

# Koma Kulshan

## Chapter WNPS

### Newsletter

Winter (January, February, March) 2023	
<b>Inside this issue</b>  p1 Chair's Corner p1 Plant Sale p1-2 Book Reviews p2 Green Amendment p3 Meetings p3 Field Trips	<b>Chair's Corner</b> by Eric Worden  While contemplating our chapter lately, and comparing to other local allied organizations, I got truck envy. I mean I felt ashamed that NSEA has trucks but we don't. Whatcom Conservation District has trucks, and the City of Bellingham Public Works and Parks departments has much more than that. Variously, they have millions of dollars to work with, paid professional managers and other workers, nurseries, land holdings, and portfolios of amazing works that support our local environment, including native plants. Our humble chapter hasn't got a single truck, or even a single shovel! What then, do we have to offer??  To finally answer the question for myself, I reversed the perspective of the question: rather than ask what objective actions we perform, ask what needs we fulfill within the hearts and minds of our people.  The answer, I think, is that we reconnect people to plants and nature. We all have a yearning to understand nature and connect to it better, overcoming opposing forces of modern life. We yearn to experience nature physically with our senses -- see, smell, hear, and touch. And we continually need, want, and seek knowledge about it, to comprehend it.  Uniquely then, on our WNPS-hosted field trips we provide opportunities to experience native plants and nature, explicitly revering them, and with an explicit focus on learning.  Uniquely, marshalling the deep knowledge and experience of our members, we help organize other educational experiences such as: monthly expert presentations, the stewardship course, the garden tour, and the annual Study Weekend and Botany Washington events. Throughout the state, we host many other powerful learning experiences.  Uniquely then, I think our group creates a conduit *from* a populace having a powerful personal need, *to* other nature service organizations that need knowledgeable, experienced, and passionate workers and advocates. And a lot of times we just help people feel more wonderful through their deepened connection with nature and plants. All of those people thank you (especially our paid members!) for your support. And to those of you with knowledge and experience to share: I will be calling on you!
<b>Find Koma Kulshan Online</b>  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.wnpskoma.org">www.wnpskoma.org</a> <b>Facebook:</b> WNPSKomaKulshan	
<b>Koma Kulshan e-newsletter</b>  To receive the Koma Kulshan newsletter by email, send an email to <a href="mailto:jkling@gmail.com">jkling@gmail.com</a> and indicate whether you prefer the e-format only, or if you would like to receive both the print and email versions.  Another excellent way to keep up to date virtually is by joining the WNPS-Koma email list. You'll get announcements and some discussion about native plant issues. To subscribe, send an email to: <a href="mailto:WNPSDiscussionGroup+subscribe@groups.io">WNPSDiscussionGroup+subscribe@groups.io</a>  You can also Follow us on Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/kkchapterwnps">www.facebook.com/kkchapterwnps</a>	
<b>Whatcom Conservation District Plant Sale</b>  March 16: 9 am to 2 pm at Pioneer Park in Ferndale (2004 Cherry St, Ferndale, WA 98248).  Plant orders can be made online now until March 1st ( <a href="https://www.whatcomcd.org/native-plant-sale">https://www.whatcomcd.org/native-plant-sale</a> ). A \$100 minimum will apply to pre-orders. Pick up will be Friday, March 15th at Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association: 3057 E Bakerview Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226 or at the in-person sale March 16th.	<b>Book Reviews</b>  <b>The Power of Trees: How Ancient Forests Can Save Us if We Let Them</b> (Greystone Books) by Peter Wohlleben Reviewed by Fritz Ulrich  Trees are not just enduring the environment around them, they react by adapting and learning from the conditions they are exposed to. In this book Wohlleben, a German forester and environmentalist, describes how trees deal with the changing climate. The book is structured in three parts. First he describes how trees react to the environment and how each tree has the power of decision. As we humans, some trees make good decisions and others may make bad decisions, with grave consequences. Trees are also more than a single plant. They are ecosystems for other plants, lichens, fungi, bacteria, and animals, and they are important for our weather conditions as they influence temperature and create rain for their survival -- an aspect often overlooked when we

# Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

## Green Amendment to Washington State Constitution

by Mimi Margulies

It is time for the Green Amendment to be added to the Washington State Constitution to stand alongside our existing rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and due process.

