



Koma Kulshan

Chapter WNPS

Newsletter

Inside this issue

p1 Plant Sale/Community Forum
 p1 President's Corner
 p1 Native Plant Month
 p2 Garden Tour
 p2 Conservation Corner
 p2 Introductory Plant Walks
 p3 Programs

Find Koma Kulshan Online

Website: www.wnpskoma.org
Facebook: WNPSKomaKulshan

Spring 2022 Plant Sale

Most sales will be online, but some plants will be reserved for in person sales on pickup day.

An online preview starting April 14 will let you plan purchases before the store opens April 18-27. You'll be able to add plants to your cart and then check out quickly when online sales begin April 18.

Find a link to the preorder/sale at:
<https://www.wnps.org/native-gardening/plant-sales>

Pick up day and in-person sale: May 7 at Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, 3057 E. Bakerview Rd.

Community Forum: Forests, Water, and Climate Change.

April 21, 6-8:00 pm. Zoom presentation with Susan Dickerson-Lange, a hydrologist with Natural Systems Design, who with colleagues modeled the South Fork watershed to describe how alternative forest management approaches can improve water quality and quantity. The Nooksack Tribe's Natural and Cultural Resources Department will provide context. Registration: tinyurl.com/AprilForestForum

Spring (April, May, June) 2022

President's Corner

by Lyle Anderson

Did the Weatherman Say Spring?

Spring is here, at least according to the calendar. Here in Blaine, the Osoberry and Red Elderberry blossoms are slooowly opening, and the Camas is about 2 inches high. As you can see in other sections of the newsletter, our chapter is also blossoming out in this sort-of-post-covid season (all fingers crossed) and has lots of outings planned for the next few months.

April has been designated Native Plant Appreciation month by Governor Inslee. WNPS has put together a fantastic series of Zoom presentations. More information is in the article below.

Allan Richardson has organized several introductory plant walks in April and May (page 2), which, while being geared for the beginning plant-curious folks, is also a good opportunity for all of us to re-remember all the plant names we forgot over winter.

Jim Davis has partnered us with a blueberry farm in Bow and is looking for help to establish some pollinator-attracting plants (some donated by our chapter) around the blueberry fields.

Eric Worden has successfully navigated formidable (covid-related) obstacles to schedule several events, not least of which is a tour of Whatcom County native plant gardens.

The annual native plant sale will also be held in April, with plant pickup on May 7.

Anu Singh-Cundy has lined up some speakers for our chapter meetings that you won't want to miss.

And congratulations to long-time chapter member Ellen Kuhlmann for receiving the WNPS Arthur R. Kruckeberg Fellows award, the "highest honor given to a member or our society".

Native Plant Appreciation Month

In Washington State, the month of April is officially declared 'Native Plant Appreciation Month'. The Washington Native Plant Society, in collaboration with partner organizations, is eager to celebrate the beauty and importance of Washington's native flora through education and advocacy.

This year, the focus is our native trees: their contributions to our planet's health and ours, as well as several significant threats to the future growth and abundance of Washington's native trees.

A virtual panel presentation will take place on April 2nd, sharing the knowledge and the uncertainties found in several Washington forest ecosystems, including white-bark pine and big-leaf maple. Register here for this presentation: <https://www.wnps.org/calendar/1501>

Other virtual presentations will feature our state Poet Laureate Rena Priest, a talk by author and journalist Lynda Mapes, and expert reviews of our Douglas-fir and white oak tree communities. For more detail on these April presentations, see: <https://www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/npam>

Local WNPS Chapters are also hosting events and outings during the month of April; links to each chapter are listed here: <https://www.wnps.org/chapters>. As springtime emerges across Washington State, come learn, appreciate, and celebrate with us!

Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

Conservation Corner

by Jim Davis

The Koma Kulshan Chapter Conservation Committee has reached a new milestone with the creation of chapter website pages on committee activities. Hopefully, the new webpages will be accessible by the time you receive this newsletter. The webpages will keep chapter members up-to-date on committee activities and identify opportunities for volunteers to help with local conservation projects.

One of our Conservation Committee projects focuses on identifying native plants for attracting and supporting native pollinators in local urban gardens. A printed copy of our new Native Plants for Native Pollinators guide is enclosed within this edition of our newsletter. We have developed this guide in collaboration with the City of Bellingham Bee City Project. Visit our new webpages to learn more about the project and view a digital copy of the guide that allows you to access additional information on each recommended native plant species.

As you have seen on page 1 of this newsletter, the Koma Kulshan Chapter spring native plant sale is happening this month. The timing is perfect for the release of our new guide. A wide selection of native plants are available through our spring sale. If you are especially interested in supporting native pollinators, you can obtain some of the recommended plants through our plant sale. Plants that are not available through our chapter native plant sale can be obtained from other sources identified in the guide.

