



# Koma Kulshan

## Chapter WNPS

### Newsletter

#### Inside this issue

- p1 President's Corner
- p1 Wayne Weber
- p2 Conservation Corner
- p2 Heather Meadows Field Trip
- p3 Programs
- p3 Field Trips

#### Find Koma Kulshan Online

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



#### Wayne Weber: A Remembrance

Wayne Weber, a long-time member of our chapter, passed away June 17. Having obtained his Ph.D. at Mississippi State University in the late 1970s, majoring in zoology with a minor in botany, he had impressive botanical skills which were only surpassed by his encyclopedic knowledge of birds. Wayne was a friend to all who knew him and was more than willing to share his knowledge of birds and plants with anyone. He had a larger-than-life presence, and you always knew he was in the room by his booming voice and infectious laugh. He had planned to present to our chapter about his studies of the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker and was scheduled to speak at a future meeting. His presence will be missed.

#### Fall (October, November, December) 2022

##### President's Corner: A Soul Sans Soles by Lyle Anderson

I thought you might find this account amusing. On July 26, Allan Richardson and I began a hike on the Lake Ann trail. About 50 feet in, I felt a strange sensation on my right foot. Stopping to see what it was, I raised my leg and discovered that the sole was half detached from my boot. Walking like this was impractical, so I tore off said sole and took a few steps. Not bad, I thought, as there was enough padding under the sole, so I figured I could go on for a while at least. So we kept on going past the blueberries and partridgefoot and. In maybe another 200 feet, the other foot dropped, so to speak, and the sole of my left boot did a repeat. Again, the padding seemed sufficient to continue on, and so we did for about 2 ½ miles to Swift creek. We stopped for lunch and, being as it appeared it would be snow-covered beyond this point, we opted to turn back because what was left of my boots would have me sliding every which way on the ice. I should say that these boots were purchased when I first joined WNPS in 2004, so time and wear had taken their toll.

Fast forward to September 7. I joined the trip to Yellow Aster Butte led by Tim McNitt. Although during our trek Tim referred to the “experts” in all things pteridological, I doubt you will find a more knowledgeable person to guide you on this hike. If you ever want to see (and have identified for you) an astounding number of ferns, moonworts, and lycophytes in one hike (we saw 29 species of the 38 Tim listed, and he suspected he had found yet another hybrid fern), I can’t recommend a better way to do so than going with Tim to this remarkable geological and botanical phenomenon.

I had just bought new boots, so I was good to go for the six-mile round-trip hike. Four of us car-pooled with Tim for the trip from Bellingham (we met five others, including Allan, at the trailhead), so we piled our gear in back and were off for a full day of botanizing. After our hike all of us riding with Tim changed into sandals and such for the ride back. We did a pit stop at the Glacier ranger station, but otherwise went non-stop back to the Safeway parking lot. Everyone unloaded their gear and, as mine was farthest in, was the last to unload. I grabbed my pack and poles and....one boot. After a thorough search in and under the vehicle, I surmised that somehow the other boot had gotten knocked out at the trailhead or the ranger station. A couple of days later I got an email from Tim that one of our companions had grabbed it with his gear. I asked him to mail it (he lives in Seattle) via the least expensive method. I’m still checking the mail, although I wouldn’t be shocked if it got lost in transit. Perhaps I should get those little electronic finders for my boots, as well as my glasses, keys, and wallet. And check my boots before and after if I’m going hiking with Allan.

#### Some Announcements

**Secretary needed:** The Koma Kulshan Chapter is looking for a secretary. The position doesn’t require a lot of time, but involves duties that are essential to the function our chapter: recording the minutes of our board meetings (three to four times a year), mailing the quarterly newsletter, and sending reminders to those who’s memberships have lapsed. Please email Lyle Anderson if you would be interested at [lyleand2@comcast.net](mailto:lyleand2@comcast.net), or phone at 360-739-9249.

