



Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

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Native Plant Stewardship Course

An Appreciation, by Cleo Richard

I want to thank the Native Plant Society and Bellingham Parks and Recreation for sponsoring the Fall 2021 Native Plant Stewardship Course!

It was obvious that Abe Lloyd, our instructor, and other presenters invested a lot of energy to create and implement the course. We met for six weeks in didactic sessions and many short and long field trips that made the classroom materials come alive.

A myriad of interesting topics about our northwest region were discussed and woven together. An example is how the Native Americans use and honor the flora and fauna. The resources were and still are invaluable such as Abe's and other speakers' slides, videos, book chapters, and maps, to name a few.

So the learning and work have just begun. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the class and begin Stewardship activities.

Autumn (October, November, December) 2021

President's Corner

by Lyle Anderson

As this is my first message as president, I will admit to feelings of trepidation and humility in following in the footsteps of previous presidents. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson's reply when asked if he was replacing Ben Franklin as ambassador to France: no one can replace them... I am only their successor.

Thank you to Allan Richardson for his leadership the past three years as president -- while doing double duty in leading the Native Plant Stewardship program -- and his previous ten years as field trip coordinator, as well as many other contributions to our chapter and the WNPS organization as a whole.

Replacing me as vice president, I would like to welcome Pam Borso. As many of you know, Pam is an excellent birder and past president of the North Cascades Audubon Society.

What I think is perhaps a first for our chapter, we both come to our positions with no formal training in botany. As such, we hope to both share what we do know as well as learn from others. One thing I have learned as a member of WNPS is that everyone, from the most novice enthusiast to the most experienced botanist, can contribute to our knowledge and appreciation of native plants.

I would like to express appreciation to the WNPS state office, especially Denise Mahnke and others there who have provided excellent support and guidance during the pandemic, by, among other things, issuing meeting and field trip guidelines, hosting Zoom meetings, and providing an online platform for plant sales.

Finally, a bit of chapter trivia. Somehow, I managed to be in possession of the winter 1987 issue of *Douglasia*, which was way before my involvement in the society and, I suspect, most other current members. It lists Koma (sic) Kulshan chapter officers:

Phyllis Kronenberg, Chairman [see Marie's remembrance in this issue]
Don Hicks, Treasurer [the longest serving treasurer to date]
Joe Arnett, Outings [quaint term, don't you think?]
Sylvia Thorpe, Conservation
Ron Taylor, Professional Botanist
Al Hanners, Hospitality
Herb Brown, Resource Person [?]
Abbe Rolnick, Telephone [snail mail and telephones: we might have been better off]

This makes me wonder if we shouldn't have a chapter historian. I would love to read short bios of these and other board members and how they came to their positions.

Anyway, just a short list of the many people who have enriched our lives, directly and indirectly.

Key Quiz: A tree with needles that are bunched together, two per bundle. Is it *Pinus contorta* (*shore pine*) or *Pinus monticola* (western White Pine)? Answer, page 2.

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In Memoriam: Phyllis Kronenberg

by Marie Hitchman

Phyllis Kronenberg, a longtime member of WNPS, passed away on August 16th, 2021. She was 95. Active in the Koma Kulshan chapter since its early years, she was chapter president from 1983 to 1988. One of her lasting achievements was leading the effort to produce a pamphlet on the native plant communities of Deception Pass State Park. It was successfully published and well received.

The chapter celebrated the completion of the pamphlet with a field trip to the area in March 1988, which was attended by many interested members of the public. Also in 1988, Phyllis organized the first Koma Kulshan field trip to Yellow Island Natural Area Preserve. Among the many natives seen that year was a plethora of Chocolate Lilies (*Fritillaria affinis*) in full bloom.

In 1976, Phyllis and Marie Hitchman joined the inaugural WNPS backpack to the Hart's Pass area. The group featured such WNPS stalwarts as Art Kruckeberg, Elroy Burnett, Libby Mills, and Jim Riley along with his dog. A highlight of that trip were the luminous blue gentians.

In 1983, Marie and Phyllis joined a similar outing to the Goat Rocks Wilderness, three years after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. The entire trail was covered in ankle-deep lava ash. When faced with crossing a stream on a slippery log with their full packs on, they opted instead to walk across by wading barefoot.

