

Koma Kulshan

Chapter WNPS

Newsletter

Summer (July, August, September) 2023	
Inside this issue p1 President's Corner p1 Northwest Natura p2 Don Hicks p2 Stewardship p3 Meetings p3 Field Trips p3 Study Weekend	President's Corner by Lyle Anderson There's A Word for That Earlier in the spring I took a magnifying lens to a vine maple (<i>Acer circinatum</i>) and was a bit confused by the look of the flowers. Some appeared to be perfect (both pistils and stamens in one flower, also termed bisexual) and some seemed to be lacking the pistil. I looked in Hitchcock and, other than saying in the general <i>Sapindaceae</i> (formerly <i>Aceraceae</i>) family description that the flowers could be perfect or male, the dichotomous key didn't specify that to species. Next, I looked in <i>Trees & Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest</i> (Turner and Kuhlmann, 2014) and there it was: "...flowers male or bisexual...". Since there seems to be a technical name for virtually any aspect of a plant, I searched for the term to describe this morphological feature. Wikipedia seemed to have the most concise definition: Andromonoecious: having both bisexual and male flowers on the same plant. If you want to have some fun and get hopelessly confused in the process, I suggest going to the source and peruse the terms for all the reproductive variations. Search wikipedia (www.wikipedia.com) for plant reproductive morphology. Photosynthesis: The Beginning We all know that light from the sun is required for photosynthesis. However, a team of scientists have demonstrated how a single photon initiates that chemical process. I'll admit to understanding the experiment only up to a point, so here is an article from the website livescience.com that explains it in layperson terms: https://t.ly/Sobu . Here's a link to the original article in Nature: https://t.ly/kLFv I wouldn't go there unless you are well-versed in quantum physics. Unfortunately, I'm still waiting for CRISPR technology to enhance my brain cells resulting in a hundred-fold increase in my IQ to understand all that. Study Weekend July 28-30 Support WNPS, meet new people, learn new things, and enjoy the beauty of the North Cascades. No experience necessary. At this time, most field trips still have openings, and we still have room at the lodges, so register. It's always a fun and enjoyable time.
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The Pacific Northwest Native Plant Primer 225 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden by Kristin Currin and Andrew Merritt, Timber Press. 2023 The authors run Humble Roots Farm and Nursery in Mosier, Oregon, where they conduct restoration and pollinator enhancement projects that include rare plant monitoring and propagation. They also work with homeowners and landscapers to develop native gardens and habitats. Available at Village Books and elsewhere.	Northwest Natura by Jazmen Yoder Koma Kulshan Chapter's former treasurer (2019-2022), Jazmen Yoder would like to introduce her new Whatcom County-based outdoor education enterprise, Northwest Natura (NWN). NWN offers place-based education in botany, fungi, wildlife, ecology, and outdoor skills open to people of all ages and experience levels. Jazmen graduated from WWU with a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in Salish Sea Studies in 2020. In 2022 she left her job as an Ecologist II & Botanist at an environmental specialist firm to pursue her passion for teaching, and has since led multiple outings around Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and King Counties. Her classes focus on a range of topics including ethnobotany, bushcraft, plant ID, and mycology 101. In addition to courses which require a small tuition fee, she

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Northwest Natura (cont'd from p1)

frequently offers donation-based outings, or “Social Gatherings”, to share her knowledge, offer space for others’ to share theirs, and ultimately connect people to each other through a shared appreciation for nature.

A few interesting spring field trips already posted on her website have a few spaces left for participants to sign up (space is always limited to small groups to allow for more intimate interaction). Upcoming courses include PNW Ethnobotany, Coastal Ecology: Tidepools, Shellfish, and Edible Seaweeds, and an Overnighter focused on Botany and Bushcraft. Jazmen leaves the NWN calendar partially clear so that people may schedule private lessons or make suggestions for classes based on a list of topics.

While Northwest Natura was officially founded less than a year ago, her client base has grown quicker than expected due to the diverse array of offerings, richness of content, accessibility of knowledge, and fair-priced tuition. NWN has gained the attention of multiple venues and entities who want to sponsor, host, or show the world the diverse skillset of its founder; Whatcom County Public Libraries, Rome Grange, and University of Washington’s School of Landscape Architecture will all be hosting NWN events this summer. NWN’s Instagram even gained the attention of the History Channel and Jazmen has been interviewed as a potential contender on Season 11 of Alone!

