am-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](mailto:mollymaclaughlin@hotmail.com)

This event is co-sponsored by the Koma Kulshan chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society and Bellingham Parks & Recreation.

## Spring (April, May June) 2019

### President's Corner

by Allan Richardson

Our March 2 field trip to Goose Rock was focused on lichens and other cryptogams, but I could not help but notice early signs of spring in the flowering plants. Despite the long stretch of cold weather, we saw flowers on red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), spring gold (*Lomatium utriculatum*), and blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia parviflora*). In the woods, the usually very early Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) was still in bud.

While we in WNPS share our appreciation and concern for native plants in all seasons, Native Plant Appreciation Week, April 21-27, gives us an opportunity for more outreach to the public. Two of our Introductory Plant Walks and the Flora Fair will be during that week. Look for more information on these events elsewhere in this newsletter, and join in to help. We will also be promoting the use of native plants in gardening at all of the plant nurseries in our area. Materials for this will be provided as part of a statewide WNPS effort, but local volunteers will be needed to visit the nurseries.

We may be able to offer a native plant stewardship class again this fall. I am working on arrangements between the City of Bellingham Environmental Education Program and the state WNPS to make this happen. Some of you will want to be students in the class and others of you will be recruited as helpers if we are able to offer the class. Stay posted.

### Heather Meadows Flower Phenology and Pollinator Monitoring Project

by Jim Davis (Cont'd page 2)

The Koma Kulshan Chapter of the Native Plant Society supports a multi-year project to better understand flowering plant phenology and pollinator behavior in and around Heather Meadows. The project is gathering information to determine seasonal variability in the availability of pollen and nectar for bumble bees in the North Cascades. We are just beginning our fifth year of the project.

Alpine and subalpine meadows are key North Cascades habitats that support black bears, blueberries, bumblebees, and many other species. Whatcom County is unique in the lower 48 states for its very high proportion of alpine and subalpine meadows, which are unfortunately under threat from climate change and an array of other human activities. Climate related tree line migration may pinch out some meadows entirely, decrease meadow acreage, and fragment meadow habitats. Meadow development and meadow overuse have and may continue to impact these meadows. Other threats include annual introduction of honeybee colonies (creating competition for native pollinators and potentially introducing pollinator disease organisms), herbicide and insecticide use (minor), and invasive plants.

Pollinators are essential for long-term maintenance of the flora and fauna of North Cascades alpine and subalpine meadows. Bumblebees serve as the primary pollinator for many native plants in North Cascades meadows. There are concerns that a decrease in meadow acres plus meadow fragmentation could significantly impact bumblebee pollination of meadow plants. The remaining fragmented meadows may not support the full range of flowering species that are needed by bumblebee colonies to survive throughout the pollination season. Extirpation of one or more bumblebee species, reduced populations of bumblebees, and/or barriers to bumblebee foraging (meadow fragmentation) may impact pollination, survival, and distribution of native plants.

Fifteen volunteers from the Koma Kulshan Chapter are assisting with the project. They visit the Heather Meadows area every two weeks from snow melt to snow fall. Major project activities

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## Pollination (cont'd)

include: identifying all flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen in forest openings and subalpine meadows sampling along 600' transects at various elevations from 2,100' to 5,600'; determining the temporal availability of nectar and pollen throughout the pollination season; identifying primary pollinators in subalpine meadows and surrounding areas (mostly bumblebees); and identifying flowering plants that are the primary source of pollen and nectar for bumblebees. Monitoring to date has revealed one very early season (first flowers at Heather Meadows in mid-April - perhaps an example of what climate change will bring), two "normal" seasons under our current climate (first flowers in mid-May), and one late season (first flowers in early June). This year, snow may not melt out from early season flowering sites until mid-May, providing an example of another "normal" season.

Project volunteers have identified 149 native plant species and 23 non-native plant species (which are relatively rare in meadows). Six species of bumblebees have been identified, with *Bombus melanopygus* by far the most common. The project has also revealed spatial and temporal patterns of flowering that are especially important for early-season pollinator foraging, when overwintering queens are vulnerable.

What can we do to protect subalpine meadows? Protect meadows from new development (roads, parking areas, ski areas, and new trails). Restrict pesticide use in meadows and nearby forests. Ban placement of honeybee colonies in/near meadows. Remove invasive plants from meadows. Restore degraded subalpine meadows.

## Introductory Plant Walks

These Washington Native Plant Society walks have an easy pace and 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 native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Leaders will share tidbits on ethnobotany, wildlife use, gardening with natives, and other 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. For more information contact: Allan Richardson at 360-733-5477 or via email at asrichardson5@gmail.com.