Phyllis was always physically active and enjoyed activities such as swimming, sailing, and skiing. Phyllis and her husband, Dr. Nathan Kronenberg, lived in the Everson area where they designed and built a highly energy-efficient house shaped like a nautilus. Nate, with Phyllis' support, restored much of their land back to native lowland forest. In recent years, Phyllis invited Marie and Ellen Kuhlmann to collect nettles near their home, accompanied by lively discussions over tea. She was preceded in death by her husband, and is survived by sons Joel and Jeff. We thank her for her service to our community and WNPS. She will be greatly missed.



Phyllis Kronenberg
Photo by Al Hanners

Nooksack Tribe Climate Action Plan

Please join us for an online Community Forum, Thursday, October 14th | 6:00 - 8:00 pm, to learn about the Nooksack Indian Tribe's Climate Adaptation Plan for key species and habitats.

The lead presenter will be Harriet Morgan from the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group. This session will highlight a subset of climate adaptation actions, and identify ways the community can help. Presentations will be followed by a Q and A.

Note: You must register for the event in order to receive the Zoom link to attend. There is no cost to register. Registration closes one hour prior to the event start time. Click here to register: tinyurl.com/nooksackclimateforum

Some of the predicted impacts of climate change on the Pacific Northwest include increased winter precipitation, decreased summer precipitation, increased summer air temperature by 2080's of 2.81 °C to 6.31 °C (5 to 11 °F), increased winter air temperature by 2080's of 2.44 to 4.28 °C (4 to 8 °F), increased August stream temperature by 2080's of up to 6 °C (11 °F), reduced snowpack and earlier snow melt, and increased incidence and probability of forest fires.

These changes are particularly difficult for salmon because they they are cold-blooded and live in both freshwater and marine water, which forces them to migrate through highly fragmented stream networks. The impact of climate could affect physiology, behavior, and growth of the fish, as well as the distributions of populations and structures of communities.

For more info: <https://nooksacktribe.org/departments/cultural-resources/water-resources/climate-change/>

Field Trips (Cont'd from p3)

October 30, Saturday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Work party, Happy Valley Right of Way

Larrabee Ave Right of Way, between 21st St and 22nd St, Bellingham. BRING: Shovel, spading fork, trowel, pruners, Some tools will be provided. Wear gloves, boots, rain gear, dress for the weather!!! The site is an undeveloped Right of Way (ROW). It is a forested wetland ecosystem with both native and nonnative plants, including invasive species. This section of ROW has a small stormwater infrastructure facility on it, which is managed by the City of Bellingham. This past year, the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association has been working collaboratively with COB and WNPS Koma Kulshan Chapter to fund and provide volunteers to implement a restoration plan for the site. We will tour the site and learn about restoration strategies; examine how the project has progressed in the last year and results so far. We will plant seeds, potted native shrubs, and trees at the site in the pollinator hedgerow and pollinator mound, and build and install blue tubes with bamboo stakes to protect the young plants. We will also remove invasive plants and sheet mulch.

For more information, contact Wendy Scherrer at bluegreen.northwest@gmail.com or 360-319-9518.

Quiz Answer: *Pinus contorta* (shore pine).

Autumn (October, November, December)

Chapter Meetings

Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the decision has been made to continue the virtual format of Koma Kulshan meetings through at least the end of 2021. To register for Zoom meetings, go to the state events website (<http://wnps.org/events>) and click on Koma Kulshan events. There you can also find other Zoom webinars sponsored by WNPS. Meetings begin 7:00 PM.

October 20: Seeds of Hope

We continue the fall celebration of seeds and fruit with a deeper dive into the subject, focusing mostly on native species. Two long-time members of the chapter, Jim Duemmel and Anu Singh-Cundy, will go over the general classification of fruits, followed by a more in-depth look at mechanisms of seed dispersal, seed dormancy, and seed germination. They will use mostly native species as examples, and you can expect some useful tips on growing native plants from seed.

October 23: Fall Seed Exchange (Saturday, 3:00 pm, in person, Fairhaven Park picnic shelter)

Our popular seed exchange is back this year! We'll gather in Fairhaven Park at 3:00 pm to exchange seeds and advice about growing plants native to Western Washington. Bring any seeds or fruit of native species you might have collected from your own garden, or just come and browse what others have brought to share. We'll have small coin envelopes for you to take back your treasure of seeds, so you don't need to bring containers for that. For the seeds you bring to share, use tupperware or mailing envelopes or what have you. Covid protocols will be in effect, so remember to mask and maintain 6' distance as much as possible.