**Chapter bylaw amendments:** WNPS and each of its chapters has bylaws. The original Koma Kulshan bylaws were written in 1978. The chapter has evolved since then, and we are proposing amendments meant to reflect our current practices. Please go to the link provided and peruse the document. We will discuss and vote on them at the October chapter meeting.  
<https://wnpskoma.org/2022/09/proposed-bylaw-amendments/>

**WNPS Memberships expired on June 30. Renew your membership today!**



# Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

## Conservation Corner

by Jim Davis

The Conservation Committee of the Koma Kulshan Chapter has initiated several projects this past spring and summer. The popular Native Plants for Native Pollinators brochure provides guidance for selecting native plants (shrubs and perennials) that are attractive to bumble bees throughout the season. It also provides information on preferred growing conditions for each plant species and possible local sources for purchasing recommended plants. To see a digital copy of the brochure, visit our Conservation Committee website at <https://wnpskoma.org/conservation/>. We have distributed hundreds of paper copies of the brochure through WNPS events, partner organizations, and local plant nurseries. The City of Bellingham has just completed a third paper copy printing of the brochure (800 copies). If you know of any good venues for distributing the brochure, please let us know.

The Bow Hill Blueberry Farm hedgerow project that we initiated in the spring was successful. A team of WNPS volunteers worked with the landowner to plant 64 native plants that are attractive to local pollinators, especially bumble bees. We saw excellent survival of the plants. Although the plants are too small this year to attract many pollinators, we expect the plants to become a major attraction for pollinators as they reach maturity. We also hope to install additional plants in future years and expect the farm to eventually become a demonstration site for other blueberry farmers. We also initiated monitoring of bumble bees, honeybees, and other pollinators at Blue Hill Blueberry Farm this spring. The farm is organic, so we hoped to see many native pollinators, as well as imported honeybees. Honeybees clearly dominated pollination near their hives, but large numbers of bumble bees and quite a few hover flies were observed pollinating blueberry plants in areas of the farm that were more distant from honeybee hives.

The Conservation Committee has also begun exploring a new project focused on native plants and pollinators in balds and coastal headlands south of Bellingham (Larrabee Park and Governors Point). These natural habitats are primarily forested, but shrubs and perennials thrive in unforested balds and areas where sunlight penetrates below the tree canopy along coastal bluffs. During the past few months, we have been observing existing plants and pollinators to determine the suitability of these habitats for native plants and pollinators. We have also met with the developer and county officials to explore ways to protect these sensitive habitats at Governors Point. In the future, we hope to provide additional recommendations for maintaining healthy plant/pollinator systems in these habitats.

The Conservation Committee is also working with the City of Bellingham and Million Trees Project to plant shrubs and perennials that are attractive to pollinators at the large new Galbraith mountain bike parking lot off Samish Road. Installing native plants will contribute to mitigation for the significant number of trees and shrubs that were removed to create the parking lot. We may need volunteers to help with planting, so stay tuned for more information.

We are still recruiting participation on the Conservation Committee, so if you are interested in any of the above projects or a native plant conservation initiative of your own, please contact us at [jimdavispcp \(at\) comcast \(dot\) net](mailto:jimdavispcp@comcast.net).

## Heather Meadows Field Trip

by Jim Davis

August 1st was the perfect day for a Koma Kulshan field trip to Heather Meadows. The weather was great and the flowers were in full bloom. In addition to just enjoying the flowers and the incredible scenery, the purpose of the field trip was to share the results and methods used for the five-year Heather Meadows Flower Phenology and Pollinator Foraging study that was coordinated through our Koma Kulshan chapter. A dozen of us met at Heather Meadows Visitor's Center and explored open subalpine meadows and tree islands along three of the mid-elevation transects used in the study.

Tree islands are clusters of large mountain hemlock and silver fir trees that create unique microhabitats for subalpine meadow species. Everyone came to appreciate the high diversity of flowers in subalpine meadows at this elevation and the importance of tree islands in providing early season flowers and nesting sites for bumble bees. We then moved to higher elevations and visited two alpine meadow transects with few to no trees, near the Artist's Point parking lot and along Huntoon Point. Flowers were also abundant in these transects, although they were a little delayed in bloom compared to lower elevations.

Overall, field trip participants learned quite a bit about flower phenology at Heather Meadows and how bumble bees forage across the meadows to create and sustain colonies in these high elevation habitats.