### April 23, Tuesday: 5:00-7:00 PM; Native Plants at the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve

Enjoy an early evening walk investigating native plants in a wild area just outside the city. We will explore this mature forest and wetlands, and learn about the plants, their names, and uses in native Salish traditions. The walk will be led by anthropologist Allan Richardson, co-author of *Nooksack Place Names*. Meet at the trailhead on Lake Louise Road. Directions: From I-5 in Bellingham, drive 3.5 miles east on Lakeway Dr to the Geneva neighborhood, turn right on Austin St (which becomes Lake Louise Rd), trailhead will be on the left in 1.5 miles.

### April 27, Saturday: 1:00-3:00 PM; 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. Meet at the stage at Fairhaven Village Green.

### May 5, Sunday: 1:30-3:30 PM; Spring Plant Walk at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve

Preserved through 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. 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.

### May 11, Saturday: 1:00-3:00 PM; Whatcom Falls Native Plants and Ethnobotany

Whatcom Falls Park is known for its waterfalls and its beauty, but there is even more to admire when you fully appreciate the plants that grow there. Jazmen Yoder will share identification tips and traditional uses of the native plants and trees you can find throughout the park. Meet at the upper parking lot at Whatcom Falls Park (across the street from Lefeens Donuts and Da Vinci's on Electric Ave).

### May 23, Thursday: 6:00 PM to dusk: 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. We'll look at trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and a vine or two. Learn what's native and what's not. Meet in the parking area at the top of Arboretum Drive (off Bill McDonald Parkway).

## Field Trips (Cont'd)

### June 15, Saturday, 10:00 AM: Ravencrest Farm

We will welcome summer with a field trip to Ravencrest Farm from 10:00 AM to 1:00 pm. Ravencrest Farm, located on E. Hemmi Road in Whatcom County, is dedicated to habitat restoration and research on native plants. We'll assess how the understory vegetation is recovering three years after cessation of cattle grazing, and how the unusually cold early spring weather has affected bud break and bloom phenology. Bring lunch, and feel free to supplement it with a garnish of any native edible that is abundant (miner's lettuce, for example). Hot and cold drinks will be provided. Please call or write for directions. Contact Anu. Phone: (360) 647-8493. Email: anusinghcundy@comcast.net.

# Spring (April, May, June) 2019

## 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, contact Katrina Poppe at (360) 303-7806 or [katrinalee\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:katrinalee_98@yahoo.com).

### April 17: Extending Local Flower Knowledge to New Environments

We usually do our botanizing close to home, within the state or adjacent areas which have a similar flora. In the process, we slowly learn to identify what we see. But what happens when we travel farther afield? How are we going to figure out the plants growing at our feet somewhere like Joshua Tree National Park in the Mojave Desert? As flower geeks we can't just say, "pretty flower" and move on. Mark Turner will share photos and tips for identifying "foreign" native plants in this program highlighting some of the flowers he and Brian Small found during the March "super bloom" in the desert. Mark is a Koma Kulshan chapter member, professional photographer, and author of *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest* and *Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest*.

### May 15, 2019: Botanical Survey and Monitor Project

Much of our knowledge of plant distribution in the Pacific Northwest is outdated and incomplete. Learn how the Pacific Northwest Herbarium (WWB) at Western Washington University is working to update this information through the Survey and Monitor Program (SAM) with biology professor and herbarium curator Dr. Eric DeChaine. Dr. DeChaine will share project details, highlights of last years work, and how you can contribute to the effort.

### June 19, 2019: Summer Kickoff Potluck

6 – 9 pm, 2582 N Shore Rd. Abe Lloyd and Katrina Poppe would like to welcome you again to their home for an outdoor potluck to celebrate the beginning of summer. Dinner will begin around 6:30 pm. Bring a dish and a drink to share.

## Field Trips

### April 20, Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm: Deception Pass State Park

Explore one of the best sites for early season wildflowers on the shore of the Salish Sea at Deception Pass State Park. We'll explore Pass Island meadows where the grass widows (*Olysynium douglasii*) and camas (*Camassia quamash*) may still be blooming. We'll examine Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) male and female cones, red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), and possibly harsh paintbrush (*Castilleja hispida*) and checker lily (*Fritillaria affinis*). Then on to West Beach where we should see diminutive *Claytonia exigua ssp. exigua* in the sand. Mark Turner ([mark@turnerphotographics.com](mailto:mark@turnerphotographics.com), 360-671-6851) leads. Meet at the Fairhaven Parkway Park & Ride off 32nd street on the west side of I-5 to carpool, leaving at 9:00 am and returning around 5:00 pm.