In August 2023, the youth-led case *Held v. Montana* set a groundbreaking precedent, affirming Montanans' constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment, based on their Green Amendment. Montana enacted its Green Amendment in 1972, following Pennsylvania's lead, which was the first state to pass a Green Amendment in 1971. In 2021, New York became the third state to adopt a Green Amendment. The momentum continues, with eighteen other U.S. states currently pursuing Green Amendments. Global interest is growing in recognizing the people's right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for current and future generations. This is a defining moment, shaping the path toward a more environmentally conscious and responsible world.

Activists here in Washington are organizing to pass our own Green Amendment. A Green Amendment to our state constitution would guarantee every Washington resident's right to a clean and healthy environment, clean water, air and soils, healthy ecosystems, a stable climate, and the preservation of natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities for all, including future generations.

With a constitutional Green Amendment, the State becomes a trustee for its residents and is held accountable at the highest legal level to protect these rights. Without a livable climate and a stable environment, there will be no possibility for healthy, sustainable and fulfilling lives.

In Washington State, a Green Amendment was first introduced by Rep. Debra Lekanoff in 2021, and again in 2022. We believe it will be introduced again in the 2024 legislative session. Currently the Washington Green Amendment workgroup is building statewide support in this effort to hold our government to being a body of the people, by the people, and for the people.

## Book Reviews (Continued from p1)

focus only on their carbon sequestering attribute. Wohlleben describes these capabilities with his observations of beech trees, the native trees in Germany.

In the second part of the book he focuses on bad forest practices of commercial conifer plantations, introduced and unnatural to Germany. He advocates for mature and old growth forests instead of fast turnarounds of the softwood species and argues time is on the trees' and our side if we care for the climate and environment. Especially he objects to the use of wood pellets for heating, which is seen in Germany as a sustainable practice. Burning wood is a double whammy for the environment since it releases CO2 and reduces the weather correcting effects of living trees.

Thirdly, he proposes ecologically friendly forest management schemes: Increase the forested areas by reducing agricultural land through eliminating growing plants for biofuel; and reduce our meat consumption, which is an inefficient way to produce energy for our bodies. Let the trees grow to old growth and only harvest selectively, no clear cuts.

I enjoyed the first part of the book to learn about the wonders of how trees learn and remember and even pass on knowledge to their offspring. The second part added a bit to my knowledge about the flawed practice of forestry and the third part, if implemented as described, although desirable from an environmental standpoint, will require a total change from our current consumption behavior and the commercial forest business plans. I would guess Wohlleben didn't make many friends in the German forestry industry with his suggestions.

As the Publishers Weekly notes: "This fascinating book will intrigue readers who love a walk through the woods."

### **Cascadia Field Guide (Mountaineer Books)**

Edited by Derek Sheffield, CMarie Fuhrman, and Elizabeth Bradfield

Review by Allan Richardson

I found this book by chance in the Bellingham Public Library catalog and thought it might be interesting. It is a great book with an amazing blend of natural history, art, and poetry. Over 120 plants and animals, plus a few lichens, are given excellent science-based descriptions with a literary touch. Each of these is paired with an artistic illustration and piece of creative writing, mostly poems. *Cascadia Field Guide* left me in awe of the life forms that we share our region with.