Enjoying the view of Mt. Shuksan at the end of the Huntoon Point transect (Photographers: Jennie and Steve Tuckerman)



Subalpine meadows near the Visitor's Center where pink and white heather are abundant (Photographer: Lindsey Conrad)



## Fall (October, November, December)

### Chapter Meetings

Meetings may be in-person or via Zoom, which is noted in each meeting announcement below. 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 19: Plant Restoration at Whatcom Land Trust

This meeting will be held at the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association campus, 3057 E. Bakerview Road. Dr. Stephen Nyman and Vikki Jackson of the Whatcom County Amphibian Monitoring Program will introduce you to the federally threatened Oregon spotted frog and describe a successful, on-going habitat restoration project at a property owned by the Whatcom Land Trust, which supports a large, but at risk population of this rare species. Stephen and Vikki will discuss the challenges of removing and replacing invasive reed canarygrass, development of new methods, and illustrate the numerous and diverse replacement plant species that are now thriving at the site.

#### November 16 (via ZOOM): The Gottlieb Native Garden: An Intimate Wildlife Journey

During the 1990s, in an effort to conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife, Susan and Dan Gottlieb began replacing the exotic ornamentals in their Los Angeles garden with California native plants. The result was a renowned urban oasis that has been a haven for researchers, educators, and a broad range of environmental groups, and has been featured in both the L.A. Times and New York Times. This webinar focuses on wildlife that photographer and Gottlieb Native Garden naturalist Scott Logan has documented in his book, *The Gottlieb Native Garden: An Intimate Wildlife Journey*. For over five years, Scott devoted himself to documenting and photographing the wildlife in the Garden, revealing the astonishing range of biodiversity that's capable of thriving in our backyards – or apartment window boxes – when the right plants and habitat are established. In addition to being a wildlife photographer and naturalist, Scott is also an active wildlife lecturer, bird tour leader, and partner in Wild Wings Ecology. His photographs have been featured in books, magazines, and scientific periodicals. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Scott has been observing the city's remarkable urban wildlife since childhood.

#### December 14: Holiday Potluck 6:00–9:00 pm

4682 Wynn Road, Bellingham, WA. Let's celebrate the holidays in person like we used to do in days of old. We haven't met for our winter celebration since 2019. Once again, Mark and Brian Turner will be your hosts in Mark's photo studio. Gather at 6:00 pm and we'll plan to eat at 6:30, followed by our traditional slideshow of botanical highlights from the past three years. Bring a dish and refreshments to share. Those wishing to share their photos should bring a USB drive with up to 10 photos. If you want them in a specific order put a number (01-10) at the beginning of the filenames.

### Field Trips/Work Parties

#### COVID Policy

While attending WNPS events, please observe these policies, in effect since March:

Please do not attend an event if either of the following are true:

- \* You currently have any symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC, or have had symptoms in the past 14 days.
- \* According to the CDC, you have any reason you should quarantine.

WNPS event hosts will not facilitate carpooling. If you test positive for COVID within 14 days of the event please contact the WNPS office at (206) 527 3210 or the WNPS Business Manager at [wnps@wnps.org](mailto:wnps@wnps.org). Read the full policies online at [www.wnps.org/home/covid-19resources](http://www.wnps.org/home/covid-19resources)

#### October 13, 2022, Thursday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm: Hike to find Plants from 50 Million Years Ago

Meeting location in Bellingham will be shared with participants after pre-registering with Fritz. The January 2009 landslide near Racehorse Creek has uncovered 50 million-year-old leaf fossils and sits on the shoulder of the aptly named Slide Mountain, only a short drive from Bellingham. The rocks near Racehorse Creek are part of the Chuckanut Formation, a 34 to 56 million-year-old sedimentary formation. When it was first deposited, this tropical landscape hosted a floodplain and river system with swamp-dwelling vegetation that was later fossilized.

We will hike along an abandoned logging road for about a mile before we reach a short but very steep part to climb up to the landslide area (I would classify this 0.15 mile part as difficult with a trail grade of about 45% and a possible rope to pull yourself up). There we will spend some time roaming around amongst the rocks in search of the fossils. Once we have discovered enough we will retrace our way back to the cars. Total roundtrip distance is about 2.1 miles with an elevation gain of 1,000 ft.

We will be leaving Bellingham at 10:00 am and return around 2:00 pm. Group size limited to 10. Pre-registration is required by contacting Fritz at [fritz365 \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:fritz365@gmail.com).

#### November 5, Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 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 be adding mulch around our earlier plantings and removing invasive plants 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](mailto:asrichardson5@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Koma Kulshan Board

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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  
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