### May 4, Saturday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Peat Bogs of Richmond and Delta

Within metropolitan Vancouver, BC are preserved two raised peat bogs. First the Richmond Nature Park, then the nearby Delta Nature Reserve of Burns Bog. These bogs feature sphagnum moss and other native plants rarely found in our lowlands, such as labrador tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*), bog laurel (*Kalmia microphylla*), and cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*). Both bogs total about four miles of walking. Remember your passports for the border! Consider bringing paper maps, as phone service may be interrupted or expensive. Meet at the southeast corner of the Bellingham Sunset Square Safeway parking lot at 9:00 AM or at the Richmond Nature Park at 10:00 AM. Eric Worden is leading: [eric@ericworden.seattle.wa.us](mailto:eric@ericworden.seattle.wa.us), (360) 778-3542

### May 8, Wednesday, 8:00 AM: Marine Algae and Invertebrates of Washington Park

We will examine all that a minus 1.7-ft tide and time permits, including splash zone lichen, mid-zone red algae, and subtidal surfgrass. Algae get first billing, but ecology and invertebrates will not be ignored. Please dress for MUCH COOLER conditions than anywhere inland. The likely location is a rocky reef by Green Point in Washington Park, Anacortes, which is a half-mile, 15-minute, flat walk from free, but limited parking. Meet Salal chapter participants at 9:00 AM at the day use parking area near the toilet and shower building of Anacortes Washington Park. Bellingham carpoolers leave 8:00 AM from Fairhaven Parkway Park & Ride off 32nd street on the west side of I-5. Leaders Bob Lemon and Glen "Alex" Alexander admit this is a practice run for the Study Weekend; stimulate us with your best questions! See Study Weekend offerings, trip #207 for more information or email [Bob\\_lemprev@alphahunt.com](mailto:Bob_lemprev@alphahunt.com) Bob cell only on day of trip (360)378-2657.

### June 1, Saturday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Edfro Creek Preserve and Yúmechiy

Explore the natural and cultural world of the upper South Fork with Allan Richardson, chapter president and coauthor of *Nooksack Place Names*. The river bottom upstream from Skookum Creek is being restored by human volunteers and 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. This is a moss-draped rain forest environment. Bring a lunch and come prepared for the weather. Also, part of the route is a bit rough and the trail may be wet in the area of the beaver ponds, so wear sturdy boots. Meet at the southeast corner of the Sunset Square Safeway parking lot at 9:00 AM. Contact Allan Richardson at [asrichardson5@gmail.com](mailto:asrichardson5@gmail.com) or 360-733-5477 to confirm.

### June 2nd, Sunday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM: iNaturalist Training and BioBlitz of Connelly Creek Nature Area

Meet at Cascade Montessori Middle School, 2710 McKenzie Ave, Bellingham. We will meet inside the school for a workshop to introduce you to iNaturalist, which is a crowd sourced species identification system and database, available as an app for smart phones, tablets, and PC. It can help you ID species and maintain data on time/location of observations. This is citizen science at its best and a great way to learn and track plants, fungi and animals! You do not need to have a smart phone or tablet to take the class, but we recommend you download the iNaturalist app ([www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)) and register yourself. It is free and registration is simple. Bring a lunch (12-1pm). In the afternoon, we'll BioBlitz adjacent Connelly Creek Nature Area, with the ultimate goal of having a comprehensive list of living organisms in CCNA. Led by Vikki Jackson and Wendy Scherrer. Any questions contact Wendy Scherrer at [bluegreen.northwest@gmail.com](mailto:bluegreen.northwest@gmail.com) or (360) 319-9518.

## Koma Kulshan Board

### President

Allan Richardson: (360) 733-5477  
asrichardson5@gmail.com

### Vice President

Lyle Anderson: (360) 739-9249,  
lyleand2@comcast.net

### Secretary

Katrina Poppe: (360) 303-7806  
katrinallee\_98@yahoo.com

### Newsletter Editor

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

### Treasurer

Angela Nelson: (360) 303-5628  
wildginger2063@hotmail.com

### Program Team

Katrina Poppe: (360) 303-7806  
Jim Kling: (360) 671-1156  
Jazmen Yoder: (360) 927-9895

### Field Trip Chair

Eric Worden: (360) 778-3542,  
eric@ericworden.seattle.wa.us

### Backyard Habitat Liaison

Molly Porter: (360) 714-0781

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### Publicity Chair

Jazmen Yoder: (360) 927-9895

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Koma Kulshan Chapter Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category:

\$20 Budget (Senior/Student)  
\$40 Individual  
\$55 Family  
\$75 Club/Institution  
\$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  
2928 Cherrywood Ave  
Bellingham, WA 98225