NWN’s mission is to offer accessible outdoor experiences and education as a means of strengthening a sense of place and invigorating personal empowerment. You can support this mission by joining an outing, volunteering to be a paid co-leader of a field trip, donating, or sharing social media content.

Don Hicks, In Memoriam

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Don Hicks, long-time treasurer and member of the WNPS Koma Kulshan chapter.

Chapter president Lyle Anderson remembered Don with these words: "I know that Don was an early member of the Koma Kulshan chapter, perhaps from the beginning in the mid-seventies, and he served as treasurer until 2014. For several years, we relied on him and his big pickup truck and camper to transport the lion’s share of plants for the native plant sale and he was always there to run the “cash register” at the Fairhaven Village green. He was a quiet and unassuming guy, always a gentleman. Our chapter and WNPS is fortunate to have had him with us for all those years."

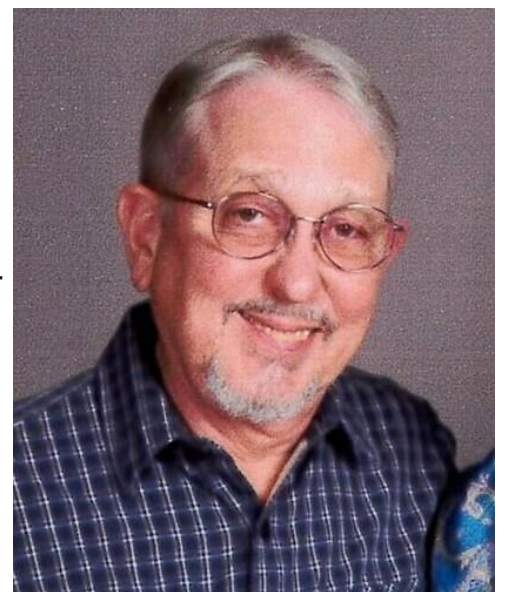
Vikki Jackson added: "I am so very sad to here that news. Don was such an important longterm member. He saw it through from the beginning."

Don's obituary in the Bellingham Herald (<https://t.ly/d-xu>) offered some more detail:

* Don went to work for Boeing after getting a degree in engineering, but he didn't want to work for the company's military division during the Vietnam War, so he moved to Bellingham, where he became a computer systems analyst for Western.

* In addition to his interest in native plants, Don was a member of the Nooksack Nordic skier club as well as an early fan of rock 'n roll, and he played several instruments.

* In February 2008, Don combined his two passions when he led a snowshoe/cross-country ski field trip to examine winter twigs and buds along Hannegan Pass road.



Native Plant Stewardship Course: Fall, 2023

Rivers, Forests, and Shorelines of the Salish Sea Region

What: This no-cost, 30 hour course combines classroom learning with field trips to enrich understanding of the key roles that native plants play in our forests, rivers, shorelines, and other vital habitats, and shows how to use this knowledge to help protect and restore these habitats. In return, participants agree to provide 30 hours of service to local conservation and restoration projects within 18 months of completing the course.

When: This 6-week program meets in and around Bellingham

Classes: Sept 14-Oct 19, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. (Thursdays).

Field trips: Sept 23, Sept 30, and Oct 14 (Saturdays).

Instructor: T. Abe Lloyd is an Adjunct Professor at WWU’s College of the Environment and long-time WNPS member. He grew up in Whatcom County and has been studying the region’s flora and fauna for 30 years.

For more information and a link to the online application, visit www.wnpskoma.org/stewardship/2023. If you need a paper application or have questions, please contact Abe at [arcadianabe\[at\]yahoo\[dot\]com](mailto:arcadianabe@yahoo.com).

Summer (July, August, September)

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.

September 20: A Celebration of Seeds!

As fall colors start to sparkle in the landscape, we resume chapter meetings, starting with a celebration of the bounty of Pacific Northwest native plants. We will hold a seed exchange, so please bring any seeds or fruits of Pacific Northwest native plants that you'd like to share with others. In past years, members have contributed a wide variety of seed from their gardens, so if you'd like to grow native plants from seed, you'll have lots of treasures to choose from. Seed envelopes are provided.