The Conservation Committee is also developing a project with Bow Hill Blueberry Farm to demonstrate how native plant hedgerows can be used to attract and support bumble bees and other native pollinators in rural areas of Northwest Washington. More information on the project is provided in our new Conservation Committee webpages. Our goal is to have the Bow Hill Blueberry Farm demonstration site plants in the ground before May of this year. We would welcome volunteers who want to help with the planting.

We welcome ideas from chapter members on potential new native plant conservation projects. If you would like to join us, please contact us. We hold monthly zoom meetings on the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

If you are interested in helping us with the Bow Hill Blueberry Farm planting or would like more information about the Conservation Committee, please contact Jim Davis at jimdavispcp@comcast.net.

Introductory Plant Walks

Hidden Forest Foray: Thursday, April 21; 6 pm to dusk. 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. Meet in the parking area at the top of Arboretum Drive (off Bill McDonald Parkway).

Native Plants on the Lower Padden Creek Trail: Sunday, April 24; 1-3 pm. Learn to identify common trees and shrubs, and also to learn their unique plant “personalities” and how they interact in this dynamic urban green space. Meet at the stage at Fairhaven Village Green.

Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve: Saturday, April 30; 1:30-3:30 pm. 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. 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 the parking lot is on the left.

Native Plants at Birch Bay State Park: Sunday, May 8; 1:30-3:30 pm. Join us for a beginning plant walk in the rich, diverse plant community at the Birch Bay State Park. The walk will go from the beach through the uplands along a forested trail to the Terrell Creek estuary. Meet at the BP Heron Center by the beach in Birch Bay State Park (Discover Pass required).

Downtown Plants: Thursday, May 12; 6 pm to dusk. Enjoy an early evening walk investigating native plants in the urban environment. We will follow the Native Plant Trail in Maritime Heritage Park along Whatcom Creek and learn about the plants, their names, and uses in native Coast Salish tradition. The walk will be led by anthropologist Allan Richardson, co-author of *Nooksack Place Names*. Meet at the park pavilion building, just east of Whatcom Creek, on West Holly Street at Maritime Heritage Park in downtown Bellingham

Big Trees and Wetlands at Stimpson: Thursday, May 26; 6 pm to dusk. Stroll among the beautiful forest and wetland habitats in the Stimpson Family Nature Preserve. We will investigate the varied native plant community in this rich forest. 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.

Home Garden Tour

Seven unique and beautiful private Whatcom gardens will open to the public, each owned and cultivated by amateur botanists and native plant enthusiasts, all being Koma Kulshan members. Distinctive among gardens, these will all showcase the beauty and practical advantages of plants that grow natively in the Pacific Northwest. In our region’s relatively short horticultural history, our local native plants remain yet undiscovered wonders to most gardeners. Volunteers will be available to answer your questions, and learning materials will be available to help you bring native plant gardening to your home. This is a free event. More details will be available online at wnpskoma.org as the tour date approaches. Volunteers will be needed to help our garden hosts on the tour day! Please contact Eric Worden eric@ericworden.seattle.wa.us for more information.

Spring (April, May, June)

Chapter Meetings

Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the decision has been made to continue the virtual format of Koma Kulshan meetings through the spring of 2022. 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.

April 20: Rocky Bald Habitats of Whatcom and Skagit Counties

Lowland rocky balds lack trees and abound with wildflowers. Abe Lloyd will discuss the flora and ecology of the thin-soiled balds around Bellingham, including some of our showiest wildflowers and rarest plants. He will describe a citizen science monitoring program to better understand this rare habitat type. Abe is a Senior Instructor at WWU and an active member of the Koma Kulshan Chapter.

May 18: Central Washington Recovery of Three Federally Listed Plants

Along with mountains, rivers, sagebrush, and plentiful wildlife, Central Washington hosts three plants (*Eriogonum codium*, *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*, and *Hackelia venusta*) listed under the Endangered Species Act. These endemic plants occur only in Central Washington and some occupy fewer than a couple hundred acres. Tara Callaway, the Washington State Recovery Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will present on the status of those species. Her talk will explore some of the threats facing each species and how the Service and partners have begun to address them. She will also cover some new and exciting research that may help guide future recovery.

June 15, 2022: 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, as well as a lawn blanket or chair if needed.

Field Trips/Work Parties

Washington state COVID safety guidelines continue to affect our field trips. Face masks are required outdoors only for large gatherings.