Description from publisher Mountaineer Books:

Have you ever been so filled up with the wonder of a place that it wants to spill out as a song? Well, here is the songbook. I imagine walking through a forest and pausing to read these illuminating pages aloud to a listening cedar or a dipper. There are field guides that help us to see, and to name, and to know; *Cascadia Field Guide* does all of that and more. This is a guide to relationship, a gift in reciprocity for the gifts of the land. — Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass* *Cascadia* stretches from Southeast Alaska to Northern California and from the Pacific Ocean to the Continental Divide. *Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, Poetry* blends art and science to celebrate this diverse yet interconnected region through natural and cultural histories, poetry, and illustrations. Organized into 13 bioregions, the guide includes entries for everything from cryptobiotic soil and the western thatching ant to the giant Pacific octopus and Sitka spruce, as well as the likes of common raven, hoary marmot, Idaho giant salamander, snowberry, and 120 more! Both well-established and new writers are included, representing a diverse spectrum of voices, with poems that range from comic to serious, colloquial to scientific, urban to off-the-grid, narrative to postmodern. Likewise, the artists span styles and mediums, using classic natural history drawing, form line design, graffiti, sketch, and more. All writers and artists have deep ties to the region. This project was supported, in part, by a grant from 4Culture.



## Winter (January, February, March)

### 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 scroll down to find the appropriate Koma Kulshan event among other Zoom events associated with WNPS. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. In-person meetings are 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.

#### January 17: Bees and Pollinators Through the Macro Lens (in person)

Many people are unaware of the fascinating diversity of bees and other pollinators around the world. For example, in the state of Washington alone there are upwards of 700 species of native bees. To the naked eye, many of these organisms look like nothing more than a mundane house fly. Through the macro lens, however, a vastly different world is revealed. In this presentation, Aidan Hersh will showcase the beautiful bees and pollinators of Washington and beyond. Aidan Hersh is a macro photographer and native bee enthusiast living in Bellingham. He serves on the board of the Washington Native Bee Society and the steering committee of the Washington Bee Atlas. He hopes that his photography will spark interest in the too often forgotten yet vitally important world of bees and pollinators. His photos can be found on Instagram @photo.by.aidan

#### February 21: Bumble Bee Conservation in Subalpine Meadows (Zoom)

In this presentation, Jim Davis will discuss results from a five-year study of flower phenology and bumble bee foraging at Heather Meadows. In a typical year, floral resources were abundant and continuous for the duration of the growing season. During the exceptionally early spring of 2015, flowering was early for many species, while the duration of flowering increased for a few species and decreased substantially for others. These findings preview the potential impacts of climate change on flowering plants and bumble bees in subalpine meadows of the Pacific Northwest. Jim Davis is currently president of Shuksan Conservancy (a non-profit focused on public lands conservation and pollinator protection in the North Cascades). He received his MS and PhD degrees in entomology from the University of Missouri and University of California at Berkeley. He was a research assistant professor at the University of Missouri, where he conducted research on public health and environmental issues. From 2007 to 2012, he was Executive Director of the North Cascades Conservation Council. Jim has coordinated research at Baker Lake in the North Cascades to quantify forest road use and to identify knowledge and attitudes of visitors. He has also conducted studies in Skagit and Whatcom Counties assessing the knowledge and attitudes of local residents toward grizzly bear recovery. More recently, he has coordinated a citizen science project to identify flowering plants and pollinators in Heather Meadows near Mt. Baker.

#### March 20: The Ecology of Hummingbirds from Ecuador to Washington (in person)

Over a decade ago, Greg Green was asked to explain why we have a hummingbird that overwinters in the PNW (Anna's), which culminated into research and an article in BirdWatching Magazine. He has since been lecturing on the ecology of hummingbirds, both publicly and academically, and recently returned from the cloud forests of Ecuador where he photographed and observed a portion of the 132 species that live there. Green's presentation will provide an overview of the unique ecology of this extraordinary group of birds, contrasting the PNW with Ecuador, and will tell the fascinating story of Anna's hummingbird's march north over the past 75 years. Gregory A. Green is a career wildlife biologist and instructor at Western Washington University where he teaches ecology, wildlife techniques, and natural history. He is also a nature photographer and writer and recently published the book *Wild Lives* (Simon & Schuster) with Art Wolfe highlighting the state of the world's wildlife through photography and essays.