Chapter President, Lyle Anderson, will conduct elections for open positions. He'll also give us a synopsis of our big event for 2023: Study Weekend, hosted by our chapter in July. Field trip leaders will report on their botanical adventures and audience members are invited to share plant-related highlights of their summer. Lyle will host a Botanical Quiz centered on the seeds and fruit of Pacific Northwest native plants and there are prizes! There is much to learn and share and enjoy. See you at the first chapter meeting of autumn.

Field Trips/Work Parties

Most of our veteran field trip leaders are occupied this summer hosting trips for the Study Weekend event on July 28-30. Understandably, we received no other field trip proposals.

If you are not attending Study Weekend but you would like to participate in a WNPS field trip this summer, then this is a perfect time to host one yourself! Please check in with our field trip coordinator Eric Worden (eric@ericworden.seattle.wa.us) when you have an idea that you want to develop and announce.

Study Weekend 2023

The Koma Kulshan Chapter of WNPS, based in Bellingham, invites you to join us for a weekend of botanical exploration in the northwest corner of the state. The North Cascades, relatively accessible from the Mt. Baker Highway, are home to a diverse flora from wetland species along the river bottoms and shallow ponds to true alpines on the rocky ridges and peaks of our rugged mountains.

In keeping with the idea that less driving and more botanizing is better, study weekend headquarters will be the Heather Meadows day lodge at the Mt. Baker Ski Area. It is located about 54 miles east of Bellingham on Hwy. 542 at 4200' elevation.

The area immediately around the lodge is beautiful and botanically interesting, so even if your body says "no" to extended field trips you'll find much to explore at a leisurely pace without traveling far.

The heart of any Study Weekend is a selection of field trips to explore the flora of the area. We'll have enough trips, with a variety of physical challenges from easy wheelchair-accessible trails to day-long hikes on rough trails, to satisfy most everyone. Almost all of the field trip trails are on Green Trails No. 14, Mt. Shuksan, with a few on the adjacent Mt. Baker map, No. 13. Many trips are into wilderness areas, with a party limit of 12. Some trips will repeat on Saturday and Sunday, and there will be short excursions on both Friday afternoon and Sunday morning to accommodate travel plans.

More than 35 field trips are planned, with destinations and topics including:

- * Heather Meadows and Artist Point: Cryptogams and Pollinators Mix or Match (Fred Rhoades and Jim Davis)
- * Lake Ann (Lyle Anderson)
- * Goat Mountain (Allan Richardson)
- * Racehorse Creek Falls (Barry Wendling and Ellen Kuhlmann)
- * Boundary Way Trail and Cowap Peak (Allan Richardson)
- * Bagley Lakes Basin (Ellen Kuhlmann)
- * Keying with Hitchcock (Fayla Schwartz)
- * Winchester Lookout (Joe Arnett)
- * Welcome Pass (Clay Antieau)

Evening talks include "Utilizing Bryophytes to Detect an Ice Age Refugium," and a presentation about the Burke Museum's 50 Peaks Project, which aims to "document the diversity and distribution of alpine plants in Washington's Cascade Range."

Registration is open until July 20: www.wnps.org/sw-registration

Overnight housing will be nearby at Heather Meadows in the rustic lodges operated by The Firs (<https://thefirschalet.org>), a dormitory-style facility with shared bathrooms and The Mountaineers (www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/baker-lodge), which is also dormitory-style with shared bathrooms. Evening meals Friday and Saturday will be catered at the Heather Meadows lodge. Sack lunches for Saturday and Sunday field trips will be available.

Koma Kulshan Board

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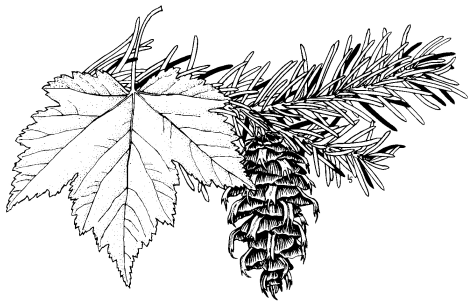
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If you would like to join WNPS

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:_____

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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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