May 14, Saturday, 9 AM to 12 PM: Restoration work in Maritime Heritage Park

Join NSEA and Bellingham Parks volunteers to continue restoration of salmon habitat in this historic area in Bellingham. A WNPS group will focus on invasive plant removal on the southeast bank of Whatcom Creek near the Native Plant Trail. Gloves and tools provided at the check in area, probably near the BTC fish hatchery on the northeast bank of the creek at the end of C Street off West Holly. Contact Allan Richardson at 360-305-5270 or asrichardson5@gmail.com if you have any questions.

May 18, Wednesday, 9:30 AM to 4-ish PM: Marine Algae, Invertebrates and Ecology of Pt. Whitehorn.

Does it get any better than greeting a -3.3 tide at The Point itself? We will approach it from the Birch Bay side, about 3 miles of beach walking, total. Rubber boots, field guide, snacks, water, hand-lens, hand towel; all recommended; and ANTICIPATE MUCH COOLER, BREEZY, conditions than in your garden. All knowledge levels and backgrounds are welcome. An algae list is provided; bring whatever field guide you may own and like. If buying or updating, I suggest Druehl, Louis D. and Bridgette E. Clarkston, 2016, *Pacific Seaweeds*, and/or Sept, Duane J., 2019, *The New Beachcomber's Guide to the Pacific Northwest*. Meet at S.W. corner of Birch Bay State Park (boat ramp) and last toilet facility at 0930; Discover Pass required for parking there. Leaders, Bob Lemon, Glen (Alex) Alexander, Lynne Givler, Doug Stark; limit 16 participants. Required pre-register (or questions) with Bob at lemprev@alphahunt.com or (360)714-8629.

May 21: Small Ground-Cones in Port Townsend

Small ground-cones (*Kopsiopsis hookeri*) look like yellowish, or purplish or brown fir cones. These members of the Orobanchaceae family parasitize salal and kinnikinnick by penetrating them with haustoria to tap nutrients. Come to look for small ground-cones and locate several examples of parasitic and mycoheterotrophic vascular plants near Port Townsend, with an easy 1 to 3 miles level walking on a mix of trails and off trail. This will be a joint Koma Kulshan and Olympic Peninsula Chapters Field Trip. You must register ahead of time, as group size is limited. Due to location near Port Townsend and taking the ferry, expect to return to Bellingham early evening. We'll meet at 11:30 am for lunch in Port Townsend before breaking into small groups for botanizing. To register and for more details, contact the field trip organizer Paul Brallier (pabrallier@gmail.com). Instructions for joining the event will come with registration. Travel from Bellingham includes driving to Whidbey Island and taking the Coupeville to Port Townsend ferry. Plan on making ferry reservations and waiting in line for the ferry.

May 28, Saturday 9 AM to about 3 PM: Squires Lake/Alger Alp

This is a moderate hike of about 5 miles round trip with 1,000 foot elevation gain. It's a good early season hike to stretch those muscles for hikes later in the season. Squires Lake is a Skagit County park about 10 miles south of Bellingham just off I-5. We will hike the loop around the east side of the lake, take a brief side trip to see the beaver pond, then continue the loop leading to the Alger Alp trail. Depending on the group, we will go to the top to see views of Alger and the Skagit valley. Meet at 9AM at the Park and Ride at I-5 and Fairhaven Parkway on the east side of the freeway. Bring a lunch and water. A plant species list can be found at: https://www.wnps.org/plant-lists/list?Squires_Lake. Trip limit: 12 people. Restroom at trailhead. RSVP Lyle Anderson at lyleand2@comcast.net

June 14, Tuesday, 9 AM to 3 PM: Horseshoe Bend Trail

An easy hike in the rain forest close to the North Fork Nooksack River; about 3 miles round trip and 300' elevation gain. The habitat varies from the open, rocky river bank to deep woods and brushy slopes. We will identify all the plants we possibly can to build a plant list to post on the WNPS website. Meet at 9:00 at the trailhead on Mt Baker Highway across from the Douglas Fir Campground, just after the river bridge 1.2 miles east of the USFS Ranger Station in Glacier. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Contact Allan Richardson at 360-305-5270 or asrichardson5@gmail.com with any questions and to confirm.

Koma Kulshan Board

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

Vice President
Pam Borso: (360) 319-9004
borsope@aol.com

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

Newsletter Editor
Jim Kling: jkling@gmail.com

Treasurer
Jazmen Yoder: (360) 927-9895
navicariscus@gmail.com

Program Team
Anu Singh-Cundy: (360) 650-7473

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

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
Aimee Wright: aimwright07@gmail.com

Conservation Chair
Jim Davis: jimdaviscpc@comcast.net

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

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)

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



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Koma Kulshan Chapter Total Enclosed: _____

Mebership 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
Newsletter Editor
2928 Cherrywood Ave
Bellingham, WA 98225