November 17: Red Cedar Dieback

From Oregon to Alaska, the western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) is famed for its decay-resistant wood and for its ethnobotanical value. Soaring to great heights and living to a thousand years, tolerating shade and flood and poor soils, could this venerable and venerated tree disappear from the Pacific Northwest? Joey Hudson will tell us about the life of this magnificent species and the existential threats it now faces. Joseph (Joey) Hudson is Program Director, Forest Health Watch, Puyallup Research and Extension Center, WSU.

December 15: Koma Kulshan Holiday Celebration

As in past years, we'll gather for a holiday celebration but this time through video conferencing technology (Zoom). The highlight, as always, will be members sharing photos of their botanical adventures. We hope to feature poetry, music, and merriment as well.

Field Trips

Washington state COVID safety guidelines continue to affect our field trips. In general, face masks are required outdoors only for large outdoor gatherings.

October 10, Sunday, 10:00 am: Introduction to Mosses and Lichens with Pam Borso

Fenton Land Preserve: 8906 Valley View Road, Custer, Washington. Please park at the entrance. There is room for 2-3 cars there and across the street at Haynie cemetery, there is room for other cars. Email Pam at borsope@aol.com to register or if you have questions. Phone 360-319-9004. Limit 8 people. This will be a basic introduction to Lichens and Mosses at the Fenton Land Preserve, which is a Whatcom Land Trust property. The trail circumnavigates a small pond through mixed conifer/deciduous forest. It is approximately 2 miles with no noticeable elevation gain. Please bring a hand lens if you have one. We will be exploring the woods for lichens and mosses and will get to see some interesting trees and tree formations as well.

October 16, Saturday, 9:30 am to 3 pm: Finding plants at Lost Lake (Sumas Mt)

From trip leader Abe Lloyd: "I've been turning to Sumas Mt during the pandemic for quick escapes from the dismal challenges that face humanity. These trips have taught me that what is often scoffed as a foothill is actually full of interesting features to explore. Serpentine outcrops with dreamy ferns, precipitous cliffs with nesting Peregrine Falcons, rocky balds with amazing spring wildflowers, an abundance of Lodgepole pine, and caves are just a few of the treasures to be found. I'll be taking us up a steep forest road on the north side of Sumas Mt to an unmarked trailhead. The short trail climbs 500' (from 2300' to 2800') in 0.6 miles and may get more use from motorbikes than people, but the lake at the top has a cozy feel to it. We'll encounter a good diversity of conifers, many mushrooms will likely be flushing, I'll do my best to talk about some of the common mosses, and I'd like to explore a wetland south of the lake. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Whatcom County Parks building just before the round-about at the intersection of East Smith and Mt Baker HWY to carpool or caravan. Vehicles with 4WD or all wheel drive encouraged because of the steep road forest road. Bring a sack lunch. We will return ~ 3PM. Contact Abe (arcadianabe@yahoo.com) for details.

October 23, Saturday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Make A Difference Day Community Work Party at Whatcom Falls Park

The City of Bellingham Parks Department is having a work party and booths at Whatcom Falls Park. Wendy Scherrer will be there with kids' activities about native trees/native trees. Celebrate Make A Difference Day and Arbor Day with the City of Bellingham and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (<https://www.n-sea.org>) by helping to improve salmon habitat at Whatcom Falls Park! We will be planting trees and shrubs, removing invasive species, and maintaining social trail closures. All ages and abilities welcome. Participants under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Tools, gloves and instructions are provided. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes and your mask. This event will follow current health department guidelines and Covid-19 safety protocols. Additional information and reminders will be emailed to registered participants. If you sign up, please show up! Register early, www.volunteerbellingham.org/need/detail/?need_id=615703. Space is limited! Check-in will take place near the fish hatchery, which can be accessed via the Silver Beach Road entrance off of Lakeway Drive. Questions? Contact pkvolunteers@cob.org or 360-778-7105 or <https://cob.org/event/madd202>

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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)

or join online at <https://www.wnps.org>

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

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Koma Kulshan Chapter Total Enclosed: _____

Membership Category:

\$20 Budget (Senior/Student)
\$40 Individual
\$55 Family
\$75 Club/Institution

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
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