### Field Trips/Work Parties

#### January 14, Sunday, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm: Stimpson Nature Preserve Photography Walk: Drizzle or Shine, Nature Awaits!

Calling all shutterbugs and budding botanists! Join us for a fun hiking adventure through the enchanting Stimpson Nature Preserve. Whether you're a seasoned lensman or a smartphone shutterbug, this adventure welcomes everyone to capture the beauty of Pacific Northwest native plants, drizzle or shine. (After all, drizzle just adds a touch of forest magic!) We'll meander along a scenic trail, keeping our eyes peeled for native plants, from towering cedars to delicate ferns. But the real magic happens when we pool our collective knowledge. Think of it as a nature bingo with friends, where identifying native plants becomes a shared adventure. This hike is designed to be a leisurely stroll, taking around two hours. But hey, if the forest whispers and the moss-covered trails tempt us to linger, we'll gladly follow! So, pack your rain gear, grab your camera (any kind will do!), and get ready to immerse yourself in the wonders of Stimpson Nature Preserve or Maple Creek Park. We'll see you there! Bonus tip: Wear comfortable shoes and don't forget to bring a plant ID book and your curiosity! Contact: Deborah Baker, [polarcollision@gmail.com](mailto:polarcollision@gmail.com). Limit 10

#### February 10, Saturday, 9:00 am to noon: Winter Twigs and Buds at Lake Whatcom

Meet at 9:00 am at the North Lake Whatcom Park lower trailhead by the lake shore at the very end of Northshore Road (not at the usual main trailhead that comes first). This winter walk led by Abe Lloyd and Allan Richardson will emphasize identification of deciduous trees and shrubs based on their twigs and buds (copies of a key will be provided). There is a diverse assortment of native and some non-native plants along the trail, including a dry stretch with native oak trees. Bring a hand lens (if you have one), snacks, and dress for the weather. Contact Allan Richardson at 360-305-5270 or [asrichardson5@gmail.com](mailto:asrichardson5@gmail.com) to confirm.

#### February 18, Sunday, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm: Maple Creek Park Photography Walk: Drizzle or Shine, Nature Awaits!

Same as January 14 field trip description.

#### February 24, Saturday, 9:00 am to noon: Native Plant Restoration at Galbraith Parking Lot (February 24th)

Join the Koma Kulshan Chapter, Bellingham Parks volunteers, and Whatcom Million Trees Project to help plant native plants at the Galbraith Parking Lot restoration site. Check the Volunteer Bellingham website ([https://www.volunteerbelllingham.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=880992](https://www.volunteerbelllingham.org/need/detail/?need_id=880992)) for future updates. Tools and gloves will be provided. Come prepared for the weather and bring a lunch. For more information, contact Jim Davis at [jimdavispcp\[at\]Comcast\[dot\]net](mailto:jimdavispcp[at]Comcast[dot]net).

Koma Kulshan Board

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

**Secretary**  
Analiese Burns  
analiese@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**  
Jim Kling: jkling@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
Mark Turner: (360) 671-6851

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

**Field Trip Chair**  
Angie Nelson,  
Bellinghamskyline@gmail.com

**Greenhouse Chair**  
Wendy Scherrer: (360) 715-2993

**Grants Committee Chair**  
Barry Wendling: (360) 393-9181

**Publicity Chair**  
Alika Herreshoff:  
raphaelalika@gmail.com

**Conservation Chair**  
Jim Davis: jimdavispc@comcast.net

**Stewardship Chair**  
Allan Richardson: 360-305-5270  
asrichardson5@gmail.com

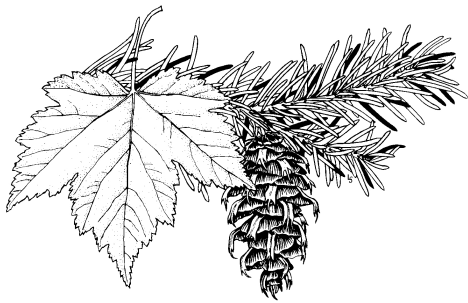
Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

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